

# **Delaware Saengerbund and Library Assn., Inc.**

49 Salem Church Road  
Founded 1853  
Incorporated 1924

Newark, Delaware 19713

Phone: (302) 366-9454

Web Site: <http://www.DelawareSaengerbund.org>

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## **April 2014 NEWSLETTER**

The next General Membership Meeting will be held at 8:00 PM on

**Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

### **A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT**

Liebe Mitglieder - Dear Members,

Culture is defined as the shared traditions, beliefs, customs, history, folklore, and institutions of a group of people. Culture is shared by people of the same ethnicity, language, nationality, or religion. I wonder if you ever thought about why you really became a member of the Delaware Saengerbund.

Many of you joined, paid dues and never took advantage of what the DSB has to offer. Are you aware of all the activities that are available to you?

- We have an excellent chorus if you enjoy singing, no prior knowledge of the German language is necessary.
- The Enzian Volkstanzgruppe is a great organization to learn and participate in German folkdancing.
- The Ladies group cooks and serves German food for many occasions.
- The Spitzbuben are a group of "Skat" (card players) who welcome you and will teach you how to play this unique German card game.
- TAG (the teen group) they help support the DSB with our endeavors and have fun as well.
- Culture Committee dedicated to preserving our German heritage, providing a variety of German programs throughout the year.
- Genealogy group provides the tools to help you research your roots with interesting programs and guest speakers.
- Wandervögel, our hiking club for those that enjoy the great outdoors
- Language school for adults and our Deutsche Schule for young people ages 4 to 18 years of age.
- Soccer for boys and girls of all ages

All of these things are available free of charge and for your enjoyment. However, they are all associated with a cost of which your club bears the majority. The DSB's income comes from our members. Your participation at sponsored events helps pay for costs such as utilities, taxes, insurance, upkeep, maintenance etc.

You must have had an interest in at least some of the activities we offer or you would not have joined our organization. Please think about why you became a member and support your areas of interest.

The Delaware Saengerbund needs your support to continue to grow. Helping a few hours at the Oktoberfest does not sustain and maintain our effort. Unfortunately we have too many members who are "members" in name only. Help us by participating in more activities and volunteer when asked.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,

Norma Grieb

# **Delaware Saengerbund and Library Assn., Inc.**

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## **In Memoriam**

Maria Wiedenman

### **Special Note from Paula and Bill Ledwith**

Thank you to everyone for your invaluable friendship and support during our time of grieving over the loss of Bill's mother in January. We are grateful for our extended family at the DSB.

Best regards,

Paula and Bill Ledwith

## **Entertainment Committee**

### **CHILDREN 'S EASTER PARTY, Saturday April 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2014**

1:00pm -3:00pm

This event is for children and grandchildren of DSB members only.

Please do not sign up children of friends or neighbors.

You can register on line at dsbkidsparty@aol.com or send in your registration to Delaware Saengerbund, 49 Salem Church Rd, Newark DE 19713....attention Easter Party.

Please submit the members' name and phone number along with the child's name and age.

Registration must be received by Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Please advise how many adults will attend as well. The Easter party is for children up to age 10.

### **DSB YARDSALE, Saturday April 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2014 8:00am - 12:00pm**

For those selling items the cost per table is **\$10.00**.

Please call Janette at 302 738 0477 to register. Registration deadline is April 4<sup>th</sup> 2014. Send payment to DSB.

Participants are required to set up and take down their own tables which will be provided by the DSB.

Tables are selling fast and are limited. This will be first come first serve.

The yard sale will be advertised in the News Journal again.

## **Singers**

The Liederabend at the Cannstatter Volksfest-Verein in Philadelphia was postponed until March 30, 2014. The singing is scheduled to start at 4:00.

The Singer's Spring Concert is May 10th. Tickets are \$8.00 and will go on Sale starting April 2nd. Please contact Tricia Creveling at 302-832-9491.

For the Singers, Keith Farmer

## The Ladies

The Ladies Annual Sunday dinner is scheduled for Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. Doors open at 2:30. Reservations will be accepted until April 6<sup>th</sup>. Reservations can be made using the reservation form in the newsletter and also there are forms on the bulletin board in the back hall. The next Ladies meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the Von Steuben Room. New members are always welcome.

Judy Ariganello, President, Ladies of the DSB

## The Culture Committee

### German Singer Coming in April

The Culture Committee is pleased to present a young student from Bamberg University, whose name is Nikolai Beland, and he is a friend of Jim Ethridge. Nikolai sings and plays the guitar, though not a "professional" he wants to meet our DSB members and talk a bit about himself and take questions you may have.

