



Washington Sängerbund

Quarter Notes

December 2011

“Quarter Notes”
published every 3 months.
If you have a story to tell
or have an interesting photo
email it to
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Ho Ho Ho!
HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Dates to remember:

- Jan. 9 - First rehearsal
in 2012
- Jan. 14 - Annual Meeting
- Feb. 18 - Masquerade Ball
at the Kena Ballroom
- Apr. 21 - Tentative date for
the Spring Concert, Kena
Ballroom Fairfax, Va
- May 28 - Prospect Hill
Cemetery
- Jun. 1-3 - 51st Sängerbund
of the NOSB in Allentown,
Pa

Inside this issue:

- Flashbacks pg 2-5
- Did you know ... pg 6-7
- 2012 Sängerbund pg 7
- Christel's Corner pg 8
- Announcements pg 9



From the President . . .

Season's Greetings

Christmas season is upon us—my favorite time of the year. I have a soft spot in my heart for *Süßer die Glocken nie klingen*, *Stille Nacht*, *Leise rieselt der Schnee*, and *Salzburger Weihnachtslied*. These carols make me proud of my German ancestry. For me, they are the best of Germany.



Years ago I heard of a group that sang songs, drank beer, and spoke German. I couldn't resist visiting it. I was welcomed from the first minute by then president Joe Moeller. I never left. I was awed by the heritage the Sängerbund possessed. A group founded in 1851 that was still thriving. We can go to the very church (well, not the same building) that was the incubator of the Sängerbund and still sing traditional carols. We preserve a heritage that is priceless. We sing the music of many of the classical giants: Beethoven, Brahms, Bach. We keep alive some of the great lieder: *Am Brunnen vor dem Tore*. We preserve a rich heritage of *Volkslieder*—too many to list. What a wonderful organization!

Although I am not a native-born German, I am proud that you have honored me by choosing me as your president. I hope I can live up to your expectations. My goal is to help this club grow and thrive in the years to come. This is the season of good fellowship. Let's extend a hearty welcome to all who take the time to visit us or ask to join with us in song.

Even though there are those among us who are not of the Christian faith, please join me in wishing all

Frohe Weihnachten und Einen Guten Rutsch ins Neue Jahr!

Don

2011 Flashbacks ...

First came the elections at the Annual Meeting

A new president took the helm



Don Christian
longtime member
and active singer
elected President

A new conductor came on board



Eric B. Miller
former Director of Music
at the Baltimore school
system, and conductor of
the Arion Gesangverein
in Baltimore



March 5 ~ Fasching / Masquerade / Mardi Gras always great fun at the Kena Ballroom



2011 Flashbacks ...

160th Anniversary of the Washington Sangerbund



**Banquet at Alfio's la Trattoria
on April 16**



**Anniversary Concert on April 23 at the Durant Center
for the Performing Arts in Alexandria, Va**



**Banquet
guests**



Nancy Pierce



Sepp telling the story of Ottawa



**Memorial Day May 30 at Prospect Hill Cemetery
with dedication of new flag pole and US flag**



2011 Flashbacks ...



**Oktoberfest in Lovettsville on Sept. 24,
and in Shirlington on Oct. 8.
Beautiful weather attracted large
crowds for the wurst and kraut!**



2011 Flashbacks ...



Pianist Nadia Christova



**President Don Christian
welcomes the guests**



**November 5 Fall Concert
with Classical selections and Folksongs
*Wohlauf in Gottes schöne Welt***

WSB 'sing-along 'social event on November 19 at the Concord Club House

With 22 enthusiastically singing people ranging from 2 to 80 years of age, it was great fun. They chose from prepared binders German folk songs as well as Spirituals, Sonnenaufgang- und Abendlieder, some accompanied by instruments and some a capella. We had a lot of fun singing several Rounds ("Kanon") in 3 parts.

