

United German Hungarians of Philadelphia & Vicinity HISTORY: 2010-2020

(a resume of available records)

Ten years have passed since we, as German-Hungarians, crossed the threshold of 100 years in existence. From the year two thousand ten to this year two thousand twenty, much has changed and grown for us, yet who we are and what we do remains true and definitive.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2010

At the end of the evening of our 100th Anniversary Banquet, we sat at the conclusion of a whole year celebrating our centennial anniversary.

That night we enjoyed a cocktail hour with the Immerguen Trio led by Tom Markow of Lancaster. Scott Petri and Gene DiGirolamo, member of the PA House of Representatives joined us. Tom Vogt, Vorstand of the Gauverband Nordamerika, Fritz Marth representing US Adult Soccer, and Fred Gauss representing Region Ost of the Landesverband der Donauschwaben joined us as well as many other friends from clubs both local and across the country.

Werner Fricker, Jr. served as Master of Ceremonies that evening giving a toast to our founders, the generations that followed, our guests and friends, our rich culture, our game of soccer, and our many young members. **Michelle Paul** gave a thankful invocation that evening.

We had wonderful dancing that night from our various ages of dancers. The Children performed, "Minuet in G." Our older group danced to the "Laendler from the Sound of Music," later a polka to "Kovaroska," and finally the exciting Hungarian "Czardas."

Since 1960, our club has awarded Gold "Ehrenwuerdig" Pins to members every 10 years. In 2010 nineteen men and women were honored.

Music is so important to everything we do as a club and an event with the German Hungarians would not have been one without **Die Heimatklänge** providing that wonderful sound.

That evening, President **Bill Galgon** stated in his address:

“We cannot expect another wave of immigration. We must continue to exist with the families that are Americans today, as an American Club. It is our responsibility to direct these families in the traditions that we love so well. Encourage their involvement. But we must be willing to adapt to the cultures, traditions that are created here today.”

In 2010, we presented two special “Lifetime Service Awards” to **Andy Weyershaeuser Sr.** and **Emily Fricker** for their dedication to serving the goals and objectives of our Club for their entire adult lives.

Jason Karasow and **Andrew Weyershaeuser** brought a special anniversary cake forward. President Bill Galgon requested that **Anna Ehling** and **Evan Hubert**, the oldest and the youngest members present to come forward and cut the cake.

The 100th Anniversary Gala Banquet that year was a culmination of an entire year of events and celebrations that put on display the strength and unity of the United German Hungarians. We hosted our own local and important events but also regional and national events. We held the **USASA Regional Finals**, as well as the **USASA National Cup Finals**. We were hosts of the regional **Mid-Atlantic Jugend Einzelplattler Competition**, and the **National Landestreffen der Donauschwaben**.

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Early in 2011, our **Monthly Progress** released a special twelve-page commemorative issue outlining our 100th Anniversary Gala Banquet. Included was an overview of the evening, the special guests, honorees, entertainment, and many photos of the event. As our club newspaper, “The Progress,” is not only our monthly organ, but also the perpetual history and record of the club. Much of the history in this very writing has been drawn from its pages. In the past decade, short histories have become a staple of the publication, with writers often-chronicling specific times, events, and more detailed stories of our club.

Hosting of national events did not stop for our club when in 2011 we held the **US National Donauschwaben Soccer Tournament** over Memorial Day. Teams from Philadelphia, PA; Akron, OH; Mansfield, OH; Cleveland, OH; Detroit, MI; Chicago, IL; and Windsor, Canada attended playing games in Major Division, Women's Division, and Over-35 division. At the end of the weekend, our own German Hungarians won the final match. They defeated Chicago Green-White 1:0 to become the champions. We were awarded

the **Franz Schoenberger Wanderpokal!** Since 2011, our Major Division team has traveled to many cities to participate in this tournament. In 2018, we again hosted the tournament at our facility and for the third time ever we won the National Donauschwaben Tournament this time lifting for the first time the **Mike Talan Wanderpokal!**

In 2011, our dance group attended the **Gaufest** in Orlando, Florida and had a great time. With a young team once again taking the competition floor, our club placed 8th that year. We have attended the Gaufest every two years, competing in Gruppen competitions. In 2013 in Sandusky, OH, we placed 6th. Milwaukee, WI in 2015 ushered in a series of 4th place finishes continuing in 2017 in Buffalo, NY, and again 4th place in Washington, DC in 2019. Our members continue to participate in Einzel competitions often placing in the top 5. These accomplishments are outlined in other places in this volume.

