



DANK Chapter 71
German Heritage Society of Erie
Mitteilungsblatt



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January 2018



We knew we would end the old year with record breaking snow and starting with a polar freeze with temperatures in the single digits and up to -20 for chill factors! I'm so glad that we were together for our St. Nickolas Christmas celebration before all this hit. Weather sure plays a big part on our activities...and our main concern is for your safety. When the weather is questionable about how bad the conditions are, we contact someone on the west side and on the eastside for driving conditions. Being basically in the center of town it sometimes skirts around us. Winter has about two months to go and we already have 140" on the ground! Thankfully the week's thaw helped us get roads cleared and we can navigate around town again.



That being said....

Please join us at our next meeting on Wednesday, January 17th at the Männerchor Club. There will be a brief meeting and there are several important items on the agenda: 1) We need to see if changing our day and or the time will help you to attend futures meetings and activities. 2) Decisions to be made regarding funding projects and distribution, 3) Planning our annual Picnic, Christmas celebration and discussing other important issues. There will be discussion on learning basic German, and more about the German culture! Coffee and kuchen will be served during the meeting. Your participation is important and we sincerely hope that you will attend this important meeting. Remember this is your organization and your support is important to us. Please respond to Bev at 456-9599 (dankerie1990@gmail.com email)



Your safety is first and foremost during the winter months. Meetings will be cancelled if the weather conditions are deteriorating as reported on the news. We will notify you of a cancellation via email. No email on file? Please call Bev at 456-9599



Thanks to those of you who have shared your email address with me. We have been "green" to help conserve our trees/environment for two years, and we still are missing some email addresses. It will only be used to send you our newsletter in a pdf format that takes less space when sharing and to keep you updated on the happenings in the chapter, such as cancellations. Be assured that we will never share or sell our email list to any outside organizations or individuals without your permission. So please...drop me a line at our NEW Chapter's EMAIL ACCOUNT - dankerie1990@gmail.com so we can get our list up to date. If you haven't got an email account, we will continue to send information to you via the postal service, but remember it can take 4-5 days to reach you.

5 Bißchen und Stückchen – Bits and Pieces



We send our sincere best wishes and prayers to our members and friends who are struggling with health issues. If you know someone we have missed, please let us know.

*Dale Arndt
Glen Blodgett
Mace Bowersox
Emil & Gretel Daeschner
Ray Luniewski
Susan Roehrl
Frank Swiderski*



Congratulations to

Patricia Munz and Tom Schlaudecker
who have moved to their new home at

**603 California Drive
Erie, Penna. 16505**

MEMORABLE DATES



Herzlichen Glückwunsch zum Geburtstag

Belated greeting to:

Dec 2	Kathleen	Gausman
Dec 16	Judith	Koza
Dec 22	Nancy	Mottern-Madura

Jan 1	Jacki	Seib, Sr.
Jan 3	Tim	Lesniewski
Jan 10	James	von Loewe
Jan 28	Bryan D.	Bechler



*Be sure to like us on FaceBook at:
DANK Chapter 71
and
German Heritage Fest 2018 Erie PA*



We need your help!

We need to elect officers for the coming year - 2017-2018.

Our **President, Jeff Chase** has served two terms and has stepped aside to let someone else take over. Normally our **Vice President** steps up, however we currently do not have one. Jeff asked me to step up as Acting President until we can elect officers. We also need a **Secretary** to keep the minutes of our meetings to meet state regulations as a non-profit corporation. (No, we are not tax exempt!) – Then too, we need **two Directors** on the Board. If you can step up to help out with any position, please don't be afraid to do so. Your Chapter needs you!

President's Term is for two years, but a change may be made, others are open-ended. Consider if you can help so we can make the nominations at our January meeting.

Contact Bev Pochatko with any questions.
dankerie1990@gmail.com or 814-456-9599.

Our Contributions to the Community ...

For years, our DANK Chapter has been very active providing information on traditions – some old and some vaguely remembered; older members probably remember our floats for the Erie Centennial Parade, the Millcreek 4th of July Parades, the Perry Centennial Parade and the fun we had making them. Then too, we had a booth in the park for the We Love Erie Days, and participated in the International Festivals held at Waldameer. We were instrumental in hosting the Bavarian Fest at the Turnwald Park for the East Erie Turners for three years. Who can forget those memorable Fasching Costume Parties that we had at the Zukor Club, Männerchor Club and at BrewErie? Our most important contribution was and is our ongoing German Heritage Festival. We took a chance and twenty-two years later we are still hosting it.

