

Donauschwaben's German American Cultural Center

Der Trommler

FALL 2023

Upcoming Events:

Oktoberfest Fall Festival October 21st

> Bierfest November 4th

Kirchweih mit Tag der Donauschwaben November 5th

> Disco Inferno November 18th

Krampusfest December 2nd

Santa Brunch December 3rd

Weihnachtsfeier December 17th



Message from the President, Margot Maurer

As the days grow shorter and the leaves begin to change, it's time to reflect on the very busy summer at Lenau Park. Since July, we have hosted a myriad of events with very few breaks in between.

In July, we hosted the national Jugendlager sponsored by the Donauschwäbische Stiftung. It was our first time hosting this event which started in 2009 in St. Louis and has taken place in

the summer in different cities each year. There was a three-year break due to Covid, but we were able to put this event back on the calendar! Attendees came from Canada, Michigan and Ohio and we hosted a total of 50 Jugend. The kids learned to make Wurst, Goulasch, Palatschinken and Apfelbitten. They also learned new dances, learned to play Ramschel, and how to Kegel using our smaller bowling balls. Everyone "camped" on the indoor soccer field because it always, without fail, rains at Jugendlager. We had many Cleveland volunteers step up and help out with this weekend in order to make it successful. I want to extend a special thanks to our Jugendgruppe parents, our Wednesday workers, our Lenau Park staff, and several other former jugend and members who were very generous with their time and energies!

We also hosted our annual Sommer Oktoberfest on August 18-19-20! We owe a big thank you to our wonderful staff who does all the ordering of food and beverages, along with renting the tents, tables, chairs, and hiring the bands. Our Board members also put in substantial volunteer hours in order to make this weekend work. We also want to thank our performers, including our dancers and our bands, for all they do to make the weekend a success. We also had a busfull of guests come from our sister club in Detroit, Michigan which included members of the Detroit Blaskapelle, who then joined our band for a great performance and a lot of fun. Our honorary beer tapper on Friday night was our very own Herb Haller who did an awesome job! Overall, the weekend boasted great weather, nice crowds, and was very successful. We are still not attracting the crowds that we did before the pandemic, but each year we are creeping closer!

A Donauschwaben dancegroup out of Pecs, Hungary, paid us a visit in late August and presented a wonderful program to a packed house. About 450 people filled the hall on a Wednesday night to see their performance, which included traditional dances, songs, and a live band to accompany the dancers. Food was for sale before the event, but the show was free to all who wanted to attend. Donations were accepted for the dance group to use for their travels.

Cleveland was also well represented at the annual Landestreffen which was held in Mansfield over the Labor Day weekend. Our Kultur and Kinder groups performed, as did our Jugend, who also participated in the Competition program, placing third.

Since labor day, we have remained busy at Lenau Park with Bier and Brats, various weddings, and the usual meetings of groups for various activities. As fall sets in, our restaurant patio is closing, but all our great beers and foods are still available indoors. Our Wednesday workers have been busy getting the grounds ready for winter and have been hard at work. They are always looking for more help and as the name implies, meet on Wednesday mornings at 8:30am and finish up at 12:30 when lunch is served. The next few weeks will continue to remain busy as we host events such as Bierfest, Kirchweih, a ski/tennis fundraiser featuring Disco Inferno on November 18, various group Christmas parties, the Frauengruppe annual Christmas cook bake days, Krampusfest, Santa Brunch, and topping it all off, our Weihnachtsfeier on December 17.

We hope you all have a chance to enjoy the fall colors as the seasons change, and to spend some time at Lenau Park before we say goodbye to 2023!





Message from the Director, Marianne Buechler

Happy Fall! Our facility is busy with rehearsals, school, club and group events, Prost! at Lenau Park, and wedding season. Our Sommer Oktoberfest was a huge success thanks to the many, many volunteers and our staff! We couldn't do it without the help of each of you.

