



Germania Nachrichten

Germania Singing and Sport Society

543 S. Front Street, Columbus, OH 43215

Since 1866, Preserving German Culture for 147 Years
Home of the Original Oktoberfest in Columbus



July — August, 2013

President's Message

Dear Germania Member,

June has certainly been a busy month for all of us. We enjoyed a great turnout for our first Sommerfest of this season. Thanks to Vicky and Crista and all of the volunteers for a job well done. On June 8 we, along with the other members of the United German Singing Societies of Central Ohio, presented a wonderful concert at Capital University. It was the first get together in 20 years, and hopefully many more will follow. Mark Pinnick and our chorus gave an outstanding performance.

Schmeckfest on June 16, a Damenchor fundraiser, saw many members and guests enjoying dishes prepared by our members.

July will be another busy month, beginning with "Red, White & Brats" on July 3. Bring the family and our friends, enjoy a Brat and some beer and the fireworks, then dance to Dave Sabatka's music. Then our second Sommerfest on July 12 follows on the heels of RW&B (see article on page 5). We still need a lot of help to make things run smoothly, so can we count on you to give a couple of hours to work the food line, the outside bar, ticket sales, door donations, decorating or cleanup? Call me at 866-5876 to volunteer!

On July 26 we will have very special company at the Germania when we host the 40-piece brass band from Dettingen an der Elms, Germany. They will stay with us that night, and we still need more housing for them. If you can be a host family for 1 or 2 or more English speaking guests, please call John Kneller at 898-9022 or me at 866-5876.

Our third Sommerfest is on August 16, and our Luau on August 30 is back by popular demand. Here's hoping you enjoy a great summer.

Thea Klabunde, President

Benevolence

We mourn the passing of Maria Lochner, and we extend our heartfelt sympathy to Mike and his family. We wish a speedy and complete recovery for Joe Wallner who recently underwent knee surgery. Always in our prayers are Lotte Koennemann and Gerhard Wolffe.

GERMANIA OFFICERS 2013

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Thea Klabunde

Vice President:

Joe Motika

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Udo Klabunde

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Udo Klabunde

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House Committee:

Dolores Kneller, Chm

Kathi Cline

Woody Davis

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Vera Motika

Johanna Queck

Bob Traphagen

**Next News
Deadline
August 15**

E-mail: germaniacols@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.germaniacolumbus.org

Dining Room/Reservations: 614/228-9055
Office/Society Information: 614/461-8095

Facility available for Private Parties not in conflict with Germania Events. Support your Society by attending as many functions as possible. Please send us your e-mail address for timely notification of schedule changes and event cancellations.

We Sang Our Songs...



The United German Singing Societies of Central Ohio, directed by Ron Markle, Tom Starkey, John Long, Bill Antoniak and Mark Pinnick.

UGSS Concert a Success

By Kathy Megown, Vice President
Germania Damenchor

What an achievement it was! On Saturday, June 8, 2013, the central Ohio German and Swiss choruses presented a unique concert at Capital University. "**Wir Singen Unsere Lieder**" was the name of the concert, but the poignant meaning behind those words was "We're Still Singing Our Songs." In spite of general declining membership and some financial challenges in recent years, our Germanic choruses are still alive and vibrant, willing to combine their efforts to achieve the purpose of sharing our music and culture in a meaningful way.

Kudos go to the participating choruses and musical directors: the **Columbus Maennerchor and Damenchor** and the **Columbus Swiss Singers**, directed by **John Long**; the **Germania Singing and Sport Society**, directed by **Mark W. Pinnick**; the **Mendelssohn Liedertafel**, directed by **Bill Antoniak**; the singers of the **Newark Maennerchor**, directed by **Tom Starkey**; and **Ron Markle**, Columbus Maennerchor director emeritus.

Additional offerings contributed greatly to the concert. The children of the **Columbus Kinderchor and Jugendchor**, under the direction of **Katie O'Keefe**, charmed the audience. We all enjoyed the grace of the **Germania Volkstänzer** and the clever

comedy of the **Schuhplattlers**! The deep, mellow sounds of the **Swiss Alp Horns** set a haunting, romantic tone.

