



Congratulations...

Congratulations to UDoM Member Katlin Schmieder, who received First Runner Up for the title of the 2011-2012 Miss German-American Societies Queen at the October 2nd German-American Day Event presented by the German-American Societies of Milwaukee at the Schwabenhof. Katlin is a member of both the Jugend and Kulturgruppe as well as the Kindergruppe Assistant. Katlin represented the UDoM very well and we are all so proud of her!



FYI: Live Broadcast

Milwaukee's German Radio Program "Continental Showcase" will be broadcasting live from German Glass and Gifts, Saturday, October 29th, from 1pm to 4:30pm! 1280 Wisconsin 175, Hubertus, WI 53033 (262) 628-7100

Book Review

John Schissler Jr.'s Long Path to America

Every family has a history worth chronicling, and John Schissler Jr., a self-published author and retired Milwaukee Public Schools teacher, has spent decades researching his clan's narrative during and after World War II, culminating in the autobiography *Passage: The Making of an American Family*. *Passage* is not merely a story of surviving the horrors of war but is also a memorial to the forgotten and unsung heroes of every war and blends together one family's unforgettable journey with a staunch anti-war message.

Schissler spent his early years as a WWII refugee after his family was forced to flee their native Yugoslavia following the outbreak of war in Europe. Among their many trials, the family survived nine months in a Russian labor camp and homesteading in West Germany before eventually making their way to Wisconsin. Even though they abandoned their homeland before John was three years old, he still remembers when the train they were escaping on came under attack by British aircraft and how his newborn sister nearly died in crowded, unsanitary concentration camp facilities, accounts he shares in detail in the book. In addition to following this German family's odyssey from war-torn Europe to Ellis Island, *Passage* also traces the family's struggles to assimilate into American society after relocating here in the 1950s.

John Schissler Jr. graduated from UW-Milwaukee and taught for five decades at John Marshall High School. He is also a member of the UDoM. *Passage: The Making of an American Family* is available for sale online, or feel free to talk to John at one of the UDoM events!



- Source: expressmilwaukee.com, article written by Jenni Herrick

Did You Know...

Though not a traditional festival in Germany, Halloween is celebrated with great zeal and enthusiasm. It is especially popular with the kids, who wait with much eagerness for the entire year, for the festival to arrive. Earlier, many people were unaware of the many customs and traditions associated with the festival and even of the festival in general. However, with the increasing influence of the American culture over the region, especially in the post-war period, natives and residents of Germany became more and more aware of this interesting festival.

Another factor that played a major role in popularizing Halloween in Germany is the increasing Halloween depictions in Hollywood movies and the regular soaps and serials. In fact, many people also regard it as an American custom imported to Germany. In present times, Halloween has become a 'cool' party theme for youngsters and teenagers, who organize costume parties on the day, thereby indulging in a lot of fun and merry-making. In certain regions, youngsters even take part in the amusing Halloween ritual of 'trick or treating', where they wander from house to house seeking goodies and giving an idle threat of mischief, if the treat is not given.

Another popular custom associated with Halloween in Germany involves the 'Jack-o-Lantern'. In a small town in Austria, known as Retz, not very far from the city of Vienna, an annual pumpkin fest called Kurbisfest is also held, complete with parties and parades (Halloween Umzug). A major aspect of Germans' spiritual pagan past is the famous spot for witches in the Harz Mountain in Germany. In the 18th century, natives believed that the region was the hovering spot for witches who were initially worshipped as forest goddesses and priestesses and later were damned as evil creatures.

For the local people of Germany, the festival of Halloween is blended with Walpurgisnacht (night of the witches), which took place in the Harz Mountains. Today, the current Halloween traditions in the country includes parties and themed decorations, costume parades, watching horror movies, visiting the graveyards of near and dear ones and so on. In certain big cities like Berlin, school children even get 'fall vacations'. Parties and excursions are organized and people spend the entire occasion in merry making and having a gala time.

*A married couple received two theater tickets
as an anniversary present, with the cryptic message,
"Guess who sent them?"*

*The couple called all their friends and family,
but no one would admit to it.*

*They went to the show and had a lovely time.
When the couple got home, though, they discovered
their house had been robbed.*

*A note on the kitchen counter read,
"Now you know."*

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UDoMmilwaukee.com
or follow us on **facebook**

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

Labor Day 2011: Mansfield, Ohio

In the wee hours of Friday morning, September 2, 2011, at 4am, a Badger bus full of sleepy jugend, kulturgruppe and a few brave “adults” left the State Fair Park and Ride to set out for Mansfield, Ohio. Included in the group were Tony and Teresa Siladi, Maria Abt, Helen and Emil Meyer, Rosie Potnek, Sue and John Kolupar, Reinhold and Irene Hutz, and perhaps the bravest, Frau Luigat and Frau Ruchstadter, along with 27 Jugendgruppe members. Our trusted drivers were Julie and her significant other, Keith. Our drive to Mansfield lasted almost 11 hours but included two brief stops and a lovely lunch stop in Shipshewana, Indiana, an Amish community – where everyone feasted on a hearty breakfast with all the trimmings. We arrived at the Holiday Inn, in downtown Mansfield, tired but happy to begin a weekend of fun, good food and great company.