We look forward to the DKG Fall Oktoberfest, STV Bavaria Bierfest, Kirchweih with Tag der Donauschwaben, and Disco Inferno, Senioren Luncheon Meetings, DBK Krampusfest, Santa Brunch, and GLS Christkindlmarkt to name a few!

We are looking for qualified and sustainable Server/Bartenders. If you or someone you know is interested, please reach out to me at <u>director@lenaupark.com</u>

Membership



Donauschwaben's German American Cultural Center Membership 2023

YOUR NAME HERE!

We would like to congratulate and recognize the following new voting members

voted in at the most recent Board of Trustees meeting:

- ★ Alex Temple
- \star Andrea Geyer
- ★ Mike Geyer
- ★ Tim Szeltner

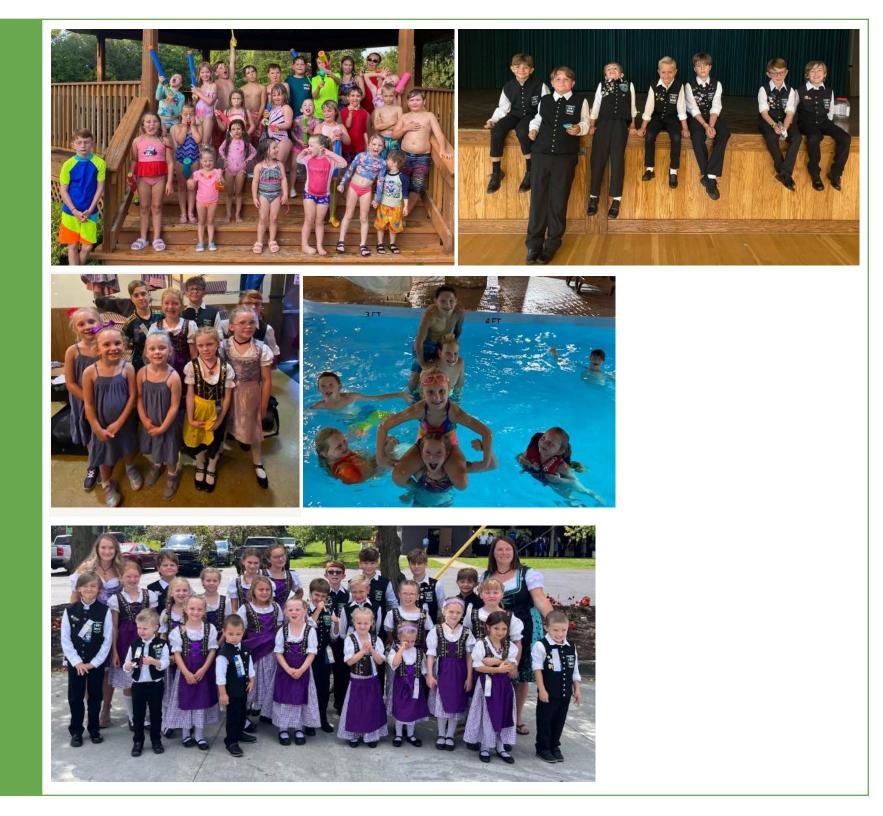
If you know a family member or friend who would like to become a Social Member, please scan our new Membership QR code. Enter your information and payment all in one.



Kindergruppe

The Kindergruppe had a busy, fun-filled Summer! We worked hard on learning some new dances and German words while having fun! In July we held our annual Practice in the Sprinklers, which is always a great time. In August we kicked off our busy season performing at the Sommer Oktoberfest with 100 percent participation from our group. We traveled to Mansfield over Labor Day Weekend with 27 dancers for the annual Landestreffen and performed at the Berea Oktoberfest. We look forward to a busy Fall with several performances lined up. Save the Date for our annual Santa Brunch on December 3rd.





