



## Congratulations...

... to Julie Patton who has landed one of the lead rolls in the Campbellsport High School Play! Julie is a member of the UDoM Jugend and Kulturgruppe. This years production is *Strings Attached* — Written by Christian Kiley, the storyline follows a lonely inventor who thinks he is on the verge of creating the largest toy craze in history: life-size dolls that can talk. Toyco, the world's largest toy company, buys the prototype, Bree (played by Julie), but when they test-market the dolls, something strange happens and the dolls take on a life of their own and stage a revolt! The production runs Friday, May 6th (7pm) and Saturday, May 7th (1pm) at Campbellsport High School Lange Auditorium [114 W. Sheboygan St., Campbellsport, WI 53010]. Admission is free and there will be a bake sale to support the drama club. For more information, please call 920/533-4811.

... to Matthew Harker and Ashley Abt on their wedding engagement! Both Matt and Ashley are active members of the UDoM Kulturgruppe and Ashley recently accepted the position of Treasurer on the UDoM's Executive Board. Plans are in the works for a Fall 2012 celebration.



... to Mary and Martin Thomann, who are celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on April 26th.

## Important to Remember

One day a woman's husband died, and on that clear, cold morning, in the warmth of their bedroom, the wife was struck with the pain of learning that sometimes there isn't "anymore." No more hugs, no more special moments to celebrate together, no more phone calls just to chat, no more "just one minute." Sometime's what we care about the most gets all used up and goes away, never to return before we can say goodbye, say "I love you."

So while we have it, it's best we love it, care for it, fix it when it's broken and heal it when it's sick. This is true for marriage... And old cars... And children with bad report cards... And dogs with bad hips... And aging parents and grandparents. We keep them because they are worth it, because we are worth it.

Life is important, like people we know who are special... And so we keep them close! Let every one of your friends and family know you love them. Even if you think they don't love you back. Live today because tomorrow is not promised.

— Submitted by Sabina Plaumann

## German Good Friday Service

*Deutscher Karfreitagsgottesdienst* — Friday April 22, 4:30pm join the Benediction Lutheran Church congregation [8475 W. Fond du Lac Ave., Milwaukee WI] for a German Good Friday Service. Call 414-463-9158 for more information or for the 2011 monthly German Service Schedule. Pastors Don Hougard, Eberhard Klatt, and Edmund Schafer look forward to seeing you there. You can also listen to the German Radio program *Evangelische Andacht* every Saturday at 4:30pm on WJYI 1340AM or visit their website at [www.evangelischeandacht.org](http://www.evangelischeandacht.org)

## Our Condolences...

Best wishes for a healthy and speedy recovery to UDoM members Barbara Kugelmann, Michael Tobes, Renate Tesch and Betty Schaffner who were all recently ill.

## May Poles and Trees

For many years, trees have been linked to a part of celebrating; perhaps even to the days of ancient New Years rites. The association of trees to celebrating has come 'riding in' on the back of the spring festival, called May Day, in ancient Europe. Trees have long since been the symbol of the great vitality and fertility of nature, and were most often used at the spring festivals of antiquity.

E. O. James, Reverend and author of *An Introduction to Anthropology*, has found a strong relationship between the ancient tree related traditions of the British and the Romans. According to James' description, as a part of the May Day celebration, the young adults in old Europe would cut down a tree and lop off the branches, leaving only a few left at the top. They then would wrap the tree around with violets like the figure of the Attis, the ancient Roman god. Then, at sunrise, they would take the tree back to their villages while blowing on horns and flutes. In a similar manner, the sacred pine tree, representing the god Attis, was carried in procession to the temple of Cybele on Rome's Palatine Hill during the Spring Festival on March 22.



"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant. If we did not sometimes taste adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome."

