



# Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum - Serbin, Texas

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NEWSLETTER

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## President's Message

After a long and very hot summer, the temperature has finally moderated a bit, and we are very thankful for the cooler days and also for the rains that have come our way the past couple of weeks. The landscape is now looking like fall is coming, instead of like it has been hit by a drought!

Inside this newsletter you will see several photos, one of which was taken at our last General Membership meeting, held in August. The speaker that day was Dr. Ray Martens, President Emeritus of Concordia University at Austin, who filled in for Dr. David Zersen, Concordia's current President. At the meeting, a plaque was presented to Dr. Zersen and accepted by Dr. Martens in Dr. Zersen's absence, the purpose of which bestowed on Dr. Zersen the title of "honorary Texas Wend" in recognition of his help over the past few years in promoting the Texas Wendish Heritage Society. The plaque was created by one of our wonderful members, Reverend Elmer Hohle. You may not know that Pastor Hohle is a truly gifted artist as well as a vivacious preacher!

Wendish Fest 2000 is now history, but it was indeed a special and fun day. One special guest from Germany, Kornelia Thor, was on hand to help Daphne Garrett and Susan Unger demonstrate the art of Wendish Easter egg decorating. She brought with her a large supply of her decorated eggs, including several goose and ostrich eggs! Fest-goers kept her busy answering a variety of questions about her methods, and Luise Green graciously sat in as interpreter for those of us who are German-language-challenged. Please try to stop by the Museum gift shop, as we have for sale a number of Kornelia's decorated eggs, as well as those decorated by Daphne and Susan. Thinking Christmas gifts anyone? I enjoyed my first Wendish Fest as President, and spent most of the day taking photos and watching egg decorating demonstrations. But I also got to be involved with event preparations for two days prior to the Fest, and then with clean-up that evening and the following day. I am quite impressed with the small band of volunteers who each annually wear out a pair of tennis shoes preparing for and cleaning up after Wendish Fest. One chore in particular that was assigned to me was helping to herd the geese from their pen into a trailer. You have not lived until you have had the chance to rustle a group of hissing geese into a trailer in the dark! Thanks go to Walter Gersch for being such a patient teacher! I'm not sure if I will volunteer for that duty again next year.....

Please mark your calendars for the next General Membership meeting, to be held on Sunday, November 19 at the Museum complex. The highlight of this meeting will be the opportunity to gather around the Museum's Christmas tree to sing Christmas carols in German, accompanied by Jack Wiederhold on the accordion. Remember to bring a plate of your favorite Christmas treats to share with the group after carol-singing, and I hope to see you all there!

Jan Knippa Slack, President

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**OCTOBER 27-29** GTHS Annual Convention in Galveston at the Tremont Houston

**NOVEMBER 19** General Membership at the museum Complex at 2:00 p. m.

**NOVEMBER 23** Museum will be **CLOSED** for Thanksgiving Day.

**DECEMBER 24 & 25** Museum will be **CLOSED** for the Christmas holidays.

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## NOVEMBER MEETING PROGRAM

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the third Sunday in November (November 19, 2000) for our final Membership Meeting of the year! Included in the business meeting will be the election of 6 Board of Directors..

The business meeting will be followed by everyone's favorite program which is always a perfect way to "kick-off" the Christmas Season—by singing Christmas carols, accompanied by Jack Wiederhold on his accordian, around the old fashioned Christmas Tree. Please come and bring some friends to share the afternoon with you.

Refreshments consist of everyone's favorite Christmas Cookies so please bring yours.

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Evelyn Kasper, Eleanor Schulze, Laverne Gersch, Renata Fichte, and Eunice Dunk supplied refreshments for the August meeting. Thank you all!!!.

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## VISITORS

During the months of August and September we have had visitors from all parts of Texas and the following: Rhode Island, California, New Mexico, South Dakota, Arizona, Wisconsin, Australia, Virginia, Georgia, Michigan, Germany, Louisiana, Missouri, and Alabama.

