



Our German Heritage Fest Celebrated 20 years!

It's hard to believe that since our first attempt at bringing our German heritage to our community would grow from 285 guests in 1996 to approximately 6,500 in 2016! What a fantastic ride. We have weathered heavy rain (during Hurricane Katrina), several scattered torrential rains and wind, temperatures in the mid-90s and...having access to the fest blocked so that then Presidential candidate George Bush's motorcade could arrive for a rally (3 hours out of the afternoon). The main thing, as true to our heritage, we survived!

This year, thanks to our 26 volunteers comprised of members, family and friends, (and 'Mother Nature') it went off like clockwork. The Gannon University Travel Club, the Erie Rugby Club and members of the Lake Erie Fan Fare were also a part of our success.

We received many accolades and some of the best compliments were reported in our local news media. From the setting among trees on the edge of the city, the food, entertainment, the beer, and the Marktplatz and the Kinderecke, Gemütlichkeit was king! On TV and in the Erie Times News, we were touted as a truly authentic German festival that is family oriented. The highest compliment received was made by Uli Schubert-Mielnik, who along with his wife Kate, daughter Enna, who recently moved from Germany and is staying in Erie. "It's fun seeing this from the American point of view. It's like a German Village Festival!"

Future plans are to keep true to our values; it's not about making money, but about family and the preservation of our heritage.

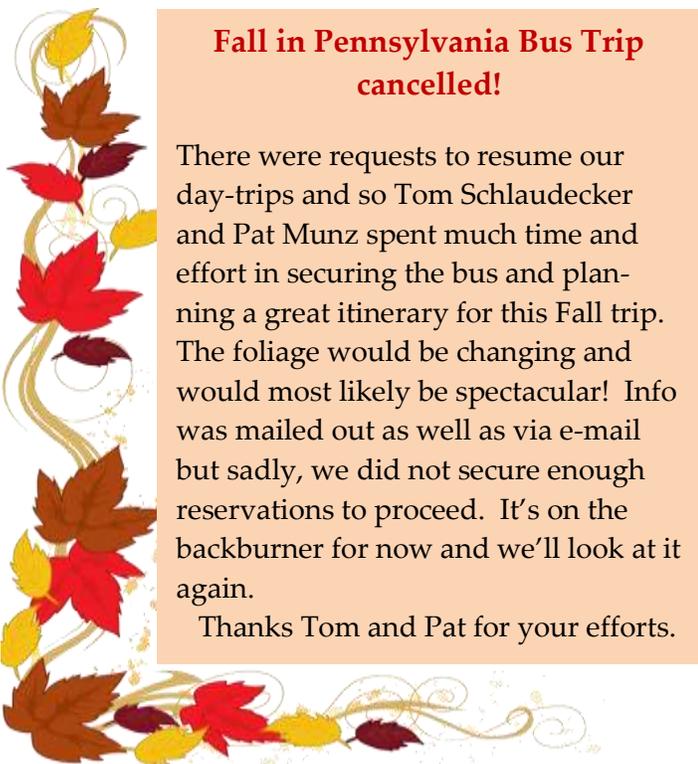
Fall in Pennsylvania Bus Trip cancelled!

There were requests to resume our day-trips and so Tom Schlaudecker and Pat Munz spent much time and effort in securing the bus and planning a great itinerary for this Fall trip. The foliage would be changing and would most likely be spectacular! Info was mailed out as well as via e-mail but sadly, we did not secure enough reservations to proceed. It's on the backburner for now and we'll look at it again.

Thanks Tom and Pat for your efforts.

*Be sure to like us on Facebook at:
DANK Chapter 71
and
German Heritage Fest 2016 Erie PA*

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4	Oktoberfest - Munich
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7	Bits and Pieces Continued Fest Anniversary T-shirt sale





Chapter Leadership Conference to be held in Chicago on Oct 29th

A special meeting has been called by National President Michael Ianni and supported by the National Executive Board to help the chapters find solutions to the problems plaguing them.

Chapter struggles...what can we do on the national and chapter levels? As a member/leader, how much value do you put on keeping your heritage alive for future generations? We are being totally absorbed into the melting pot of America and will soon be known only by our ancestor's birth place and many traditions they so valued will be forgotten or no longer acknowledged.

