



DONAUSCHWÄBISCHE STIFTUNG 2013

WEIHNACHTEN DAHEIM

(author unknown)

Tief verschneit ist Feld und Wald,
Eine Landschaft wie gemalt,
Ganz verzaubert sieht es aus,
Es is Weihnachten zuhaus.

Und von himmel schweben Flocken,
Alles strahlt in weisser Pracht,
Und es läuten Heimatglocken,
Jedes Jahr zur Heil'gen Nacht.

Und es schweben die Gedanken,
Mit den weissen Flocken fort
Über Grenzen, über Schranken,
Bis in unseren Heimatort.

Und man hört die Glocken klingen,
Sieht den hellen Kerzenschein.
Möchte Weihnachtslieder singen,
Und so gern zuhause sein.

Leise rieselt Schnee hernieder,
Dann sieht alles friedlich aus,
Und mir kommt Erinnerung wieder,
An das Weihnachtsfest zuhaus.

Federleicht schweben die Gedanken,
Wie die weissen Flocken fort,
Über Grenzen, über Schranken,
Bis an meinen Heimatort.

Immer bleibt mir die Erinnerung,
Es war einfach wunderbar.
Die erwartungsvolle Stimmung,
Wenn zuhause Weihnacht war.

DANUBE SWABIAN FOUNDATION, USA

Robert Filippi, Chairman Ed Tullius, President Wolf Urban, Vice-President
Rosalia Burmeister, Secretary



Danube- Swabian Association of the USA, Inc.
Verband der Donauschwaben in den USA. e.V.

November 2013

Liebe Landsleut,

As Chairman of the Danube Swabian Foundation I once again write to you on behalf of our future. Please include our foundation on your gift list for 2013. Our future depends on your generosity! The young Donauschwaben in our clubs rely on financial support not only from their local clubs, but also from our foundation. They learn German in our language schools, dance traditional dances and sing traditional songs in our "Kinder-and Jugendgruppen," play traditional music in our "Blaskapellen," play "Fussball" in our soccer clubs, and raise a new generation of "Schwowe" in cities across this great country.

Donauschwabern that settled the fertile Pannonian region in the 1700's placed the cornerstone of our culture. In the years that followed, other Donauschwaben continued the construction process in the cities and villages of our "Heimat." The mid-twentieth century saw yet another move for our people: a move into our new "Heimat" in the USA. A culture that took over two hundred fifty years to develop (about 12 generations) is now entering a new phase of its evolution. Our people now live outside the friendly environs of their villages. This new lifestyle demands greater funding to support our clubs' cultural programs. We need your support in the following ways:

- 1) Encourage your family's participation in activities at your club.
- 2) Explain your family history to your children and their offspring.
- 3) Try to speak German and "Schwowisch" with your family.
- 4) Give financial support to your local club, especially for youth activities.
- 5) Make a donation to the Danube Swabian Foundation annually.

In closing, I ask you to pray for those that set such a wonderful example. I lost my own father less than a year ago and I remember him daily in the following words:

" Was bleibt ist die Liebe, und die Erinnerung an unser schönes gemeinsames Leben!"

Let's leave our children similar memories of us and our generation.

Frohe Weihnachten!

Robert F. Filippi

President, Landesverband der Donauschwaben
Chairman, Danube Swabian Foundation



The Danube-Swabian Foundation of the U.S.A., Inc.

Die Donauschwäbische Stiftung der U.S.A., e.V.

“The Talk”

Have you had “The Talk” with your kinder, friends and fellow club members? It’s not what you think, (Vögel und Bienen/birds and the bees), but the importance of maintaining the Donauschwaben culture. What it means to be a Schwob! Have you discussed your past childhood, your roots, traditions, *Unser Sproch* with your family and friends? Have you gone to your club, and spoken to the newer members, those who have joined to immerse themselves in “German culture”, of the importance of keeping the Schwowische legacy, beliefs and practices alive for the next generations to come. 70 years have passed since the start of the expulsion of our people from the Heimat and ultimate transition to new homelands around the world. It’s amazing to consider what has been achieved by rebuilding and reclaiming these lives since being scattered around the world. However, it should be of no surprise given the pioneering spirit that’s in our DNA. Keeping the Schwowische traditions alive upon arriving in new lands was important. Through a willingness to work hard, maintaining deep faith and pinching pennies (thriftiness), many cities purchased land, poured foundations, bricks and mortar went up with strong roofs to bring together meeting places for the preservation of our Kirchweihfest, our dances, sport, blaskapelle, chor ... for our culture!

