

AGSNE NEWS

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MEMBER UGAC / USA AND DANK

ASSOCIATION NEWS

From the President's Desk

The Fourth Annual AGSNE Presidents' Meeting was held at the German American Cultural Society, Pawtucket, R.I. on Saturday, June 6, 2009. Those attending took part in many thought-provoking discussions and offered many positive ideas, suggestions and, of course, opinions to help further the vital roles of the AGSNE. I began by stating the advantages and various means our Clubs have access to, for communication and for giving support to other Societies to keep our many common goals alive. Those avenues include this Newsletter, especially the AGSNE Calendar. Also the AGSNE "website" (contact Charles Firnhaber) where you will find special events advertised.

In keeping with our "Operation Reach Out," at the AGSNE Booth during the Sommerfest at the BSV on June 20 & 21, there were opportunities to personally hand out information about our Clubs, and we will be able to do so again at the upcoming Oktoberfest at the BSV. All Clubs are invited to provide handouts and flyers.

In an unprecedented move, the Presidents in attendance voted unanimously to support the AGSNE as they prepare for the Steuben Parade in New York City scheduled for September 19 & 20. It was strongly felt that every effort should also be made to include an AGSNE Float.

At the Presidents Meeting there were indications that the AGSNE will receive much support from the Presidents in its plans for the German American Heritage Celebration on Sunday, September 27th at the BSV. Arrangements are already under way and support by the membership of all Clubs is desired and expected. As usual the new Miss German American will be crowned at this event as well as the presentation of the "German Educator of the Year" Award. Candidates for both are still welcome. Call me at 508-672-8574 for information.

I am also requesting that each AGSNE organization donate a Raffle Basket for this day. Look for Flyers about the Heritage Celebration.

The Fort Devens Memorial Service will take place on Saturday, October 17, 2009

at 11:00 AM. The Cape Cod Club will obtain the flowers for the gravesites.

Finally, my thanks to the Pawtucket German American Cultural Society for graciously hosting the Presidents' Meeting as well as helping to provide the luncheon and amenities. I also thank all of those who were able to attend especially Past President Rose-Mary Kemper who just returned from Florida.

Ann Shoesmith, President

Hockemeyer Hall

Here is an updated summary on the status of Hockemeyer Hall from our last two Board of Directors meetings on February 22, 2009 in Washington, DC, and May 17, 2009 at the Cannstatter Volksfest Verein in Philadelphia, PA. The good news is that the contract to complete the interior of the building has finally been signed. One general contractor will handle the entire project: electrical work, conduits for telephones, and audios as well as sheet rock installing and painting. There is an issue with the air conditioning system which was installed by the previous contractor. It was pointed out to us that the efficiency was not in accordance with current standards and requirements. This issue is being investigated. As of this moment there is no firm final completion date, but we are still hoping that a grand opening will be possible sometime in October.

On the other hand, the planning and implementation of the museum part of the building is well under way. During the February meeting, Ruediger Lentz, formerly of Deutsche Welle, gave us an overview, floor by floor, of the planned layouts, the exhibits, and in some instances, projects which are already under construction.

The multimedia kiosk will initially feature materials supplied by the Auswandererhaus Museum in Bremerhaven, the Auswanderermuseum "Ballinstadt" in Hamburg, the German Information Center in cooperation with the German Embassy in Washington, DC, Deutsche Welle and the German National Tourist Office in New York City. The multimedia equipment has already been bought and received.

If you use the 34 steps to get from the ground floor to the second and third floors (rather than taking the elevator) you will meet prominent Americans of German descent in the staircase. The second floor will house the main exhibit hall as well as the auditorium, useable for lectures as well as receptions. It will be dedicated to the remembrance to those regions where German Americans came from and will highlight the importance that German immigrants played in the building of this great nation. The third floor will accommodate the offices of our organization, a conference room, and possibly some office space for rent. There are many more things I could tell you, but I hope once everything is completed, you will visit Hockemeyer Hall and explore it for yourself.

Before our Grand Opening we still have a lot of work ahead of us. We know that you cannot help physically, but we would appreciate your continued financial support. At the very beginning we said that we needed \$ 3 million. So far we received donations totaling a little over \$ 2 million and this amount includes donations previously made toward the Heurich House. Please help and bring this project to a successful conclusion. We appreciate your checks made payable to the "German-American Heritage Foundation." Please mail to: 1901 Pennsylvania Ave., Suite 600, Washington, DC 20006. Thank you for all your help. I believe you will be well pleased with the final product. There will be another event in October worth mentioning. The Distinguished German American of the Year award for 2009 will go to Ambassador William R. Timken. He will be honored at an Annual Council of One Thousand Award and Fundraising Gala in Washington on October 2, 2009. Ambassador Timken was a former executive of the Timken Bearing Co. Since October 2005 he represented the U.S. to the Federal Republic of Germany in Berlin. If you intend to attend this event, please keep the date open.