**Come sing with Nikolai in our  
Bauernstube on Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>  
Starting at 2 pm**

### Lecture Coming in April: Germans in Antiquity

Who were the Germans at the time of Jesus?

The presentation on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014 by Ronald Wismer will discuss the nascent German nation circa 100 AD.

## HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

Are you interested in hosting German actors for two nights? The regional *Schauspielgruppe* from Elmshorn near Hamburg will visit the DSB again on **Sunday April 27** to perform in German, **DIE PHYSIKER BY FRIEDRICH DÜRRENMATT**. The group consists of **16 actors** including Ms. Jutta Ivens, their coach as well as one family group of four consisting of parents and two children, ages 15 and 9. (the family of 4 can be split into 2 groups.)

Two overnights including Saturday, April 26 and Sunday, April 27 are needed. Member hosts are asked to provide two breakfasts and possibly one to two suppers. Hosts would gather at the club on Saturday to greet the guests upon arrival and guide them to your home. Our guests would leave on Monday to go on to Philadelphia and a future show at the German Society.

Some of you might remember this group that performed DER ZERBROCHENE KRUG here several years ago! Seize the opportunity to speak some German and host these German guests! If you are interested in this cultural endeavor, please contact **Lloyd Maier at 302-239-6552 or [patch10@maierassociates.com](mailto:patch10@maierassociates.com)** for further information.

**The Culture Committee Presents:**

**Die Physiker – The Physicists**

**A satirical play by Swiss playwright Friedrich Dürrenmatt**

The central figures of the play are three men living in a mental institution who pretend to be insane. One claims to be Albert Einstein, the second Isaac Newton. The third, Johann Wilhelm Moebius, has discovered the “World Formula”, but is now worried that his discovery, in the wrong hands, could result in the destruction of humankind. Trying to evade his own inventions, he feigns insanity by pretending that King Solomon appears and speaks to him, and thus can avoid misuse of his revolutionary discovery. “Newton” and “Einstein”, however, are really agents of opposing secret services and have only entered the mental institution to steal Moebius’ formula to use it for their own country’s purposes.

The “physicists” are compelled to kill their three nurse attendants out of fear that the secret will be revealed. When the police arrive to investigate, Moebius destroys the formula. He persuades his colleagues to keep their dangerous knowledge a secret so that the world will be saved. But it is too late for that!

**To find out how the story ends, come to the performance of the *Elmshorn Theater Group* on Sunday, April 27 at 2:00 pm in the Deutsche Halle. Note: The play will be presented in German.**

**Annual European Union Embassies’ Open House DSB Bus Trip**

Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Leaving DSB Parking Lot at 8:00 am

Leaving German/French Embassy at 4:00 pm

John Nothstein will be selling tickets in March and April at the General Meetings.

Cost is \$13 check or cash.

Each person going will need to give John the complete name and phone number for each person and guest going on the trip.

Tickets are non-refundable. Deadline to pay for tickets is May 2, 2014.

You can also send John your request and check to his home address:

John Nothstein

1009 Sulky Road

Wilmington, DE 19810-1053

Have questions? Please call John at 302-529-7766 or Marge Spittle at 301-415-5435

**GERMANIC GENEALOGY GROUP (GGG)**

All members of the DSB are always invited and welcome to attend. We look forward to welcoming you into our growing and active group.

THIS MEETING WAS POSTPONED FROM MARCH

April 21<sup>st</sup> Monday 7:30 pm in the von Steuben Room. Ellis Schmidt will highlight the Internet Genealogy websites and changes that have occurred recently..

May 19<sup>th</sup> Monday 7:30 pm in the von Steuben Room. Appropriately, the subject is ‘The story of von Steuben and his Influence on the USA’.

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## **MAP PROJECT**

The Genealogy Group will again provide opportunities for members to place a star on our maps denoting where they or their ancestor came from. The maps are located in the entrance hall to the right of the flag cases. The maps will be available at the April general meeting.

The project began six years ago. The objective is to place locations on maps of Germany and/or Western Europe for up to two (2) ancestors of each club member who wish to participate.

The names will be cross referenced with the member name, ancestor name, and town location. You may choose to have your own city/village, location chosen.

Only Germanic related locations will be used. (No Ireland, England, Caribbean, etc.) we need your name, the ancestor's name, and the town where they lived.