— Anne Bradstreet

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## German-American HISTORY 101

Today we remember Johnny Weissmueller (1904-1984). Born Johann Peter Weissmueller, he was a legendary German-American swimmer and actor. Johnny was born to Peter Weissmueller, who was an ethnic German and his wife Elisabeth Kersch, both Banat Swabians from Freidorf, a suburb of the city of Temesvár in Austria-Hungary (now Romania). The ethnic group known as Banat Swabians or Donauschwaben had lived for several centuries in that region and developed a distinctive dialect along with unique cultural traits that the United Donauschwaben of Milwaukee, along with others around the world, work very hard to preserve to this day.

When Weissmueller was a small child, the family emigrated to the United States aboard the S.S. Rotterdam. They left on January 14, 1905, and arrived at Ellis Island in New York. The passenger list records them as Ethnic Germans and citizens of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. After a brief stay in

Chicago visiting relatives, they moved to Windber, Pennsylvania where today a historical marker is placed in his honor.

At age nine, Weissmueller contracted polio. At the suggestion of his doctor, he took up swimming to help battle the disease. After the family moved from Windber to Chicago, Weissmuller continued swimming and eventually earned a spot on the YMCA Swim Team. While living in Chicago, Weissmueller's father owned a tavern for a time and his mother became head cook at a well known restaurant.

As a teen, Weissmueller worked various jobs including a stint as a lifeguard at a Lake Michigan beach. While working as an elevator operator and bellboy at the Illinois Athletic Club, Weissmueller caught the eye of swim coach William Bachrach. Bachrach trained Weissmueller and in August 1921, Weissmueller won the national championships in the 50-yard and 220-yard distances.

Weissmueller was one of the world's best swimmers in the 1920s. In all, he won five Olympic gold medals and one bronze medal, 52 United States National Championships, and set 67 world records. He never lost a race and retired with an unbeaten amateur record.

After his swimming career, he became the sixth actor to portray Tarzan in films, a role he played in 12 motion pictures. Dozens of other actors have also played Tarzan, but Weissmueller is by far the best known. His character's distinctive Tarzan yell is still often used in films.

On January 20, 1984, Weissmueller died at the age of 79. He was buried in Acapulco at Valley of the Light Cemetery. As his coffin was lowered into the ground, a recording of the Tarzan yell he invented was played three times, at his request. For his contribution to the motion picture industry, Johnny Weissmueller has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

## Political Voice in the German-American Community

Have you noticed how many German surnames appear in American politics? I am thinking of US Secretary of Treasurer Timothy Geitner and the recently elected new Speaker of the House John Boehner, as well as the countless German surnames among representatives and senators such as Heidepriem, Daschle, Ehrlich, Shuster and Gerlach. But do these politicians give the German-American community any political influence in the USA? So far, definitely not. Even though Germany is America's most important partner in Europe, has the third largest economy in the world, and although 43 million Americans, according to the 2000 Census, are of German descent and are thus the largest ethnic minority in the USA, Germany plays no role in the US media and politics. Even a visit by German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Los Angeles was covered by the LA Times with a mere photo and a two-line text.

The opening of the first national German-American Heritage Museum in Washington DC in March of 2010 put German-Americans in the limelight for the first time, with a focus on their history and their achievements. And slowly, we are seeing what looks like a new trend in American politics, too. Not only did John Boehner talk openly about his German descent in a TV interview with Diane Sawyer, Jim Gerlach from Pennsylvania has recently issued an initiative for creating a German-American caucus in the US Congress. At a gala event of the German Society of Pennsylvania on October 3 commemorating the 20th anniversary of German reunification he spoke in detail about his plans. "My growing awareness of my family's German roots and the rich German heritage in my Congressional District has led me to take actions in the House of Representatives to foster a greater appreciation of and fortify the German-American connection. The Caucus will be an informal, bipartisan group of Members of Congress dedicated to maintaining and strengthening the relationship between the US and Germany. It will highlight our current economic ties with Germany and draw attention to the German-American heritage and achievements German-Americans have made in building the United States. The House already has well-established caucuses focused on issues with India, Pakistan, Switzerland, Mexico, and Albania to name a few. I believe it well past time to establish one focusing on the German-American experience."