Jugendgruppe



The Jugendgruppe was very busy all summer long. After our very successful car show in June (featured in the last Trommler) we had two weeks to switch gears and host the Landesjugendfreundschaftslager. This annual 4-day camp experience was absent for three years during the pandemic, but it returned with great success at the end of June and into July and hosted 50 Jugend from Michigan, Ohio, Toronto, Windsor and Kitchener. The theme of the weekend was centered on the history of the Donauschwaben beginning witht the "Ulmer Schachtel" and the role it played on allowing our forefathers to travel down the Danube and settle along the river and branch out into the regions which eventually became Hungary, Romania, and Yugoslavia. Campers arrived on Thursday evening, and we set up camp on our indoor soccer field

for the weekend. We opened the weekend with a BBQ dinner and games/icebreakers to help all the attendees get to know one another.

Having so many attendees also meant feeding a lot of hungry teenagers and young adults. Our Cleveland

Jugendgruppe parents did an absolutely amazing job of preparing breakfast, lunch and dinner each day to our campers. Arriving at 6am all three days to make breakfast, and then preparing lunch and dinner, was a huge task which was handled perfectly by just a handful of people. Everyone's hungry bellies were grateful.

On Friday, we took everyone to Mohican State Park to enjoy a raft excursion down the river on an absolutely beautiful day. The experience was intended to simulate a day on the Danube, but I'm sure our



campers had much more fun than the Donauschwaben settlers of the late 1700s. There may have been some piracy going on as rafters stole oars from each other, some competition to finish first, and a few people did ended up in the river! The experience also served as a challenge to help our newly acquainted campers get to know one another by working together to complete a challenge.

Friday evening featured another BBQ dinner in the pavilion with a special presentation by Ingrid Pejsa for our campers. Ingrid talked about the Schwob dialect and its many humorous words, she told funny stories, and gave campers the opportunity to share experiences regarding the challenge of a second language. After dinner, there



was more fun in store involving water balloons and water relays. No Jugendlager would be complete without a suds-soaked ride down the slip and slide, and this year did not disappoint. Finally, as evening settled in, a campfire provided the perfect setting for settling down and building friendships. The s'mores and other snacks were plentiful, as were the bugs!





Saturday was the designated cultural day, and a day of rain. Thankfully, we were able to move everything indoors for the day. Liz Filippi and Ursula Baumgartner taught baking making Apfelbitten, Nicole Filippi and Andrea Geyer taught campers to make Palatschinken, Bernie Loos and Bob



Weiss were in charge of the Bratwurst making workshop, Robert and Nik Filippi were in charge of the Goulasch class. All the cooking took place in the morning so that we could serve bratwurst sandwich for lunch with Palatschinken for dessert, and Goulasch for dinner with Apfelbitten for dessert. In the afternoon, campers attended workshops and learned to play Ramschel with Herb Haller, learned to Kegel with Nick Krist and Jacob Szeltner, learned new dances from Kathleen Martini and Stefan Maurer, and participated in a workshop where they learned the history behind of "The Great Migration" and built a replica Ulmer Schachtel which we took to the pond at Lenau Park and held a race across the water. The winning boat can still be found in a place of honor at our restaurant, Prost! at Lenau Park.















After such a busy weekend, Sunday was for travel. Many attendees had a 3-6 hour drive home and our volunteer parents were exhausted. After a final breakfast, our campers said their goodbyes and headed home. The campers had transitioned from strangers to fast friends over a short period of time. Before kids even left the parking lot, texts, snap chats, and instagram alerts were lighting up phones as the jugend began to look forward to Labor Day weekend when they would see each other again.



Jugendfreundschaftslager is always a memorable event and this year was no exception!



As summer progressed, our Jugend danced at our Sommer Oktoberfest as they also continued to have extra practices on Sundays to prepare for competition in Mansfield. They also played an important role in hosting our guests from Pecs, Hungary. Many volunteered to host performers in their homes, along with several other members of Lenau Park. After Pecs presented their program at Lenau Park on Wednesday, August 27, our Jugend presented their competition program for our membership and guests to enjoy. When finished, it was the perfect opportunity for a photo of both groups dressed in trachten!



