



DANK Chapter 71 German Heritage Society of Erie Mitteilungsblatt



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March 2016



President's Message:

Hello Members,
Spring is on its way. Hopefully, winter's worst has passed. Luckily, it was nowhere as near as cold as last year.

Our first meeting of the year was on February 17th. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend due to weather but those people that braved the snowy roads had a good time. February's meeting was themed "Meet the Schmidt Family". About a dozen people gathered to learn a little German language and culture. Hopefully, everyone had fun and we could do another "Meet the Schmidt's" at a future meeting.

With spring and summer on their way, there will be annual events to organize. We would like to possibly form some subcommittees to plan for our summer picnic and Christmas party. We also would like to discuss changing our monthly meeting to a more convenient time. Your opinion counts, so plan to join in at our next meeting in March.

See you soon,
Jeff



\What a busy month! It didn't come in exactly like a lion, but no one can deny that they didn't enjoy the warm temperatures. Certainly, the spring flowers are poking their heads up through the ground.



Daylight Savings has returned and we gained an hour of daylight, and that means a lot for our seniors who do not like driving at dusk or after dark.



While the Irish do their jigs and reels, we all become Irish for a day and toast them with a stein of beer. Personally, I am not a fan of green eggs and ham, but I do like a nice crock of 'boiled dinner' (Ham and cabbage with potatoes and carrots".



March 21st is the beginning of Spring and as the earth awakens, we look forward to leisurely walks, getting together with friends, I often think back to the old jingle " Spring has sprung, the grass is green, Where have all the birdies been?



Happy Easter!

Bischen und Stücken - Bits and Pieces



Happiness is being remembered"

In thoughts and prayers we send you our best wishes

Glenn Blodgett
Robert L. Carolyn Brabender
Emil L. Gretel Daeschner
Susan Roehrl
Luise Dudkiewicz (Western Reserve)
Hilde Huttel (West Lake Woods)

*If you know someone we have missed,
please call Brigitte Chase at 520-5036.*



Männerchor Gesangverein Notes

When words leave off, the music begins"
Heinrich Heine

What better way to preserve not only the German language and its music than through song. Music lifts one's spirit and is proven to have a healing effect mentally, physical and spiritually.

If you enjoy singing, than consider joining us. We Are currently seeking new members for the Chorus. Our selections include German and English songs. You will learn the meaning of the song and then the Words are taught phonetically. Knowledge of German is not required, but just enjoy singing. Rehearsals are held on Tuesday evenings from 5:00 pm until 6:30 pm at the Club. One time dues \$25 to cover the expenses of membership in the National Singers Assoc. and the Pittsburg District, our director and the purchase of new music..

For more information call Carol Snippert (455-7009) or Bev at 456-9599.



Word of the Month - *Sehnsucht*

The German language is filled with words that do not exist in English. One such word is **Sehnsucht**

Sehnsucht is a deep emotional state, difficult to translate accurately, describing an intense longing, craving, yearning or "intensely missing" something or someone. English translations do not do this term justice; it is a much more emotionally charged word in German.

The term comes from the words **das Sehnen** ("yearning") and **das Siechtum** ("a lingering illness"). The yearning described by *Sehnsucht* is, in some regards, like an illness, because it is all-consuming and will not go away easily.

Someone can possess *Sehnsucht* for a faraway place - a deep yearning to be elsewhere; or have *Sehnsucht* for another person; who is separated by distance. Someone could also have *Sehnsucht* for a different life - one that occupies their dreams while their reality is mediocre.

Twig - 3/11/2016



Daniel L. Judith Koza
and
Glenn Blodgett

for your donations to our Newsletter.



The Good Wishes Guide - How do you say ...in German?

Many times, someone will ask for help in saying/writing a greeting for various occasions..
Here are some of the ways you say them.

General Expressions of Good Wishes (Suitable on Most Occasions)

- Congratulations! **Gratulation!**
- All the best! **Alles Gute**
- Best wishes! **Herzlichen Glückwunsch!**
- Good luck! **Viel Glück!**
- I wish you success! **Viel Erfolg!**
- I wish you health and happiness! **Ich wünsche Ihnen Gesundheit und Freude!**
- Best wishes for the future! **Die besten Wünsche für die Zukunft!**

Birthday (Geburtstag)

- Happy birthday! **Herzlichen Glückwunsch zum Geburtstag.**
- Many happy returns of the day. **Viel Glück zum Geburtstag!**
- All the best on your birthday! **Alles Gute zum Geburtstag.**
- Best wishes on your birthday! **All das Beste zum Geburtstag!**

Get well soon! Gute Besserung!