The United German Singing Societies (UGSS) of Central Ohio, the name given to a loose knit organization of the Germanic choruses in and around Columbus, Ohio, has a history of presenting to the public in central Ohio authentic German music. This organization was begun in the early 1970's by the German singing groups of the time. Until the early 1990's the UGSS regularly held concerts at various venues in Columbus. Noted guest artists in the past included **Carmen Cavallero** at the piano, **David Rubinoff** on the violin and the golden voice of German tenor, **Rodolph Schock**.

The June 8 concert, in a way, signals a revitalization of the once dormant UGSS. Everyone hopes that this concert will be one of many to come and that these concerts will enhance each of our choruses and heighten the local awareness of our German heritage. We know that our music is appreciated, as evidenced by the size of the audience and their enthusiastic response to our performance. How can we not continue to please them with what we do best?

Off to Milwaukee

By time you receive this newsletter a good number of our singers will likely be on their way to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for the weekend Sangerfest of the Nord-Amerikanischer Sangerbund. This is a grand event that takes place every three years, and is held each time in a different city in the Midwest and Southwest USA. Our singers will be joined by other singers of the Central Ohio Singers District for a Friday night Emphangskonzert, and then the entire Sangerbund will perform at the Saturday night Hauptkonzert. We will enjoy the whole weekend as we meet and greet fellow singers from other choruses.

***** **CALENDAR OF EVENTS** *****

Reservations are required where noted, and must be made on or before the dates given. Call 614-228-9055 (unless noted otherwise) for reservations and for more information (menu, price...etc.) concerning specific events. Unless otherwise noted, all dinners are served from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and the bands play for dancing from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Dinner & Dancing pricing per person: Members - Dinner & Dance, \$16.00; Non-members—Dinner \$16.00 + \$3.00 for dancing—Dancing only, \$8.00.

Wednesday, July 3

RED, WHITE & BRATS!

Bratwurst, Weisswurst
 Potato Salad, Sauerkraut, Large Pretzels
 Doors open in late afternoon
 Door donation for guests

Friday, July 12

SOMMERFEST!

Brats and Beer and Much More
 Like last year, only better
 Silly dances, drinking games & the Jaeger Girls!
 Members wear your trachten & brush up on the "folk songs."
 Ray Galla Band
 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
 Open to the Public

Friday, July 26

**GERMAN BRASS BAND
 (DIE ERMSTALMUSIKANTEN)**

From Dettingen an der Erms
 Menu: Lazagna, Garlic Bread, Salad, Dessert
 Open 5:00 p.m.— 19:00 p.m.
 Dinner 5:00 p.m.— 7:00 p.m.
 Dinner + Donation for Band
 \$17.00 per person, including members

Friday, August 16

SOMMERFEST!

Like in July

Friday, August 30

LUAU

Dinner 5:00 p.m.— 7:00 p.m.
 Music by "Ken and Mary"
 For menu, price and reservation call 228-9055

Saturday & Sunday, September 14 & 15

OKTOBERFEST 2013

Like last year, but better.

Volkstänzer und Schuhplattlers

It's hard to believe that summer is here already, and yet it seems like it's coming to an end. I say that because the dancers are getting ready for the upcoming Oktoberfests. We'll dance at the Germania's Oktoberfest on September 14 and 15 and then at the Columbus Oktoberfest on September 27. Those are the big ones, and we usually get more invitations during the month of August for several smaller Fests in the area.

We've gained several new dancers recently, including Keith Elflein and Crista Bobb and Paul Hickman who joined us several months ago. We are happy to have these new dancers with us. Our Schuhplattler group now has enough dancers to do the Holzacker again, so you'll be seeing that during the Oktoberfest.

We hope to have our three little boys: Aiden Buckley, Isaac Nothmann, Solomon (Solly) Nothmann plattling for the Oktoberfest. They have really been working hard and they are a delight to watch.

You'll also see us helping out during the Sommerfests, either as volunteers or leading the singing and dancing.

We'll see you all this summer as we support our club.

Mark Pinnick

House Committee

On May 11, many intrepid members of the house committee met for our annual cleaning of the Biergarten in preparation for the Summer season. I am sorry I do not have a list of names of those attending. Bob Traphagen has it. Everything on Bob's list of necessary chores was accomplished, except the painting. It was a little too cold and drizzly to paint that day. Painting was completed at a later date.

Our next "big day" will be July 2, when we will meet at about 4PM to get everything ready for the Red, White and Boom Bratwurst festival, which will be held the next evening, July 3. The more hands the quicker the work will be accomplished. I have heard a rumor that after the cleaning, some help will also be needed in the kitchen.

