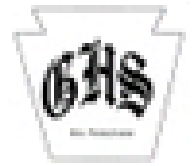




# DANK Chapter 71

## German Heritage Society of Erie

# Mitteilungsblatt



Volume 26 Issue 4

May 2016



### President's Message:

You were missed at our last meeting. We had a great discussion and we are trying to come up with ideas, but we need your help too. Please come to our next gathering. After the meeting, we enjoyed our favorite personal beverage and snacked on the Männerchor's chips while watching a slide show presentation on historic Erie's German roots. See you soon!

May 18<sup>th</sup> UPDATE: While the newsletter was delayed, the one good thing is that everyone knows that our meetings are always on the third Wednesday of each month (as we have for the past 25 years!). We were glad to see everyone there! Discussed at the meeting was restarting "Oma's Bus Tours" with interesting day trips coordinated by Tom & Pat Schladecker. We will hold our picnic on Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. Watch for more information. We also have plans for special programs of interest for September, October, and November. Our Christmas Party needs a coordinator but we are planning it for Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. Following the meeting, we watched a travel video on Bavaria. See you soon!

*Jeff*

### *Our Heritage Future is in Your Hands!*



If we could look into the future, what would we see? Will we see families sharing the traditions of their ancestral ties? Will we see families proudly proclaiming their ethnic roots or will they become a part of the melting pot...forgetting all that was so important to the family that left Germany for a better life in America? Oh they may be there for the brats & beer festivals, but what will they pass on to their children and or grandchildren.

It is no secret that ethnic organizations are beginning to fade from the scene and among them many German societies that have been around even longer than DANK! We have watched various German choruses disband for lack of member/singers; Turnvereins have closed as well. How long can we stand by and watch our heritage disappear?

DANK was organized by German immigrants who came for a better life, who banded together as they became naturalized citizens of the country they adopted and to share their culture, and to preserve the language, traditions and music they held dear from the 'Heimat'. Many Germans worked hard in various organizations to raise money to help one another through their "Kranken" funds ... basically the early forerunner of health insurance... money that was used to keep food on the table when 'Papa' couldn't work because he was sick or hurt at work. The ladies raised money for the organizations (today's auxiliaries) to build the halls where they could meet. They worked together for a common cause united by their heritage.

Somewhere along the line, we have become so sure of ourselves that not until its too late do we realize what is at stake— what we are losing. Right now, the future of your German heritage is up to you. BUT if you turn your back, then remember when you gather family around, after you depart this earth, you leave them nothing but your name. Gone will be the pride in your heritage because no one stepped forward to see the future

## Unser herzlichstes Beileid

(Our heartfelt sympathy)



On April 19<sup>th</sup> DANK lost a member who was loved by all she met. Joining DANK in 1991 Luise was a strong supporter of DANK, and could be found at all meetings and activities. For 20 years she volunteered at the German Festival working wherever she was needed. She was tireless in her enthusiasm and was proud of her German heritage.

Luise Dudkiewicz, age 83, passed away on Tuesday, April 19, 2016. She was born in Trento, Italy, on June 2, 1932, daughter of the late John and Emilia Fischer.

For 26 years, (1986-2012) Luise was employed at Erie Home for Children and Adults. She was a member of St. Stanislaus R.C. Church and the Prayer Shawl ministry, Luise was preceded in death by her husband, Kazimierz Dudkiewicz; a son, Henry Dudkiewicz; an infant daughter, Irene, and one sister, Natalie Walter



Following her Funeral Mass at St. Stanislaus Church. Luise was laid to rest at Calvary Cemetery.

Our thoughts and prayers are sent in sympathy to Luise's surviving family: one son, Frank Dudkiewicz (Patty); daughter-in-law, Darcie Dudkiewicz; five grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

**"Blessed are they that mourn, they shall be comforted"**

## Memorial Day



Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service of the United States of America. Born out of the Civil War and a desire to honor our dead, it was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, "The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land," he proclaimed. The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle.