As our charter members have aged, moved to warmer locals, and some have passed, it is more difficult to continue some of the activities. We have younger members, but they have family responsibilities and find it difficult to come to a meeting. We are willing to change our day and time to help them and our senior members who don't like to drive in the evenings.

Some people have commented that we are not in the media very often, it is because we lack a person willing to do media coverage. We have face book presence (DANK Chapter 71) and (German Heritage Fest 2018 Erie PA); shortly our new updated webpage (www.dank-erie.org) will be on line after we do some fine tuning.

Most importantly, we contribute to the community behind the scenes.

Among our accomplishments were the decisions to increase our monetary donations to various local organizations that totaled \$3,550⁰⁰ in 2017. In April we donated \$750 to the Veterans Miracle Center – Erie and in December added another \$500 to them. Our public Library also received \$750 towards their Heritage Room; the Erie Historical Society received \$750 towards the preservation of our German related items as well as several donated items for their collection. The Erie Society for Genealogy Research also received \$500 for their German collection; \$150 for the Mercy Center for Women and \$150 to the Church of the Nativity (Russian Orthodox) for the over-flo shelter they sponsor over Christmas and New Year's. . Of course there are other smaller donations made throughout the year including contributions to the Erie City Mission, donated a basket to the Gannon Travel Group – Germany for their fund-raiser, and provided the Asbury UM Church with a lunch of ox-roast sandwiches for their young choral guests from Germany. We have received thank you letters from the organizations that we have helped.



Now is the time for your chapter to ask you:

1. What do you want to see happen within the organization?
2. Will changing the day/time of meetings help in your participation?
3. What programs are you interested in seeing/attending?
4. Do you have a talent you would be willing to share: writing?
Coordinating/organizing?
5. The biggest question of all...what can you or would you be willing to do to help

improve your heritage connection?

If you can't attend the meeting, please contact Bev (746-8882) or Fred Huttel (881-4755) and share your thoughts with them.



Paying your dues has become easier!

To streamline and simplify dues renewals, was proposed and the 'kinks' were finally worked out.

Now you can pay online on our secure website using your Debit or Credit card

and establishing an automatic renewal process. When you receive your renewal notice, (three months in advance) auto-payments allows you time to cancel payment if you wish to not renew. The payments are processed by PayPal*. It is important to note that only PayPal* will have access to member's personal credit card information...no one else. For those who prefer to send payment by check can still do so, but it takes longer. With either form of payment, you will still receive your renewal notice three (3) months in advance. If you chose to do the on-line payment, it is automatically renewed each year on the date you will be advised of.

How to pay online...

Go to our DANK Nationa website: www.DANK.org/Membership/payment. Fill out the required information. Once completed, it will take you to a second page, www.dank.org/membership/Payment2/index.htm. You will see a text message informing you that the payment submitted will be automatic and reoccurring. It also explains that you will be notified each year 3 months prior to the annual renewal date to allow you to cancel the payment if you chose not to renew your membership. Behind the scenes, PayPal* notifies the office that a payment has been submitted and verified. You will receive your new membership card the same as before. This method of payment will reduce office time, the costs of printing and postage. This will also help your Chapter to follow up on overdue or unpaid membership renewals. DONATIONS can still be made by clicking the button on the bottom of the list for donations. Clicking this button will take you to a new page where you can select the category of donation. You will need to fill in the amount of the donation.

Francine Noted: a Faschingsmuffel/Karnevalsmuffel is someone who doesn't like Carnival...which, is the majority of Germans actually. 😊 I am a **Faschingsmuffel/Karnevalsmuffel** myself, and don't know anyone who likes it. So it is not the image the world holds of the celebration perhaps, that the entire country goes mad for a few days.

FASCHINGSMUFFEL AND CARNIVAL by Francine McKenna-Klein

«Das Schönste am Fasching sind die Krapfen-Variationen und der Aschermittwoch...»
«The best things about Carnival are the different types of donuts and Ash Wednesday...»

So say the **Karnevalsmuffel**, the many who run for the hills when «The Fifth and Foolish Season» begins. Germany's reputation as a country filled with carnival enthusiasts is something of an exaggeration.