## DOCENTS

Thank you to the following for acting as docents during the months of August and September: Mildred Kilian, Lorine Domel, Janice Mitschke, Herbert and Laverne Falke, J. B. Gersch, Jr., Charles and Jan Slack, Ruth Lindner, Ruby Koslan, Eleanor Schulze, Reinhold and Irene Teinert, Hattie Schautschick, Mildred Kilian, Eunice Dunk, and Barbara Hielscher.

## MEMORIALS

In Memory of:	Donor	Amount
Allan H. Buchhorn	M/M Bill Knippa	\$20.00
Allan H. Buchhorn	Marvin R. Schulze	\$100.00
Allan H. Buchhorn	M/M Raymond Matthijetz & Scott	
Allan H. Buchhorn	M/M Reinhold Teinert	
Allan H. Buchhorn	Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Wilson	
Walter Zoch	Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Wilson	
M/M G. B. Wiederanders	M/M Paul Sly	
Meta Kleiber	M/M Raymond Matthijetz	
Paul Teinert	M/M Raymond Matthijetz	

In Honor of:	Donor	Amount
M/M Frank Taylor 50th Anniversary	M/M Raymond Matthijetz	

A \$250.00 donation was received from the Knippa reunion in memory of Beatrice Tschatschula and Adele Hempel.

A \$40.00 donation was received from John and Anna Schmidt for sales from their Watkins booth at the Wendish Fest.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

As has been the practice during the past years, the Wendish Fest is the kickoff for the membership drive. We were fortunate to get some new members and are looking forward to adding more individuals and/or businesses who are interested in helping us preserve the information which has been gathered about the Wendish traditions and customs as well as the many artifacts which are displayed in our museum.

Enclosed with this newsletter are two membership cards which we would appreciate your using to send in your dues. The various categories of membership are listed on the card and we invite you to call our office if you have any questions or need more cards; if you prefer, you may duplicate the cards and send your information on a copy.

With your help, we will be able to eliminate the separate membership mailing which we usually send out in November. If you have friends or relatives who may be interested in joining us, please pass this information on to them. Remember that all dues are tax deductible and will help to keep the Texas Wendish Heritage Society in operation!

### Belated Thank You

Last year we neglected to thank **Charles and Jan Slack** for supplying the museum with two microfilm readers and a much-needed extra typewriter. Charles has been great in finding whatever equipment TWHS needs, such as, a commercial can opener and portable stoves for the Folklife Festival and Wendish Fest. Jan has been doing a great job this year as our President. Thank you both!

### Microfilm Received

We are excited and certain that researchers at our library will appreciate that we have received several rolls of microfilm. We want to thank the following for their donations:

**Jan Slack** – Church Records of the Philadelphia Evangelical Lutheran Church at Swiss Alp

**Dr. George R. Nielsen** for donating the following five rolls:

Galveston Ship List, Bastrop County 1860 Census, Two rolls of Fayette County 1880 Census, Lee County 1880 Census

## Wendish Fest Report

Dear Friends,

Thank you sincerely for helping us put on the Wendish Fest on September 24<sup>th</sup>.

It's always hard to tell how many people attended. We do know that last year we served 1,311 plates and this year we served 1,310 plates. Many people came after lunch so it is impossible to say how many visitors we really had. Our guess is 2,500!

I know Pastor Schroeter did a great job at the services. By starting things so early, many people missed Pastor Graf's welcome and Pastor Hohle's trilingual table prayer. Getting the serving lines started early plus having an extra line, keep things flowing smoothly

The "Take Out" line in the Beer Building worked out well, also giving the servers, as well as our cooks, more space.

Without the help of all the cooks, helpers and servers, this could not have been accomplished.

Thanks to the Silent Auction Committee for a very successful auction again this year.

We also had ample help in all the departments. Our members Benno and Beverly Gotzky of Victoria, Australia even helped in the Peter Building. They were guests of Frank and Vivian Taylor of Weimer. A special "Thank You" to James and Linda Tate for hosting our Easter egg decorating guests, Kornelia Thor and Joachim Koch from Germany.