Our 3 year old participants came up with their children's song, learned in German School, "Alle meine Entchen, schwimmen auf dem See . . .". But singing was not enough for them, they even danced to the songs and music, imitating the "Washington Schuhplattlers", to our surprise! The wonderful feelings of comradery, the bond in song among all generations, was very much present.

Thanks to all participants for the help and devotion! Gretel Dahncke



FROHE WEIHNACHT



**Christmas carols at the Heurich Museum
Saturday, December 10**

**Weihnachtskonzert at United Church
Sunday, December 18**



**A big thank you to all Singers, Members
and Friends for their continued support.
Washington Sängerbund**

Did you know ...

During its long history the Washington Sangerbund has had its ups and downs, the last downer in the 1940s during the time of WWII. The following story appeared in the Washington Post on Nov. 25, 1947, telling of the first Sangerbund concert after the war. Some of the details are not quite accurate, such as the founding year which was 1851, but the story shows that the Sangerbund was back in the public view.

District Saengerbund To Give Concert Sunday in K.C. Hall

The Washington Post Nov. 25, 1947

**45 Active Singers Now Are Enrolled;
Organized in 1850**

by Mark Ethridge, Jr. Post Reporter

The first concert of the Washington Saengerbund since 1940 will be held Sunday in the Knights of Columbus Hall.

The Saengerbund, Washington's oldest singing society, specializes in German and English folk music, but can handle operatic choruses with equal ease.

In existence since 1850, the society is composed of about 45 active singers from all occupations, well divided among first and second tenors and basses, but all joined together with a love for singing and informal good times.

Each Saturday night for the last year and a half, the group has gathered in the basement of Mrs. John Schuster's home at 1716 31st st. se. Completely equipped with beer steins that seem always to remain full, they have practiced so that the individual voices, like the beer, have blended into one great brew.

Schwalb is President

President of the organization is Jacob Schwalb of 1850 Biltmore st. nw., who, when he isn't singing, is an architectural sculptor. A first tenor, Schwalb is a youngster in the organization, having been a

member for only 12 years.

Most of the others have been members for a much longer time. Rudolph Schneider, 82, the honorary president of the organization, has been a member since he was 19, through both lean and fat years. Schneider is a maker of working models for inventors. He lives at 619 H st. nw.

Far years for the organization were mostly its early ones. The group sang for Louis Kossuth, the



November 1947 in John Schuster's basement

Hungarian patriot in the revolution of 1848, when he came to the United States in 1852. Shortly after Lincoln's assassination, the group sang a memorial concert in the Capitol rotunda.

By 1893, the Saengerbund had won three first prizes in Northeastern competition with singing societies. In that year the group bought a house at 314 C st. nw., and kept it for almost 30 years.

But anti-German feeling and the introduction of prohibition temporarily stopped the Saengerbund. They could get few people to attend their concerts, and membership dropped. New members were even harder to get. Finally, in the early 1920s, the house was sold, and the group halted its public activities.

Club Formed in 1934

In 1934, Carl Stober, first bass, of 2111 North Rolfe st., Arlington, organized the Men's Singing Club, and got for its director Max Gundlach, who lived in Baltimore. Gundlach would come down for

Did you know ... *continued*

each rehearsal, and the Men's Singing Club grew rapidly. The first concert was held in February, 1934, in the Knights of Columbus Hall, with 50 singers participating.

Three years later, when Schwalb was president of the group, he got members of the old Saengerbund together with members of the new singing club, and they joined forces under the old name.

A year later, the Saengerbund was again at its peak, and the amateur singers won a plaque in competition with 150 singing societies.

In 1940, the group again went into semiretirement. It maintained its name, and held occasional rehearsals. President of the organization during the war years was Alfred Kopf, a first bass when he sings and a machinist for the Baulaufe Manufacturing Co, the rest of the time. A member since 1927, Kopf lives at 1715 21st st. North Arlington.

Then, a year and a half ago, Schwalb again became president, the basement was coerced away from Mrs. Schuster, and Gundlach was again made director. He now has to commute from Philadelphia.