Today’s youth, your friends and your own observations tell you the world is getting to be a smaller place. With smart phones and the Internet, knowledge is swift and informative. However, nothing beats a lesson from Oma and Opa. Our Donauschwaben ancestors passed their cultural knowledge with “The Talk” before there were such devices. Schwowische parents guide their children with strong faith, order and good practices. This continues today as you watch your own youth share their pride for the culture as they meet Schwobs from around the world at our events. Job well done to all of you!!!! Will we be here for the next 70 years??? I believe so!!! For the past several years I have had the honor of meeting leaders from the variety of clubs throughout US, Canada, South America and Europe (What a blessing). To be Donauschwaben is to be globe (a pioneer). I can assure you, those that I have met sind alle echte Schwobs!!!! Their passion, knowledge and hearts will carry us forward. Once again, job well done by all of the leaders!!!!

With the help of your club’s Directors, my job is to ask you for your financial thoughtfulness this holiday season. Currently The Danube-Swabian Foundation of the USA, Inc./ Die Donauschwäbische Stiftung der USA, Inc. is participating in a “Pledge Your Age Campaign”. Simply put, consider a donation based on your age. Share this pledge concept using “The Talk” with your kinder, friends and fellow members. The Donauschwäbische Stiftung’s pledge is to continue to document past history (DVD and books) and further foster what our future pioneers hold for the Donauschwaben way of life. Through activities supported by the Foundation: German School, soccer, Jugendgruppe trips to Europe and Jugend dance groups your financial support allows the leaders to continue their “Talk” and sharing of knowledge to assure the continued legacy of the Donauschwaben.

Frohe Weihnachten und ein Glückliches Neues Jahr von uns allen in der Donauschwäbische Stiftung.

Eddie Tullius

Stiftungspräsident, USA

And now, another successful youth oriented event which the Stiftung helped sponsor in 2013!

Jugendlager 2013

This year's Jugendlager was hosted by the American Aid Society of German Descendants and it occurred on the third weekend in June. The majority of the Jugend and chaperones arrived on Thursday afternoon/evening and began setting up their tents before it became too dark. The evening continued with a short meeting where our president, Siegfried Henz, introduced himself and Renee Stein, Jugendleiterin, provided all of the information for the weekend. A delicious dinner of Chicago pizza was served and afterward we played games and enjoyed a bonfire.

Everyone needed to be up bright and early the next morning for our busy day of touring the city of Chicago. After a brief walk to the train station, all 100 of us loaded onto a commuter train that took us straight into the city. Our first stop was the Willis (Sears) Tower where we met our tour guide for the day, Joseph Stein. Before heading up into the tower, Mr. Stein told us a bit about the architecture of the various buildings in Chicago and a history lesson on the Willis Tower. Once up in the Willis Tower, everyone enjoyed the view but the majority of the Jugend loved the newest feature – the ledge! The ledges are glass boxes that extend out from the building. Afterward, we enjoyed a nice lunch in the park and then boarded either a doubledecker bus or a trolley. Each mode of transportation was a two hour tour of the city. Thankfully they were both covered since a thunderstorm decided to roll in. Once our tour was over, the skies opened up and we were able to walk around the city with guidance from Mr. Stein and his wealth of information. Finally it was time to catch the train and head back to Lake Villa. We returned to a wonderful meal of hot dogs, hamburgers and all the fixings. Once it became dark, Matthew Katzenmayer, set up an outdoor movie for us to watch. We were able to watch most of it before it began to rain and everyone headed for their tents for the night.

Saturday was our day to learn more about our Schwob culture. We started the day with learning to make Hungarian Wurst, potato salad and sauerkraut. Each Jugend had a chance to cut the meat, peel the potatoes, grind the meat, cut up the onions and fill the casings. As the Wurst was being cooked, Ann Morrison and Joseph Stein talked about the history of the Donauschwaben and how life was for many of them once they came to this country. In the afternoon, we broke up into four groups and participated in four different areas: singing, dancing, pretzel making, and touring the museum. Each station lasted an hour and by the end of the afternoon everyone was tired. Before eating our meal that we had prepared earlier in the day, the Jugend played games, took down their tents or just relaxed. We ended the evening with music and dancing. On Sunday morning we said goodbye to the new and old friends that we had made and left feeling pride of our Donauschwaben heritage.

Despite the rainy weather that made many of our tents wet and soggy, everyone had a great time. On behalf of The American Aid Society of German Descendants, and all the clubs that attended, I, Renee Stein, would like to thank the Stiftung for their generous support. This weekend would not have been made possible if it weren't for the Stifungs donation and guidance. Please continue to support the Stiftung so that our Jugend can have the opportunity to embrace and learn about our culture for generations to come.

Submitted by Renee Stein

Please send donations to:
Danube Swabian Foundation, USA
c/o Rosalia Burmeister, Secretary
12568 Semora Street
Cerritos, Ca. 90703

All donations are fully tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.