If you did not get a chance to see them decorate, you can see some of their eggs for sale in the gift shop, as well as the pretty eggs made by Daphane Garrett and Michael and Susan Unger.

All of the demonstrations and special exhibits were greatly appreciated. The children loved the train rides (The South Lee County Volunteer Fire Department provided the train and engineers and Jaeger's of Giddings provided the tractor.), coloring contest, Kletternpfosten, corn shelling and geese.

This year we had an apron display instead of the usual quilt display, but still had the ladies doing the quilting demonstrations.

The Kovanda's Czech Band was great as always and the Fayette Czech singers and dancers did a wonderful job. In addition, everybody loves the German Sing-a-long with Jack Wiederhold and Doug Malke.

The Cross Cut saw contest, the coffee cake contest are highlights of the Festival.

It's good to know that we have trained people available to help in case of medical emergencies.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! Without all of your help (including setting up and washing down and taking down) this Festival would not be accomplished!

Wendish Fest Committee  
by  
Evelyn N. Kasper



**Coffee Cake Bake-Off Judges: Gordon Smith, Meteorologist for Channel 7 News in Austin, his wife, Kathy Smith, Joy Teinert of Lubbock and Ida Kieschnick of San Antonio**

***Coffee Cake Bake-Off Winners were:***

**STRUSEL**

Irene Boriack-1st place; Evelyn Buchhorn-2nd place; Gladys Saegert-3rd place

**CHEESE (KASE)**

Martha Lorenz-1st place; Jenna Kasper-2nd place; Irene Boriack-3rd place

**SPECIALTY**

Hattie Schautschick-1st place; Gladys Saegert-2nd place; Jenna Kasper-3rd place

***Washer Pitching Winners were:***

Eric Albee, Waco and Sam Michel, Axtell - 1st place; Glen Albrecht, Giddings, and Jeff Robertson, Serbin - 2nd place; Walter Gersch, Serbin and Jim Gillespie, La Grange - 3rd place

***Cross-Cut Saw Winners were:***

**Women's Division** - 1st place - Carolyn Jurk and Michelle Jurk; 2nd place - Taylor Austin and Julie Deering; 3rd place - Laverne Gersch and Tara Gillespie

**Men's Division** - 1st place - Harvey Hobratschk and Wayne Chapman; 2nd place - Clarence Chernosky and Martin Beisert, Jr; 3rd place - Allan Jurk and Scott Jurk

**Mixed Division** - 1st place - Allan Jurk and Carolyn Jurk; 2nd place - Laverne Gersch and Walter Gersch; 3rd place - Marvin Kurio and Michelle Jurk

***Coloring Contest Winners were:***

0 - 6 years                      Lisa Wilkins-1st place; Justin Morris-2nd place; Courtney Kaiser-3rd place and Ryan Krause Honorable Mention

7 - 9 years                      Jennifer Roberts-1st place; Sara Buchhorn-2nd place; Zachary Karisch-3rd place





Kornelia Thor (center) demonstrates the Wendish art of decorating Easter eggs, Luise Green (left) was translator and Joachim Koch sold Kornelia's beautifully decorated eggs. A wide selection of her eggs is still available in the gift shop.

### Some Unpleasant News:

After our special Wendish Fest guests, Kornelia Thor and Joachim Koch from Finsterwalde, Germany, left the Serbin area, they made a brief sightseeing tour of southern Texas. Toward the end of their trip, they had the misfortune of having their rental car burglarized. The incident happened while they were in the Corpus Christi area. In addition to the loss of all of their personal belongings, her Wendish costume, and the gifts that she had purchased to take home, they also lost the notes and other paper work that had been given to them for research. If you, or anyone that you know, gave Kornelia and Joachim a request for research, please contact the Museum Office. We will provide an address for you to correspond directly with them.