The program for the coming concert, which will start about 6 p.m., Schwalb said, is a memorial program in German, dedicated to members who have died or were killed in the past seven years.

It will include a funeral song by Silcher, titled "Bardenchor", and selections from Grose, Mendelssohn, Brey, Kern and Gelbke. Accompaniment will be provided by the Si Murray orchestra, and a dance will be held at the hall following the concert, Schwalb said.

+ + + + +



Membership pin of the
Männergesangverein
in the 1930s

51st Sangerfest of the Nordostlicher Sangerbund in Allentown, Pa on June 1-3, 2012 Hostchorus: Lehigh Sangerbund

As past history tells us the Sangerfest is always a fun event. More than 250 singers plus orches-



tra are expected to join for a grand concert on Saturday at the historic, recently renovated Symphony Hall in downtown Allentown.

All singers and members are invited to enjoy a weekend of singing and friendship. A bus will take us to Allentown on Friday and return home on Sunday.

Friday, June 1, 2012

3:00pm Check-in at the Holiday Inn Center
City Allentown.

4:00-6:00pm Quick dinner at the hotel

6:30-9:30pm Rehearsal with orchestra at the
Symphony Hall

9:30-11:30pm Dessert, Dance, Entertainment at
the hotel

Saturday, June 2, 2012

1:30pm call time at the Symphony Hall;

3:00-4:30pm Performance at the Allentown
Symphony Hall

6:30-7:30pm Reception at the hotel

7:30-11:30pm Grand Banquet at the hotel.

Sunday, June 3

11am-2pm Picnic

Christel's Corner: When the Berlin wall came down - Nov. 1989 Prince Georges Journal newspaper

The Wall was barrier to hope

Immigrants joyous after hearing of end

By CHARLENE GRAY McCLAIN
Journal staff writer

When Christine Hambach of Lanham saw the Berlin Wall go up in 1961, she had a feeling of despair for the millions of countrymen she had left behind.

"I remember feeling this is the end. This is it," said Hambach, who is now 52.

But when that country opened its borders on Thursday, announcing that citizens could freely emigrate, the despair turned suddenly to joy. "Thank God, it finally happened," she said.

Born in a German village in the province of Silesia, now part of Poland, Hambach said her family's somewhat privileged life had been shattered by World War II. She remembers all too clearly the 13-week trek she endured as an 8-year-old, along with her parents, an older brother and 1,000 other villagers, as they tried to escape the Russian advance at the end of the war.

During that exodus in the winter of 1945, she watched babies freeze to death and women being raped.

"That kind of thing never leaves you," said Hambach.

Later the family made its way west to an area still controlled by the Germans, where her father, who had been mayor of a small village on the Oder River, was forced into the army and eventually captured by the Americans. Two years later, he was reunited with his family after spending time in a prisoner of war camp.

Before the family worked its way west, her mother had smuggled bones in her hair from a meat shop where she worked to provide nourishment for a woman who had just given birth. The woman, she said, had been repeatedly raped by Russian soldiers.

Things were better in the West, she said, but life was still difficult. "It was a hard time," she said, having to wear mismatched shoes and other hand-me-downs. "Seeing the wall on television brought all those memories back."

Hambach never felt comfortable



Ron Ceasar/Journal

Christine Hambach left East Germany behind in her family's frantic search for freedom in the West.

in West Germany, and in 1958 she moved to McLean, Va. She married in 1961 after meeting her husband in a local German choir that she still sings in today.

That is how she also met Edit Luster-mann, who indicated similar feelings after learning of the end of the Berlin Wall.

"It feels marvelous," said Luster-mann, who grew up in what is now East Germany and came to the United States in 1946. She still has a sister living in East Germany. "I was watching it on TV, and I felt like a

heavy stone had fallen from my shoulders."

"What really matters is that the people be able to do as they please," said Luster-mann, a retired nurse who sends her sister packages of hard-to-find items on special occasions. "I'm here and have everything. Over there they have nothing."