Siegfried Seifart – GAHF
Regional Vice President,
Massachusetts.

German American Club of Cape Cod

R.I.P.

† We, at the German American Club of Cape Cod, are mourning the loss of our very good friend and member Brunhilde Jberl. Many of you from the AGSNE Clubs knew Brunhilde from her recent years as Vice-President of the AGSNE. She also had served a term as President of the Cape Cod club. Brunhilde was fiercely devoted to the German - American culture and worked endlessly to promote any event pertaining to our heritage. To say the usual "we will all miss her" almost seems trite. ... Brunhilde has left a huge void. †

In March we again participated in the Cape Cod Community College's Multicultural Fair. The College's auditorium was a day long hub of activity with performances in dance and music given by the groups (including our own Rudy Schwarzer and his musicians) representing the many cultures at the fair. Arts and crafts from these cultures were displayed in the cafeteria where each country had its own booth. *(continued in next column)*

AGSNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
The deadline for the November 2009 edition of the AGSNE Newsletter is October 10.
Send info via e-mail to George Krim <gkrim@comcast.net> or fax <781-767-5515>

AGSNE NEWS

www.agsne.com

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Note: The opinions expressed in the newsletter are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the publisher. AGSNE News assumes no responsibility for statements or opinions expressed by contributors.

Member Organizations:

Boylston Schul-Verein
Deutsche Internationale Schule, Boston
Deutsche Kulturverein of Bristol County
Deutsches Altenheim
German Aid Society
German-American Club of Berkshire County
German-American Club of Cape Cod
German-American Cultural Society, RI
German-American Heritage Harbor Association, RI
German-American Ladies Society
German-Cultural Club - Lowell
German Ladies Aid Society
Goethe Society of New England, Inc.
Holy Trinity German Church, Boston
Lustige Musikanten des Heimatlandes, NH
Sängerchor Boston

Each year our March social gathering occurs on a Sunday afternoon where we highlight interesting aspects of the German culture. This year our program was the viewing of the second half of the DVD "Germans in America." The early German arrivals in this country went through much to establish their lives in the new world, and the film left everyone with a greater appreciation of their early efforts and difficulties and the many hardships which they endured.

Our annual meeting (with a pot luck menu) and Election of Officers took place in April. The new Officers were installed in the May Stiftungsfest. Vice-President Leonard Klein took over the Presidency from Charles Firnhaber who had held that Office for four years. Accolades went to Charles for his great job and devotion on behalf of our Club. Other Officers elected were: V.P., Raymond Russ; Treasurer, Pam Brimmer; Recording secretary, Evelyn Russ.

Although we will end the 2008 - 2009 season with our June Sommerfest, we do plan to participate in the town of Sandwich's July 4th Parade. We have marched in the last three years in different town parades with the hope of making people aware of our Club's existence.

Evelyn Russ

Deutsches Altenheim

During the month of February, the German Centre underwent its inspectional survey with perfect results. This mandatory review, conducted by the Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health, allows inspectors to enter the nursing home unannounced every 9 to 15 months to assess compliance with federal standards of care such as adequacy of staffing, quality of care and cleanliness of the facility. Four inspectors spent four days examining records and procedures, speaking with staff and residents and evaluating the environment. As a result of their arduous review, Deutsches Altenheim was declared "deficiency-free", indicating there were no notable issues. After a brief moment of reflection on a job well done, staff and administration began to diligently prepare for inspection next year to maintain that perfect record.

Spring has sprung here at Deutsches Altenheim and pennant fever is in the air! April kicked off with Red Sox opening day celebrations. Throngs of residents from the nursing home and assisted living packed the solarium to cheer on the home team while munching on legendary Fenway Franks, peanuts and popcorn.

Deutsches Altenheim celebrated Family Day on Saturday, June 6th. Residents, staff and their families, friends and volunteers gathered together for an exciting day of events, featuring: a cookout, entertainment provided by the Hot Tamale Brass Band, clowns, a moonwalk, pony rides, and, of course, cotton candy and snow cones. Young and old enjoyed the festive day.

SAVE THE DATE:

Monday, August 24, 2009 is the 17th Annual Deutsches Altenheim Golf Classic to benefit programs and services of Deutsches Altenheim.