See you there?

Dolores Kneller, House Committee chairman.

Damenchor

Greetings from the Damenchor

The ladies are currently working on songs we will soon present (along with the gentlemen of the Germania Männerchor) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 21 & 22.

The next fun event the ladies we will be hosting is the Luau on August 30. Participants are encouraged to dress “Hawaiian”, so break out those grass skirts, loud shirts and leis. The menu has not yet been set. Be on the lookout for a special flyer to announce details.

Of course, we look forward to seeing you all at the up-coming Sommerfests and many other Germania events, and we also invite you to join us in rehearsal every Thursday evening in the rehearsal hall at 7:30 PM.

Sincerely,
Jane Ott, President

Schmeckfest Report

This past weekend (Father’s Day) the ladies of the Damenchor and several members of the club’s general membership shared the responsibility of hosting the club’s annual Schmeckfest fundraiser. Hosting this particular event is like putting on a 2-hour mini Oktoberfest!

It’s quite a feat to prepare so many different types of food from main dish entrées to salads to desserts and present them all in 2 hours. It requires a tremendous amount of work and while quite exhausting; we put on a memorable fest. We did our best, but still did not break a previous record set at the first Schmeckfest.

“Thank you,” to all who donated food and helped us with this work-filled, fun-filled fest. You are just way too many to name individually. We had close to 300 guests. And, in spite of a slightly overcast rainy start, our guests were eventually able to spill out into the garden and enjoy eating at the picnic tables. What a wonderful celebration for Father’s Day.

Jane Ott, President (Damenchor)
Treasurer of Schmeckfest IV

We Are the Germania



Meet Julianna White And Nic Kuetemeyer

Nic and Julianna became members of the Germania in the past year when then decided to have their wedding in the Germania garden. Since then they have decided to continue their membership and become active members. Julie is a member of our new Publicity Committee, and you can already see the results of her work on our improved website and on our Facebook page.

Nic is originally from Waterville, Ohio, near Toledo. He has lived in Columbus for the past 12 years after coming here for college. He graduated with a degree in Finance from Franklin University. This August he will celebrate his 13th anniversary of serving in the Air National Guard in Toledo, Ohio. He enlisted in high school in the Band of the Great Lakes, but has changed careers and is now a photojournalist. He works at Nationwide in Dublin, Ohio, and enjoys photography, racquetball, snowboarding, and fixing his motorcycle.

Julianna has lived for most of her life in the Columbus area. She attended Kent State University for her undergraduate studies and received a master’s degree in Marketing and Communications from Franklin University. She is the Marketing Coordinator for Fine Citizens, an interactive design agency in the Short North. She enjoys kayaking, traveling, volunteering, and continuously learning new things.

Nic and Julie’s wedding is on September 21, and then they will honeymoon in Europe. The first leg of their honeymoon will take them to France and southern Germany where they will stay in hostels. Completing the first leg at Oktoberfest in Munich, they will then fly to Barcelona, Spain, and board ship for a western Mediterranean cruise. The last four days will be a jaunt through Spain and then the flight home.

Julie and Nic are interested in learning more about German culture, and they are excited to help promote it by their involvement in everything Germania.

Editor’s Note: With this issue of the Germania Nachrichten we hope to begin a series of articles that in each issue introduces a member or members who have done something special, are doing something special or have contributed significantly to the organization. We’ll feature both new members and long-time members as we showcase persons who are making a difference.

Record Crowd Expected for July 12 Sommerfest!

Dear Germania Members,

Huge thanks to all who contributed in countless ways to make our first Sommerfest on June 7 such a success! We had a record number of visitors and raised much needed funds for our Club, but could not have done it without everyone's help!! **MANY THANKS!**

In terms of specifics, we had more visitors (339) and raised more funds in our first Sommerfest of 2013 than we did at any of the five Sommerfests of 2012! Amazing!

BUT, our second Sommerfest is just around the corner on Friday, July 12 -- with early indications that it will be far and away our biggest yet -- so we will need to add extra man-power to accommodate the expected crowds and help ensure that a great time is had by all of our visitors and potential new members!