## **Personal Stories Told by DSB Members**

Available on Culture Committee Computer as of Spring 2014 1-2 at a time can be downloaded to a flash (thumb)drive so you can watch at home. Make arrangements with Lloyd Maier

Wally Alberer	Heinz Ambrosch	Frederick Appelt
Herta Appelt Bernek	Iris Busch	Joachim Elterich
Fred Escheu	Arno Fels	Werner Freymann
Fred Grabner	Erwin Grieb	Richard Grieb
Inge Keith	Helga Kissell	Reinhold Kuska
Annmarie McNeal	Janette Merritt	Erwin Mezger
Burkhard Noack	Doris Pyle	Simon Schock
Gudrun Sturek	Margot Trager	Stefani Busch VanStan
Frank Wolfe		

## **The Property Committee**

Property Comm. Meeting April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 7:30pm in the Library

Property Clean-up April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 8:30 am on the DSB grounds. All able body DSB persons are invited to enjoy the good work and comradeship.

## **Heimatkunde Berühmte Namen der Heimat(Famous names from the homeland)**

When talking about quality piano instruments, the name Bechstein (1853 Berlin) comes to mind. Present production site is Seithennersdorf, Saxony. Another well-known German instrument maker is the guitar designer/builder, Christian Frederick Martin. This successful German immigrant craftsman from the state of Saxony, came to New York in 1833 and eventually moved to Nazareth Pa in 1838. The C.F. Martin Co. now a world renowned establishment produces high end customized guitars, mandolins and ukuleles. Christian was born in 1796 in Markneukirchen, Sachsen Germany and came from a long line of cabinet makers and woodworkers. As was

customary when learning a trade, young Martin underwent an apprenticeship with a well-known guitar maker in Vienna, Johann Stauffer. Christian returned to his hometown after completing training and opened his own shop. At that time craftsmen operated under the guild system (Handwerks oder Berufsinnung/Zunft, Chamber of Handicraft) Most guitar makers belonged to the Cabinet Maker Guild, while the Violin Maker Guild claimed exclusive rights to manufacture musical instruments. Eventually a settlement was reached however Martin was dissatisfied with the restrictive system and decided to go to America. Several of his Zunftkameraden also joined. Their products combined the Viennese style with the Spanish design features in order to meet "New World" customers. A true family business now in its sixth generation the CEO Chris Martin is a great-, great-,great-grandson of Christian F. Martin, from Markneukirchen Sachsen Deutschland.

## **Report about Deutsche Schule im Delaware Saengerbund**

Liebe DSB Mitglieder - Dear DSB Members,

Because increased professional commitments require my undivided attention, I have decided to leave my role as the coordinating teacher of the Deutsche Schule. At this occasion, I would like to report to you for the last time on the progress we have made, what we are currently doing, and where the school might be heading under the trusted leadership of the new coordinating teacher, Dr. Elisabeth Knapp. I say "might" because the direction of the school will be in Elisabeth's hands, and I don't want to pretend to know what Elisabeth and other stakeholders decide in the future. However, I do know that the school will be in very good hands and I am, once again, very glad that Elisabeth has joined us in 2012/13.

I want to echo Madame President's letter to the members from the March 2014 Newsletter, in which she emphasized the position of the DSB to counter the decline of German language instruction in the US. Among other activities, the DSB fulfills its objective #1 of the DSB Constitution, to "encourage, support and perpetuate the study of the German language culture...", by supporting the Deutsche Schule both financially and through the engagement of club leaders as friends of the school and as members of our Steering Committee. As a parent, I was and am very thankful for this continued support and, as a leader of the school I have found that this support puts the school in an enviable position compared with many of its peers, other German Language Saturday Schools in the US. This support gives us the ability to think long-term about the development of the school. At the same time, I have always felt that it also places a duty on the school leadership to build the best school possible. By "best", I mean a school that achieves at least two objectives: to teach German language at a high-performing level and to introduce students to German traditions and give them a taste of German culture. These objectives must be achieved for students of every background: it should not matter if our students learn their first German words in our school, or directly from their family upbringing.

German culture and traditions have a strong home at the school since inception, but they received an even stronger shot in the arm since Iris Richardson joined us as a teacher. The arts and crafts projects, movies, plays, baking, cooking and arts contests that are held frequently at our school are beloved by students and parents alike. The teacher who has already taken over my class, prospective DSB member Frau Monika Thornton, is equally interested in traditional projects and in German language instruction. I am very confident that Monika is a very strong addition to our team. Our Senior group continues to be taught well by Sonia Hewitt, who is a professional high school teacher of German and Spanish. Sonia studied with DSB member Prof. Iris Busch at the

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University of Delaware and she teaches at Newark High School. We are lucky to have Sonia at Deutsche Schule since we started. I believe the school now has the strongest teaching team in place that we have ever seen. Everyone has at least a Masters degree or is an artist, photographer and entrepreneur. What's more, everybody on the team has the motivation and experience to teach kids for 30 Sundays per year. Finding a team of this quality is a challenge for any such school.

