

LANDESTREFFEN DER DONAUSCHWABEN 2018

KITCHENER SCHWABEN CLUB SPECIAL EDITION NACHRICHTEN

August 31st – September 2nd, 2018

Kitchener, Ontario, Canada



Message from the 2018 Chair of Landestreffen



Well, Landestreffen 2018 has come and gone, and I couldn't be prouder of our Clubs' volunteers. I would like to say a big thank you to the Executive Committee: Joel Wideman – Set up and Clean up; Ray Tomchick – Parking and Security; Karen Braun – Desserts; Tracey Killingbeck- Souvenirs and Venders; Lea Becker – Health & Safety; Lena and Glenn Herold – Workshops; Wolfgang Kahnke – Ambassadors; Tracy Wuldrum-Ruland – Grand March; Heidi Peller Oliver – Bartending and Museum; Jenn Orsan – Admissions; Mike Klesser – Food Service; Renata Krech – Budget; Kirk Hanke – Bands and Cash Administration; Monica Anstett – Advisor; and, George Kraehling – Advisor. Without all your hard work, including over a year of planning and meetings, setting up and taking down, and jumping into different committees to help throughout the whole weekend, we would not have had such a successful event. It was a lot of work putting this together, everyone had wonderful idea's and suggestions. It made it difficult to decide which way to go sometimes.

I would also like to thank all those that stepped up to help during the weekend itself even when you didn't sign up, or when you did sign up but other area's needed help! I know that those who did help out missed time with family and friend's, but we could not have done it without you.

I hope everyone enjoyed themselves that weekend - made new friends and saw friends you haven't seen in awhile. But most importantly, made wonderful memories. I am already looking forward to attending next years Landestreffen in Milwaukee!

Tina McQuabbie
Chair of Landestreffen der Donauschwaben 2018



Message from the 2018 Schwaben Club President

So happy to share Landestreffen 2018 in this Special Edition Nachrichten written and compiled by our Landestreffen Committee.

First and foremost, I want to thank this Committee and all the Volunteers in working very hard to ensure another successful event!!! Our club is truly blessed to have these amazing people step up and pitch in so that all of us could celebrate and honour our heritage with our many Donauschwaben friends and family from far and wide.

A lot of planning was required, but thanks to Peter Speckner's (Landestreffen 2012 Committee Chair) great documentation of Landestreffen 2012, we all knew what had to get completed. As we did back in 2012, we again expanded our space by adding a 500-person capacity tent, with stage, and dance floor in the parking lot. This along with our club house, banquet rooms, and outdoor space was needed for approximate 1200 people who attended the event throughout the weekend.

I would like to thank our fellow Donauschwob friends and guests who came from many different states in the USA, Ontario, Quebec, and as far away as Germany and Hungary. Great musical entertainment was provided by the bands, Wildbahn, Weiss Blau, The Golden Keys, and The Gregoric Family Band. We were also thrilled to have the Heimattoenne Kapelle from Hungary back with us!!! They too played throughout the weekend for us, and at many of our Donauschwaben Clubs in the USA in the weeks prior to our Landestreffen.

From dance groups of Kindergruppe, to Jugendgruppe, to Trachten und Kultur Gruppen, the entertainment of traditional heritage dancing to some fun modern tunes, was wonderful, delightful and entertaining. Many of them participated and enjoyed the workshops that had been organized. Always amazing to see so many youth embracing our culture and heritage and having a great time.

A special highlight over the weekend, was the wonderful Tanz Gruppe from Taks, Hungary. Their performances were amazing!

Food and refreshments were tasty and plentiful with some traditional favourites of Schnitzel and Goulash! Those with a sweet tooth enjoyed a variety of Tortes, Nuss & Mag Strudel, and Plum cake!

In closing, I am always grateful and thankful to be able to attend many annual Landestreffens during the Labor Day weekends at the many different host clubs throughout the USA over the years. And, I feel happy and privileged to have again, been able to assist in hosting and participating in this event at our own beloved Donauschwaben Club.

Looking forward to Landestreffen 2019 in Milwaukee!!!

Monica Anstett
President, Schwaben Club

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SET UP & CLEAN UP

Another Landes in Kitchener has come and gone...in a flash!