"This should have happened a long time ago," said Luster-mann. "[East Germans] have really been oppressed."

Starting with the next newsletter the birthdays and anniversaries will be for the upcoming quarter.



BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER: 3rd Peter Kador, 4th John Heath, 5th Christine Feintheil, 6th Walter Hansel, 6th Josef Schnabl, 6th Renate Wenzel, 8th Merrilea Varhola, 9th Annelies Folker, 10th Edward Heberg,, 10th Leighton Stradley, 11th Diana Zapf, 17th Margaret Moeller, 21st Emilene Werner, 22nd Mary Schroeder, 23rd Neil Bennett, 24th Werner Moeller, 25th Dora Goodell, 26th Mathias Dickhut, 27th Ruth Hancock, 28th Kenneth Kelley, 29th Gretel Dahncke

NOVEMBER: 3rd Inge Caldwell, 6th Ilse Brown, 7th Edgar Grunwald, 8th Fred Schroeder, 9th Rozalie Rogall, 12th Ellen Blankertz, 13th Robert Werner, 18th Mary Stradley, 22nd Klaus Elvert, 28th Christa Grunwald

DECEMBER: 3rd Suellen Kador, 3rd Bernhard Wenzel, 6th Siegfried Ogris, 7th Christine Hambach, 7th Art Lord, 7th Peter Schroeder, 9th Virginia Ogris, 10th Charlotte Beers, 12th Doug Martz, 15th Annemarie Kolb, 21st Charlotte Kaminski, 21st David Schwab, 22nd Manfred Barth, 22nd Marita Buscher, 24th Karol Taylor, 26th Doris Raffert, 27th George Winstead

JANUARY: 4th Hans-Joachim Endrikat, 7th Angelika Lorenz, 12th Lydia Oppe, 16th Ilse Belcher, 20th Nancy Pierce, 20th Leslie Weisman, 25th Gerd Halusa

FEBRUARY: 3rd Carl Zimmet, 4th Kristin Anderson, 5th Herbert Traxler, 6th Marianne Pfeiffer, 9th Lothar "Bill" Klingler, 12th Franz Lengenfelder, 14th Phyllis Dobin, 16th Betty Sweet, 16th Gudrun Watson, 20th Erika Barth, 20th Jane Winzer, 22nd Carol Traxler, 23rd Helga Engle, 28th Cheryl Cameron

MARCH: 1st Fritz Buscher, 4th Charles Schwab, 6th Sieglinde Lord, 7th Fred Kaminski, 9th Harry Brown, 17th Marlies Moody, 20th Sindy Schwab, 26th Hermann Hambach, 26th Martha von Herman, 30th Erika Megas



ANNIVERSARIES

OCTOBER: 8th Herbert & Carol Traxler 23 years, 15th John & Evelyn Heath 56 years, 16th Werner & Caroline Grabner 45 years

NOVEMBER: 11th Hermann & Christine Hambach 50 years, 23rd Alwin & Renate Wenzel 48 years, 28th Charles & Sindy Schwab 47 years

DECEMBER: 4th David & Robyn Schwab 1 year, 6th Edgar & Christa Grunwald 59 years, 23rd Larry & Dora Goodell 9 years, 27th Harry & Ilse Brown 42 years

JANUARY: 8th Manfred & Elisabeth Leinemann 52nd, 17th Rudy & Liz Becker 38th

MARCH: 14th Walter & Erika Burkardsmaier 54th, 28th Winfried & Anneliese Oxfort 55th

We mourn the passing of our Ehrenmitglied Martin Schaller who died on November 20 at Fairfax Hospital. We are forever grateful for all the work he did in support of the Washington Sängerbund.



Rest in Peace, Marty.

**Über allen Gipfeln
ist Ruh;
in allen Wipfeln
spürest du
kaum einen Hauch;
die Vögelein schweigen im Walde,
warte nur, balde
ruhest du auch.**

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



Washington Saengerbund
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To: