

Lieblinger Verein of Chicago Newsletter

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

Our 79th Year, 1939-2018

Christmas Party Highlights



Congratulations to our December birthdays; Nicholas Schubkegel, Rick Stumpf, Bettie Schaefer, and Käthe Blechschmidt!



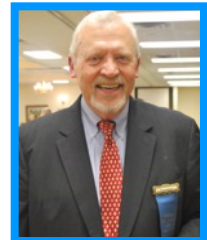
Grace Schubkegel beautifully portrayed an authentic Lieblinger Christkind and wore heirloom Tracht pieces.

The President's Message

Traditions: Old & New

As I enter my 3rd year as President of the Chicago Lieblinger Vergnügungs Verein, I feel it's time for some reflection and for looking to the future.

We held our Annual Christmas Party a few weeks ago and everyone I heard from said it, again, was a great event. Family and friends got together in a festive holiday atmosphere of fellowship in a lovely venue that served us a great meal. It also sustained a long-standing tradition of having our young children gather together while we sang German Christmas Carols and heard holiday poems and other readings connecting us to our heritage. Of course, Santa took the opportunity with all the children assembled to bring them toys. We also introduced, what I hope is, a new tradition with some contemporary entertainment. Thank you John, Dave, and Nichole for adding an exciting new twist to our party that everyone seemed to enjoy!



As we enter 2019, our club's 80th anniversary year, our objective is to make the club stronger, more vibrant and relevant to ALL generations of Lieblingers! We will celebrate this milestone in style and hope all of you will join us. (Details to follow, soon). While celebrating 80 years necessarily suggests recognizing the value of traditions, our club will strive to evolve creating new traditions - ones that the next generation of Lieblingers can embrace and be proud of. I invite you all to be part of this process and to help keep YOUR club strong for many years

Rick Stumpf

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We extend the joy and love of

Christmas

to you and your family.

Frohe Weihnachten!



Christkind treated all good children.



We were entertained by the beautiful & talented Nichole Carrasquillo.



The Elvis Brothers were a big hit!



SANTA arrived, too!

**See you at our next meeting
Sunday, January 6, 2019, beginning at 11:30 am
as we start our 80th year!**

Traditions are the stories that families write together. May this Christmas be filled with your new and old traditions. It has been my great pleasure to share Liebling's stories with you this year. Keep our story alive. Katie

Keeping the Story Alive

by Katie

In the warm Mediterranean climate of Liebling, balsam, pine, or fir trees were not able to grow locally, so Christmas trees were imported from the mountains, were small, and expensive. In the early days of Liebling until the end of World War I, Liebling Christmas trees were homemade out of wood. A single vertical wooden trunk supported several wooden horizontal dowel rods or slats in graduated sizes. By 1920, balsam trees became available in Liebling and were sold at the weekly market. However, when times were hard and money was tight, some families continued to use their wooden Christmas trees.

Few villagers traveled beyond the area surrounding Liebling to see Christmas decorations in Timisoara or even electric lights, so imagine the wonder of entering Liebling's church on Christmas Eve. At the front near the altar stood a very tall Christmas tree. It was a long-awaited moment for all when during the service, candles and sparklers were lit on the church's Christmas tree! It was a magical sight!

After church on Christmas Eve, Christkind arrived ringing a bell and brought the family Christmas tree to the house. She was greeted at the door, asked the children if they were good, and then asked them to pray. Before leaving, Christkind gave the good children treats!

A small balsam tree was displayed in the Stübe (main room) of every Liebling home. Often the tree was suspended on wire and hung from the ceiling! The tree was decorated with simple homemade ornaments such as small apples, sugar cookies, Lebkuchen (gingerbread), figs, gilded or silvered walnuts, salon candy wrapped in silver and tissue paper, and paper chains. Small candles and sparklers were placed on the tree and a handmade paper star adorned the top. When the tree was finally decorated, the family gathered together, lit the candles and sparklers, and sang Christmas songs in celebration.

Unlike our holiday season, a Liebling Christmas lasted only 12 days, from December 25 until January 6, the Day of the Three Wise Men (Epiphany). Liebling Christmas trees were displayed only during this short time, but their impression was beautiful, memorable and lasting.

Photos and Editor: Katie Amundsen