This was the second one I've attended at the "home" Club; however, a few changes took place. This time around, I was given the task of chairing the "Set Up - Clean Up" team. I wasn't really sure of the scope of the expectations of my team before attending the first meeting with the other leaders. I'll say, it was interesting to say the least!. I had no idea of the behind-the-scenes work involved in hosting this great event. In the two months leading up to Landes, there was recruiting / contacting of volunteers, Hall floors to strip and wax, tables to be checked and chairs to ensure they were in good shape, and many other "little things" to tend to, to ensure a memorable experience for our guests. I can honestly say, that everything was made easier by the great volunteers who came out to help with ALL aspects and tasks that needed to be covered. In particular, I extend a "Hi-Five" to Seppi and Monika Hoedl, also Peter and Jane Anton, for all the EXTRA time spent helping out wherever needed, through the course of the entire weekend!

So now we wait, and who knows, perhaps 6 years from now, we can do it all over again!!

Joel Wideman

Chair of the Set Up & Clean Up Committee



ADMISSIONS

I would like to start off by thanking Jenn and Adam Cook, Penny Hanke, Helga Peller-Eberl, Norma Orsan-Switzer, Daenera Morton, Grace Schellenberger, Jeff Stager and Joanne Holland who generously lent a hand helping me with the admission table. Even though there were some bumps here and there, it sorted itself all out in the end. Also, I would like to thank Melissa Gissing for all the help in the office regards to the admission tickets and payments that came in via mail, telephone and walk-ins.

This year was a special year for our family as Lukas experienced his first Landestreffen, he was quite the little helper and entertainer. I would like to say a special thank you to Emma Becker and Shayla Herold for looking after Lukas a few times when I had to deal with some issues.

I hope everyone who came enjoyed the event and had fun creating memorable and lasting memories. Again, I want to say "Thank you" to all the volunteers that helped with Landestreffen, this is what made our Landestreffen a success 😊

See everyone in Milwaukee!!!

Jennifer Orsan

Chair of the Admissions Committee



FREUNDSCHAFTSABEND

The true purpose of Landes was quickly realized the first night when our initial guests from the United States, Canada and Germany commented that our reception was the warmest and most welcoming they have ever received.

With one night under our belts we anxiously awaited the rest of the weekend.



AMBASSADORS

I, Wolfgang Kahnke was 2012 Chair of the Cleaning and Set-up group and accepted the job in 2018 as head of the Ambassador Committee. This was of course a different job. But with the help of my Volunteers I think we managed our job pretty good.

At this point I would like to give my sincere thank you to Jenn Cook, Joann Kleser, Wilfried Kleser, Glenn Herold (who was also working for the Kinder and Jugend workshop), Stefan Orson (who also helped out with other groups), Michael & Matthew Kahnke (my son and grandson - both of them also helped in the kitchen), and last but not least, our Mr. Schwaben David O' Reilly.

It started on Friday with the Freundschaftsabend in the tent by refreshing friendships and building new ones by a few drinks and dances.

On Saturday, we welcomed all the guests who came with buses or their own car, from the United States or Canada, and even from Europe. The volunteers were very good at everything they needed to do, from smiling to helping to give local information and of course helping to collect the monies to pay for the tickets and handing out the wristbands {for proof of age for alcohol consumption} to start the celebration of the Landestreffen der Donauschwaben in Kitchener, 2018. At the Gate we wished all of our guests a very good time at our Club.

The weather was also very good, maybe a little too hot, but that way the beer tasted better. Sunday was not as hectic as the Saturday and ended with a big party in the tent with the Golden Key's Band. Always a highlight for the younger people.

Overall, I would say it was again a very good weekend. I did not have one bad comment and it seemed like everybody had a great time.

A big thank you again to all my Volunteers. A job well done.

Wolfgang Kahnke
Chair of the Ambassador Committee



PARKING & SECURITY

The Parking and Security Chair was Ray Tomchick who jumped into the position when no one else would. He took control in the couple months leading up to the event and handled the scheduling of volunteers and found some able-bodied men to stay over night in the tents to provide the security necessary to keep safe: the bar, the sound system for the bands, as well as additional equipment in the tent for the duration of the weekend. Thanks goes out to Nolan McQuabbie for spending the nights with Ray while also working during the day as well. Ray was able to bring in a few friends to volunteer as the parking attendants and one has since joined the Schwaben Dancers group. There were not many incidents and overall Ray and his group did a fantastic job of being the first impression that people had of our Club upon arrival.