On the first Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, and 5,000 participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried there. The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war).

It is now observed in almost every state on the last Monday in May with Congressional passage of the National Holiday Act of 1971 (P.L. 90 – 363). This helped ensure a three day weekend for Federal holidays,

In 1915, inspired by the poem "In Flanders Fields," Moina Michael replied with her own poem: "We cherish too, the Poppy red That grows on fields where valor led, It seems to signal to the skies That blood of heroes never dies."

She then conceived of an idea to wear red poppies on Memorial Day in honor of those who died serving the nation during war. She was the first to wear one, and sold poppies to her friends and co-workers with the money going to benefit servicemen in need. Shortly before Memorial Day in 1922 the VFW became the first veterans' organization to nationally sell poppies. Two years later their "Buddy" Poppy program was selling artificial poppies made by disabled veterans. .

The "National Moment of Remembrance" resolution was passed on Dec 2000 which asks that at 3 p.m. local time, for all Americans "To voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a Moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to 'Taps.'"

# Bischen und Stücken - Bits and Pieces

MUSIC MATTERS!



Männerchor Gesangverein

*"When words leave off, the music begins"*  
*Heinrich Heine*

If you enjoy singing, then come join us on Tuesday evenings from 5 til 6:30 pm. We always welcome new members to the Chorus. Even though you may not know German, you will learn the meaning of the song and then the words are taught phonetically. One time dues of \$25 to cover our membership dues in the North American Singers Association, and Pittsburgh District membership dues, our director and to purchase new music.

Practice (when not singing out) is held Tuesday evenings from 5-6:30 pm. The group will be entertaining the residents of Schmidt Towers (June 14). Friendship Towers (June 21), Fairview Manor (June 28). Niagara Village (July 5). Elmwood Gardens (July 12), and Independence Court (July 19). The first two weeks of August we take a vacation break. For more information call Carol Snippet (455-7009) or Bev at 456-9599



*Mark Lesniewski*, received his Master's Degree with Honors in Clinical Mental Health

Counseling from Niagara University, Lewiston, NY on May 12<sup>th</sup>. He is now working at Children & Adolescent Treatment Services in Hamburg, NY



*"Happiness is being remembered"*

*In thoughts and prayers we send you our best wishes*



*Glenn Blodgett  
Robert & Carolyn Brabender  
Emil & Gretel Daeschner  
Beverly Pochatko  
Susan Roehrl  
Hilde Huttel (West Lake Woods)*

*If you know someone we have missed,  
please call Brigitte Chase at 823-3593.*

## Hilarious Things My Mother Taught Me...

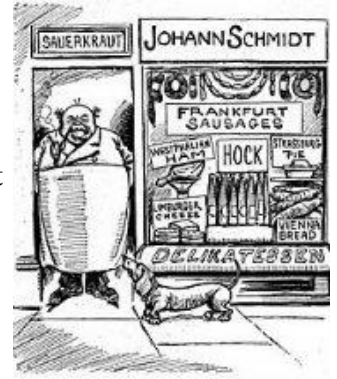
1. My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE . "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."
2. My mother taught me RELIGION. "You better pray that will come out of the carpet."
3. My mother taught me about TIME TRAVEL . "If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"
4. My mother taught me LOGIC. " Because I said so, that's why."
5. My mother taught me MORE LOGIC. "If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."
6. My mother taught me FORESIGHT. "Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."
7. My mother taught me IRONY "Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about."
8. My mother taught me about the science of OSMOSIS. "Shut your mouth and eat your supper."
9. My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM. "Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"
10. My mother taught me about STAMINA. "You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."

## Famous German Americans Who Made a Difference by Francine McKenna

They perhaps were born in Germany, had German parents, grandparents or even great-great-grandparents, and maybe at sometime their names had been "Anglicized", but nevertheless, however diluted, there is some German blood running through their veins.

