

March, 2011  
Editor: Ann Kimmel



**March's  
Gemütlichkeit**

Bobbie Areen and Gary Eggleston have volunteered to host March's Gemütlichkeit. Pat Kammer is co-host. The address is 416 Dunnigan Dr. Vandalia.

Gemütlichkeit is held immediately following the monthly membership meeting. All are welcome to attend.

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# The Sister Cities Scoop

Lichtenfels

Vandalia

Prestwick



## 2011 Youth Exchange

Plans are underway for the upcoming Youth Exchange. The exchange students will arrive on April 9th and depart on April 30th. Ann-Sophie Bock and her committee have selected four young people from Lichtenfels and the host families in Vandalia have been selected.

Sister Cities of Vandalia wish to thank the host families for hosting the young people from Lichtenfels. As we know from the past, it will be a great experience for them.

A schedule of events will be published in the next newsletter for all of our members to participate in the exchange activities.

Isabel Adams is 18 years old and she will be staying with Samantha Dixon. Samantha's par-

ents are Swee Chin Lee and John Dixon.



Sabrina Schnapp is 16 years old and she will be staying with Emma Towe. Emma parents are Carmina and Eric Towe.



Annika Boysen is 16 years old and will be staying with Katie Salyer. Katie's parents are David and Faith Salyer. Annika

is the sister of Yvonne Boysen who was an exchange student in 2008.



Florian Hofmann is 16 years old and will be staying with Cooper Davell. Cooper's parents are George and Jacol Davell.



Also, thanks goes to Vandalia-Butler High School for allowing the students to attend classes during their visit.

# The Sister Cities Scoop

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Check out Vandalia Sister Cities online at [www.Vandaliasistercities.org](http://www.Vandaliasistercities.org)

## Harvey's Gedanken

Do I start with the Youth Exchange, the Visit, or the Aryshire Fiddle Orchestra, or the Oktoberfest?

As you can see, we are going to be very busy this year. It will be a fun year and a very rewarding year for everyone.

The planning for the Youth Exchange is underway. The host families have been selected and there is excitement with the young people. The students have already been in contact with each other and some of the German students have already made other friends from Vandalia-Butler High School via Facebook. I wish to thank the host students and their families for hosting

our exchange students.

The Visit. The committee is working very hard to make this the "best visit ever". Of course, I will not go into details of the visit via this media for there are people in Germany and Scotland who actually read this newsletter. But be assured, it will be a great time for everyone. There just may be a party or two.

We are working with Mr. Kevin Wilson and Mrs. Ginger Ross from Vandalia Butler High School in obtaining lodging for the Aryshire Fiddle Orchestra. The Orchestra will give a concert at St. Chris on July 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 P.M. so mark your calendar, tell your family and friends. Let's fill the seats at St. Chris for this

great event. A picnic on July 4th is also being planned. You can get a taste of the Orchestra by visiting their web site at [www.fiddleorchestra.com](http://www.fiddleorchestra.com).

I wish to reinforce the SCREAMINGS. I see the things that we do with the monies that we make and it is very rewarding to Sister Cities and to our community. I am very proud when I tell people that we donate up to \$7,000 per year in scholarships, donate to the Vandalia Food Pantry, donate to After Prom, donate to the Youth Exchange, donate to the Vandalia Recreations Program, donate to the American Cancer Society and many others. Yes, it is a lot of work but it is also a lot of fun.

HARVEY



## March General Membership Meeting Speaker

At the March General Membership Meeting, Rob Anderson, our new City Manager, will update us on what is going on in Vandalia. Feel free to ask any questions you may have about Vandalia.

## Gemütlichkeit 2011

There are host and co-host openings on the 2011 Gemütlichkeit signup for October. Please call Ellen at 667-6558 or sign up at the March General Membership meeting if you are interested in hosting a Gemütlichkeit.

