

Speakers Bios. 2011

Master of Ceremonies: Mr. Ed Tullius

Ed Tullius is the current President of the not for profit Danuschwabien Foundation, and is the Vice-President of the Cincinnati Donauschwaben Verein. He has retired from 30 years of public service. He has worked part-time for 15 years as a ski instructor and continues to enjoy outdoors activities and world travel.

Dr. Albert Jabs

Dr. Jabs began during the cataclysmic events of WW II surrounding his family's farm along the Poland Vistula River (Gross Dembe-near Plock). The issues of war, peace, expulsion, deportation, racism, dying, guilt, blame, and hatred were germinated at this time and have influenced an academic career as a professor in America and abroad. He has put much energy into civil rights and Lutheran missions as well as written thousands of publications, and has taught primarily in the context of minority institutions both in the American South and Lithuania.

Dr. K. Dirk Voss

Dr. Voss is a professor at the St. Louis Community College - Meramec and teaches American and World history. He graduated with a Ph. D. in history from the University of Oklahoma in 2000 and taught at Stephen F. Austin State University in Texas, Canterbury Christ Church University in England, and Ca Mau Community College in Vietnam. He specializes in transatlantic history of the 19th and 20th century. His most recent published article is on the influence of the stationing of American nuclear weapons on German pop music in the 1980s.

Dr. John P. Messmer

Dr. Messmer is a professor of political science in the Department of History and Political Science at St. Louis Community College - Meramec. Dr. Messmer's teaching and research interests include American political institutions and behavior, political reform, Constitutional issues, and international relations. He received his PhD from the University of Missouri in 2001 and has been teaching at Meramec since 2002. Dr. Messmer is a lifelong St. Louisian and the son of two Danubeschwabian refugees who immigrated to the United States in 1955.

Mr. Eberhard Fuhr

Mr. Fuhr was arrested in his Cincinnati high school at the age 17 and interned for almost five years as a Dangerous Alien Enemy in WW 2. He retired with a career in sales/sale-management with Shell Oil and of Pioneer Plastics Corp.

He is a graduate of Ohio University and earned an MBA at The University of Wisconsin. He is a widower with three children and 8 grandchildren and resides in a suburb of Chicago

Mr. Henry A. Fischer.

Mr. Fischer was born in Kitchener, Ontario in Canada the son of Swabian immigrants from Hungary. He is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario and Waterloo Lutheran Seminary. Following a career in the Lutheran ministry during his retirement he has authorized several books related to history of the Danube Swabians, including Children of the Danube, The Pioneers, Strangers and Sojourners and Emigrants and Exiles part of a trilogy: Remember to Tell the Children. He has also translated significant Danube Swabian historical information from German to English which appear on his website. He is married to his wife Jean and has two sons and four grandchildren the latest manifestation of the Children of the Danube in Canada.

?????????

Mrs. Rosina Schmidt

Mrs. Schmidt wrote a Families book on her grandfather's birthplace of Hrastovac. She developed a webpage under the same name, which took a life of its own and it is now a home away from home from all those ethnic Germans of that area, which were blown in all four-wind directions during and after WWII. She is active on Danube Swabian Forums in Germany, Croatia and North America.

Master of Ceremonies: Mr. Robert Filippi

Mr. Filippi has held many board positions during his life long association with the Donauschwaben organizations here and abroad. He now serves as President of the Landesverband der Donauschwaben USA. Through his involvement with the Weltdachverband he has been able to generate a new enthusiasm for building trans-Atlantic relationships between members of the younger generations of Donauschwaben.

Dr. Zoran Janjetovic

Dr. Janjetovic earned a Ph.D. in history at the University of Belgrade in 2004. He is senior researcher at the Institute for More Recent History of Serbia since 1995. He's taken part in several research stays abroad, participated in three international projects and has taken part in over 40 international conferences. He has published four books and over 70 articles. His fields of research include national minorities in former Yugoslavia, post-WWII diplomatic history, social history of Serbia and Yugoslavia in WWII and after. He speaks English and German and reads Italian, French, Slovenian and Macedonian.

Mrs. Marta Istvan

Mrs. Istvan was born in Kikinda, in Serbian-Banat and raised in a multicultural heritage. She spent 25 years as a librarian in Kikinda and taught German in the elementary school. At present she works as a freelance journalist writing for Serbian and Hungarian journals and represents the Nordbanater as a correspondent for the Danube Valley Magazine published in Germany. Mrs. Istvan sits on the board of the Vojvodina Hungarian society; local historian and member of the State Commission for the Hungarian victims, and works with the Danube Swabian genealogists in Sindelfingen, Germany.

Mr. Julius A Loisch

Mr. Loisch was born in a village in Slovakia called Muhlenbach. He attended grade school in Unterschwaben by the border of Poland. Two years of high school were spent at Kesmark before evacuated to Austria/Germany in 1944. He graduated from high school in Dinkelsbühl/Germany. After Earning his Masters Degree in Mechanical Engineering he spent one year at White Sand Missile Range followed by working on Aerospace projects like Solar Wind spectrometer (Apollo 12 lunar landing), various Military defense projects and developments in medical instrumentation. He retired in 1992.

Dr. Eleanor Johnston and Rev. Dr. Wayne Fraser

Dr. Johnston and Rev. Dr. Fraser have recently retired from teaching and administrative work in Niagara private schools. She is a chorister and lay leader in the Anglican Church where Wayne preaches the exciting new ideas of progressive theology. They work together on numerous justice issues, and they share the joys of loving their children, grandchildren and their friends and relatives.

Mr. James Bacque

Mr. Bacque was born and educated in Toronto. He attended Upper Canada College and Trinity College, University of Toronto. He has been farm worker, truck driver, construction worker, stagehand, journalist, magazine editor, book editor and author. His books have sold over 200,000 copies in 14 countries around the world through forty years. His work has been the subject of four TV documentaries, a book and many articles.

Prof. Scott Dorough, Title: Editor

Prof. Dorough has been working in professional video and independent film since 2002. He is an experienced cinematographer and editor, working on numerous independent shorts, documentaries, and the full length motion pictures RHINELAND and Game of the Year. Scott also teaches audio and video production for Webster University and St. Louis Community College.

Marlene Fricker

Marlene has been a member of the United German Hungarian Cultural Group since 1965 participating in every cultural aspect of the organization. She has a BFA in Dance from Adelphi University. For 20 years she was instructor and administrator of Marlene Blank School of Dance. Marlene currently works as a Supervisor at Abington Memorial Hospital. She is furthering her education at Gwynedd Mercy College in the field of Allied Health. She is the mother and step mother of six and grandmother of a 2 year old. Marlene has worked together with members of the United German Hungarians and the Philadelphia and Trenton Donauschwaben Clubs on three Cultural Exhibits of primarily Danubeswabian artifacts.

Erika Neumayer

Miss Neumayer is a Chicago-based fashion designer that has a passion not only for modern and high fashion, but also traditional and cultural clothing and textiles. After her study abroad program in Ghana, Africa in 2007, she realized how much of an impact fabric and clothing can have on a culture. This inspired her to further research the clothing of her own culture, resulting in an honors project focused on the regional differences in dress among Donauschwaben communities. Since graduating from Dominican University, she has been working hard to build her own line of dirndls. Although not traditionally Donauschwaben, it allows her to be creative and stay active in the community she loves.

Ron Morrison, Videographer/assistant

Ron Morrison is husband and willing assistant to Ann Morrison. Ron has many years experience in photography and now videography while working on the film "The Forgotten Genocide". Ron also assisted during interviews while traveling to several cities during the pre-production phase of the film.