Labor Day was a whirlwind of activity and a culmination of many months of hard work to prepare. Our group represented Cleveland well with their dancing, singing and speaking. As always, they were proud to represent our city and proud to wear their traditional Trachten which are each so beautiful! Our Jugend placed third in the competition, and Lanie Welker took second place in the "Oma Abt Heritage Award" Essay Contest which is an

annual competition. Her essay will appear at the end of the newsletter. The Jugend also had a lot of fun reconnecting with old friends and making new ones. As the weekend came to a close, we said goodbye to our friends from Pecs one final time as they headed off to the Airport. Then it was time to say goodbye to everyone else. As always, it was a wonderful weekend. A special thanks goes out to Mansfield for hosting this year's Treffen!



Kulturgruppe









KARNEVAL-FASCHING 2024

> COMING FEBRUARY 10TH 2024 TO LENAU PARK

> > WWW.DONAUSCHWABENCLEVELAND.COM

The Kulturgruppe Dance Group has been busy performing this late summer/early fall. We performed at our Sommer Oktoberfest, Mansfield Landestrachtenfest. and the Berea **Oktoberfest. Upcoming** we have German Day at German Central, our **Oktoberfest Fall** Festival and we will end the year with Kirchweih.

Our next meeting will be held on Friday, November 17th at 7:30pm for anyone interested in attending.

Deutsche Sprachschule

Ein neues Schuljahr hat begonnen!



Die Erstklässler konnten sich mit einer schicken Schultüte an ihrem ersten Schultag in der Deutschen Sprachschule Cleveland fotografieren lassen.

Aber auch die älteren Schüler waren gleich eifrig dabei mit Spielen, Gesprächen und Schreibaufgaben.





Unsere Erwachsenenklassen haben sich ebenfalls wieder zusammengefunden.

Wir hoffen, dass Groß und Klein, Alt und Jung im neuen Schuljahr weiterhin viel Freude beim Lernen und Verwenden der deutschen Sprache haben!

A new School Year has started!

First graders had their pictures taken with a cool "Schultüte", a German tradition for the first day of school in a child's life.

Older students got started right away with games, conversations, and writing. Of course, our adult students had also come back for more German this year! We do hope that everyone will have a great new school year, learning and using the German language. Drop in any time if you feel like participating!

Blau-Weiss Tennis Group





SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2023 Early Bird Ticket Price 540 til October 20th Ticket prices include Park Schnitzel dinner with dessert Dinner 5:30 – 7 pm Band Starts at 7:30 pm Tokespece 56 der Cicker 20th Tomes to le fun engits under Tokes and

Step 1: Order tickets by phone or by email Barb 440.382.3974 Enits 440.242.8059 Email: <u>Intersided dossascheaturickooland.com</u> Step 2: Dahne payment available uiter Sept 1^{or} via PayNel

LOCATION Domainschweisen's German American Cultural Center (06ACC) 2320 Colombia Band Clem Teen, Dias 64326



The Blau-Weiss Tennis Group spent another wonderful summer playing tennis on those bright blue courts. There were 8 different leagues playing Monday-Friday. This year we decided to offer adult lessons on Saturday mornings and they were well received. The students and instructors (led by John McDonnell, John Szeltner, Judy Poole, George Szeltner, and Tim Szeltner) had such a good time that everyone was in agreement to extend the program by a few weeks. Interested in joining a league or learning how to play the sport of tennis? Please contact John Szeltner at tennis@donauschwabencleveland.com It's a great way to get some exercise and make some new friends.

This fall the Blau-Weiss Tennis Group and Edelweiss Ski

Club will hold their annual fundraiser on Saturday November 18th. The band *Disco Inferno* will perform for your 70's and 80's dancing pleasure, so dust off those leisure suits and platform shoes. Dinner will be served prior to the show and there will be various raffles and prizes, including a Bourbon Lovers dream selection. See flyer for details or check out the DGACC website for information.



Blaskapelle



The Blaskapelle has had a marvelous fest season so far. We have added a number of new performers who are interested in becoming members. Due to our members' hard work throughout the year, this fest season has been amazing.