They are Deutschamerikaner, the USA's largest ancestry group, almost a quarter of the population, and amongst them are many German-Americans who have made an impression not only in the USA but whose work and lives have had an effect worldwide.

Francis (Franz) Daniel Pastorius founded Germantown, Pennsylvania, after purchasing fifteen thousand acres of Pennsylvania from William Penn in 1683, having been commissioned by the Frankfort Land Company and merchants from Krefeld, in Germany's North Rhine-Westphalia, to form a colony in America.



This land was not for the "first German settlers", as they had already arrived in 1608 on the sailing ship "*Mary and Margaret*" and stayed in Jamestown, but for Germantown, which began on June 20, 1683 and became the first permanent German colony. The holiday on October 6 celebrating German American heritage marks a date later that year, when 13 families from Krefeld, known at the time as Crefeld, landed in Philadelphia and were founding members of Germantown.

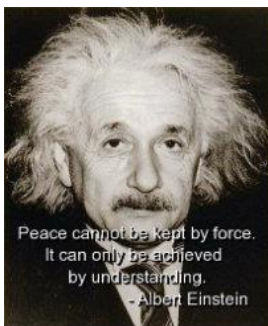
A lawyer born into a Lutheran family on September 26, 1651 in what is now the Würzburg area of Bavaria, Franz Pastorius became a Quaker in America, and Germantown, of which he was a leading member, was a settlement of Mennonites and Quakers seeking religious freedom. In 1688 he and three other representatives of the Germantown "Religious Society of Friends" signed the first anti-slavery petition in the colonies, "*The 1688 Germantown Quaker Petition Against Slavery*".

Levi Strauss – Where would we be without his jeans, although would *Loeb's* trip off the tongue as easily as "Levi's"? Born Loeb Strauss in Bavaria, Germany on February 26, 1829, he left for the USA in 1847 and worked in a dry goods business in New York City owned by his brothers, but struck out on his own after six years and moved across to San Francisco. There he began his own company and in late 1872 he went into partnership with Jacob Davis, who was already making workman's clothes from Strauss's denim fabric with the stress points strengthened by metal studs.

After Levi Strauss and Co. received the patent for "Levi's" on May 20, 1873, manufacture of the blue jeans has never stopped.

Thomas Nast introduced us to the smile, or head shaking, which comes with political cartoons and caricatures. Born in Landau on September 27, 1840, now part of Rhine Palatinate but at the time in "conservative" Bavaria, he was six years old when his father moved the family to America because his political views were not those of the Bavarian government. The family lived in New York City and at the age of 15 Nast, now considered to be the "Father of the American Cartoon", had his first cartoon published.

Like Francis Pastorius, Thomas Nast was a strong opponent of slavery, producing drawings urging people to crush the Confederates, who supported slavery, throughout the Civil War. And of course in 1862 he drew on his native German tradition of "Sankt Nikolaus", *St. Nicholas*, put it together with other centuries old European folk traditions involving elves and benevolent gift givers, and came up with Santa Claus, the warmhearted and rotund figure who still represents and is identified with Christmas worldwide.



Albert Einstein, Nobel prize winner, born in Ulm in the southwest of the German Empire on 14 March 1879, and even as a child showed an intense curiosity and understanding of science.

At six years old he was fascinated by how a magnet worked and his studies ultimately lead to a Doctorate and many research papers, and one was for the "Theory of Relativity. The famous  $E = mc^2$  equation, a giant leap for science. 'E' stands for energy and 'M' for mass, the 'C' for the speed of light. Or as he explained it to make it easier for a non-physicist to understand *The Mass of a Body is a Measure of its Energy Content*

Although not his initial aim it was this theory which led to the development of nuclear power, as well as the atomic bomb. However Albert Einstein is known not only as a scientist but also a *Philosopher-Physicist*. His influence on twentieth-century philosophy of science is comparable to his influence on twentieth-century physics, and his quotations are world renowned and relevant to life in general.

