

Speakers Presentations : Thursday, April 28th

Master of Ceremonies: Mr. Ed Tullius

Ed Tullius is the current president of the non-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 outdoor activities and world travel.

9:00-9:50am Dr. Albert Jabs

Genocide has been part of the human story since the creation of time. The deadly virus of ethnic cleansing and genocide has been part of the human project from the Assyrian Empire of Three Thousand years ago and up to present day where the lingering shadows of genocide lurks in such places as Darfur, the Congo, and Burma. The responsibility of our generation is to surface all genocides as worthy subjects of study, hidden or not. I will speak on the goal of moving from conflict to reconciliation through moral and historical courage.

10:00-10:50am Dr. Dirk Voss

Title: West German Perceptions of the Flight and Expulsion of Germans, 1949 to 2010.

Dr. Voss' presentation is a survey of the West German literature on the flight and expulsion from 1949 to 2010. His presentation illustrates how the topic of the expulsion deeply divided West German society and politics. Conservative politicians and journalists compared the sufferings of the German refugees with the victims of the Holocaust in the 1950s. Left-wing media and scholars avoided and ignored the topic throughout the 1960s until the end of the unification of the two Germanys. In recent years, the topic of the expulsion, allied war crimes, has been revived by both conservatives and the Left to create a collective memory of the most traumatic event in German history while stressing reconciliation with Eastern European nations.

11:00-11:50am Dr. John Messmer

Nationalism and Nationality

Within the context of "The Forgotten Genocide" project, this presentation will focus upon definitions of nationality. As the son of German (Danauschwabien) immigrants, what are my thoughts as a "German-American?" What's right or wrong about being a "hyphenated" American? We'll also discuss and try to understand the pride and despair people possess in their own culture and nation. Are there consequences that we don't fully appreciate?

12:00-1:00pm Lunch Ms. Marlene Fricker: Choreographer and show coordinator

1:00-1:50 Mr. Eberhard Fuhr

Mr. Fuhr will discuss the actions of the United States during WW 2 beginning with the registration of all aliens in peacetime 1940-- and internment of legal resident immigrants as Dangerous Alien Enemies. This includes the incarceration of their families, the losses of property and careers. The Aliens were used in exchange for Americans, soldiers or US civilians abroad. He will exhibit documents, photos, along with discussion of court cases and his personal experiences as an internee from age 17 to age 22 when released.

2:00-2:50pm Mr. Henry Fischer

"It's Always Been a Matter of Identity".

The Danube Swabians facing their self-identity in terms of nationality, ethnicity and their country of residence and the implications and expectations of them by their host countries. I provide a brief historical survey of the problem and I use my own personal experiences growing up in Canada during the Second World War in my attempt to answer the question who am I? There was a parallel situation in Hungary at that time during the census of 1941 when our families were asked what their Mother tongue was and what their nationality was. What did it mean to be German living in Hungary during the Second World War? It was the kind of loaded question like: Do you beat your wife as often as you used to? The answers they gave at the time would have dire consequences and implications for them in the future including deportation to the Soviet Union and expulsion to Germany. What does it mean to be a Danube Swabian now, regardless of where we live?

3:00-3:50pm ???????

4:00-4:30pm Mrs. Rosina Schmidt

Danube Swabian Lost Children

Towards the end of 1944 Tito's government of the newly established Yugoslavia imprisoned the 200,000 ethnic Germans (Danube Swabians) who did not manage to flee their ancestral lands ahead of the Soviet Union's Red Army invasion, and imprisoned them in various starvation camps. About 45,000 of them were children below the ages of 14. Eventually 20,000 of those children were sent to orphanages across Yugoslavia, to raise them as Tito's true patriots. What became of those children?

4:45pm-6:30pm The Forgotten Genocide Film

Friday, April 29

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.

9:00-9:50am Dr. Zoran Janjetovic

I will be talking about the relations between Serbs, Croats and Slovenes with Ethnic-Germans through history and the influence these relations had on the fate of Germans at the end of WWII. I would like to present how many-faceted these relations were and what led to their eventual fatal outcome. In that context, nationalism, communism and Nazism will be discussed as relevant ideologies which brought about the German tragedy.

10:00-10:50am Marta Istvan

I will be speaking about the creation of a visual documentation of the Danube Swabian mass graves in Vojvodina, entitled "Memorials of the Danube Swabians in the Banat in Backa and Srem" in cooperation with the Danube Swabian Josef Lang. I'll be talking about the problems, difficulties and experiences in our travels on foot, by bus and by car through the towns of Vojvodina. The documentation is for people to see the success in the construction of the memorials and monuments and how they will live on into the future.

11:00-11:50am Julius A Loisch

Mr. Loisch will be speaking about the history of the people from Slovakia, a part of the Carpathian Mountains where he spent his childhood. He was born in the village of Muhlenbach, but lost his youth after the Second World War ended. He'll explain the consequences of the expulsion and life in post war Germany.

12:00-1:00pm Lunch/ Erika Neumayer

Owner/Designer of Rare Dirndls and show coordinator

A Rare dirndl is exactly that, rare. It is unique in its fabrication and style and you will not find anything like it in America. Rare is committed to providing its customers with high quality and high fashion dirndls as well as helping make the world a better place. Owner and designer, Erika Neumayer created the Rare line to bring more color, texture, life and fashion to the American dirndl market. In addition, she is dedicated to using her talents to help a world in need. With that in mind, 10% of all sales will go to her favorite charity, Global Goods Partners. Take risks, help others and be Rare

1:00-2:15pm Dr. Eleanor Johnston & Rev. Dr. Wayne Fraser

How Far To Go Home (Dramatized Reading)

"How Far to go Home" began as the Memoirs of Guenter Schemeit, after Guenter died in 2009 Eleanor with co-writer Wayne Fraser rewrote and produced the war and genocide stories from his Memoirs as a one-act two-person staged reading drama. Born in East Prussia in 1927, Guenter was a Christian pacifist who witnessed and survived many horrors, including the firebombing of Tilsit and Koenigsburg and the refugees' flight from the Soviet Army across the frozen Lake Frishing to Danzig.

3:00-3:50pm

Mr. James Bacque

Mr. Bacque will talk about the deaths of 1.5 million prisoners of war in allied death camps, the expulsion of the vertriebene and the German civilians when Germany became one great prison. Several million expellees died among scores of millions of civilians because of the lethal Morgenthau Plan for the destruction of Germany. At the same time, compassionate people in Canada and the USA led a relief campaign which saved the lives of over 500,000,000 people around the world, eventually including Germany.

3:30-4:10pm

Mr. Michael Vogt

4:10-4:30pm

Prof. Scott Dorough

Principle Editor

Prof. Dorough will be speaking about the production process surrounding the making of the 6 part documentary series. He will give a brief background into how the process began, where the project stands at the time of this conference and talk about the next steps. He will then introduce the 30 minute overview of the coming series, which is at this time being titled the "Précis".

7:00pm

Ron Morrison's Fireside Chat