



Letter from the President

As we approach the end of 2010 and reflect on the last year, I realize how quickly the last 12 months went by...

Looking back to January and February we celebrated a very successful Schlachtefest and Jaegerball. In the spring, everyone enjoyed attending our card parties. Our members look forward to socializing while playing cards on a Sunday afternoon. The men still enjoy a competitive game of Sheepshead while the ladies play a "high stakes" penny game, keeping everyone happy!

In May our Jugend celebrated their favorite dance – with the theme of Mai Tanz auf Hawaii – it was a beautiful performance and we are all very proud of them. Keep up the good work! Our Seniors' group also had reason to celebrate – their 35th anniversary – and did so with a nice dinner dance.

Before we knew it, we were celebrating our annual Fathers Day Picnic! Summer at the Schwabenhof means the arrival of Summerfest and Germanfest. As always, our members worked very hard for the 11 days of Summerfest and 4 days of Germanfest. We had quite a surprise this year at Germanfest when the grounds flooded and was actually closed! The festival turned into a lake as we were clearing the grounds. I cannot name everyone who helped in preparing, transporting, cooking, selling and serving food because there are too many friends to name. Know that we could not operate these festivals without your time and hard work. From the bottom of my heart, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your help and ongoing support.

The UDoM is excitedly planning a trip to Europe in 2012 and our members are busy organizing fundraisers to finance it. We hope to visit Germany, Austria and Hungary with our Kinder, Jugend and Kulturgruppe along with some of our other members.

In August many of our members took part in the Landesverband Treffen in Philadelphia. It was a fun vacation, we were able to take in some of the sights and our Jugend and Kulture groups performed very well. This year's Oktoberfest was only two weekends, but a good time was had by all.

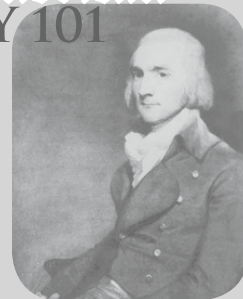
Our Kindergruppe hosted their Kirchweih dance in October. In the meantime, the Frauengruppe was hard at work preparing cookies for their annual Bazaar and Holiday Folk Fair. I have noticed that our younger members are very willing to learn from their Oma's and Opa's on how to bake cookies and make sausage. We are very proud of our children's interest in preserving these time-honored traditions in our club.

To those who have lost family and friends, I would like to express my deep sorrows and hope that you remember the good times you shared with the departed. I would like to welcome new members to our club and hope that you become a dedicated member of the UDoM family. Thank you all for your hard work and help during the year, especially the various group leaders and the members of the Vorstand for their ongoing dedication and endless effort to preserve our Club. As I think back on 2010 we have a lot to be proud of and thankful for.

Together with my wife Theresia, we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and best wishes throughout the New Year!

Tony Siladi, President

German-American HISTORY 101



Today we remember John Jacob Astor 1763-1848 A German-American, and the first multi-millionaire in the United States. Born Johann Jakob Astor of Walldorf, Germany, a town near Heidelberg, he worked on his parents farm and learned the butcher's trade. At the young age of 16, he traveled to England with his brother Georg and crafted musical instruments there. In 1783 he made is journey to New York where he worked in a butcher's shop with his second brother Henry. He started trading furs with Indians and then soon opened a fur goods shop in New York City. A short time later he devoted himself completely to the fur trade and became very successful at it. He founded numerous trading stations, particularly in the Northwest of the USA. At the mouth of the Columbia River, he founded a settlement named "Astoria" This settlement became the center of the fur trade in the American West. Following the War of 1812, the fur trade started to lag, so Astor concentrated on his real estate business in New York. For a time, half of the island of Manhattan belonged to him, so that he was also called "Mister Manhattan" Astor became the wealthiest man in America and later known for being a very strong patron of the arts. Astor lived to the age of 84. At the time of his death, his fortune was estimated to be approximately 20 million dollars.

Did You Know?

Gingerbread was not baked in homes in the fifteenth century, but rather was made by government-recognized guilds. Nuremberg, Germany was the location of the best known guild. The German guild was famous for elaborately detailing the lebkuchen with gold paint or with icing. The guild was called the Lebkuchner and was formed in 1643 as a means of quality-control reasons as well as a way to limit competition in making the lebkuchen gingerbread.

The quality of the Nuremberg guild's lebkuchen gingerbread was so high that it was even used as currency for paying city taxes. The lebkuchen was also considered a gift worthy of heads of state and royalty.

Gingerbread cut into shapes, especially hearts, and tied with ribbon became a popular treat sold in fairs throughout Europe. The Brothers Grimm fairy tale, *Hansel and Gretel*, inspired the German *hexenhaeusle* (witch's house). The *Lebkuchenhaeusle* (gingerbread house) was made with large slabs of lebkuchen and decorated with sweets.

The first gingerbread in the U.S. is thought to have been brought by Swiss Catholic monks who founded the St. Meinrad Archabbey in Indiana in 1854. The monks gave gingerbread to the sick and baked it for holiday celebrations.

"An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves."
— Bill Vaughan

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What would you like to hear more about? E-mail me at:
jenn@UDoMmilwaukee.com

SUN

MON

TUES

WED

THUR

FRI

SAT

january event calendar 2011



31
New Year's Eve
Dance @ 6pm



New Year's Eve

1
New Year's Day

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 UDoM General Meeting @ 7:30pm	20	21	22 Schlachtfest @ 6pm
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
					30	31

WEISHEIT *des Monats*

**"Schwarzbrot macht
"Rye bread gives
die Wangen rot."
you rosy cheeks."**

New Year's Eve Dance

@ The Schwabenhof (N56 W14750 Silver Spring Rd.)
Fri., December 31, Dinner at 6pm, Music at 8pm
Ring in the New Year with a bang at the Schwabenhof's New Years Eve Dinner Dance. The festivities include a buffet dinner of New York Strip Steak, Duck Legs, Fried Shrimp, and all the trimmings. Dance to the music of Johnny Hoffman und Die Herzbuben. Count down to midnight with party favors and a champagne toast. For ticket reservations contact Victor Kordas at 262/783-4436. Cost is \$65 dollars per person.

Schlachtfest

@ The Schwabenhof (N56 W14750 Silver Spring Rd.)
Sat., January 22, Dinner at 6pm, Music at 8pm
Celebrate one of merriest parties ever — Schlachtfest! The meal is monumental: a buffet consisting of roast pork, sarma, bratwurst & blutwurst, a schlacht plate (served cold), dumplings & gravy, red cabbage & hot vegetables and homemade deserts including krapfen. Enjoy the music of Johnny Hoffman und Die Herzbuben. For ticket reservations, please contact Theresa Siladi @ 262/879-0522. Cost is \$30 per person.

january
photo gallery