While on a visit to the United States in 1933 Adolf Hitler came to power in Germany, so Einstein did not return.

Wernher von Braun was born in Wirsitz, then part of Prussian now in Poland, on March 23, 1912 and was one of the most important rocket developers and leading supporters of space exploration between the 1930s and the 1970s. At 17 he became involved with the German rocket society, Verein für Raumschiffahrt, and was 20 when he began to work for the German army developing ballistic missiles, receiving a Doctorate in physics on July 27, 1934.

Rocket technology developed for Nazi Germany during World War II, and the V-2 ballistic missile it produced, were the model used in the space exploration programs of the USA and Russia.

As it became obvious by the beginning of 1945 that Germany would lose the war von Braun began to plan for a post war era, organizing the surrender of 500 of his leading rocket scientists, together with plans and test vehicles, to the US. There for fifteen years he was involved in ballistic missile research and development for the U.S. Army, including the Army's Jupiter missile.

Newly established NASA had the rocket center transferred to under its control, and the giant Saturn V rockets, the launch vehicle which sent Americans to the moon, were developed there, with Wernher von Braun as chief architect.

Charles Monroe Schulz father, Carl Schulz, emigrated from Germany to Minneapolis, Minnesota, and it was there his only child was born on November 26, 1922.

For over sixty years readers have turned to the comic pages to see what was happening in the lives of Charlie Brown, Snoopy and the rest of the gang in *Peanuts*, probably the most popular comic strip ever, and it was inspired by the Sundays Carl and Charles Schulz spent together reading the comic strips. The young boy was fascinated by Mickey Mouse and Popeye and developed an ambition to be a cartoonist. Like Thomas Nast he was 15 when his first drawing, of Spike the family dog, was printed in a nationally-syndicated newspaper feature.

After war service Schulz sold one-panel cartoons focused on drawings of precocious children with large heads using words and behavior well beyond their years, then the first simple four-panel *Peanuts* strip appeared on October 2, 1950, in seven newspapers nationwide. As newspaper editors in the late 1940s and 50s wanted a change in style, a post-war minimalist model compared to the stylized versions of pre-war years, his intellectual and self-effacing humor was a natural fit for mid-20th century comics worldwide.

A humor that could be observational, ironic, sarcastic, nostalgic, silly, bittersweet, and with a large dose of suspended reality, it was honored in many ways over the years.



Including the Apollo 10 mission, when the modules were named "Charlie Brown", the Command and Service Module, and "Snoopy", the Lunar Module, after the two main characters in the comic strip.

Charles Schulz "*Peanuts*" humor even conquered space.

## THIS IS DANK CHAPTER 71 - THE GERMAN HERITAGE SOCIETY OF ERIE!



**MEETING: June 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Erie Männerchor Club - Diamond Room**

**7:00 PM Program: t.b.a.**

**Dinner opt: 5:30 - Call for reservations (456-9599)**



DANK Chapter 71  
750 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Erie, PA 16503-1414

FIRST CLASS MAIL

**Meeting: May 18<sup>th</sup>**



Be sure to mark these dates on your calendars: June 15; July 20 (Picnic), Aug 17, Sept 21, Oct 19, Nov 18, and Dec 4<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Party).

## *Last Chance - GERMAN LIFE MAGAZINE*

Renewing your subscription or as a first time subscriber, this is a really great value! Through DANK, you can receive the six issues of the magazine for just \$15.95! A \$10 savings over the subscription rate of \$24.95! First published in 1995, **German Life** is a current bi-monthly magazine written in English and German for all people interested in the diversity of German, Austrian, and Swiss culture yesterday and today, and in the various ways that North America has been shaped by its German heritage element. The magazine is dedicated to solid reporting on cultural, historical, social, and political events.



Send check in the amount of \$15.95 PAYABLE TO: German Life Magazine to: Charlotte Chase (1425 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street – Erie PA 16503) by May30th .....