HEALTH & SAFETY

What an incredible weekend! Over 1,000 people went through our doors. We were well prepared, ensuring that all of our Health and Safety volunteers were trained and certified in First Aid and CPR. As always, people always jump in to help when needed. Temperatures over the long weekend were extremely high, which made being outdoors uncomfortable and even dangerous for those dancing. During the opening ceremonies, the Grand March, and speeches, several members, and even visitors from other clubs jumped in to help deliver water to the many people standing in the sun. We kept everyone safe and a little more comfortable.

Our committee of Health and Safety volunteers were very generous with their time, often working well beyond their scheduled shifts. We were able to support each other in teams and were available in several areas of the Club as needed. Our brightly coloured vests made us easy to find, and the use of walkie-talkies allowed us to communicate more efficiently and assist guests quickly.

Our First Aid services were greatly appreciated by those who required them. We were able to offer privacy, comfort, and quiet in our modified cloakroom. Most of the care was needed by people who suffered symptoms related to the extreme heat, dehydration, and exertion. The cot and fresh linens, cool drinks, and ice packs supplied relief to those patrons. As well, the gentle kindness of the volunteer first aiders when children were hurt, helped ease any anxiety and fear. Thankfully, there were no serious injuries. The professional, respectful, friendly approach of my team made our visitors comfortable. Anyone who needed our support and care was quickly attended to, and able to resume their enjoyment of the festivities. Thank you to all of the Health and Safety volunteers who gave us their time, were always prepared, and ready to assist. It was a pleasure and an honour to work alongside every one of you.

Lea Becker

Chair of the Health & Safety Committee

KINDER & JUGEND WORKSHOPS



The goal of the workshops was to bring together kinder and jugend from the various clubs so they could develop new friendships. That is why coordination started well in advance at the US Verband meeting and Jugendlager. We were a small but mighty group consisting of Emma Becker and Shay Herold with Glenn Herold and myself, Lena Herold as the Co-Chairs. Tye Herold also helped with the set up too.

Shay and Emma kicked off the workshops with some fun dances to warm up the Kinder before welcoming the guest Kinder instructor Landeskinderleiterin, Eva Maria Rill.

During the Jugend workshop we had the assistance of the dance instructors from this past summers Jugendlager in St. Louis, Jennifer and Jessica Taylor, who taught a dance some had learned in June. We had a record number of youth show up to the Lenau Hall to learn the new dance. We had so many people we moved tables out of the way to try to accommodate all those that wanted to participate and still it was not enough space. We had a hard time seating those that wanted to stay in the hall to watch.

Our youth groups always get to enjoy the large combined dance right after the Parade March and this year was no exception. It looked like the youth had a wonderful experience! The Consul General from Germany, and a few of our local politicians that were present at the time, were extremely impressed by the show of cultural pride displayed by our youth.

Over the course of the weekend, we provided some fun and interesting German language worksheets and colouring pages for anyone to enjoy. It started as a play station in the Lenau Hall, but we moved things downstairs into the Keller to give us more space. We even had adults at the tables in the evenings enjoying some quiet time and hanging out with friends.

We would like to thank the Landestreffen Chair, Tina McQuabbie for her leadership prior to the event and over the weekend as well. We had a great time, thanks to everyone that joined us for making it so successful!

Lena & Glenn Herold

Co-Chairs of the Workshop Committee



PARADE MARCH

The Grand March from The Schwaben Club to the grounds of Eastwood Collegiate by all the participating clubs was again a site to behold. We had the following clubs take part in the Parade March: Akron, Chicago American Aid Society, Chicago Donauschwaben, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Hungary Tasksony Dancergroup, Kitchener, Leamington, Los Angeles, Mansfield, Milwaukee, Montreal, Philadelphia United German Hungarians, Philadelphia Donauschwaben, St. Louis, Toronto, Trenton, and Windsor.