### THE SILENT AUCTION WAS A SUCCESS

Thanks a million to everyone who supported our silent auction at the Wendish Fest. Whether you donated items or bought items, you helped us collect \$1943.25 for the museum!

A special thanks goes out to the following who donated items: Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative, First National Bank, Giddings; Mike Hopkins Distributing; NBC Bank-Giddings; Round Top State Bank-Giddings; Wendish Society; Adele Wilson; Brenda Kunze Duff; Dorothy Krause; Drew Cave; Evelyn Buchhorn; Evelyn Kasper; Freddie Zoch; George and Liz Kunze; George and Eunice Dunk; Georgie Boyce; Hattie Schautschick; Herbert and Lorine Zoch; J. B. Gersch; Jan Slack; Linda Boerger; Luise Green; Henry and Emily Zoch; Marion Wiederhold; Monroe Prellor; Otto Becker, Jr.; Ronald Knippa; Sara Buchhorn; Vern and Hattie Lovaasen; and Walter and Laverne Gersch.

We are planning on having another Silent Auction at the Thirteenth Annual Wendish Fest, so everyone can start looking for that perfect item which they can put into it and help the Society.

TOUR REPORT  
by  
Evelyn N. Kasper, Coordinator

On August 31<sup>st</sup> Joyce Parma brought 39 Bear Creek Senior Citizens for a tour and luncheon

September 13<sup>th</sup> brought 25 visitors from Star Shuttle and Charter Company of San Antonio for a tour

On September 15<sup>th</sup> Pastor Dale Bohm and 9 students from Lincoln came for a tour

October 3<sup>rd</sup> Bruce Barton brought a group from the Baptist Church at Kyle, Texas for a luncheon

On October 10<sup>th</sup> Diana white from Our Savior Lutheran School in Houston brought 29 students and four adults for a tour

On October 11<sup>th</sup> Ethel van Zandt brought 50 people from the San Antonio area for a tour

On October 13<sup>th</sup> Vivian Colton brought 28 people from St. Mark's Lutheran church in Houston for coffee cake and coffee, a tour and luncheon. This group bought about 50 pounds of noodles

October 17<sup>th</sup> was a very busy day with two tours. Byron Cain brought 35 members of the Richardson Senior Center for lunch and a tour, and Myrtle Behrend with the Prime Time Group of St. Peter's in Elgin brought a group of 18 for a tour in the afternoon

On October 19<sup>th</sup> the Louise Maxwell of Springwood Methodist Church in Houston brought a group of 20 for a tour

On October 23<sup>rd</sup> and October 25<sup>th</sup> Heather Bowen of A & M University made arrangements for 30 students to tour our facilities

NOODLE REPORT  
by  
Hattie Schautschick, Chairperson

The noodle committee has made 2,667 pounds of noodles since the first of the year. 117 pounds were cooked for the Wendish Fest, and 250 pounds were sold. The ladies will continue making noodles the rest of the year.

## **TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY**

### **General Membership Meeting - August 20, 2000**

President Jan Slack called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. in the Kilian Building of the Museum Complex at Serbin, Texas, on Sunday, August 20, 2000. Present were thirty-two members and six visitors, including Genie Zoch, Dr. and Mrs. Ray Martens, Marvin and Ruth Lorenz and LaNell Dube.

Pastor Michael Buchhorn led the opening devotion and reminded everyone of the many troubles and tribulations which faced our forefathers when they came to America; in this world we, too, will all have troubles and through those troubles we will learn steadfastness like our ancestors did. Above all, we need to remember that God will help us through it all. Pastor Elmer Hohle sang the first verse of "What God Ordains is Always Good" in Wendish and the group joined in singing verses 2, 3, and 4 in English.

The minutes of the May 21 meeting were approved as presented in the June newsletter.

Evelyn Kasper reported that the noodle committee will have a few more noodle making sessions before the Wendish Fest. She also stated that to date four tours are scheduled in the upcoming months—one on August 31, two in October, and one in November. Our most recent tour came from Giddings and Walter Schulze accomodated the group's request by asking the table blessing in the Wendish language.