For many years in our history, our club held a “Night in Vienna,” which eventually was replaced by “Viennese Ball” and in 2011 a more rustic event, the **Austrian Heuriger**. The event featured strolling musicians, plenty of wine, and dinner served family style.

There is no event in the history of the United German Hungarians that is more important or draws on more traditions than our annual **Kirchweihfest**. Much about this Saturday in November brings excitement and joy. Any of our members will have a quick answer when asked, “What is the most beautiful day of the year?”

The answer of course is, “KIRCHWEIHFEST!”

Our yearly calendar ebbed and flowed with events like **Bavarian Oktoberfest**, at Halloween time, **Schocktoberfest**, with the local schools, **Winterfest**, and in the spring **MayFest** evolving and changing over time.

Two events that have been staples of our calendar for longer than 10 years continue today. The **Women’s Auxiliary Penny Parties** held in the spring and in the fall are very successful ventures for our club.

Some may say that the German Hungarians became rather famous for our **Schnitzel Night** dinners held monthly at the club. On these nights a great meal was served and a dedicated group of members, cooked, served, cleaned, and put on the entire evening’s affair.

As it has since the 1960s, our **Club Christmas Party** is both a gathering for our members to celebrate the festive season, and a vehicle to put on display the talents of our youngest of members. Each year the members of the Children’s Cultural Group act, sing, and dance ending with a scene of the Nativity before Santa makes an

appearance. Each year the Club Christmas Party marks the end of our year and does so with warm feelings and camaraderie.

2012 saw the return of an old tradition. Along with **Die Gemuetlichen Enzianer**, we revived the old **Legends of Soccer** weekend. Every other year the two clubs get together either at our club in Oakford or at Plattdeutsche Park on Long Island at the Hota Bavarians field for a friendly soccer game and picnic.

In 2012 we had the opportunity to host the **Million's Cried...No One Listened** forgotten Genocide Conference at our club in Oakford, PA. The conference featured the documentary produced by Ann Morrison about the migration, lives, and expulsion of the ethnic Germans that were our ancestors. In addition to the video and a few academic speakers, members of our own community including, Adam Dickmann, Marlene Fricker, Anna Hartmann, Rose Matico, Johanna Reiter and Erika Witt had chances to tell their family stories.

The decade since 2010 brought a renewed interest by our club members in our traditions, our ancestors, and our German-Hungarian heritage. We attended the Landestreffen der Donauschwaben yearly across the USA and Canada allowing our members young and old to meet new friends with the same backgrounds and see clubs similar to our own. We also joined forces more often with the **Trenton Donauschwaben** and the **Danube Swabian Association Philadelphia**, to hold events in our area together at all three clubs. The support of the three clubs for each other has created a modern bond that will stay strong for years to come.

We have had great opportunities to host dance groups from Europe at our club and in our own members' homes. These experiences allow us to hold events with unique entertainment but also to make friendships that broaden our horizons as people. In 2013, we hosted the **Banater Schwaben from Singen and Esslingen** and held an event we called **Schwaben Abend**. In 2017, we hosted the **Donauschwäbisches Volkstanzensemble** from **Werischwar, Hungary** for a German-Hungarian Night. In 2019, we again held a **German-Hungarian Night** this time hosting the **Saarer Tanzgruppe** from Saar, Hungary.

Our club is often the first stop for these guest groups that have journeyed to the United States. Their tours then take them across the Midwest to clubs like our own culminating in the Landestreffen der Donauschwaben over Labor Day Weekend each year.

Travelling to Detroit in 2013 carried some deeper historical significance for the German-Hungarians. That year as we prepared for our trip to Michigan, it was discovered that **Detroit Carpathian Club's** first president, **Peter Schock**, was also the **Banater**

Männerchor of Philadelphia's (the founding name of our club) first president. The Detroit club's history reads:

“The date was January 5, 1913. In the German community of Detroit's East Side, the wind howled through the streets, adding a chill to the already bitter cold Sunday afternoon. But inside Beecher Hall on Michigan Avenue, a roaring fireplace provided warmth for 57 men who had gathered in response to an advertisement published in the "Detroitter Abendpost", a prominent German newspaper. The ad called for the creation of a German-Hungarian Singing Society and anyone interested was invited to attend. Now, they sat in the room, listening attentively to the man who spoke; the man responsible for the summons, Peter Schock.” (The Carpathia Chronicles. Part 1: Genesis)

At that 2013 Treffen, we presented our findings to the leadership of the club along with a plaque celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Carpathia Club in 2013. That plaque was engraved with both club emblems. Needless to say, the presentation ended with handshakes, hugs, and a toast to all of us together.