Typical Labor Day festivities include a “Freundschaftsabend” on Friday evening, which provides the first of many opportunities for Donauschwaben from all over the United States and Canada to meet up with Landsleute, rekindle friendships, and make new friends. On Saturday and Sunday, groups have an opportunity to perform; there is usually live entertainment from local German bands and ample opportunity to polka the night away. Every three years, a youth competition is held on the Sunday of the Labor Day weekend, and this year was one of those years.

There were many unique features to this year’s festivities. Typically on the Saturday of the Labor Day weekend, at 2pm, there is a parade and opening ceremony. Clubs from all over the United States and Canada proudly display their banners and costumes. The UDoM was uniquely represented by six of our lovely Kulturgruppe singers: Kristel Metsig, Ashley Abt, Becca Borowski, Brigitta Siladi, Heather Hacker, and Erika Hutz who sang the German and American national anthems and the Donauschwaben hymn for the opening ceremony. In spite of the extreme heat and humidity, great times were had by all. A wonderful addition to this year’s festivities was performances by the Saarer Hungarian Donauschwaben group who had visited us in Milwaukee for our Oktoberfest just the week before. The UDoM Jugendgruppe had the opportunity to perform a dance with the Saarer group and they looked fantastic! Our Kindergruppe did not formally attend Labor Day as a group, but the four members of our Kindergruppe who were able to make the trip danced with the UDoM Kulturgruppe and did an awesome job – including a dance with flies and lifts which resulted in “oohs” and “aahs” from the audience. Festivities lasted well into the night.

The following are a few details about “competition.” As mentioned before, a youth competition is held every three years. Youth performers must be between the ages of 12 and 25. Groups are judged in five different categories: march in and out, costumes, dance, song, and German language. Each club can nominate two judges and clubs are asked to list the qualifications of their judge nominees. On the day before competition, there is a meeting attended by all judges and youth group leaders. During this meeting, the rules of competition are reviewed, questions are answered, and a drawing takes place to determine the order of groups performing during the competition. This year seven groups competed, and the UDoM was chosen to compete 7th, or last.

The morning of competition was a very busy morning indeed. Our girls had been given “hair appointments” and Sue and John Kolupar’s hotel suite was transformed into a four-chair beauty salon. Under the direction of professionals, Lynn Rohmann and Heidi Kolupar-Dietrich, with a little help from Ashley Abt and Irene Hutz, our young ladies of the UDoM Jugendgruppe had their hair braided and styled. Sue Kolupar and Rosie Potnek attended to the final costume details with a little help from many proud and supportive parents. It then became a matter of watching and waiting.

It was finally time for the “competition.” Seven youth groups from all over the United States performed and did an outstanding job. Last but not least, the UDoM began its performance with a waltz onto the dance floor choreographed by Joe Rohmann and Erika Hutz, executed perfectly. This was followed by a medley of four beautiful folk songs sung in two part harmony and directed by Reinhold Hutz. Erika Hutz then provided a moving recitation of the poem, “Donauschwaben Kindes Kinder,” written for the wedding of Heidi Kolupar and Thomas Dietrich. The group then sang a gorgeous version of “Sah’ ein Knab” a capella. Mike Potnek then recited a very moving poem written by Die Lieblingen of which he is the lead singer. The performance concluded with a polka created by the Saarer Tanzgruppe.

A few hours after the competition was over and the votes had been counted, all of the youth groups and attendees were invited to return to the dance hall to hear the announcement for the winner of this year’s competition. It was truly a thrill to hear that our own UDoM Jugendgruppe had won first prize! We are so proud of our youth group and so grateful to the outgoing leaders, Rosie Potnek, Sue Kolupar, Reinhold Hutz and our choreographer, Joe Rohmann. Under the new leadership of Carol Gdula, Mark and Jenny Meyer, we see continued success and a bright future for our youth group.





German-American HISTORY 101

Today we remember Tyrker, The first German to land in the New World who arrived before the discovery of Columbus. Tyrker was a member of Leif Ericson's expedition to Wineland. It is no longer a matter of doubt that the Icelanders were the first Europeans to sight the North Atlantic coast, and attempt a colony somewhere between Labrador and New England. The proof is furnished by Norse sagas, by traditions and documents of various kinds that taken together provide good evidence as we have of many accepted historical events, for instance, the early settlement of