Don't you think that it is finally time to honor the achievements of German-Americans in building and developing the United States of America? Jim Gerlach has already found support from the nonprofit organizations German American Business Council, German American Coalition and German American Heritage Foundation. I hope that many members of the US Congress from both parties will listen to and follow Gerlach's request. After all, Germany is still America's most important partner. Reason enough for a sufficient number of American politicians to step forward and help launch this caucus, either because of their German descent or their interest in Germany and Europe.

## FEATURED GERMAN-AMERICAN ORGANIZATION

### German Cultural Society in St. Louis Landesverband der Donauschwaben, USA

Founded in 1945, the German Cultural Society in the St. Louis Chapter of the American Aid Society helped German refugees of Eastern Europe who first fled to Germany and Austria and then finally to the United States. Many of these refugees as well as many other immigrants from Germany and Austria who found themselves migrating to St. Louis joined the Society.

When the need for help was no longer a priority in post-war Germany, the Society members decided that culture preservation was going to be their main objective. Being one of the largest and most successful of the German societies in the St. Louis area, the German Cultural Society is a nonprofit, nonpolitical organization who thrives to preserve and advance the German culture, customs, and language through German music, songs, and dances in traditional costumes. Within the German Cultural Society of St. Louis, there are many subsidiary groups:

Damenchor — Ladies' Chorus

Deutschmeister Blaskapelle — Deutschmeister Brass Band

Handarbeitsgruppe — Needlework Group

Kindergarten — German Kindergarten

Lesekreis — Reading Circle

Natur- und Wandergruppe — Nature and Hiking Group

Seniorengruppe — Seniors' Group

Dance groups to join (depending on age) include:

Kinder-Tanzgruppe — Children's Group (Ages 3-9)

Mittlere Tanzgruppe — Intermediate Dance Group (Ages 9-13)

Jugendgruppe — Youth Group (Ages 13-25)

Volkstanzgruppe — Young Adult Folk-Dance Group (Ages 18+)

If anyone is interested in promoting and supporting the purposes of this Society is welcome to membership. Although the official language of the Society in its meetings in German, discussions today are generally held in English. For more information you can visit their website at [www.germanstl.org](http://www.germanstl.org) or call the society at (314) 771-8368.

Written and Submitted By: Julia Borowski



## Easter Bread Recipe

3 cups flour

½ cup sugar

½ cup lukewarm milk

2 eggs

1 egg yolk (save egg white for glaze)

1 package yeast

¾ teaspoon salt

½ cup butter

Grated lemon rind

- 1.) Melt the butter and add milk to make it lukewarm. Soak the yeast in ¼ cup lukewarm water with a teaspoon of sugar. When yeast is bubbly, add it to the flour with all the other ingredients, except the one egg white.
- 2.) Stir together until moistened. Wait a few minutes, then work the dough until it is very smooth and doesn't stick. It should come off the sides of the bowl. Dust top with flour.
- 3.) Cover with a clean dish towel and let it rise until doubled in size. Place on a floured board and work into a smooth ball. Divide into three equal portions; let them rest about ten minutes, and then shape them into three 24 inch ropes.
- 4.) Braid the ropes and place the braid on a large greased cookie sheet (shaping it into a wreath/ring). Cover and let rise another 15 to 20 minutes. Preheat the oven to 375° Fahrenheit.
- 5.) Brush wreath with the reserved egg white and bake for 30 to 45 minutes. To make it special, color five hardboiled eggs. When wreath is completely cooled hollow out five equally spaced spoon sized holes in the wreath and put the colored eggs into them. Happy Easter!