There were many elements that had to come together for a smooth Grand March and speeches to take place. The Committee Chair was Tracy Ruland and she co-ordinated the set up of the field staging area, the sound system and made sure the signage was ready for all Clubs to carry with them. Tina McQuabbie arranged the Police escort so that all participants made it safely across Weber Street during the procession. Thanks to Cathy Thompson for singing the anthems as well.

Lea Becker's Health & Safety group ensured that there were volunteers with safety vests easily visible in case of emergency and members of her group handed out water bottles as it was definitely a hot afternoon to stand in the sun for a long period.

There were many dignitaries that spoke following the March to welcome and wish us all a wonderful weekend, as well as to announce the winners of the Oma Obt Youth Heritage Award. They included: Michael Lauber - Deputy Consul General of Germany; Marwan Tabara - MP; Barry Vrbanovic - Mayor of Kitchener; Ken Seiling - Regional Chair; Father Zillich - Officiating Priest from Germany; Stefan Ihas - President Weltdachverband der Donauschwaben; Robert Filippi - President US Landesverband der Donauschwaben; George Kraehling - President Canadian Donauschwaben Verband; Marianne Strumberger - Landesfrauen Verein USA; Aaron Engelhart - Landes Kulturleiter USA; Eva-Marie Rill - Landes Kinderleitern USA; and, Kathleen Martine - National Youth Director USA. Following the Grand March the Jugend performed their youth friendship dance. Afterward, we all returned to the Schwaben Club to start the performances.







BANDS We were lucky to have various wunderbar bands play throughout the weekend when performances were not taking place. Thanks to Kirk Hanke for booking the bands.



BAR

I am giving my heartfelt thank you to all our amazing bartenders for Landestreffen 2018. I enjoyed being Bartender Chair (Manager) for my team.

They were: Lucy Bowers; Liz Kiraly; Andy Rester; Ericha Schiketanz; Elisabeth Schiketanz; Tracy Caslik; Peter Schwegel; Andrea Speckner; Jason Niblock; Amy Pike; Norma Switzer; Cassandra Kauer; John Schwegel; Rick Schaadt; Lisa Schaadt; and, Kim Schnarr. I am also giving my heartfelt thank you to my back up bartenders who stepped in at times of need: Randolph Betsch; Tina McQuabbie; Tracey Killingbeck; Glenn Herold; and, Lena Herold. We could have used 4 to 5 more volunteer bartenders because we were so busy! Busier than 2012 I think most of us noticed. Many bartenders on my team volunteered and worked hard long hours such as 8 to 13 hours because we were short-staffed, and it was very hot & humid weather, so customers drank more water and beer!

Everyone on my team was very cooperative and we helped each other out. Some bartenders had very little training on the cash registers, but they took the initiative to learn quickly and all bartenders brought experience and professionalism to serving our guests. We had great communication between us for things such as shift changes, stay longer requests, "Stock Needed!" and just pleasantries comments on setup, atmosphere, and awesome customer service. It was truly wonderful that this team experienced and excelled in customer service for Landestreffen 2018. All of my bartenders- main bartenders and back-up bartenders had their Smart Serve certification, I made sure of this ahead of time.

I was stocking up & bar running (with 1-2 bar runners who had volunteered) for all 3 bars from 10am to 3pm both days (Sat & Sun) but busy times got hectic and we stayed busy from 3 to 12 midnight. I called upon more of my bar runners to help out stocking up all the bars because I myself jumped in and bartended straight through each day 4 to 12 midnight to fill in for shift changes and/or bartenders who had to leave or come back later.

I would like to say thank you to my Bar Runners: Helga Peller-Eberl; Rolf Eberl; Murray Hamalainen; Randolph Betsch; Joel Wideman; Rick Schaadt; Don Baumann; Richard Speckner; Chris Adam; John Becker; Stefan Orsan; and, our club manager Don Egly. The Bar Runners were stocking ice, pretzels, landjaeger sausage, cases of beer, kegs of beer, water, liquor bottles and also refilling the slushy machine in the Keller -which was a big hit to the dancer kids.

Sadly though, due to the long hours, hot weather, restocking, and shortage of volunteers, many from my team missed out on watching our fellow clubs and Hungarian dance performances, performing in their own dance group, and not able to attend the Grand March and ceremonies and just enjoy the festival.