Amongst the Mid-Atlantic Region of Schuhplattler dance groups, two yearly events are important for our young people. These are the **Jugend Einzel** held on a Saturday in the winter, which gives our young dancers an opportunity to perform. The other event is the **Kinderfest**, which takes place in June and is an outdoor festival where young dancers can make friends, dance and celebrate German-American culture. We've hosted these events several times at our own club.

In 2013, the **US Soccer Federation** celebrated **100 years of Soccer**. Clubs like ours were honored with a plaque as a club over 100 years old at the time of the anniversary. The history of Soccer in America seemed to be everywhere that year. As always, the German-Hungarians kept soccer and our history in it on our minds. Our players today stand on the shoulders of our former players, coaches, and administrators.

A few years later in 2015, the **Eastern Pennsylvania Soccer Association** celebrated **100 Years**. A few of our members served on the committee that planned the event. Photos, memorabilia, and historical documents from the United German Hungarians were included in displays from the **United Soccer League of Pennsylvania** that evening.

In 2014, our long serving **President Bill Galgon** finished his 5th and last term as President. Bill led our club through times both wonderful and trying. His leadership held us together while still driving us towards achieving goals. Chairman of the Board Steve Paul presented Mr. Galgon with a certificate bestowing on him the title of “Honorary President,” at our banquet that year.

As we moved forward in 2014, **Janet Fricker Malofiy** was elected as our President, a title she still holds as of this writing. This was a historic milestone for the United German Hungarians, as Janet is the first female to hold the position of President. The Women’s Auxiliary commemorated this milestone with a tea party.

For 110 years, our club has worked to make our young members aware of their cultural heritage while also instilling the value of strong conscientious workers in club life. The Executive Board, the Board of Governors, and the Committee Chairmen show a cross section of our membership. Since the beginning many of our people take what they learned working in the German Hungarians and have applied it to work at higher levels in our umbrella groups, or soccer organizations and we have since the beginning. Today we have members holding titles and working on committees in the **Steuben Day Observance Association**, the **United Soccer League of Pennsylvania**, **Eastern Pennsylvania Soccer Association**, **United States Adult Soccer Association**, the **US Soccer Federation**, as well as the **Gauverband Nordamerika**, the **Landesverband der Donauschwaben** and the **Danube Swabian Foundation (Stiftung)**.

In 2014 we took a trip to Europe we dubbed a “Youthful Euro Tour.” We were able to take part and perform at the **Volkstanzfest der Banater Trachtengruppen aus Baden-Wurttemberg**, in Freiburg, Germany. On that same 2014 tour of Germany and Austria, our group participated in the opening ceremonies of the **Munich Oktoberfest**. Together with members from the Gauverband Nordamerika, we were honored to be a part of these historic festivities.

Our **Cultural Group** turned 50 years old in 2015 having been founded in 1965. We printed a souvenir book with history and ads of well wishes, as well as hosted an event that featured our current dance group. We made an effort to bring back many of our older members and former dance group members to celebrate the anniversary. Members of the dance group were honored with certificates noting the number of years active. It was a warm and celebratory evening.

We, the United German Hungarians, are a social club. We have dance groups, we have soccer, and we gather around those activities weekly at the club. Tuesday nights for a long while have been the gathering night for the dance group, for meetings of committees, and sometimes for our teams to practice soccer. For a period around 2014 and a few years after, the kitchen committee took on holding a **Sandwich Board** on Tuesday nights. Stepping into our kitchen you could often find **John** or **Connie Reiter** or a host of others on their committee making sandwiches in the evening. For a small price, members could have dinner at the club on the nights we gathered. Details like this may seem small and trivial facts for a history such as this but they characterized club life at that time.