We are now in the final planning stages for KrampusFest 2023 on December 2nd. Tickets will be on sale by soon.

We are always looking for more performers to add to our group. We still are looking for trumpets, flugelhorns and baritones, but we accept other instruments as well.

The Blaskapelle holds rehearsal most Thursday nights from 7:00pm-8:30pm in the main hall.

- Here is the performance schedule for the remaining of 2023:
- October 7th, Wolfie's Biergarten Oktoberfest, 1:00pm-3:00pm
- October 21st, Kulturgruppe Oktoberfest, Lenau Park, 4:00pm-6:30pm
- November 5th, Kirchweihfest/Tag der Donauschwaben 12:00pm-4:00pm
- December 2nd, KrampusFest!, Lenau Park, 6pm-10pm
- December 17th, Weihnachtsfeier, Lenau Park, 2:00pm-4:30pm



Seniorengruppe



Our August luncheon we were entertained by the pictured trio. Reinhard Keck, Andy Pfaff and Larry Rubino. We plan on them again in April 2024. We are scheduling something for every meeting. Our membership is growing.

Keglers

The Keglers have started up their leagues for the fall season. Our Monday evening and Wednesday afternoon Keglers continued through the summer, and then on into the fall season. Our Tuesday evening Keglers began again in early September after taking the summer off, and we anticipate that our Friday evening Keglers will begin again soon, as well. Please come out and join us in any of our existing leagues, or let our Kegler President, Ed Meister, know if you are interested in starting a league on other days of the week. Kegler@donauschwabencleveland.com

We would also like to share that we are deeply saddened by the recent losses of two of our long-time Keglers, George Adam and past Kegler President, Josef Krist.

Edelweiss Ski Club



Although not good weather for skiing, what a beautiful summer it has been! Edelweiss members were happily attending and helping at the Sommer Oktoberfest and many other events, but we are also looking forward to a change of seasons. Our fall meeting will be held on Monday, October 16th at 7:00pm in our club room.

Also coming up soon is our fundraiser with Blau-Weiss. Order your tickets and join us for Disco Inferno on November 18th!

Lastly, we have lost some beloved members - members that we shared with so many other groups in our club. We are already missing you, Herr Krist and Herr Adam!

Sommer Oktoberfest







"Oma Abt Essay" Contest Winner

My Donauschwaben Life Cleveland By Lanie Welker What effect has the Donauschwaben culture had on me?

Well, besides making it my entire personality at times or using it as the fun fact about me in every icebreaker activity during a college class or awkward work event, this culture has impacted me in more ways that I can count. From a young age, four days old at a Sommer Oktoberfest to be exact, I have been learning what it truly means to be Donauschwaben. Family traditions, life-long friends, and once in a lifetime opportunities are just a few ways this great culture has made me who I am today. The Donauschwaben culture has taught me the importance of relationships, made me grateful for the things I have, and taught me traditions I can pass down generation to generation.



Growing up in the club, whether in Cleveland, Los Angeles, or Toronto, you hear many stories of our ancestors and how they got to the areas the Donauschwaben occupy across the world. Many of these stories highlight the trials and tribulations of the journeys each person traveled. As a young child my grandparents would always tell various stories about things they went through when it related to the conversations we were having. I never fully understood what this meant but knew it had to be a lot worse than the drive to their house that felt like ten years. When I was in high school my dad was asked to help with an oral history project in partnership with Cleveland State University. He gave me the honor of interviewing my grandma and grandpa. It was during these interviews that I realized the extreme nature of what they had to go through to make it to Cleveland, Ohio. My grandmother is from Neu Schowe and came to the United States in 1950. During that time she was caught at borders, thrown in work camps, and had to watch many of her family members pass away or be left behind along the way. As I interviewed her you could hear and see the emotion these memories brought back. It was in this moment that I reflected on what I had and became so grateful for the life I have been given. That drive to their house did not seem as bad anymore.

