



Texas German Society

Organized September 6, 1983 ■ Witte-Schmid Haus Museum
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Reporter

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President's Message

Fröhliche Weihnachten und frohes Neues Jahr

I would like to wish one and all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Coming out of the pandemic – even though slowly – has been a stride in the right direction.

I have been excited to hear of many of our chapters getting back to having meetings and again gathering and enjoying one another. These meetings are important to keep our German Heritage alive.

Also know that your officers and board members have continued working for the TGS membership throughout the year. Our State meetings in January and August were well attended. Many items

Presented and discussed, including the State Convention on March 19, 2022, in Tomball. (information packet is included in this Reporter) The Harris Co. and North Harris Co. chapters are hosting. And what a day they have planned for us! You do not want to miss this event!

Some dates to put on your 2022 TGS calendar:

January 9 – STATE MEETING – Witte-Schmid Haus Museum – 2:00 – for officers, Directors, Chapter Presidents

March 19 – Saturday – STATE CONVENTION – Tomball

August 7 – STATE MEETING – Witte-Schmid Haus Museum – 2:00 – for officers, Directors, Chapter Presidents

And – do not forget ST. NICHOLAS DAY – December 6 – the traditional German Christmas!

Please notice the new format for the TGS Reporter!! We have Linda Phillips to thank for volunteering to take on this task after Marie Herridge resigned after many years of producing wonderful Reporters.

Kathryn Haluska
 President, TGS

TEXAS GERMAN SOCIETY - 2022 STATE CONVENTION

MARCH 19, 2022



Tomball VFW Post 2427 - 14408 Alice Road, Tomball, Texas 77377

TENATIVE PROGRAM (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

8:30 – 9:30 AM – Registration / Light Breakfast

9:30 AM – Willkommen (Welcome) and Silent Auction Opens

- National Anthem and Pledges
- Invocation
- Greetings from Tomball and Harris County
- Greetings from Germany

9:50 – 10:30 AM – German Texans in Harris County (Aaron Schindewolf)

10:20 – 10:40 AM – Break

10:40 – 11:10 AM – Wunderlich Farm and Klein, Texas Historical Museum (Steve Baird)

11:10 – 12:00 PM – TGS Business Meeting

12:00 – 1:00 PM – Meal – Weiner Schnitzel, Wurst, Dampfkartoffeln, Gruene Bohnen, Sauerkraut, Brot, Eis-Tee, Dessert

1:00 – 1:30 PM – Rathkamp Dancers

1:30 – 2:00 PM – Spring Branch, Texas and St. Peter's United Church of Christ (Rodney Koenig)

2:00 – 2:20 PM – Break and Silent Auction Closes (2:20 PM)

2:20 – 3:00 PM – Enzian Buam

2:40 PM until Finished – Silent Auction Check-Out

3:00 PM – Closing Remarks



HOTELS IN TOMBALL, TEXAS

Special Rates

The Hampton Inn and Suites – Special Booking Link

https://secure3.hilton.com/en_US/hp/reservation/book.htm?ctyhocn=AMATBH&corporateCode=0003135992&from=Inrlink

Tomball Holiday Inn – Special Booking Link

<https://www.hiexpress.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=EX&localeCode=en&hotelCode=TMBPW&rateCode=IP9FY&PMID=99502056&corpNum=786809629&cn=no&viewfullsite=true>

Comfort Suites - \$99 regular room rate for that evening and \$119 for a King Suite.

Residence Inn By Marriott – Group Rate for Texas German Society – Call 844-583-2306

Registration Form

2022 Texas German Society State Convention

Hosted by the North Harris County and Harris County Chapters

At Tomball VFW Hall Post 2427, 14408 Alice Road, Tomball, Texas 77377 (281-351-2427)

March 19, 2022

Registration: Postmarked by February 19, 2022 - \$15.00 (\$10.00 for Students*)

Postmarked after February 19, 2022 but before March 19, 2022 - \$20.00 (\$15.00 for Students*)

Purchased at Door (no registration starting March 19, 2022 - \$20.00 (must wait until all ticket holders have received food. Not guaranteed that food will be left. No student discount)

(Please print the name / names wanted on name tag – **Please print, no cursive**)

Name: _____

Address: _____ **City/State/Zip:** _____

Phone Number: _____ **Email Address:** _____

Chapter or indicate if visitor: _____

Please indicate:

_____ **Number of people by February 19, 2022 x \$15.00 =** _____ **amount enclosed**

_____ **Number of people February 20 – March 18, 2022 x \$20.00 =** _____ **amount enclosed**

_____ **Number of students* by February 19, 2022 x \$10.00 =** _____ **amount enclosed**

_____ **Number of students* February 20 – March 18, 2022 x \$15.00 =** _____ **amount enclosed**

*** Under 22 years of age and enrolled in accredited school, college or university. Please enclose copy of ID card or other verification.**

Make checks payable to: Texas German Society

Return this form and money to: Aaron Schindewolf, President of North Harris County Chapter

4042 Spring Cypress Road, Spring, Texas 77388

Phone: 713-899-1030 Email: akschindewolf@sbcglobal.net

Please make copies of this form for all members. Families with last name and address can use same form but please list first names separate for name tags.