## WEISHEIT *des Monats*

### Wo Glaube da Liebe,

*Where there is faith, there is love,*

### Wo Liebe da Friede,

*Where there is love, there is peace,*

### Wo Friede da Segen,

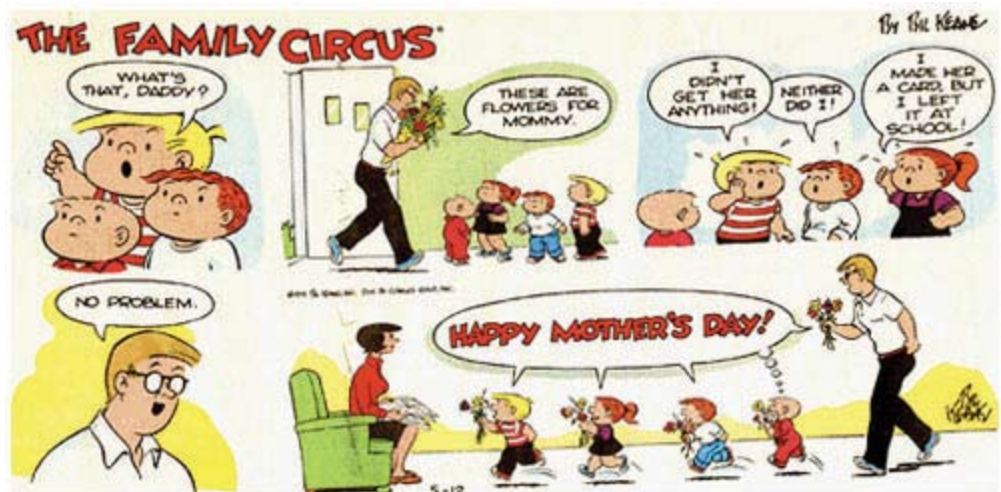
*Where there is peace, there are blessings,*

### Wo Segen da Gott,

*Where there are blessings, there is God,*

### Wo Gott keine Not.

*Where there is God, there is no want.*



**SUN****MON****TUES****WED****THUR****FRI****SAT****1****2****3****4****5****6****7**

May Day

UDoM Fravengruppe/  
Jaegerverein  
Meeting @ 7:30pm**8****9****10****11****12****13****14**

Mother's Day

**15****16****17****18****19****20****21**UDoM General  
Meeting @ 7:30pmUDoM Jugendgruppe  
May Dance @  
5:00pm**22****23****24****25****26****27****28**In Detail: Rare Dirndl  
Fashion Show &  
Luncheon @ 12pm**29****30****31**

Memorial Day



# may 2011

event calendar

*UDoM Jugendgruppe May Dance*  
@ The Schwabenhof (N56 W14750 Silver Spring Rd.)  
Sat., May 21, Doors open at 5pm

Join the UDoM Jugendgruppe as they present to you: Casino Royale Mai Tanz 2011. Dinner starts at 6pm and features a buffet of schnitzel, sarma, mashed potatoes, oven-browned potatoes, green beans & corn, bread & butter and an ice cream sundae bar. Dress to impress and spend a formal evening dancing to the musical talent of Johnny Hoffmann und die Herzbuben (starting at 8pm) and enjoying a special performance by the UDoM Jugendgruppe — including a traditional Maypole Dance. For ticket reservations call Sue Kolupar at 414.530.4858. Cost is \$25 per person (12 and under \$15).

*In Detail: Rare Dirndl Fashion Show & Luncheon*

@ Society of the Danube Swabians Cultural Center (625 Seegers Rd., Des Plaines IL, 60016)  
Sun., May 22, 12:00pm - 3:00pm

Support Donauschwaben culture by attending a great show and see an exclusive sneak peek of the Rare Summer 2011 Collection. Chicago Aid Society of German Decendant's Member and Rare owner and designer, Erika Neumayer created the Rare line to bring more color, texture, life and fashion to the American dirndl market. For ticket reservations and/or more information please call Marianne Strumberger at 773/619-0132 or Erika Neumayer at 773/401-6061. Cost is \$25 per person to benefit Chicago Aid Society Jugend members traveling to Hungary in June for the Weltreffen der Donauschwabischer Kulturregruppen.

photo  
may  
gallery