It was a great setup in the Tent and I would like to thank Paul Ernest of KEGS and Don Egly for arranging and setting up the KEGS double tap Draft machine to pour our Hacker Pschorr Beer faster! It was a BIG hit! The popular beer for our fellow younger Americans was Molson Canadian and Coors Light. One thing I do wish we could have had was an extra popup station for Water & Pop in the Tent. We found in the afternoon many in the lineups -approx. every 3rd person bought water or pop.

It is such a great feeling to know the event was a huge success! according to the CTV news, and newspapers. There were many pictures taken of everyone hard at work and all of our dance groups and our guests at Landestreffen.

I want to say a special thank you to Tina McQuabbie for chairing the Landestreffen committee and to all of her committee Chairs for their hard work and dedication.

Heidi Peller-Oliver
Chair of the Bartending Committee



VENDORS & SOUVENIRS

Hello I'm Tracey Killingbeck, as well as being our Clubs Archivist, I was excited to be the chair of Souvenirs and Vendors for this our Landestreffenfest 2018. This job found me organizing two areas of sale, both the souvenir booth as well the vendors room, one table of which housed our own clothing merchandise for purchase with the limited addition 2018 Landestreffenfest t-shirt! Both areas were staffed by volunteer members, to which I, would like to give the highest regards and appreciation for the hard work and dedication they put forward. These volunteers were made up of family, friends, youth and members from our club. This years Landes pin sold extremely well and many acknowledged

and appreciated the fact that it pushed the boundaries of pins in years past. A special shout out goes forth to Shayla Herold and Andrea Speckner for the design of such pin. I think we can all agree that the souvenirs and merchandise seemed to sell well, I am very pleased to announce that we sold a large number of souvenirs in both venues, to which I am very, very pleased.



In the vendors room we had 5 vendors booths, including ourselves, our very own Office Administrator, Melissa Gissing selling epicure and her snaps, our Club Executive Board member Neil Hoffman from Trachten Quelle Kitchener, Erika from Rare Dirndl USA, as well as Lori Strauss selling her books about Schwaben history from Kitchener. The room was

extremely busy most of the day, and even those who were simply looking seemed to enjoy their time browsing around such wonderful tables. I would like to extend an enormous thank you to everyone who came out and supported our vendors and souvenir booth, every dollar, penny or well thought left was thoroughly enjoyed and respected by all.

Tracey Killingbeck

Chair of the Vendors and Souvenirs Committees

FOOD SERVICES

WOW! Landes 2018. They came from everywhere and for 3 days we fed them. Those hungry "Schwobs" certainly kept us hustling. There were: schnitzels and sausages; potatoes and beans; and so much more. The undertaking was huge with a whole year of planning to put together a menu and find a staff of close to 40 eager volunteers and juggle them all in but against all odds we pulled it off to a great success!

"A staff of almost 40" - far too many to name them all. Some were Dancers, some were parents, some were friends, and some were strangers. Amidst the scorching heat, the massive crowds, and the dreaded suicide steps from the kitchen, they gave their all. And I can't thank them enough. To all of you, whether you put in 3 hours or 30 hours slinging goulash and spätzle and the fries and coleslaw, we just could not have done it without you.

A few honourable mentions go out to Lea Becker and my mom and dad for extra hours, Jason H the man on the stairs, Julie all the way from Toronto (next time you might want to skip the heels), Tracy K gets a big thank you for giving me a brand new Schwobski t-shirt (for some reason mine was soaked), to Stefan O for popping in and out at just the right times, and of course my wife Alayne, who made it possible for me to put in a years worth of meetings and planning. To the Landes committee a big thanks for helping to find the volunteers and plan this great event. A special mention also goes out to Christina and the kitchen staff for their time and dedication in helping us make this a successful event. The compliments on our wonderful food kept coming in till well after the event had long ended.

Once again, a great big thanks to this awesome bunch of crazy Schwobs for a job more than well done!

Mike Kleser

Chair of Food Services Committee



DESSERT TABLE

As we were nearing the big weekend, I had heard there wasn't a chair as of yet for the dessert table. Well they didn't have to ask me twice! A strudel end here, a crumb there and very easy access to buy any piece of the amazing cakes we had to offer was enough for me to take on the challenge. Bienenstich, Black Forest, Lemon and Hazelnut Torte, Cheesecake, Strudel and last but not least Plum Cake. If I could count the number of times people would ask where we got the plum cake! Some visitors came back two and three times for the very authentic tasting dessert! We definitely had a winner there. What can I say, I chaired the sweetest part of the weekend.

