

# Sister Cities of Columbia, IL Newsletter

## Volume XXIII Issue 2 Spring 2014

### Spring Membership Meeting – April 24

We heartily invite all members and their friends to attend the **Spring Membership Meeting** to be held on **Thursday, April 24, 2014, at 7:00 pm at the Columbia American Legion Hall, 372 E. Locust St., Columbia, IL.** This will not be a dinner meeting, but rather a presentation that we think most members will find most interesting since it delves into the historical connection between our two Sister Cities. The presentation will be followed by refreshments and an opportunity to socialize with Sister City friends!

Learn “who you are from home” as the old saying goes! Many families from Columbia, Millstadt and Waterloo are descended from a group of immigrants who came in 1842 from Wernings, Germany, near our Sister City of Gedern. This presentation will document some of those families with the surnames Hilger, Koch, Mack, Hergenroeder, Schenk, Scheuermann, Rick, Lofinck, Gleiber, Erd, Kimmel, Dahmer, Acker, Neun, as well as others who arrived later – Reifschneider, Heusohn, Schaefer, and Scheller. We invite you to attend and learn more about your possible family connections!

This talk is being presented by Mary Ellen Huetsch and is the culmination of detailed research she has done to track down information about the resting places and descendants of the original 1842

immigrants from Wernings. Mary has used local cemetery records, church records, local newspaper clippings/death notices, gravestones, and public family tree information to verify and substantiate this information. All of this research will be available for you to see at the presentation! There will also be time for questions afterwards. For more information, contact Ingrid Soraghan at [jrbill1@htc.net](mailto:jrbill1@htc.net).

### Upcoming Events **Stammtisch 2014**

- Tues. May 13 – Bully’s Smokehouse – 6:30 p.m.** 1280 Columbia Ctr. Columbia, IL
- Tues. June 10 – Aunt Maggie’s on Main – 6:30 p.m.** 230 N. Main St., Columbia, IL
- Mon. July 14 – Who Dat’s – 6:30 p.m.**  
(Note: private party for us)  
123 S. Main St., Columbia, IL
- Tues. Aug. 12 – Boccardi’s, 6:30 p..m.**  
117 S. Main St., Columbia, IL

We heartily invite all our members and friends to join us at our informal monthly dinner gatherings. Unless noted, reservations are not needed...just come and have a good time eating, visiting with your Sister City friends and staying in touch with the latest news from our friends in Gedern.

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### German Heritage Week

**Sun. June 22 – Music at Metter – 6 – 8 p.m.**  
Music by the Waterloo German Band at Metter Park in Columbia, IL. Bring your own lawn chair. Come enjoy a summer evening of traditional German folk tunes. Help support Sister Cities. We will be selling authentic German strudel.

### 2015 Official Visit Dates

Mark your calendars for the dates of the next official visit of the Columbia delegation to Gedern: **May 21 – 31, 2015**. As soon as group airfare prices for roundtrip flights from St. Louis to Frankfurt, Germany are available (mid-summer), we will send out information so that you can sign up to be part of the visiting group. All members in good standing are eligible to participate.

### CHS Student Exchange

Twenty-two students from Columbia High School will be participating in the student exchange to the Gesamtschule in Gedern. They will depart June 14 and return on July 7. They will be escorted by their German teacher, Mr. Taylor Nickerson, from Columbia High School. The students will live with host families in Gedern and experience daily life in their community. They will attend classes at the high school and do sight-seeing in the region. Sister Cities is supporting the students' trip with a stipend for each. The participating

students are: Justin Hartnagel, Maddie Metter, Kael Williams, Ryan Huch, Hannah Erpenbach, Jeremy Rachels, Allison Murphy, Melissa Bergman, Mikayla Jacob, Charli Weilbacher, Ali Mabus, Brittaney Davis, Andrew Locke, Valeria Martinez Cortes, Morgan Hutchinson, Jack Sheehan, Liam McGonigle, Jorge Martinez Cortes, Aidan Walters, Kelly Stumpf and Logan Rains.

### New Members

We welcome the following new members: Don Jones Family, Alexandria Mabus, Charlie and Kim Diecker, Dean and Karen Erpenbach, Justin Hartnagel, Ryan Huch, Mikayla Jacob, Jorge and Laura (Cortes Soria) Martinez Espinosa, Liam McGonigle, Jack Sheehan, Kael Williams. Charles & Suan Rachels, Melissa Bergman, and Logan Rains. We welcome the following new lifetime members: Jochen Bergheimer and Beate Blenn from Gedern and Jim Combs. Thank you also to current members who have elected to become lifetime members: Dan and Donna Duffy, Donna and John Dinkelaker, Lucia Ryan, Connie and Dan Morgan, Barb and Jerry Rachell, Al and Joan Bollinger, Keith and Suzy Freiburghaus, Bob and Sandy Petri, Charlie and Becky Pogorelac, James Reifschneider, Gertrud Angelo and Chester and Ruth Schmidt. We appreciate your support of Sister Cities and look forward to seeing at our events!

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### In Memoriam

We remember Denise Maxeiner who passed away on Jan. 15, 2014 at the age of 48. She and her husband Craig enjoyed visiting with members during our Stammtisch dinners. We offer our deepest sympathy to Craig and her family.

### Illinois State Conference

Two Sister City board members will be attending the upcoming annual Illinois Sister Cities Association Conference on April 12 and 13 in Urbana, IL. The conference brings together representatives of other Sister City programs throughout Illinois and will give us an opportunity to network and share experiences with them. We are members of *Illinois Sister Cities Association* and *Sister Cities International*.

### Newsletter Committee

Our Newsletter Committee: Barb Miller, Tom and Ingrid Soraghan. Questions and comments are welcome! Please contact Ingrid at [jrbill1@htc.net](mailto:jrbill1@htc.net) or phone/fax at 618-281-7864.

### Web Site

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

Follow us and post comments on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/columbiasistercities](http://www.facebook.com/columbiasistercities).

**HAPPY EASTER!**  
**FROHE OSTERN!**

### Dues for 2014

Please use the handy form below to renew your membership for 2014. *To see if your membership is current, please check for the year on your address label.* Thank you for your support of Sister Cities!

### **Membership Application**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Level \_\_\_\_\_

amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check payable to:**

***Sister Cities of Columbia, IL***

**208 S. Rapp St. P.O. Box 467**

**Columbia, IL 62236**

Membership Levels and Dues:

Annual Single \$ 10

Annual Family \$ 20

Annual Organization \$ 50

Lifetime Single \$ 100

Lifetime Family \$ 200