



DANK Chapter 71

German Heritage Society of Erie

Mitteilungsblatt



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What is DANK?

The German American National Congress, commonly referred to as DANK, actively works to preserve German culture, heritage and language in the United States. It is our aim to inspire people with Germanic heritage and those interested in German cultures and language to recognize and celebrate the culture in a number of exciting ways.

Since 1959, DANK has gone from a small group of people in the city of Chicago to an ever-growing network of chapters throughout the nation. In the last 50 years our common goals have remained the same, but how we reach them is constantly evolving.

DANK publishes its national magazine, the German-American Journal, six times a year, hosts one of the fastest growing German-American sites on the web, produces engaging blog posts centered around German news, culture, and music, and holds a wide variety of activities throughout the country for all ages. We welcome everyone to join DANK and get involved!

In 1991, the Erie Chapter of DANK was established. Members quickly found that there were two ‘types’ of members...those who wanted to share and retain their ancestral heritage and those who wanted to learn more about their family origins. It provided a good mix that continues today.

The Chapter works diligently to provide informative programs of interest to the community; supports the Männerchor Gesangverein (mixed chorus); provides German language classes; encourages the deutsche sprache Kaffee Klatsch to provide a meeting place where German is used freely; and continues to promote and support the annual German Heritage Festival held each Labor Day weekend. A time for socializing and sharing a beverage and dessert takes place at each meeting, as well as at our special events such as the annual family picnic, Christmas and Fasching (Mardi Gras). Events such as the wreath laying ceremony in November for Volkstrauertag – (Remembrance Day) and the celebration of German American Day are important days in our heritage and honor them.

Show Pride in Your German Heritage! During our **Summer Membership Drive** invite a family member or friend to join DANK from June to October at half-price (\$20/head of household) at all levels! It's a great opportunity to learn more about the benefits of membership. Applications available at the German Fest, our meetings or by registering on our national DANK website: www.DANK.org

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Bißchen und Stückchen – Bits and Pieces



Just a quick note to tell you that I am finally able to see and do much more now since my eyes have improved. (No longer do I have to have my nose 6" from the monitor to see what I am writing!) It has been a long three years during which I had six eye surgeries. While I have done my best, I felt I left you all down with short letters and late mailings. I was disappointed that I couldn't get someone to do it for me while I was unable. Thankfully I was able to get the message out to those of you who have given me your email addresses, those receiving it via snail mail lost out due to the way the post office delivery is now. (I would still like for someone to help out!)

UPDATE: Thanks to Niagara Media, we have a new look on our DANK webpage (www.dank-erie.org). There is a festival count-down timer as well. We still have a few minor things to change, but it will be done. Let me know what you think. We are focusing right now on the German *Heritage Festival*. Please go to www.ErieChoices 2016, register and vote for us in the Entertainment section under Local Events. It would be great if we were voted #1 event as we celebrate our 20th year. Get all your friends to do the same. Thanks for your support.

If you are on FaceBook, then check out our page German Heritage Fest 2016 Erie, PA. We will be posting fest updates on the festival there regularly.

Please plan to attend the Festival sign-up on Wednesday, Aug 17th. The Männerchor will be making two of their new German offerings that night that you will want to try! Let me know if you can attend so we can order sufficient snacks, either by email to erieoma@verizon.net or by calling me at 814-456-9599.

Looking forward to seeing you!



**WE NEED
YOUR HELP!**



CONSIDER BEING A VOLUNTEER!

Our **German Fest Volunteers** are priceless! They help us introduce new generations to today's German culture & yesteryear's German traditions. We have always maintained that without our volunteers, we could not put on this huge event. Today, our original volunteers are down in number due to aging, health issues or have passed.

German Fest happens with the dedication and hard work of MANY truly appreciated volunteers! Some volunteers assist before the fest during set up - covering the tables in the fest tent, putting up signage, some work during the actual fest, while others choose to work after the fest during the take down effort.

Volunteer opportunities, during the fest, include working at the Admission Gates, ID Bands, Greeters, Information Booth, the souvenir glasses booth, merchandise booth, and raffle booth.

If you have a few free hours to share and would like to volunteer at our next German Fest, please call Beverly Pochatko at 814.456.9599 or send an email with your contact information and area of interest to: ErieOma@verizon.net

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- we don't have enough volunteers for: set-up, greeters, tickets, our glass sales, beer tickets, or our DANK booth?
- it rains?
- it is a hot weekend?

Learn more at our August 17th meeting.



Volunteers are needed to work at the German Fest to make the Fest a success.

The schedule has two (2) shifts...

Saturday 11:00-3:00 and 3:00-7:00

Sunday: 11:00-2:30 and 2:30-6:30

We need volunteers to 'man' the Admissions Gate, Greeters, ID Bands, Beer Tickets, Glass Sales, the DANK Booth, tent clean-up and Relief volunteers

Another familiar face, Luise D. is no longer with us and she will be missed. We also lost workers again for this year for health reasons and we do thank them for their many years of volunteering booths.

Please sign-up to volunteer at the August 17th meeting or contact Bev at 456-9599 or email to ErieOma@verizon.net.

The German Germans don't understand - German dialects

Here is a glimpse of what you might expect when going to Germany (they all speak standard German too, I promise).

German dialects usually only play a minor role in a German class because the standard German (Hochdeutsch) is taught.

Surely, Germans from one part of Germany will understand Germans from the other part of Germany, right? Germans communicate with other Germans from other parts of Germany in standard German. It's your first choice in a business setting when speaking from the mind is important. But speaking from the heart means bubbling in your local dialect.

Germans get swept off their feet when they hear the dialect spoken in Bavaria. Almost every fourth German has their heart skip a beat when listening to the softer-sounding variety of German, but they cringe when the Saxonian or Rhineland Palatinate dialect is within earshot.

For many Germans, though, a dialect is the first language they grow up speaking, something that they live and breathe. The further south you go in Germany, the more likely you are to find colorful variations of the German you learned in a German class. But there are also dialects spoken in the north of Germany.

Here is the way they may say - *I can't do it. I'm sorry.* Das kann ich nicht. Tut mir leid (Sind wir wieder gut).

It's important for you to know standard German and pronunciation; Where to find German dialects; what they mean to Germans and lastly - How they can cause misunderstandings. It's all in how you say the words!

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*Ad by German State of Baden-Württemberg saying:
"We can do everything, except speak standard German"*



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

Please deliver by: Aug 13th



Next Gathering: Aug 17th!



Dates to Remember:

- Aug 17th** 7 p.m. at the Erie Männerchor Club
Diamond Room
- Sept 3rd-4th** SIGN UP to volunteer at the FEST
German Heritage Festival
- Sept 21st** 7 p.m. at the Erie Männerchor Club. –
Meeting /program
- Volunteer Thank you date t.b.a.**
- Oct 6 -** German American Day
- Oct 9 –** Fall of the Berlin Wall
- Oct 19th** 7 p.m. at the Erie Männerchor Club
- Nov** 1 p.m. Volkstrauertag –Remembrance followed
by Kaffee Klatsch date t.b.a.



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