I wanted to thank all of my amazing volunteers for taking the time to help out at the dessert table. Helping out meant you didn't get to enjoy the event as much! Many of my volunteers were Donau Dancers so scheduling around parades and performances was a bit of a challenge. Everyone came on time, ready and willing to help. Thanks for jobs well done to Ingrid K., Joanne H., Walter M., Helga P., Susan C., Justine K., Penny H., Wera D., Rosemarie G., Barb H., and Jane A. As this was a new undertaking for me, little did I realize how much help was needed BEFORE the booth opened and BEFORE I had anyone scheduled! Special thanks to Monika H., Anne F., and Stefanie K. for stepping in at the last minute for our cake cutting and wrapping assembly line. Also, thanks to Mike H. and Rolf E. for ensuring coffee was always ready to go.

We never had any fear of running out as cakes were ordered a plenty. Leftover torten were kept in the freezer to later be sold at Oktoberfest and future club functions.

The entire event was a great success as everyone pulled together to make a fantastic weekend. While volunteering at the dessert table, even Helga and Walter practiced their acting chops for a clip on CTV news regarding the weekend event. Thanks for the memories!!

Karen Braun
Chair of the Dessert Committee

VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all that lent a helping hand over the weekend.

Landestreffen 2018 was a success due to your hard work and dedication.

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Jane Anton | Erika Hanke | Peter O'Reilly |
| Peter Anton | Kirk Hanke | Will Oliver |
| Monica Bachelder | Penny Hanke | Norma Orsan |
| Don Bauman | Ericka Hanrahan | Stefan Orsan |
| Laura Bauman | Beverly Harris | Vanessa Pastoric |
| Emma Becker | Jamie Harris | Amy Pike |
| John Becker | Collin Henderson | Ruth Prentice |
| Kathy Beckett | Tye Herold | Andy Rester |
| Tim Beckett | Shayla Herold | Annemarie Rester |
| Randy Betsch | Barb Hill | Mike Ruland |
| Brennan Brignall | Jessica Hill | Lisa Schaadt |
| Rob Brignall | Jason Hirschberger | Rick Schaadt |
| Liz Bowers | Monika Hoedl | Grace Schellenburger |
| Amy Caslick | Seppi Hoedl | Elisabeth Schiketanz |
| Cathy Cole | Julie Hoedt | Ericha Schiketanz |
| Adam Cook | Joanne Holland | Dave Schoenfeld |
| Jennifer Cook | Bevan Iartz | Brian Schummer |
| Susan Cook | Steve Jansen | Nicole Schummer |
| Brandon Denis | Matthew Kahnke | Peter Schweigel |
| Wera Dennis | Mike Kahnke | Natasha Speckner |
| Kaitlin Dieter | Stefanie Kahnke | Richard Speckner |
| Sarah Dieter | Cassandra Kauer | Shelley Speckner |
| Ian Doyle | Liz Kiraly | Jeff Stager |
| Kerry Druar | Alayne Kleser | Angelina Thompson |
| Helga Peller-Eberl | Joan Kleser | Cathy Thompson |
| Rolf Eberl | Wilfred Kleser | Chris Thompson |
| Amy Ernst | Anneliese Kraehling | Sherri Thompson |
| Anne Foster | Justine Krause | Patti Toporowski |
| Bob Foster | Ingrid Kremer | Patrick Walder |
| Serena Gauthier | Walter Marzinko | Cole Watson |
| Brandy Gellner | Nolan McQuabbie | Yvette Weldon |
| Chris Gellner | Daenera Morton | Doris Zettel |
| Rosemarie Gellner | Jason Nieblock | For anyone missed on this |
| Melissa Gissling | David O'Reilly | list, we apologize. |
| Murry Hamalainen | Liz O'Reilly | |



SUNDAY MORNING MASS

We were excited to have Father Zillich from Regensburg, Germany return to officiate our Sunday service. Father Zillich was present at the 2008 Landestrachtenfest mit Tanzwettbewerb in Cleveland, OH, he presided over the 300th Banater Schwaben celebration, and was with us when we hosted Landes back in 2012.