Celebrating carnival is regional anyway, with much of the country not involved and one fifth complaining that it is ridiculous and takes up too much TV time etc., while in the actual carnival areas less than half take part with 20 percent saying «Ich hasse Karneval».

A SIDE OF CARNIVAL HERE THAT FEW WHO DON'T ACTUALLY LIVE IN GERMANY KNOW ABOUT.

Even though there are several versions to choose from, with completely different traditions.

Karneval in the north and Rhineland is known for its political and social parody. Floats poke fun at everything from local, national and international politicians to the past year's news and the people in it, including politically explosive issues. The Rhenish festivities have become especially popular over the centuries, since being used as a satirical platform to give vent to rebellious anti-Prussian and anti-French sentiments during the various occupations.

Although they often feature parody, the emphasis in many **Fasching** and **alemannische Fastnacht** regions lies instead on wearing traditional masks, often centuries old, while dressing up as devils, fools and wild beasts. And military style uniforms are less common than in Karneval regions.

Many love the fifth season because it's when the rules allow them to be silly and unrestrained, so being silly and unrestrained only when the rules actually allow it. The crazier the better.

But what about those who have no interest in being kissed by drunken strangers, can't stand endless loud carnival tunes and don't want to be pelted with confetti by pirates, clowns or devils; how can they escape carnival turmoil.

Well any living in a Fasching stronghold can soundproof their homes and remain there for as long as it lasts...or take flight. While anyone living a safe distance away can enjoy their advantage and stay there, they are often joined by **Karnevalsmuffel** from the carnival regions, letting the others have their fun. After all tastes differ and so do ideas about what makes a good party.

Stores are closed but shopping malls are often open, museums too, while for weeks travel agencies have been offering holidays in "fool-free zones". Especially complete contrasts such as Germany's car free islands, with their dunes, heaths, pastures and horse-drawn carriages. Peace and quiet in a monastery, which often offer everything from bee keeping and computer courses, as well as fasting, meditation and «Days of Silence».

Dresden, capital of Saxony and a carnival free zone, offer a "**Nix für Pappnasen**" break, inviting Carnival refugees to stay for special rates, including free admission to some museums and castles. In fact there are many Karneval free zones to choose from in Germany, and of course the ski slopes...and – and - and.

Of course this being a Social Media world there are also Facebook groups who exchange tips on what to do and where, as well as making fun of the Narren and Jecke, jesters and carnival revelers.

Über Karneval muß ich nur wissen, wann er endlich vorbei ist... «All I need to know about Carnival is when is it finally over», say many...and so there is a collective sigh of relief from some quarters when it's Ash Wednesday at last.

The official start of Lent. Even if very few people actually fast until Easter these days, historically this was the purpose of carnival. To live it up before the beginning of Lent and it's strictly observed 40-day Lenten period of fasting, when people refrained from drinking alcohol or eating meat, milk products and eggs.

Now **Karnevalsmuffel** can come out from wherever they have been hiding, «The Fifth and Foolish Season» is over for another year and life goes on...although there are some who will be nursing hangovers, and even post carnival depression, for at least a day or two, because it is **«ein trauriger Tag für die Narren»...a sad day for carnival revelers**.

But the end of carnival also means the approaching spring, its color, lighter nights and warmth, is closer, and that soon makes everything seem much brighter.



DANK Chapter 71
 German heritage Society of Erie
 750 East 10th Street
 Erie, PA 16503-1414

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS PLEASE



*Are you a...
 Faschingsmuffel/Karnevalsmuffel*

2017 Funktionäre / Officers

Präsidentin / Acting President:

Beverly Pochatko 456-9699
750 East 10th Street
Erie, PA 16503-1414

VizePräsident / Vice President:

Schatzmeisterin/ Treasurer:

Charlotte Chase 452-6063
 1425 East 7th St. Erie, PA 16503

Sekretärin / Secretary:

Past President: Jeffrey A. Chase 814- 823-3593
 1445 Hull Hill Road
 Youngsville, PA 16371

If you are interested in helping plan any Chapter activities,
 please call Jeffrey or Brigitte Chase at 814- 823-3593



Don't sit on the sidelines – Get involved!

Next Meeting – 7 P.M. Jan 17th

**Important Meeting – 7 PM in the Diamond Room of
 the Erie Maennerchor Club – Program t.b.a.**



Come early (5:30) to enjoy dinner in
 the club dining room. Reservations
 needed. Please call Bev (456-9599)
 by Tuesday evening.