Jennifer Clark

Der Deutsche Kulturverein of Bristol County

The 24th Annual Spring Banquet and Installation of the DKV, Inc. took place on Sunday afternoon, April 26th in the Grill Room at Whites of Westport. Festive favors, table décor, plus gorgeous fresh-cut tulips brought an elegant spring flair to the occasion. A truly sumptuous surf 'n turf buffet, with all the trimmings, delighted all who also sang, danced, and listened to the lively accordion playing of Rentae Adams of Newport's Oktoberfest fame. Miss German American of New England, Cassandra Flynn-Rakos and her Mom Sherry, attended as our guests. Other Cape Cod GA members, as well as from the GASCS of R.I., and personal friends, also joined us. Outgoing DKV President of four years, Glen Shoemith, was presented with a Service Recognition Plaque by the newly installed DKV President, Mary Hiatt. Other outgoing Officers were given framed Certificates by Ann Shoemith, incoming Vice-President. Best wishes and thanks to all for their past successful DKV terms.

On May 16th the Club celebrated its Maifest at the Fall River Liberal Club. The members efficiently prepared an authentic German Dinner including a tempting Bake Table. The Little German Band was at its best and the Alpenblumen and Young People's Group entertained in grand style. There were other features such as Dave and Deana's Troll Valley German Imports as well as various donations and Raffle Baskets. Also, Mary Hiatt was surprised by a Birthday Cake which was the "frosting" for another successful event by the DKV. On Saturday, June 20th a "Kaffe Klatsch" Lawn Party was held on the spacious grounds of Ellie and Arthur Blackburn's Mattapoisett home.

Ann Shoemith

AGSNE – CALENDAR

Day	Date	Organization	Function	Contact – Phone #	
Thu	7/9	DA	Outdoor Concert - Mad Bavarian Brass Band	Carol Kelly	617-325-1230
Sun	7/19	BSV	Beer Garden	Renata Walter	781-320-9940
Mon	8/24	DA	17 th Annual Golf Classic	Jennifer Clark	617-325-1230
Sat	9/12	DA	Annual Yard Sale	Carol Kelly	617-325-1230
Sat	9/12	GACS	Cajun Dance	A. Bradbury	401-246-2720
Sat	9/12	BSV	Oktoberfest	Renata Walter	781-320-9940
Sun	9/13	BSV	Oktoberfest	Renata Walter	781-320-9940
Sun	9/13	Cape Cod	Family Picnic	Pam Brimmer	508-385-2735
Thu	9/17	GACS	General Meeting	J. Maguier	401-246-0381
Sat	9/19	AGSNE	Steuben Parade	Ann Shoemith	508-472-8771
Sun	9/20	AGSNE	Steuben Parade	Ann Shoemith	508-472-8771
Sun	9/27	AGSNE	German American Heritage Day	Ann Shoemith	508-472-8771
Sun	9/27	GACS	Polka Dance	E. Danner	401-723-3549
Sat	10/03	GACS	Oktoberfest	K. Hohlmaier	508-761-6702
Sun	10/04	GACS	Oktoberfest	K. Hohlmaier	508-761-6702
Sat	10/10	Cape Cod	Oktoberfest	Pam Brimmer	508-385-2735
Fri	10/16	GACS	Guitar Festival	J. Maguier	401-246-0381
Sat	10/17	GACS	Guitar Festival	J. Maguier	401-246-0381
Sat	10/17	AGSNE	Fort Devens Memorial Service	Ann Shoemith	508-472-8771
Sat	10/17	GALS	Bavarian Night	Renata Walker	781-320-9940
Sun	10/18	GACS	Guitar Festival	J. Maguier	401-246-0381
Sat	10/31	SB	Concert Dinner Dance	Werner Gertje	508-962-4707
Fri	11/6	GACS	Swing Dance	K. Hohlmaier	508-761-6702
Sat	11/7	GACS	Cajun Dance	A. Bradbury	401-246-2720
Sat	11/7	DA	Harvest Bazaar	Carol Kelly	617-325-1230

AGSNE AGSNEAssociated German Societies of New England
 BSV Boylston Schul-Verein
 Cape Cod German-American Club of Cape Cod
 DA Deutsches Altenheim
 DKV Deutsche Kulturverein of Bristol County
 GACS German American Cultural Society of Rhode Island
 GALS German American Ladies Society
 SB Saengerchor Boston

THE ASSOCIATED GERMAN SOCIETIES OF NEW ENGLAND(AGSNE) is an association of sixteen organizations that promote charitable, cultural, educational, musical, and religious traditions founded on the German heritage of its members.
It is the AGSNE’s objective to help foster a positive image of German-Americans by focusing on the beneficial impact of historical contributions from German culture, science and industry, to American society as a whole.