Jamestown. The location of the settlement by the seafarers of Iceland will probably remain forever unknown, beyond the limits already mentioned: the time, also a matter of doubt, has been reckoned as in the eleventh century. The German in Leif's expedition was named Tyrker, and seems to have been a faithful king's man of the type so frequently found in German epic poetry. His discovery of the grape is characteristic, and forebodes coming events. The Norse saga gives the following account: "It was discovered one evening that one of their company was missing, and this proved to be Tyrker the German. Leif was sorely troubled by this, for Tyrker had lived with Leif and his father for a long time, and had been very devoted to Leif, when he was a child. Leif severely reprimanded his companions, and prepared to go in search for him, taking twelve men with him. They had proceeded by a short distance from the house, when they were met by Tyrker, whom they received most cordially. Leif observed at once that his foster-father was in lively spirits. Leif addressed him and asked "Wherefore art thou so belated, foster-father mine, and astray from the others?" In the beginning Tyrker spoke for some time in German, rolling his eyes and grinning, and they could not understand him, but after a time he addressed those in the Northern tongue: "I did not go much farther than you, and yet I have something of novelty to relate. I have found vines and grapes" Is this indeed true foster-father? Said Leif. "Of a certainty it is true. For I was born where there is no lack of either grapes or vines" They slept the night through, and on the morrow Leif said to his shipmates "We will now divide our labors, and each day we will either gather grapes or cut vines and fell trees, so as to obtain a cargo of these for my ship" A cargo sufficient for the ship was cut, and when the spring came, they made their ship ready, and sailed away, and from its products discovered by "Tyrker, the First German in the New World" Leif Ericson gave the land a name, and called it Wineland or Vinland.



Cinnamon Swirl Kuchen

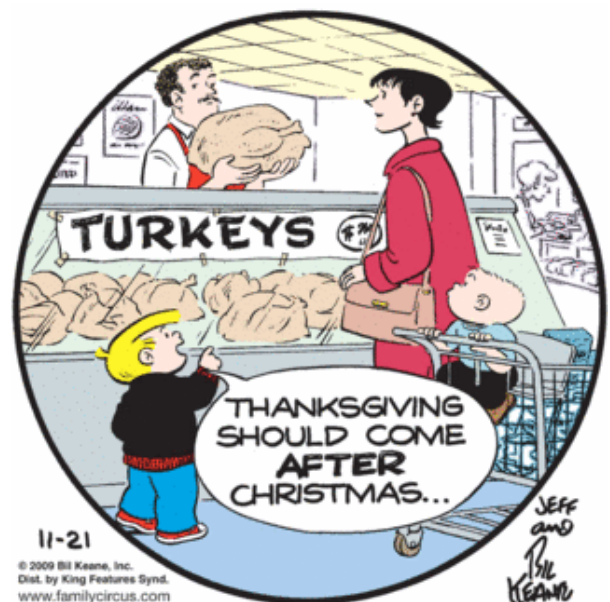
½ cup butter or margarine
½ cup shortening
4 eggs
2 tsp. vanilla extract
3 tsp. baking powder
2 tbs. ground cinnamon

2 1/3 cups sugar
1 cup milk
3 cups flour
1 tsp. salt

- 1.) In a large mixing bowl, cream butter and shortening. Gradually add 2 cups sugar; cream until fluffy.
- 2.) Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition.
- 3.) Combine milk and vanilla; set aside.
- 4.) Sift together flour, baking powder and salt; add to creamed mixture alternately with milk mixture, beating just enough after each addition to keep batter smooth.
- 5.) Combine cinnamon and remaining sugar; sprinkle 1½ teaspoons into a greased 10-in. tube pan.
- 6.) Pour 1/3 of batter into pan. Sprinkle half of remaining cinnamon/sugar; top with 1/3 of batter.
- 7.) Repeat with remaining cinnamon/ sugar and batter. Smooth top with spatula.
- 8.) Bake at 350° F for 1 hour and 15 minutes. Cool 10 minutes; remove from pan to a wire rack to cool thoroughly.

WEISHEIT *des Monats*

**"Klug zu reden ist doch schwer,
"It is indeed hard to speak cleverly,
Klug zu schweigen noch viel mehr."
Still harder to be silent cleverly."**



11-21

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**"...then we'd have more things
to be thankful for."**

SUN

MON

TUES

WED

THUR

FRI

SAT



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UDoM
Frauengruppe/
Jaegerverein
November Meeting
@ 7:30pm

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11

12

Frauen Bazaar
@ 1:30pm

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

UDoM General
Meeting @ 7:30pm

Holiday Folk Fair
International 2011

Holiday Folk Fair
International 2011

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

Holiday Folk Fair
International 2011

Thanksgiving

27

28

29

30

november 2011

Holiday Bazaar

@ The Schwabenhof (N56 W14750 Silver Spring Rd.)

Sun., November 6, 11am Mass, 12:30pm Lunch

Join the UDoM Frauengruppe as they host their annual "Holiday Bazaar."

Come early for mass or stop in for a delicious homemade lunch of Schnitzel and Gulasch. Start your holiday shopping early by browsing the rummage and craft sale including children's toys, games and used books. Pick up a tasty treat at the bake sale featuring homemade boxed Christmas cookies and as always, card players are welcome! Admission is free and open to the public.

Holiday Folk Fair International 2011

@ Wisconsin Expo Center (State Fair Park)

Nov. 18-20th, Fri. 2pm-10pm, Sat. 10am-10pm, Sun. 10am-7pm

A world of cultures and customs are united in peaceful solidarity to be felt, listened to and tasted through a variety of honored family recipes, artifacts, ethnic music and spirited folk dances at the 68th Annual Holiday Folk Fair International. This year's theme is "Celebrate Cultures Without Borders" and schedules can be found at folkfair.org

november
photo
gallery