Our dance groups have thrived in recent years being a very visible display of what our club can do. Since the founding days of the group, we have performed at many local clubs' festivals and events and we continue to perform at many today. We were participants in the very first **Steuben Parade in Philadelphia** and have participated in every German-American Parade since. In recent years, we have performed annually at the **Philadelphia Christmas Village**, and at the Oktoberfest and Maifest celebrations sponsored by **Brauhaus Schmitz on South Street**, at the **23rd Street Armory**, in **Haddonfield, NJ**, and even as far as **Brooklyn, NY**.

In November 2015 at the request of **Philadelphia Mayor Nutter** we performed a special dance for the **Mayor of Frankfurt, Germany** as they signed a sister cities agreement at City Hall.

In 2017, the **Major Women**, a team largely rebuilt for that season, won the **East Penn Women's State Cup** named for Paul Stilley. It was the first year a women's cup had been played in our state in some time. A great success they have built on playing in the USLPA, our team, the Major Women won the **2018-2019 Major Women's Division Championship** last year.

That year in 2017, the **Major II** also had success winning the new **USLPA Challenge Cup** named for **Barry Strube**.

The **Alex Meixner Band** has played a yearly dance event at our club since 2017. The first few years were a Thursday in May, we dubbed "Mix It Up with Alex Meixner Band," and the event has started a cult following in our area. This past May the band was available on a Friday night for the first time and that made the affair a nice social event for our members and friends.

As we moved into 2018, another trip to Europe was set. This time three of our members would be competing in Einzel Competition at the **Bayerischer Lowe** held that year in **Haldewang, Bavaria**. The Gaufest festival took place under a huge tent out on the rolling fields

and hills in Bavaria. **Kyra Malofiy** placed 5th, **Janet Malofiy** 5th, and **Paul Ulrich** 15th. The Gaufest was another unique experience for our club. We took a walking tour in the next town over Altusried, where we saw the local dance group's clubhouse, toured their large outdoor theater, their old millworks, and witnessed their Schutzenverein's firepower. As we often do, our trip was extended with different families traveling to places in **Austria, Italy**, and to **Serbia, and Romania**.

Through all of our social, cultural, and sports success our club families have stuck together. Still financially and from a business perspective, we struggled for many years. We always made it through. In 2018, a change took place that has ensured our club life can be preserved for us and future generations. At the time, our president Janet Fricker Malofiy wrote:

“We are very excited to open a new chapter in our organizations history where we will have a bright future. For many years, it has been a financial struggle to maintain our current property. It became clear that it would be difficult to continue under our current business plan. As we were deciding how to move forward, we were presented with a very good opportunity, which was to sell our property. This would relieve us from the financial burden of maintaining our property yet still permitting us to continue to have our home and events at 4666 E Bristol Road. This opportunity ensures a strong future allowing us to concentrate and thrive in culture, soccer and social activities. Our cultural and soccer programs remain a core of what our members and families do. We could not be happier to have sold the property to a United German Hungarian family, Joe and Cindy Proll.”

So, as the new era began, we gained an opportunity to be the godparents to a new sports and social club, the **Trifecta Sporting Club**. We wish our new-old home much success and look forward to many more years together.

Proving after over 100 years that we still have a few tricks up our sleeves, the dance group hosted an event you had to have experienced to understand the success. The idea for the fundraiser in February of 2019 came from **Alex Blank**, but our whole club, the **Austrian Village**, and of course **Die Heimatklänge** came together to make it all happen. What was called simply “**HK Night at the Austrian Village**” was a wonderful Saturday night event that filled the house, raised money for the dance group and put a smile on every face, a meal in every belly and a few songs stuck in every head. When

we have success together, we can be reminded of the strength we have in unity and the respect we have for each other. We repeated the successful event in 2020.

In the summer of 2019, another trip to Europe specifically **Hungary** took place this time at the invitation of **Stefan Ihas** of the **Weltdachverband**. Our members that attended (**Karen David, Karina Fricker, Marlene Fricker, Werner Fricker III, Janet Fricker Malofiy, Mikaela Malofiy, and Michelle Paul**) came back changed and energized once again to be “Deutsche Leit.” A spectacular sprawling article was published in the *Monthly Progress* with sections written by each attendee and with an introduction and conclusion by Marlene Fricker.

The German-Hungarians have dug deeply and laid our foundations on rock. Rain and floods have come and gone but we remain. And so, as we enter into a new decade, we do so as a people continuing all the strength, unity, and traditions of our past faced towards a brightly lit future.

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