While this is not something new to some chapters, more and more are finding it difficult to provide for the membership. Attendance at meetings is low-no enthusiasm. What attracted the members to begin with? Discussions will be held on: "Secrets to a good organization", "How to Market your Chapter", "Building Effective Leadership", "Event Planning", "Community Involvement" and "Chapter Financial Security". Printed materials will be provided.

OUR FUTURE – lies in strengthening our chapters by increasing membership and attendance by sharing what we hold dear...our heritage. On his election, President Ianni shared his goals for the future of DANK. They are: **Pride** – (Proud to be German American); **Respect** (for all chapters, members and all ethnic communities and cultures); **Appreciation** (of our culture, to share it); and **Determination** – (to carry on and make it successful).



We are looking for two members willing to represent our Chapter at this meeting. The meeting on Saturday, October 29th starts at 9 AM and will last to approximately 4:50 PM at the DANK Haus. The Executive Board will meet at the Residence Inn – O'Hare (recommended for overnight stays) on Friday evening at 7 PM. Please contact Beverly (814-456-9599) for more information. This will be a topic of discussion at our September Chapter meeting.

Aus Oma's Küche

There is nothing like having a fresh baked muffin for breakfast or any time thereafter!

MORNING GLORY MUFFINS

2 c. flour	1/2 c. chopped nuts
1 1/4 c. sugar	Grated orange peel
2 tsp. soda	1/2 c. coconut
2 tsp. cinnamon	1 med. apple, grated
1/2 tsp. salt	3 eggs, beaten
2 c. grated carrots	1 c. oil
1/2 c. raisins	2 tsp. vanilla

Mix flour, sugar, soda, cinnamon, and salt; add rest of ingredients. Bake at 350 degrees for 15-20 minutes. Makes 2½ dozen.

Oktoberfest is much more than just Beer Tents



The Hof Brau Fest Hall is the most famous of all, but there are many more large , medium and smaller halls to visit.

Half of the fun at the Oktoberfest Munich is the carnival rides. Just one warning: first do the fun rides, and then enter the tents. It might get messy otherwise

The construction work for the famous Bavarian beer festival starts three months before the opening date to prepare everything.

Starting from the underground station Theresienwiese (U4 and U5), the first tent you see, is the **Spaten Ochsenbraterei**. As you can see, there is still a lot more work to do, but you can be sure everything will be ready for the **Anstich** (opening ceremony)!



Meanwhile, I want to show you the "Wiesn" like most visitors will never see her.

Wiesn is how we locals call the Oktoberfest. It's Bavarian for the German word "Wiese" and means meadow in English. The name is a short name for the place where the October fest is held. The big square is called "**Theresienwiese**" and was a meadow many years ago. Today most of the square is covered with tarmac, but there are still parts with lawn.



The building to the left is the Hofbräu tent. You probably have heard about the famous **Hofbräuhaus**. This is the corresponding beer tent at the Oktoberfest Munich.

By the way, the "tents" are not really tents anymore. Nowadays they are made of steel and wood, almost like houses. Because of the many visitors (a few thousands per tent) it would be much too dangerous otherwise. This one's almost finished. You can already see the wooden interior and even the decoration in yellow and white. Hard to believe, that the whole tent will be filled with tables, benches, and thousands of persons, isn't it? During the two weeks, the Oktoberfest attracts around 6 million visitors.



Look at this photo. The English translation for the sign at the entrance is: "Closed because of congestion. Thank you for your understanding." At the moment, the **Käfer Wies'n Schenke** is not crowded at all, but it definitely will be.

Sadly, the Oktoberfest has become victim of its popularity: especially on weekends, the beer tents fill up quickly and are then closed. The surest way to get in is to have a reservation. You need to make your reservations months in advance; otherwise you will be much too late. Nevertheless you can check the official Munich site for information, maybe you're lucky.

The Beer, most important ingredient

Here you can see one of the traditional wooden beer barrels. Unfortunately I was alone when taking the photos, so I couldn't stand beside it. Then you'd see that it is almost 2 meters high!

Nowadays most of the breweries use steel barrels that are even bigger and easier to handle. The Augustiner Tent is the only one that still serves beer from wooden barrels. Many locals think this makes it taste so good.





Finally, the Opening Day arrives

Impatiently awaited by millions of visitors, the Oktoberfest Munich starts with the Opening Parade and the famous Anstich by our mayor leading the Procession of Breweries and Tent Owners with their colorfully decorated horses and horse-drawn carriages.