Evelyn also reported that assignments for Wendish Fest were mailed this week and reminded everyone of the silent auction which will again provide an excellent opportunity for individuals and businesses to make donations to benefit the Texas Wendish Heritage Society. Brochures and posters were available for everyone to pick up so they could assist in advertising the event in their respective communities.

Eunice Dunk reported that we failed to receive any assistance from the Giddings Hotel-Motel Tax Grant Funds this year. The LCRA project is nearing completion and we will need to wait until the roofer is able to replace the Kilian Building roof before we undertake any work on the St. Paul Building. Everyone was encouraged to inspect the many repairs and renovations which had been completed with the assistance of the LCRA Grant Funds.

Eunice also reported that the first two large directional signs are in place—one is located on Highway 290 East of Giddings near FM 180 which leads to Lake Somerville, the other is located on the Presidential Corridor (Highway 21) about one mile east of its intersection with Highway 77. Kenneth Weiser is still working on the location for the third large sign, and several locations have been confirmed for the smaller directional signs. This project was made possible with Hotel-Motel Tax Grant Funds from Giddings received in 1998.

President Slack announced that Paul Noack and his daughter will be here from Australia on August 24 and invited anyone interested in visiting with them to join them in the museum on that date.

Thanks were expressed to Walter Gersch for all the yard work which he had done during the previous week in preparation for today's meeting and the upcoming Wendish Fest.



Motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn the business meeting.

In the absence of Dr. David Zersen, President of Concordia University at Austin, who was originally scheduled to present the program, it was presented by Dr. Ray Martens, Dr. Charles Wukasz, and Rev. Elmer Hohle.

Dr. Martens, President Emeritus of Concordia at Austin, spoke about his recent trip to Bautzen, Germany, where he signed on behalf of Concordia an articulation with the Domowina which committed both sides to mutual collaboration in scientific and cultural research. He also discussed the steps being taken by the Sorbish people in Eastern Germany to preserve their heritage and make sure that the language and the customs do not die. Dr. Martens also reflected on connections and mutual projects for Concordia University at Austin and the Texas Wendish Heritage Society and encouraged everyone to make the best of the many resources we have between the two.

Dr. Charles Wukasz, who holds M. A. and Ph. D degrees in Slavic studies from the University of Texas at Austin, gave a report about his recent trip to the Wendish homeland in Germany. He also emphasized the many benefits which could be realized by having everyone work together. He reminded us of the upcoming 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary (in 2004) of the Wendish immigration to Central Texas.

Pastor Elmer Hohle presented an ink-drawing-on-wood of Dr. Zersen, which Dr. Martens accepted in Dr. Zersen's absence. He then gave the invocation, the table prayer and thanksgiving, and the Lord's Prayer in Wendish, which were recorded for future use by tour groups. The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer in English.

Submitted by,

*Eunice Dunk*  
Eunice Dunk, Secretary Pro Tem



(Center) Jenna Kasper, age 15, is our youngest contestant ever to participate in the Coffee Cake Bake-Off. Jenna placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in Cheese Cake and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Specialty division. Other winners in the Cheese Cake division pictured with Jenna are (left) Irene Boriack 3<sup>rd</sup> place and Martha Lorenz 1<sup>st</sup> place.



*You are Invited  
to the  
Heritage Celebration  
opening the  
75th Anniversary Year of  
Concordia University at Austin  
Sunday, January 14, 2001 at 3 p.m.  
Woltman Activities Center*

- ♦Praise for God's blessings for the past 75 years (guest speakers and musical entertainment)
- ♦Recognition of "Heritage" congregations and individuals (including St. Paul, Serbin)
- ♦Recommissioning of Kilian Hall
- ♦Dedication of the new Residential Suites (including an open house and refreshments)
- ♦Opening of Spring Semester

*Please Join Us!*



Rev. Elmer Hohle presenting a plaque naming Rev. Dr. David Zersen, President of Concordia University at Austin, an "honorary Texas Wend." Rev. Dr. Ray Martens accepting the plaque for Rev. Dr. Zersen at the August 20, 2000 General Membership meeting.