The stories of my grandparents and the stories of others in the Donauschwaben community have not only taught me to be grateful for what I have, but they have taught me the importance of relationships. One thing many of our ancestors' stories have in common is relying on those around them to get through the tough times. Some only had their family, and others had members of their village traveling with them. Either way, those surrounding them were their support system as they traveled to their new homes and they all had one thing in common, they were Dounaschwaben. When hearing about the

relationships that developed from these support systems, it showed me the importance of building strong relationships with those around you. These relationships are not limited to those in the Donauschwaben community, but everyone you interact with in life. I have used things I have learned from our ancestors to build these strong relationships with friends, loved ones, and even in the professional world.

Luckily, for those who are involved in the Donauschwaben community and share the Donauschwaben culture, we get the privilege of having built-in friends. For many in my generation, our grandparents were the ones who came to the United States. As they settled here and began building the cultural clubs we see today, many became friends. These friendships were passed down to the next generation, our parents, and then passed down to us. One memory that shows the strength of these friendships happened to me just about a year ago. One of my best friends, brought to me by the Cleveland Donauschwaben, finally got married. She asked me to stand by her on her wedding day and of course I was honored. This moment was special, however, it was the picture that came shortly after that reminded me about the strength of

relationships. This picture was from the father of the bride's wedding day back in 1990-something. It was him, my father, and a friend of theirs in the kitchen getting ready for the wedding. Fast forward to 2022, and the daughters of each of these club members were in a wedding recreating this exact photo getting ready for the wedding of my friend.

The relationships are not just limited to my home club, these relationships extend beyond state and even country borders. One relationship that has become a special one stemmed in Hungary. In 2017, we got the opportunity to go to Germany, Austria and Hungary with the dance group. In Hungary I was housed with someone I had never met before and our only connection was that we were Donauschwaben, so we thought. As we were settling in for our stay, our Gastgeber brought out a bottle of homemade wine and his picture book from when he got the opportunity to come to the United States with his dance group in 1993. As we were looking through he was telling us all the memories that went along with each picture. About half way through the book there was a picture of a mustang and a man with a bird. One of the other dancers I was staying with then said, "Lanie, is that your dad?" Sure enough this person I had met just a few moments before stayed with my dad in 1993 and a new friendship had just begun. Without the deep rooted history of the Donauschwaben and the opportunity to connect with others in this culture, none of these relationships or memories would have been made.

The Donauschwaben culture not only brings great relationships, but also great traditions. As many know, a staple item in any German culture is bratwurst. When my grandfather came to the United States in 1952, he brought a Hungarian bratwurst recipe along. As he settled he began a small bratwurst business that soon gained popularity. He never made it an official business, it just stayed in the basement of his house. Many of his customers would often come up to me in various places and comment about how good his bratwurst was. Since his passing in 2019, my family has made it a yearly tradition to use his recipe to make a year's worth of bratwurst for our family.

Another great tradition the Donauschwaben culture has brought to me is dance. Growing up I have gotten to not only learn how to do these traditional dances, but have also gotten to learn the regions they come from and the different styles that go along with it. As we are preparing for the upcoming competition and learn the meaning of our program, I feel very connected to my ancestry. Dance has brought me some of my closest friends that are mentioned above. It has also given me some once in a lifetime opportunities that I may have never gotten to experience without the Donauschwaben culture.

The Donauschwaben culture has had a major impact on my life. Besides teaching me to be grateful for what I have, giving me great relationships and teaching me many traditions, this culture has shaped me into the young adult here today. In the first quarter of my life I have learned and experienced so much in the Donauschwaben world and cannot wait to continue to learn more. I am proud to say I am Donauschwaben and grateful I get to share this great culture with those around me and across the world.

Upcoming Events





mit Tag der Donauschwaben



This traditional Donauschwaben festival was celebrated annually in the villages as a family affair to commemorate the church dedication anniversary.

Bring your family and friends for a fun afternoon of Tradition, Entertainment, Music, Dancing, Great Food and German Beer!