Schottenhamel - Saturday evening and everyone is dancing at Schottenhamel! This is usually the most crowded beer tent. I took the picture from the balcony and you can't even see the aisles between the tables.



Oktoberfest Songs - Wiesn Hits

The popular Oktoberfest songs are repeated over and over in all of the beer tents. People get up to stand on their beer benches and sway left and right (German: schunkeln) to the beat of the music. You'll have even more fun, if you can chant the lyrics of the songs.

Music is definitely an important part of the Oktoberfest, maybe as important as the beer itself. Most of the Oktoberfest songs are in German, but luckily for you, there are also some in English.

Every year there's a so called "Wiesn Hit", supposedly the most popular song during that year's celebration. If you learn the lyrics (at least the chorus) of a few Oktoberfest songs, you will have a lot more fun celebrating. By the way, the melody isn't as important, with thousands of persons trying to sing as loud as possible, nobody will notice, if you are in dissonance.

Below you will find some of the classic Oktoberfest hits, the ones that have moved millions of people over the years and are repeated each and every year. If you learn the lyrics once, you can sing those songs basically forever.

Ein Prosit der Gemütlichkeit - This song is the one like best by the beer tent owners and breweries. Apparently someone has calculated that each time this Oktoberfestlied is played, 1000 liters of beer are swallowed. I'm not sure if these numbers are correct, but whenever the Oktoberfest band plays "Ein Prosit" (and they do it often) you are supposed to stand up, toast with everyone and take a big mouthful from your Masskrug.

So ein Schöner Tag by Donikkl - This Oktoberfest song is rather new (from 2008), but already a classic. Apart from the song itself, the accompanying hand movements are important. You'll see all the others doing it and will learn the movements quickly. It looks rather strange to see thousands of people standing on their beer benches, pretending to swim, fly and jump, but it is a lot of fun!

In München steht ein Hofbräuhaus - This is easily the most popular Oktoberfest song ever. Skandal im Sperrbezirk (Scandal in the off-limits area) by the Spider Murphy Gang, a Munich rock band, was a German Number One hit in the early eighties and is still alive and kicking every year on the Wiesn. This Oktoberfest song has so much power, that it used to be forbidden in the tents, due to security reasons. Imagine thousands of people frenetically hopping up and down on the wooden beer benches and you get the idea ...

Three other favorites include: Living next door to Alice (Alice? Who the heck is Alice?), Country Roads, and the ever popular Y.M.C.A.

German Fest 2016 Remembrances...

Summer is almost gone, but not quite! We were thankful that we had the perfect weather for our German Festival, On Thursday, the tents were put up and tables were there so that on Friday at 9 AM when the volunteers came, they could get started right away. Charlie Roehrl, Tom Kliber and a crew were busy setting up the fencing to surround the site. Meanwhile in the Fest Hall tent, Carol Snippert, Donna Vaughn, Melissa Lesniewski and Amanda Mikesell were busy covering and taping the table coverings in place. Q-Sound was busy getting setup and the stage and dance floor installed. Across the way in the Marktplatz, Bev Pochatko, Destiny Eicher and Allison Janke and Tom Hutzelman started setting up the DANK area and signs went up. By noon most of our vendors were there and getting set-up. We all took a break at noon and enjoyed a brief lunch of Sloppy Joes, Chips, Brownies and water. By 2:30 most everyone was done, signs were up, etc. Ray and his crew were busy setting up their kitchen as was Sabella's and the Erie Männerchor. Later, Edie (Ray's wife) came out after work and set up the Viennese Café.

As the sun came up on the start of our celebration, Ray and all the cooks were there firing up the stoves and griddles, last minutes signs were placed and the tent sides went up, As volunteers arrived, they signed in and then set about to make sure their area was ready for business. All went well. We had guests lined up at the gate before 10:30 so they could get their favorite locations. John Lesniewski and members of the Erie Rugby Club directed the parking and Mark Lesniewski and Amanda Easterbrook assisted.