As of now, in addition to the growing crowds from the general public (special thanks to the Publicity Committee and all others who have helped distribute posters/flyers and online social media!), on July 12 we also have multiple groups planning to visit that night -- 150 from the Columbus Landmarks Foundation City Hop Tour, in addition to the German Village Society Fun and Prosit Committees, who are planning to announce our event and join us that night. As such, our July 12 Sommerfest is looking to be another record-breaker!!

As we ran out of cake early at our June Sommerfest, we are looking for significantly more cake contributors for July 12. Please, could you call (614 824 0250) or email me (vicky.leavitt@fitch.com) if you can bring a cake or two or three?

On Friday, July 12, our gate will open again at 5pm, and food and drink are served 'til we stop letting folks through the gate at 11pm. There will be a live band, entry is free and no advance reservation is required. So tell your friends!



Julie, Mark, Crista, Keith and Alyssa at Sommerfest

Each Sommerfest also provides us opportunities to sign up new members. So, please be sure to wear your Trachten on that night, reach out to our guests (help them with the songs, invite them to dance, ask them how they heard about Germania) and generally serve as Ambassadors of Gemutlichkeit and Germania during the evening.

Our third and final Sommerfest of 2013 is on August 16, so once again we need everyone to pitch in.

There are sign-up sheets for July and August Sommerfest volunteer shifts on the Germania bulletin board -- or you can call Vicky Leavitt (614 824 0250) or Crista Bobb (717 953 4701).

Thanks again to all who helped make our June Sommerfest such a success. And thank you in advance for giving generously of your time and talents to support our July and August Sommerfests! We cannot do it without you!!

Vicky Leavitt & Crista Bobb
Sommerfest Co-Chairs

Oktoberfest is on the Horizon

Our first Oktoberfest Committee meeting took place on June 11 with 11 enthusiastic persons in attendance. It was good to see new faces at the meeting, although it would have also been good to see more faces of long-standing Germania supporters. Please seriously consider coming to our next meeting on Tuesday, July 9. We need you to provide leadership and encouragement to the young folks who are the future of our Germania. After last year we all know how important Oktoberfest is to our club. The financial success of last year's Oktoberfest was 50% greater than the previous year, and we hope to build on that success. Whatever you do, you can contribute greatly to that success. Oktoberfest is great fun, even for the workers!

John Kneller, Fest Chairman

Radfahrerverein

The June ride along Alum Creek and through Westerville was enjoyed by three fit riders and one huffing and puffing senior. The weather was pleasant and a tasty pot-luck lunch following the ride was accompanied by cold beer and lively conversation.

Saturday, June 29, Olentangy Trail — Meet at Germania Club at 12:30 p.m. Brats and potluck at the Germania after the ride.

Sunday, July 7, Heritage Trail — Meet at 12:30 at Homestead Park, 4675 Cosgray Road, Hilliard. Meet up in the parking lot near the pond. Potluck afterwards, location TBD.

Sunday, September 15, Hoover Scenic/Genoa Trail/Westerville Rail Trail (Delaware County) — Meet at 12:30 at 2781 Wiese Rd at the Wiese Road terminus, past the Rhinokote Asphalt Sealing, in Galena, OH, Potluck afterwards, location TBD.

Sunday October 6, Blacklick Creek Trail — Meet at 12:30 at the Three Creeks Metro Park, 3860 Bixby Road, Groveport, OH 43125. Pot-luck afterwards at the Motikas.

We are looking for volunteers to host the July 7 and September 15 pot-luck meals. Any questions, please call Sean at 614 203 8748

From the Trustees

Our capital improvement projects for 2013 have been completed. They include the new fence, attic insulation, a new ice maker and a new beer cooler. We hope to see the savings in our next electric bill as we save energy, primarily by shutting off the basement walk-in beer cooler. And the fence is great!

We owe our gratitude to Harry Paulino who guided us through the process of appealing the dramatic increase in our property taxes. The County Board of Review ruled in our favor, our taxes will revert to near the 2010 rate and we will be refunded the amount we were overcharged for 18 months. This is the third time Harry has successfully helped us appeal a tax increase in the past 25 years!

The Trustees continue to look for ways to increase our income and reduce costs. You can learn more about our finances at the General Membership meetings that are held in January, April, June, September, November and December.

John Kneller, Trustee Chairman

Address
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Place
Stamp
Here

Germania
Singing and Sport Society
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Columbus, OH 43215