Father Zillich travels worldwide to help celebrate the Donauschwaben culture to share his heart warming wishes and prayers with all of us.

We were honoured with his attendance this summer and know that his presence added something special to our service.

A special thank you also goes out to Henry Walser for providing the priest garb, chalice and communion supplies. We appreciate your generous contribution that helped make our service complete.



UNTERGRUPPE PRESIDENTS COMMENTS KINDER & JUGEND

This was a year that many of our dancers had been waiting for! Since the last time Kitchener hosted Landestreffen in 2012, more and more families have become interested in participating in the yearly event. Our committee works very hard participating in fundraising opportunities throughout the year so that more dancers can be supported to attend Landestreffen. Those that have had the experience, have travelled to new places, and seen areas of North America that they may not have otherwise. Over the years, the dancers and their parents have seen familiar faces and learned more about Schwabian culture. Most of all they have had a lot of fun!

This year was particularly special for us as we had the opportunity to host Landestreffen. With excited anticipation, several of us spent many, many hours in preparation for the big weekend.

When it finally arrived, it felt like a grand Homecoming. Friends from near and far joined as one big family, proud of our culture and heritage. Our children danced beautifully, and we were so proud of them. Somehow, despite the last-minute frenzy to make new tracht, teach dances to very new dancers, and bring our experienced dancers out of summer vacation, it all turned out just fine.

The crazy business of the weekend can be overwhelming for most parents when they first attend a Landestreffen and then temporarily lose their children amongst festive revelry. However, soon they discover that even at a very young age, their child had found a friend who likes to dance and play too. Before they know it, they have a teenager or young adult who has made lifelong friendships and developed his/her own pride in our heritage.

I think the best part of watching our young people, is seeing the friendships develop. There is the feeling of connectedness, even though there can be much distance between them. I know that each year as Landestreffen comes to an end, not only the kids, but the adults too, are already looking forward to the next event a year away!

Our Kitchener Schwaben families and friends should be very proud of our 2018 Landestreffen. People stepped up to help and jumped in where needed. Our friendly, helpful positivity did not go unnoticed. We received many compliments from our visiting clubs. I am thankful to be a part of such a great community!



Lea Becker, President of the Kinder & Jugend Gruppe

SCHWABEN DANCERS

Herzlichen Dank an Alle,

Thank you to everyone for all their efforts on the 2018 Labour Day Landestrachtenfest. I would like to acknowledge all the volunteer participation outside of their own groups. It was an emotionally and physically exhausting event. At this point, I need to recognize the efforts of members of the Schwaben Dancers that assisted in areas other than dancing. It is sincerely appreciated, and noticed; even though, at times, it may go unacknowledged.

The group managed to perform the dances very well. With so many new dancers at different skill levels there was going to be a challenge. The boxes and support post in the tent represented yet another hurdle. So, to all the Schwaben Dancers, from near and far, well done.

But, without guests, there would be no purpose. All the meetings, preparation, planning and execution were for our guests to enjoy. We would like to thank all Landsleuten for coming to our event.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,

Randolph Betsch (Mr. Donauschwaben), President of the Kitchener Schwaben Dancers



DONAU DANCERS

The Donau Dancers, I am proud to say, were very active again in volunteering at our Clubs Landes event.

We helped in various committees from the Dessert Station, Food Services, Set up and Clean up, as well as Take down, Ambassador, and more too. We all tried to pitch in to make Landes as successful as it could be.

Thank you to all our dancers for volunteering your time! A special thank you to the Landes Committee for all of your hard work in making this years Landes such a special one! The Donau Dancers enjoyed themselves very much!

Joel Wideman, President of the Donau Dancers

MUSEUM

As Chair of the Donauschwaben Museum, I am giving my heartfelt thank you to all of our amazing volunteers for Landestreffen 2018. They are: Cathy Speckner; Barb Schlosser; Liz O'Reilly; Doris Zettel; and, Randolph Betsch.

It was a pleasure to know that we had a wonderful team who were so dedicated and were able to share their time and knowledge for our Schwob culture and heritage.