As we opened, our volunteers, Carol Snippert, Jeff Chase, Tom Schlaudecker and Patricia Munz were at the Gate, with Julie Gould and Cindy Husted putting on the ID Bands. Chris Caldwell and George Stefanovski took their places at the Beer Ticket Booth and Janice and Roland Zuschlag were selling our Souvenir beer mugs and glasses. Tom Hutzelman was busy answering people's questions about their ancestry. Donna Vaughn, Mace Bowersox, Destiny Eicher, Allison Janke and Amanda Mikesell sold our t-shirts and German Life Cookbooks. Charlotte Chase, Brigitte Chase and Bev Pochatko were at the DANK Information booth and the food and merchandise vendors were ready to go.

Melissa Lesniewski has pretty much taken over my job of running all over the grounds making sure all signs were in place, booths were manned, everyone had change, seeing that our vendors were satisfied and much more. It really is a hard, somewhat thankless job.

Once open, The Mad Bavarian (aka Bob Hamilton) got the crowd ready with fun German folksongs and the clock quickly sprang forward and the Opening Ceremonies were ready to begin. The national flags led the parade carried by Fred Huttel, Jr. (Germany), Jeffrey Chase (U.S.) and Roland Zuschlag (Austria). Following them were members of the Gannon Travel Group and a few members. Once in place, the national anthems were sung and then we were ready to party! With no keg to tap, a pitcher of HofBrau Oktoberfest Bier was provided and MC Fred Huttel poured a mug for Jeff Chase, Chapter President, Ray Luniewski (Lake Erie FanFare), and Bev Pochatko and proclaimed "O'zapt is!" meaning it's time to start the festivities officially, and the mugs were clinked, sipped and then the boisterous "Ein Prosit" was sung! The rest of the day went quickly and at 3 PM the second shift arrived to take their respective places. Some just switching to another booth and others relieved the first shift volunteers. Among them were Susan Roehrl, Beverly Huttel, Debbie & Jerry Chase, Barb Hutzelman, Linda Brown and Jason Jaquith. The Gannon Travel Group helped in different areas under Ray's direction.



Overall everything went well with 30 dedicated volunteers! (I hope I haven't missed anyone .)

Bißchen und Stückchen – Bits and Pieces Continued

DANK - Männerchor Gesangverein



We are actively seeking new members to come join us. Presently we are singing traditional Oktoberfest songs. In our general programs, we have a great time singing old time favorites from the 40s to the 60's, patriotic songs, polkas and traditional German folk songs and more! We are also working on a blend of German Christmas music as well as English Christmas favorites. The German folk music is taught phonetically by Margaret Potocki. Director is Kathy Swanson. Everyone is welcome! Join us at

The Erie Männerchor Club
Tuesday evenings 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
For information, contact Carol (455-7009) or
Bev (456-9599)

Schedule: Schmidt Towers Tues. Sept 20th 6:30-7:30
Friendship Apts. Tues. Sept 27th 6:30-7:30



It's almost that time!

What time is that, you ask? Well.... In the even years, we elect our new officers for the coming 2017-2018 term. Candidates must be a member for 1 year to be eligible.

Our **President** has served two terms and would like to step aside to let someone else take over. Normally our **Vice President** steps up, however we currently do not have one. 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.

Term is for two years, but a change may be made. Consider if you can help so we can make the nominations at our October meeting.

Contact Bev Pochatko with any questions.
ErieOma@verizon.net or 814-456-9599.



Christel Caldwell

for your donation to support our Chapter newsletter. It is much appreciated!



Sep 2 David Ungerman
 Sep 14 Philip W. Susann
 Sep 14, Daniel B. Koza
 Sep 20 Mildred Becker
 Sep 24 Randall L Romine
 Sep 28 Emil A. Daeschner
 Sep 28 Gretel A. Daeschner
 Sep 28 Carole Wunner



Sept 13, 1997 Christopher & Melissa Shearer
 Sept 17, 1982 Melissa & John Lesniewski

FOR SALE - while they last!

German Fest 20th Anniversary t-shirts.

Sizes available Lg Blue (21) and Lg Red (2)
XL Blue (24) and Lg Red (9)
2XL Blue (6)



Special
\$10 each



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

Please deliver by: Sept 19th



Next Gathering: Sept 21st

2015 Funktionäre / Officers

Präsidentin / President:

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

VizePräsident / Vice President:

Schatzmeisterin/ Treasurer:

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

Sekretärin / Secretary:

Past President: Margarete Potocki 835-1939

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. Sept 21st

**Important Meeting – 7 PM in the Diamond Room of
the Erie Maennerchor Club**

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