

Lieblinger Verein of Chicago Newsletter

[www. lieblingerchicago.com](http://www.lieblingerchicago.com)

Our 79th Year, 1939-2018

Moments from the July Meeting



**Happy birthday to
Fred Hedrich, Jr.**



**Hannah Spang, Barbara Blum,
Käthe Erk, Leni Schäfer, and
Eva Leber enjoying the July**



**Elaine Grossich, Mary
Wagner, and Nancy Holl
sharing their friendship and a
story.**

The President's Message

Come One! Come All!

It's time to check your calendar. It's time to save the date. It's time for the Annual Picnic of the Lieblinger Club of Chicago - Sunday, August 12th, 11:30 AM- 4:00 PM, at our monthly meeting place, the Donauschwaben Hall in Des Plaines.

If you've been following our newsletters, you undoubtedly know that we all look forward to our annual picnic. It is the most attended meeting of the entire year. This year we're going all out to make it a fun event for everyone, not just us old fogeys. Of course there will be plenty of grilled sausages and hot dogs, a vast assortment of side dishes and summer refreshments. And there will be games and fun activities for kids of all ages!

We've put together a list of activities that no matter what the weather brings or whatever your age, you'll find something to enjoy. If weather prevents outdoor activities, we have a large hall we will set up with indoor games. Here's a partial list of what is planned; face painting, Bozo Buckets, bubble making, magic show, bags (cornhole), dizzy bats, pong, water balloon toss.



So pack up the babies and grab the old ladies. It's the **Annual Family Picnic of the Lieblinger Club of Chicago, Sunday, August 12, starting at 11:30 AM.**

Please RSVP to me at my email address below the number of your family joining us, including the children's ages so we can prepare. Also please bring your lawn chairs!

Rick Stumpf

rick@rickstumpf.us

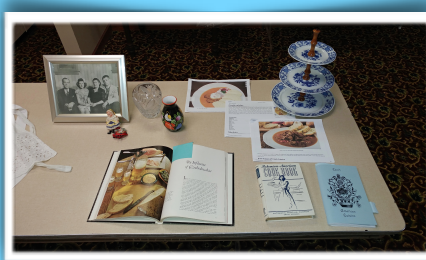
Annual Lieblinger Family Picnic

Sunday, August 12th, 11:30 am

RSVP to rick@rickstumpf.us



Vicky Stumpf shared pieces of the "Tracht" from her Czech and Bohemian heritage.



Vicky displayed family photos, artifacts, and cookbooks from the Czech culture.

2018 Meeting Dates

- ✦ Sunday, August 12, PICNIC
- ✦ Sunday, Sept. 9
- ✦ Sunday, Oct. 7
- ✦ Saturday, Oct. 13, KERWEIH
- ✦ Sunday, Nov. 4, ELECTIONS
- ✦ Sun., Dec. 2, Christmas Party

"Instead of telling stories about where you went, tell stories about where you come from."

General Meeting Highlights

- ✦ On July 1, twenty people attended the 1,027th meeting.
- ✦ Lunch was sponsored by Liz and Dave Steeb. Elaine and Keith Grossich sponsored dessert.
- ✦ Report on the planning meeting for the Annual Picnic on Aug. 12th.
- ✦ Members are asked to RSVP to Rick's email with the number of people attending the picnic and the ages of the children attending.
- ✦ Received a communication from Waltraut Erble with more information on her architectural drawing of a house plan in Liebling.

Keeping the Story Alive

by Katie

This month's article continues the story of Liebling migration. At the end of 1944, an estimated 2,100 Liebling women, children and men were homeless war refugees and 500 men were in the German army on the Russian Front. After the war's end, these Lieblings were reunited and resided in the Austrian countryside near Linz and Braunau. In February of 1945, 200 men and women were removed from Liebling to work in Russian Labor camps in Siberia for 5 years. Forty-five Lieblings died in the camps. When the survivors returned to Liebling in 1950, they found that 2,000 Romanians had settled into the abandoned homes of those who had fled.

Chicago played a prominent role in assisting and resettling war refugees from Liebling and other villages. In 1944, the American Aid Society was established to provide aid to the refugees. Konrad Hack, the founding president of the Liebling Vergrünungs Verein, became the secretary and Nick Pesch was elected president. By 1945, AAS packages with food, clothing, and medicine were sent to refugee camps in Austria. In 1947, Pesch traveled to Austria to meet with Lieblings and other Donauschwaben. Together with John Meiszner, the leaders of AAS worked with the US Congress to draft the Displaced Persons Act of 1948, establish the Displaced Persons Commission centered in Chicago, and implement the Displaced Persons Act of 1953. When the laws expired in 1956, 300,000 Donauschwaben refugees had been admitted to the US.

During and following the war, our people lost their Heimat and searched for better lives amid the chaos. From 1948-1955, 200 Liebling families emigrated to the US, 180 families left for Canada, 10 families resettled in Brazil. And from 1956-1957, 150 Liebling families emigrated to Germany, while 230 families remained in Austria.

Following the revolution of 1989 and the execution of Ceausescu, over 80,000 Germans left Banat for Germany in the massive emigration of ethnic Germans from Romania. By 2015, only 20 Germans remained in Liebling.

Photos by Rick Stumpf

Editor, Katie Amundsen