Sunday, November 5, 2023

12-1:30pm	Goulash & Bratwurst Lunch & Krapfen available for purchase
1:45pm	Gottesdienst Ecumenical Church Service
2:30pm	Program with Live Music, Dance Performances, Entertainment and the Kirchweih Strauss Raffle!

Free Draft Beer, Haus Wine and Soda for all 2023 DGACC Voting & Social Members

Open to the public. No admission charge.

Donauschwaben's German-American Cultural Center 7370 Columbia Road, Olmsted Twp., 44138 440-235-2646/www.donauschwabencleveland.com

Upcoming Events



Performing your favorite rongs from the 70s & 80s

June of SATURDAY SA

Early Bird Ticket Price \$40 til October 20th

Ticket prices include Pork Schnitzel dinner with dessert

Dinner 5:30 – 7 pm Band Starts at 7:30 pm

Ticket price \$45 **after** October 20th Promises to be a fun night, so order tickets early!

Step 1: Order tickets by phone or by email

Barb 440.382.8974 Erika 440.242.8698 Email: tennis@donauschwabencleveland.com

Step 2: Online payment available after Sept 1st via PayPal www.donauschwabencleveland.com

LOCATION

Donauschwaben's German American Cultural Center (DGACC) 7370 Columbia Road, Olm Twp., Ohio 44138 This event is a fundraiser for the Blau-Weiss Tennis Group and Edelweiss Ski Club 50/50 Raffle Bourbon Raffle Basket Raffle Side Boards

Cash Bar Available

BOURBON RAFFLE

In conjunction with the Disco Inferno Fundraiser at Donauschwaben German-American Culture Center.



*E.H. Taylor Straight Rye *Blanton's Original Single Barrel

FIRST PRIZE: (Value ~\$600.00+) -Includes 4 Libby KY Bourbon Trail Glasses *Stagg 19

*E.H. Taylor Single Barrel *Blanton's Original Single Barrel

SECOND PRIZE: (Value ~\$350.00+) -Includes 4 Libby KY Bourbon Trail Glasses



Sponsored by the Blau-Weiss Tennis Group and Edelweiss Ski Club

with your check.

THIRD PRIZE: (Value ~\$350.00+) -includes 4 Libby KY Bourbon Trail Glasses *E.H. Taylor Small Batch *Joseph Magnus Cigar Blend

SINGLE BOTTLE PRIZES: "Willett "Booker's (2) "Eagle Rare "Weller antique 107 (2) "Elijah Craig Barrel Proof



TICKETS: \$20.00 each or 3 for \$50.00

(must be 21 or over to purchase)

 Purchase by check made out to Blau-Weiss Tennis:

 Mail to:
 Bob Faile

 4670 West Park Dr.
 OR

 Fairview Pk, Oh. 44126
 ****Please include your email & phone

Purchase by Venmo: @Robert-Faile ***Please include your email & phone in the subject area on Venmo payment

An email confirmation will be sent when payment is received.

Drawing NOVEMBER 18, 2023

TICKETS WITH YOUR NAME WILL BE PLACED IN THE RAFFLE HOPPER. Winners will be notified via email or phone. Questions?? Email Bob Faile at bfboom@cox.net

Upcoming Events

SPONSORED BY THE KINDERGRUPPE DONAUSCHWABEN'S GERMAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER 7370 COLUMBIA RD. OLMSTED FALLS, OH

DECEMBER 3, 2023 BUFFET 12PM - 1:30PM KINDER PERFORMANCE 1:30PM ADULTS \$20 CHILDREN AGE 2-12 \$16



Chicken Tenders, Ham Cheesy Scrambled Eggs Diced Potatoes Vegetables Fruit Salad Glazed Donut Coffee and Juice Bar Drink Specials



4UNC



Reservations Required by 11/24. All Sales Final. For Tickets go to: donauschwabencleveland.com - under Calendar Assigned Seating. For requests and info email kinder@donauschwabencleveland.com

KARNEVAL-FASCHING 2024

COMING FEBRUARY 10TH 2024 TO LENAU PARK

WWW.DONAUSCHWABENCLEVELAND.COM