



## Kirchweih!

A big thank you to all of you that were able to attend our annual Kirchweihfest! The dancers were entertaining, the music was wonderful and a great time was had by all. Thank you for the generous donations of baked goods and raffle prizes. Your continued support means more than words can say.



Gratefully,  
MaryAnn MacGillis  
& The Kindergruppe

## Holiday Bazaar a Success

Maria Abt and the members of the UDoM Frauengruppe would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who attended the 2011 Annual Holiday Bazaar at the Schwabenhof on Sunday, November 6th. The hall was filled as attendees browsed the rummage and craft sale that included children's toys, games and used books. The ladies of the Frauengruppe sold 200+ delicious meals of schnitzel and goulasch and most of the homemade boxed Christmas cookies and were able to rest for a week before starting their baking for Folk Fair!



## Upcoming Events:

- **Weihnachts Show 2011**  
The Schwabenhof  
N56 W14750 Silver Spring Road  
Saturday, November 26, 6pm  
Buy Your Tickets at the Door, \$20/person  
For more information visit:  
[www.continentalshowcase.com](http://www.continentalshowcase.com)
- **Holiday Folk Fair International**  
"Celebrate Culture Without Borders"  
Wisconsin Exposition Center  
at Wisconsin State Fair Park  
Friday-Sunday, November 18-20  
For more information and  
dance schedules visit: [www.folkfair.org](http://www.folkfair.org)

## WEISHEIT des Monats

**"Ziehen die wilden Gäns' und Enten fort,  
"When the wild geese and ducks take their leave,  
ist der Winter bald am Ort."  
Winter will soon be here."**

## German-American HISTORY 101

"O'Tannenbaum" Today we remember the German-Americans who first introduced our beautiful German Christmas tree to America and made it what later became the world wide symbol of Christmas. When



Americans celebrate Christmas; most are never made aware that the customs they use to celebrate are largely of German origin. In the very beginning the first Christmas trees seen in America by other Americans were set up by German Hessian soldiers in 1776 during the American Revolution. The first record of the now traditional American custom of going out to cut down or buy a tree was established in 1821 when a Pennsylvanian German family by the name of Hensel cut down a tree in Lancaster and brought it home to decorate. Little did these early German Settlers know that this very German tradition was to become a custom practiced by millions of American Christians of all ethnic backgrounds across the continent and of course later the world. The Saturday Evening Post once described Pennsylvania German homes where the trees were visible through the windows and the green boughs were laden with fruit and candles that sparkled into the night. It's clear to see why other Americans would soon become mesmerized by the warmth and beauty of our German Christmas traditions. As the flow of German Immigration spread across the land, so did our beautiful Christmas tree along with our other German Christmas customs. The idea of having a community Christmas tree was first established in 1841 by Karl Minnegerode in Williamsburg, VA. He started a tradition that brings great pride to our community each year when the U.S. President lights the national Christmas tree. A German American by the name of Thomas Nast, also remembered in history as the father of the American Cartoon, created the first picture of Santa Claus. His image of Santa Claus became the symbol all Americans recognize to this day. Christmas wouldn't look very much like Christmas as we know it without the influence of the German-speaking immigrants. Some other Germanic contributions are the wreath, ornaments, the tradition of gift giving, stollen, cookies, gingerbread houses, Christmas markets, advent calendars, Christmas Choirs, and of course some of the greatest music ever written such as Silent Night the most cherished Christmas hymn in the world. Frohe Weihnachten.

*Christmas renews our youth by stirring our wonder.  
The capacity for wonder has been called our most pregnant human  
faculty, for in it are born our art, our science, our religion.*

— Anonymous

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What would you like to hear more about? E-mail me at:  
[jenn@UDoMmilwaukee.com](mailto:jenn@UDoMmilwaukee.com)

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# december 2011



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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 <i>UDoM Club Christmas Party</i>	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
						<i>Christmas Eve</i>
25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	26	27	28	29	30	31 <i>Schwabenhof New Year's Eve Dance @ 6pm</i>

## *UDoM Club Christmas Party*

**@ The Schwabenhof (N56 W14750 Silver Spring Rd.)**

Sun., December 11, 11am Mass, 1pm Lunch, 2:30pm Program  
Join us for a delicious and festive buffet-style lunch and a program put on by the UDoM's Jugend and Kindergruppe. Santa is coming with a stocking for each member of the Kindergruppe! Please look for your invitation in your mailbox and make sure to RSVP as early as possible. Please contact UDoM Correspondence Secretary, Liz Borowski with any questions regarding the event @ 262/751-1196.

## *Schwabenhof New Year's Eve Dance*

**@ The Schwabenhof (N56 W14750 Silver Spring Rd.)**

Sat., December 31, 6pm – Sun., January 1, 2012, 2am  
Ring in the New Year with a bang at the Schwabenhof's New Years Eve Dinner Dance. The festivities include a buffet dinner of New York Strip Steak, Duck Legs, Fried Shrimp, and all the trimmings. Dance to the music of Johnny Hoffman und Die Herzbuben. Count down to midnight with party favors and a champagne toast. For ticket reservations contact Victor Kordas at 262/783-4436. Cost is \$65 dollars per person.

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