Since September of 2012, we have started testing each student who has been at the school for at least two years, using national standardized exams developed by the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG). Now, we test all eligible students at the end of each school year, and all new students who have prior knowledge of German when they join. This helps us to place each student in a class according to her or his needs. The AATG exam is offered in 4 levels, and each level represents a knowledge equivalent to the study of German at the American high-school level for the respective number of years. Level 1 (one year at high-school level, or about two years at Deutsche Schule) is graded at the school level, but Levels 2-4 are graded centrally and, as of 2014, exams are computer-based. For the first time, three students of our school have taken the 2014 AATG National German Exam, and I am happy to report that our students are among the best in Philadelphia and Delaware, which is the AATG testing chapter we belong to. Our students placed 1st, 4th, and 32nd out of all 355 Level 2 test takers (Philadelphia & DE), and 1st, 2nd, and 5th in Delaware alone. Because they are among the ten best students in Delaware, they are all invited "for special recognition at the AATG Annual Awards Ceremony" on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at the Cannstatter Volksfest Verein in Philadelphia.

We have put together a website that helps attract new students every year. This, our continued good work, word-of-mouth through you, the members, and sign-ups at the Oktoberfest have continued to attract more students to the school. In the 2013/14 school year, we have seen a 40% jump in enrollment, to now 50 students, the highest enrollment ever. We have recently started, in volunteer hours for now, to teach a class called "Deutsche Konversation" (Monika's idea), a full immersion class that focuses on reading and discussing German texts. No English is spoken in this class. The teachers, German-speaking parents Christian Hoffmann (DSB member) and Jasmin Wetherill, will pretend not to understand if someone does speak English. Another project we continue working on is to get the school listed on the website of German partnership schools of the German Central Agency for Schools Abroad (Zentralstelle für das Auslandsschulwesen): <http://www.pasch-net.de/par/spo/ame/usa/deindex.htm>

Getting listed on this website would further enhance our profile and attract more students and families to our school and, ultimately, to the Delaware Saengerbund.

One thing that Elisabeth has told me she wants to improve is the communication of school matters to the club and its membership. I am all for that and agree that this is an important part of what we should be doing. I invite everybody to help Elisabeth in this matter and, generally, in building and improving the Deutsche Schule. It cannot be done by one person alone, and it was never done that way. Thank you all for all the help I have received over the years!

Mit Freundlichen Grüßen

Andreas Lehmann



**Ladies of the Delaware  
Saengerbund**

**ANNUAL SUNDAY DINNER**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2014**

One seating at 3:00 p.m.

Doors open at 2:30 p.m.

Roast Pork, Mashed Potatoes, Sauerkraut, Applesauce  
Vegetable, Rolls, Dessert

\$ 13.00 per adult \$ 7.00 per child (10 years and under)

Reservations must be made by April 6, 2014

Return reservation form to DSB office  
or call Judy Ariganello @ 302-463-9658

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of People \_\_\_\_\_



*The Delaware Saengerbund  
Singers present the  
2014 Spring Concert*



*When: May 10, 2014*

*Time: 7:00pm (doors open at 6:30pm)*

*Cost: \$8.00*

*Tickets: beginning April 2<sup>nd</sup>*

*Contact: Tricia Creveling, 832-9491*

# Delaware Saengerbund

49 Salem Church Road  
Newark, Delaware 19713

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Organization

U.S. Postage  
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Wilmington, DE

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Day	Event	Time	Place	Doors Open
Mar 31	Mon	Ladies Meeting	7:30 pm	Von Steuben Room	
Apr 3	Thu	Culture Committee Meeting	7:30 pm	Boardroom	
Apr 6	Sun	German Singer	2:00 pm	Bauernstube	
Apr 7	Mon	German History Lecture	7:30 pm	Von Steuben Room	
Apr 7	Mon	Property Committee Meeting	7:30 pm	Library	
Apr 12	Sat	Children's Easter Party	1:00 pm		
Apr 13	Sun	Ladies Annual Sunday Dinner	3:00 pm	Deutsche Halle	2:30 pm
Apr 21	Mon	Genealogy Meeting	7:30 pm	Von Steuben Room	
Apr 26	Sat	Yard Sale	8:00 am	DSB Parking lot	
Apr 26	Sat	Property Cmte Cleanup Day	8:30 am	DSB Grounds	
Apr 27	Sun	Play "The Physiker"	2:00 pm	Deutsche Halle	
May 10	Sat	Embassy Day in Washington	8:00 am	DSB Parking lot	
May 10	Sat	Singers Spring Concert	7:00 pm	Deutsche Halle	6:30 pm
May 19	Mon	Genealogy Meeting	7:30 pm	Von Steuben Room	