## Welcome New Members

Please welcome the following new members to our organization:

Sara Lambdin, 978 Taylorsview Dr., Vandalia, 470-1890, [slambdin@yahoo.com](mailto:slambdin@yahoo.com).

Also, please add our new members and the following members to your 2011 Membership List:

Al and Barb Ruhe, 4340 Poplar Creek Road, Vandalia, 898-8219, [aruhe@woh.rr.com](mailto:aruhe@woh.rr.com).

William and Jo Seiter, 5902 Mount Royal Dr., Clayton, OH 45315, 771-4442, [jaseiter@mindspring.com](mailto:jaseiter@mindspring.com)

Stacy Flick, 1034 Van Arden Dr., Vandalia, 647-0135, [spacifico16@hotmail.com](mailto:spacifico16@hotmail.com).

## WHISPERINGS (SCREAMINGS)

Normally this column contains some humorous anecdotes about Sister Cities members or events. This time however, there is nothing humorous about WHISPERINGS. Maybe I should substitute SCREAMINGS for the subject line. This is about SURVIVAL! Survival of our beloved OKTOBERFEST, and ultimately survival of SISTER CITIES OF VANDALIA itself. Following the debacle in 2006 at the Expo Center, the OKTOBERFEST was dead! After 30 years of making a profit that sustains our Sister Cities program, the 2006 OKTOBERFEST sustained its first loss. It was obvious that an 'indoor' OKTOBERFEST was NOT the way to go. But.....we had no PLACE TO GO.... we were dead in the water. In October of 2006, a small group of 10 members got together and decided we had to find a way forward, and formed the OKTO-

BERFEST STEERING COMMITTEE. You all know the results.... we obtained the CITY OF VANDALIA'S blessing to move to the Sports Complex and we rebuilt the OKTOBERFEST there from scratch, and we have made a profit each year since. Here is the problem: Your STEERING COMMITTEE is getting OLD. Some of us are burned out now, and the others can't keep going at the current level much longer. The future of the OKTOBERFEST and the viability of Sister Cities depends on NEW BLOOD on the STEERING COMMITTEE. In the 5 years since we started anew, there have been only four new members, MIKE AND MARY BLAKESLY, and SKIP & JAN PRATT, join our original band of BROTHERS & SISTERS as actual STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS. Oh yeah, I should include HARVEY & ANN too, but they are sorta required to sit in as PRESIDENT & FIRST

LADY! (And needless to say, are greatly appreciated.) All of you have been wonderful workers. We couldn't have done what we did without your support and hard work during the Fest itself. What is needed, however, is for some of you to step up and be the NEW LEADERS. It is not difficult! It is actually a lot of fun. The most urgent need is for a new FOOD BOOTH chair. BOB & TRACY have done this for at least 9 years. Positions like this should rotate every 3 years! I was able to hand off the Chairmanship of the Steering Committee last year to JEFF, but he too is one of the originals and should not have to beg for his replacement when he feels he has done enough. SO PLEASE.... let's see some VOLUNTEERS to join the STEERING COMMITTEE and replace these 'OLD DAWGS' who have been in the traces long enough.

*Wayne*

### Save the Dates

**Board Meeting:**  
**March 2 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Membership Meeting:**  
**March 9 at 7:00 p.m.**

Meetings are held at the Vandalia Senior Citizens Center located at 21 Tionda Drive S.

### Happy March Birthdays!

Jim Joyce.....9  
Bobbie Areen.....10  
Patricia Kammer.....10  
Dan Schlagetter.....13  
Phyllis Crossley.....14  
Don Hazel.....15  
Helen Maxson.....17  
Barb Ruhe.....21  
Connie Starline.....26  
Ed Rapp.....27  
Susie Wright.....28

### Suzanne's Sunshine Report

Barb Kimmel was in the hospital.

**Please report news on our membership to Suzanne at 898-2703.**

**Deadline for April's Scoop articles is March 28th.**