- Speedy recovery! **Werde schnell gesund!**
- Get well! **Gute Erholung**
- I wish you a speedy recovery! **Ich wünsch dir baldiges Genesen!**
- Hope you get back on your feet soon! **Komm bald wieder auf die Beine!**

Graduation (Schulabschluss)



- Congratulations on graduating from high school! **Ich gratuliere zum bestandenen Abitur**
- Congratulations on receiving your diploma! **Glückwünsche zum bestandenen Diplom!**
- Congratulations on graduating with a bachelor's/master's degree! **Glückwünsche zur bestandenen Bachelorprüfung, Master (for male) /Magisterprüfung! (Female)**
- Congratulations on your Ph.D! **Gratulation zur bestandenen Doktorprüfung**

Condolences/ Sympathies

- Our deepest condolences and sympathies. **Unser tiefstes Beileid und Mitgefühl.**
- Our deepest condolences/sympathy. **Unser tiefstes Beileid.**
- Our heartfelt sympathy. Our thoughts are with you.

Unser herzlichstes Beileid. Unsere Gedanken sind bei Euch.

Mother's Day/ Father's Day (Muttertag/ Vatertag)

- Happy Mother's Day/ Happy Father's Day! **Frohen Muttertag! Frohen Vatertag!**
- All the best for Mother's Day/ Father's Day! **Alles Liebe zum Muttertag/ Vatertag.**
- To the best mother in the world!/ **An der besten Mutter der Welt!**
- To the best father in the world! **An dem besten Vater der Welt!**
- To a special mother! To a great father! **An einer besonderen Mutter!/ An einem großartigen Vater!**
- My love to you on mother's day! **Lieben Gruß zum Muttertag!**
- All the best on Father's day! **Alles Gute zum Vatertag!**

Traditional Birthday Song

**Hoch soll er leben! Hoch soll er leben!
Hoch soll er leben, Dreimal hoch!**

(Long may he/she live! –Three cheers!)





Tourist office workers hold up a sign encouraging visitors to use 'du' in Oberstaufen, Bavaria, in 2011. Photo: DPA

When is it right to address a colleague as 'Du'?

Stepping gingerly through the minefield of whether to use formal "Sie" or informal "du" with your colleagues is one of the toughest things about working in Germany for foreigners. But one firm wants to do away with it altogether.

"Anyone who wants to address a board member as 'du' can do so," Hans-Otto Schrader, chairman of the Otto Group, told *Wirtschafts Woche* last week. It's a big step in a society in which some people remain picky about the level of formality people use with one another.

Making the leap from "Sie" - the formal "you" - to "du" - its intimate version - has historically been a significant moment in any interpersonal relationship in Germany.

Some colleagues work together for decades without ever switching to the intimate form. Chancellor Angela Merkel sticks to the formal "Sie" with her office manager and close confidante Beate Bauman, for example.

That makes a company-wide email letting 53,000 employees know it's okay to use "du" with him quite a statement for Otto's chairman of the board.

But for Schrader, dropping the formal "Sie" – which some see as an important part of keeping a distance from colleagues, while others find it stuffy – is "a sort of verbal starting gun for our Cultural Change 4.0 project".

Of course, Schrader said, there is no obligation to use "du" for those who want to stick to an older idea of German professionalism.

The chairman also encourages employees to call him by his acronym – Hos – which he thinks sounds "fresher" than double-barreled, traditional "Hans-Otto".

Linguist Dr Lutz Kuntzsch of the Society for the German Language (GfdS) told *The Local* that the Otto Group decision was unlikely to spark a trend.

"I've been observing this for 20 or 30 years, and there are always waves," he explained. "It happens every five or ten years that someone says 'du' is gaining the advantage."

People who try and insist on the familiar form are "hoping to create intimacy", Kuntzsch added. "I don't find it bad, but it's an exaggerated kind of trust".

"That can lead to big problems – for example, if this boss is speaking to someone to fire them then he might be more uncomfortable."

Ultimately, "German has two pronouns, an intimate and a formal form, and that's how it grew up historically. And there's a reason for that," Dr Kuntzsch said.

What readers said

"You should use 'du' only when someone has invited you to do it with them. Sie is the polite norm," Felix Vestfall wrote.

"One-sided use of 'du' shows a lack of respect and infringes against personal rights," another said.

While it's unlikely you'll see the inside of a courtroom if you use the wrong form in the office, we at *The Local* suggest that it's still safer to check with your colleague before switching to 'du'.

Tom Barfield(tom.barfield@thelocal.com)\



Common and Uncommon German Easter Traditions

The celebration of **Ostern** (Easter) in Germany is probably one of the most important events of the year. Many of the customs associated with its celebration are originally from this country, such as the used of decorated eggs and the Easter bunny. But a few weeks before celebrating Easter in Germany, there is another spring event that is hold in some parts of the country, such as in the Neckar Valley. It is called **Sommertagszug** which translates as summer day parade.

