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RETURN TO:
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Kutztown University
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Kutztown, PA 19530

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Heritage Center News



Published regularly for the friends of the Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center at Kutztown University.

Number 30 Summer 2005

Newsletter edited by Mary K. Henry
Administrative Assistant

Slate of Events – 2005

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|---------------|---|
| April 9-10 | Reading/Berks and Lehigh Guild Craft Show |
| April 23** | Springtime on the Farm |
| April 23-24 | Old Time Plow Boys plowing show |
| July 2-10 | Kutztown PA German Festival |
| July 25-28 | Children's Cultural Camp |
| August 13-14 | Old Time Plow Boys plowing show |
| September 17 | National Genealogy Seminar |
| October 15-16 | Kutztown Heritage Festival |
| December 3*** | Christmas on the Farm |

**Rain date April 24
*** Snow date December 4

Ongoing school tours are held throughout the year. The Center is opened for group tours by appointment. Individuals can tour the Center Monday through Friday from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1 p.m.-4 p.m. To schedule an appointment, please call 610-683-1330.

Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center
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heritage@kutztown.edu
<http://www.kutztown.edu/community>

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As spring turns to summer at the Heritage Center, the corn has begun to rise from our fields and the groundhogs seem to multiply as the days go by. We mark this seasonal transition with the retirement of Mary Henry who has ably assisted the Heritage Center for 13 years. Her friendly personality and strong work ethic have left a lasting legacy. Mary truly helped build the Center from the ground up. She will be missed, but we hope her interest in the Center shall remain strong and that her involvement will continue for a long time to come.

In years past, June and December had been marked by the publication of the *Pennsylvania German Review*. Sadly, our intrepid editor, Dr. William Donner, decided to step down this winter after producing many fine issues. He did an excellent job compiling, editing, and laying out the journal, and we truly appreciate his strong commitment to the culture and the dialect. Bill is now working on a history of the Grundsow Lodges. It has proven difficult to replace Bill, and until a new editor can be brought in, we are in the unfortunate position of suspending publication. For those members who recently renewed and feel cheated that the *Review* is now temporarily on hiatus, I offer my apologies, and I hope you will hold on as we revamp our publications and continue to seek a new editor. Anyone interested in editing or contributing to the *Review* should contact me. I need help to reactivate the *Pennsylvania German Review*.

At the annual Glieder Fescht, Al Zentner and Keith and Karlene Brintzenhoff were honored with certificates for their years of service to the Center, and Mary Henry was recognized for her contributions and was given an oil painting of the Center as a keepsake. Springtime on the Farm occurred despite heavy rain the night before and a premature cancellation of the event that we worked hard to undo. On June 4 we held our first Blacksmith Day and Strawberry Festival that proved quite popular among the attendees. Several hundred dollars were raised for the Center, and the blacksmith group is already planning for next year. The Children's Camp begins in late July and has been expanded this year with a new program for older kids. The Plow Boys summer show occurs August 13-14. Please attend our Genealogy Conference on

Saturday, September 17, and hear Aaron Fogelman deliver the keynote presentation.

We are working on an expanded newsletter as a new publication and hope to have the first issue out early this Fall. I just returned from a two-week trip to Germany, and I am preparing a feature article on my experiences for the new publication.

Rob Reynolds

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT'S MESSAGE

It has been both a privilege and a pleasure to be a part of the Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center. The Heritage Center has been a part of my life since 1992, and I take with me into my retirement (official on June 24, 2005) many memories from its inception to today. I watched the Center grow from an unkempt farm site to a beautiful, quiet place to visit and be taken back in time to the 19th century. My forefathers came to the New Land in 1763 from southern Germany, and I have been able to identify with them by being a part of all the activities at the farm. The Heemet Fescht, the PA Dutch Picnic on the Farm, the Belsnickel at Christmas on the Farm, the Easter Bunny at Easter on the Farm, the arrival of the Conestoga wagon to be placed in the transportation museum, and so much more all brought to mind the life of the pioneers who settled in Lehigh and Berks Counties.

It has been exciting to help to plan some of the events, but it has always been a delight to interact with the many teachers, visitors, Pennsylvania Germans, and many others who have called over the years. The friends and acquaintances I have made throughout the last 13 years will remain in my memory for a long time. The Heritage Center position gave me the opportunity to begin to translate several books from PA Dutch to English as well as to write articles in the "Hiwwe wie Driwwe" which is published in Germany.

Thank you for your interest in the Heritage Center, and I hope you can continue to support its progress in the years to come so future generations will be able to study and enjoy the culture of the Pennsylvania Germans.

M'ach's gut un gebt acht,
Mary K. Henry

Association Membership

Category **Membership Gift**
(All members may tour the buildings at the site free)

- Paerson** (individual).....\$25-\$49
Use of library, Heemet Fescht, publications—free
- Familye** (Family—children under 18).....\$50-\$599
Use of library, Heemet Fescht, publications—free
- Hunnert Daaler Helfer** (\$100 Helper).....\$100-\$249
All of above plus 10% discount on items offered for sale at the Center's gift shop
- Gross Helfer** (Big Helper).....\$250-\$499
All of above plus priority participation in trip to Germany
- Bresident Glieder** (President Member)....\$500-\$999
All of above plus free dinner at Glieder Fescht
- Hoch Gewwe Glieder** (Top Giver)....\$1,000-\$2,499
All of above plus large unframed school print
(The amounts listed above are annual fees)
- Leweszeit Glieder** (Lifetime Member).....\$2,500+
All of above plus large framed school print

Please send me information to include the Heritage Center in my estate planning.

Mission of the Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center

The mission of the Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center at Kutztown University is to gather, preserve, and disseminate knowledge of Pennsylvania German rural life in southeastern Pennsylvania. The primary functions of the Center are educational and archival. Our mission is achieved by programs and collections which authentically portray Pennsylvania German life. Examples of programs are lectures, musical events, reenactments, folklife festivals, and courses in folklore, history, and the Pennsylvania German dialect. Collections include the Center's buildings and artifacts, literature, historical and genealogical records representing the spectrum of activity in rural life of the period. The Center is part of the educational program at Kutztown University as well as a public resource. The Center seeks the participation and support of individuals and organizations in fulfilling its mission.