We started planning a few weeks previously and met weekly on the following: acquiring & developing displays of the many historic photos of our club history and all of our Untergruppen; interviewing older members who made the trek from their homeland to Kitchener; contacting our members who had artifacts they could lend to us for the weekend; and, setting up the museum room, etc.

The pre-Landes planning and setup of the Museum was a lot more work, but we loved every minute of it. We wanted the museum 2018 to be better and different than 2012's Museum and we did it!

The Donauschwaben Museum was very well received even by our newspaper, and CTV news. We had amazing lighting setup by Cathy throughout the museum, in particular the 2 maps displays out front of the hand-painted wall map - thank you to Neil Hoffman for lending the tripods. The biggest hit was the Map of the Old Homelands along the Donau River and all of its settlements of villages and towns. The setup of the boardroom's display glass cabinets was set up amazingly by Cathy. Our guests could walk around and look inside the glass and see the wonderful Dolls in Tracht, the Donauschwaben books and the Ulmer Schachtel- the type of boat that Donauschwaben families used from 1683 to 1700's to trek down the Donau River to their new settlement. The 2nd display glass cabinet had the artifacts from our members- old shoes, kitchen dishes, handmade crochet items. This time we knew it would be better to have the artifacts and dolls behind the glass. The room set up of tables was spacious and easy to move around in. The nice touch was the little note cards saying, "do not touch" and "be gentle". Susie Schaadt brought in her beautiful purple Hungarian Tracht and mother's black suit dress. The skirt, apron and Kopftuch were brought in and set up by the late Betty Neidert- these ladies brought these in a few days before and set it all up themselves!

3 laptops were on display, 2 were created by Cathy Speckner. The one outside the museum to attract guests was the fun one Schwaben history for the kids. The other 2 were inside the Museum room- one was the history of the City of Kitchener and the other was a slide show of Schwaben history put together by our member Joe Schwartz back in 2012. Cathy Speckner created a fun poster of quiz of Schwovisch words translated to English.

We had our present board of directors' picture setup and many past various board and Frauengruppe pictures were displayed on the walls around the room. The big surprise found was the 1986 board picture marked with "guess who!" It turned out it was Kirk Hanke, our very own vice-president at 18 years old.

Our museum acquired new historical items donated by Theresa Batista of the Teutonia Windsor Club that clubhouse had unfortunately closed down in May 2016. Thank you, Theresa, for the Parabutsch map and the tracht book you brought and donated from your club. She has asked Kitchener to keep it here in our museum and archives. Thank you to Rosemarie Stefan of Montreal Schwaben Club - she brought items down for display in our museum for the weekend. It was so good to see a Canadian Schwaben club come from far away.

I would like to give thanks to the following club members for lending their Trachts, pictures, and their artifacts to our Museum for the weekend: Susie and the late Hans Schaadt; Phil & the late Betty Neidert; Katie Becker; Liz O'Reilly; Barb Schlosser; Cathy Speckner; and, myself. Thank you to Cedika, dressmaker and tailor well known to our dance groups for the lending of her mannequins we used for the Trachts and clothing.

This time our Museum was lit up and guests and members found it! There were many signs posted to bring the guests to the back of the Keller.

To all our younger Schwaben members reading this: Enjoy all the Schwaben artifacts, clothing, trachts around in your home and your Oma's home because it is all part of your family's heritage and it's very important to preserve our culture and teach the history for future generations.

Thank you to all my volunteers for your dedication to display our Schwaben heritage.

Heidi Peller-Oliver

Chair of the Donauschwaben Museum



JUGEND DANCE PARTY

How do you wrap up a fantastic weekend with family and friends – with another dance of course! The Golden Keys kept the party going on the Sunday evening. Those that stayed for the party enjoyed a packed dance floor with lively music. It was the perfect way to end a great weekend.



MEETINGS

The weekend brought leaders from all our Clubs around the US and Canada. There was an opportunity to meet on Sunday morning for a Canadian Verband meeting and after that the Presidents of all the Clubs also gathered.



WRAP UP

The evening ended with many people helping to put away the tables and chairs for an early morning pick up on Monday. Many hands made light work.

We were sad to see everyone leave but look forward to the 2019 Treffen in Milwaukee.



PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WEEKEND