7th Annual Folk Dance- Folklore Weekend  
of the  
North-American Federation of German Folk Dance Groups

February 16, 17, 18, 2001 in Giddings, Texas

Celebrating the Dance, Customs and Costumes  
of Germany's Slavic Minority

# The Wends and Sorbs



With Sorbish dance and folklore specialists from Germany

Hosted by the **Texas Wendish Heritage Museum**  
Rt. 2, Box 155, Giddings, TX 78942-9769

For further information call: Tel. 830-606-0844 ([dicus@swbell.net](mailto:dicus@swbell.net)); Tel. 860-875-3559 (Fax 860-875-0595)  
Tel. 979-366-2441 (Fax 979-366-2805)



## *How do you say, "Merry Christmas" ?*



In the Wendish/Sorbische language, of our ancestors, "*Wjesole hody* ", is the traditional greeting! The Texas Wendish Heritage Museum has just received a **new shipment of Christmas Ornaments**, 4" red or blue balls with this traditional greeting and an ornamental design in gold. What a great way to share your heritage with family and friends! These ornaments are custom made for us in the Czech Republic, and are available from our Gift Shop at: \$5.00 each, or \$25.00 for a box of 6 ornaments. Mail orders are accepted, (cost of postage added), however, we cannot guarantee against breakage.

We also have a new supply of "lace angels" and the small gourd Santa's face ornaments. Another great gift would be the framed John 3:16 Bible verse or a welcome sign printed in Wendish, German, and English. From Germany we have the *Sagen Brauchtum* (Wendish customs and folktales) folder, with eleven colored pictures by the Wendish artist, Mercin Nowak. The price is \$5.00 and an English translation is included. For children we have four different Wendish Costume paper doll booklets for \$3.25.

A few Wendish copies of Gertrud Mahling's book, *K BRJOHAM NADZIJE*, have been reduced to \$15.00. The gift shop has many more books and items that would make wonderful Christmas gifts. Perhaps when you are in the area, or at the November 19<sup>th</sup> General Meeting, you could plan for a little Christmas shopping here at the Museum.

## *Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum*

ROUTE 2, BOX 155  
GIDDINGS, TEXAS 78942-9769

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Mr. John Jacob  
3009 Kinney  
Austin TX 78704

**7th Annual Folk Dance- Folklore Weekend**  
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Tel. 979-366-2441 (Fax 979-366-2805)



## **General Information**

**Tuition**      \$65.- includes workshops, syllabus, Museum tour, three meals and snacks beginning with lunch and banquet on Saturday and lunch on Sunday.

**Registration:**      Make checks payable to:  
Beulah Dicus, Box 311613, New Braunfels, TX 78131  
Please indicate on your check 'Wendish Weekend'

**Registration deadline: January 24th.**

**Program:**      Beginning Fri. afternoon, the weekend will explore the folk culture of the Wends and Sorbs- Germany's Slavic minority- through dance workshops, craft sessions, costume exhibits, 'Culture Corner', Museum tour and an opportunity to browse through the costume library.

Please wear your folk costume or most festive folk dance clothes for the Saturday banquet and dance party. The annual membership meeting of the N.A.F.G.F.D.G will follow lunch on Sunday.

<b><u>Accommodations:</u></b>	Ramada Inn	Hwy 290 East	(979-542-9666)
	Best Western	Hwy 290 East	(979-542-5791)
	Sands Motel	Hwy 290 East	(979-542-3111)
	Economy Inn	Hwy 290 East	(979-542-3839)

Camping: RV Park 'Quick Stop'- contact Loretta Chilek  
979-542-3400.

NOTE: on all of the above accommodations, please mention the 'Wendish Workshop' for a price reduction.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number attending \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Group affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Your registration confirmation will contain driving directions.