Sommertagszug is a special event that is celebrated three weeks before Easter on the **Sonntag Laetare*** (Laetare Sunday), also called **Mittfasten** (Mid-Lent), in the south-west provinces of Germany. It is a **Frühlingfest** (Spring Fête) to welcome summer and tell winter that its time has come and it must go away.

A **Zug** (train-parade) with lots of kids costumed as little ducklings wearing yellow rain jackets and ducks' heads as hats parading in town, holding big Pretzels placed at the tip of sticks, which are decorated with multi-color ribbons and have an egg in the middle. There is also, pulled along by some happy men wearing costumes, a snowman representing old winter standing on a dried tree made of straw. And further along, on another platform, a green tree decorated with colored eggs, wreaths, and a rooster and a crane representing spring and summer. During the parade, the kids are singing a song telling winter to go, that summer is here. At the end of the parade, the winter tree and the snowman are burned in a big bonfire and everyone is happy to sing that winter is dead and "**Der Sommertag ist da**" (summer here).

***Sonntag Laetare** (Laetare Sunday): this Sunday is currently also known as Mothering Sunday, Refreshment Sunday, Mid-Lent Sunday and Rose Sunday (either because the golden rose sent by the popes to Catholic sovereigns used to be blessed at this time or because the use of rose-colored vestments instead of violet ones was permitted).

Historically it was also once known as "the Sunday of the Five Loaves," from the traditional Gospel reading for the day, the story of the miracle of the loaves and fishes, which was, before the adoption of the modern "common" lectionaries, the Gospel reading for this Sunday in the Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic, and Old Catholic churches. There may be flowers on the high altar, the organ may be played as a solo instrument and priests are given the option to wear rose-colored vestments at Mass held on this day, in place of the violet vestments normally worn during Lent. In the western liturgical system, purple is the color of Lenten penance, and white is the color of feast days. Rose-pink is the color of Laetare as the color obtained naturally by mixing purple and white. The day is a day of relaxation from normal Lenten rigors; a day of hope with Easter being at last within sight. Traditionally, even weddings (otherwise banned during Lent) could be performed on this day, and servants were released from service for the day to visit their mothers (hence 'Mothering Sunday').

Georgiritt (St. George's Parade)

St. George is honored each year at Traunstein in Bavaria, Germany, and in other Bavarian villages on Easter Monday to mark April 23, the day on which he is said to have been martyred in 303. The **Georgiritt** (St. George's Parade) commemorates the legend of George's victory over the dragon that was threatening the pagan city of Sylene by demanding that humans be sacrificed to feed it. St. George killed the dragon, saved the king's daughter (who was next in line to be sacrificed), and converted Sylene's 15,000 citizens to Christianity.

Because St. George is usually depicted on horseback, farmers of Traunstein decorate their own horses with garlands and ribbons and ride them across the fields and three times around the parish church. After the local priest blesses the horses and other farm animals, the procession turns toward the village. The festival ends with ritualistic sword dances that have been handed down from medieval times.



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Address correction requested

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Meeting: March 16th



Aus Oma's Küchen... Here is a recipe for **Kartoffelbuletten (potato patties)** from the island of Rügen just off the coast of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

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|---|-----------------|
| 2 lbs of starched yellow potatoes
(Russet or Yukon Gold) | Salt |
| 2 Tblspn unsalted butter | Pinch of nutmeg |
| 2 Tbspn milk | 1 egg |
| | 2 Tblspn flour |

1. Peel and quarter potatoes. Bring them to a boil in salted water and cook until tender. Drain and mash the potatoes.
2. Heat the milk and melt the butter in it. Mix the potatoes, milk, butter, salt, and nutmeg in a large bowl. Add the egg and flour and mix to form a solid but soft dough.
3. Heat oil in large skillet. Shape into 3" patties with moist hands and place them in the skillet. Sautè the patties until golden brown and turn carefully to brown other side. Serve hot with the cold compote, or with a meat dish.

Compote: ½ pound of mixed dried fruit and ¼ cup sugar (or more to taste)
Rinse dried fruit and put in small saucepan. Add sugar and enough water to cover the fruit. Simmer until soft (about 30 minutes). Taste for sweetness – add sugar if necessary. Place in jar and refrigerate. Will keep up to three weeks.

Wed. March 16th 7 PM Diamond Room of the Männerchor Club Mtg & Continuing to learn basic German.
Dinner? Reservations a must! Seating at 5 PM Call Bev at 456-9599

Celebrate our Anniversary with us on **April 20th**. Same location!