****Please check here if you prefer VEGAN OPTION for Lunch (sides only) and number _____ x # _____**

Optional Tour – Tomball Historical 1906 Depot Tour (201 S. Elm St., Tomball, Texas 77375 – Please indicate **YES** on line if you would like to go on Tour Friday, March 18, 2022 at 3:00 - 5:00 PM _____ . We will contact you with special information. The tour is **FREE OF CHARGE**. Sponsored by City of Tomball, Texas
Note: The Tour is dependent on if we get enough attendees noting that they would attend.

2022 Texas German Society State Convention

Vendor Exhibitor Rules

Date: Saturday, March 19, 2022

Place: Tomball VFW Post 2427

14408 Alice Rd.

Tomball, TX 77375

Cost of space is \$25.00 paid in advance for profit booths. Non-profits booth rental is FREE. Please make check payable to **Texas German Society** and mail check and application to: Aaron Schindewolf, 4042 Spring Cypress Rd., Spring, TX 77388. For questions you may call Aaron at 713-899-1030 or email akschindewolf@sbcglobal.net.

1. Booth size is approximately 8' x 8'.
2. There will be room for seven booths. First come, first serve. However, hosting Chapters retain the right to deny a vendor which the hosting Chapters deem as inappropriate or not relevant to the mission of the Texas German Society.
3. Booth site will be assigned inside convention hall and each exhibitor will be provided with two (2) tables (3'x6') and two (2) chairs. Tables will be placed in an "L" configuration with one table in front and one on side. The Texas German Society will not be responsible for any loss, damage, or injury.
4. Booths should be set up by 8:30 am and remain until the end of the convention which will be approximately 3:30 pm. Hall will be open for setup at 7:30 a.m.
5. Limited electrical outlets are available. Please let us know if you need electricity for your booth, and must be for reasonable use. First come, first serve, and may affect the booth location. Please bring an extension cord (20') as plugs may be a distance away.
6. Each participant is responsible for collecting and reporting STATE SALES TAX. You sell directly to the public.
7. Deadline for submission of application is February 19, 2022.
8. A catered meal will be available at lunch for \$10.00 per person (payable in advance).
9. Please write one check for cost of booth and lunch(es).

Texas German Society State Convention

Saturday, March 19, 2022

Tomball VFW Post 2427

14408 Alice Rd.

Tomball, TX 77375

Booth Application – Please print, no cursive

Due February 19, 2022

Booth Name _____

Preferred Booth Space # (1-7) (refer to map of VFW Hall on last page):

1st Preference _____; 2nd Preference _____; 3rd Preference _____

Profit _____ (\$25.00) Non-profit _____ (no charge for booth)

Lunch = \$10.00 per person x _____ of people = \$ _____

Applicant's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____ Cell _____

E-mail _____

Items to be sold _____

Signed Agreement

I hereby release The Texas German Society of any responsibility for loss, theft, or damage to any work shown at the 2022 Convention. I agree to abide by the rules included with this application. I also agree that my booth name and items to be sold may be used to advertise the 2022 convention.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

(Mail application and check made payable to **Texas German Society** to Aaron Schindewolf, 4042 Spring Cypress Rd., Spring, TX 77388. For questions you may call Aaron at 713.899.1030 or email akschindewolf@sbcglobal.net

Tomball VFW Hall Post 2427
14408 Alice Rd, Tomball, Texas 77375



Directions to VFW Hall:

From Waller: Take FM 2920 east to SH 249. Turn right onto feeder road and travel to Alice Rd. Turn right and follow to VFW Hall.

From Spring: Take FM 2920 west to SH 249. Go under SH 249 overpass and turn onto feeder road and take feeder road to Alice Rd. Turn right and follow to VFW Hall.

From Houston: Take SH 249 north (main highway is Toll Road, so you may want to use feeder road) north. Where SH 249 and SH 249 Business split, continue straight (toward left) on feeder road to Alice Rd. Turn left under overpass and continue down Alice Rd. to VFW Hall. If you take Toll Road, there is an Alice Rd. exit to feeder road.

From Magnolia: Take SH 249 south. Please stay on feeder road, cross FM 2920 and continue to Alice Rd. Turn right and proceed down Alice Rd. to VFW Hall.

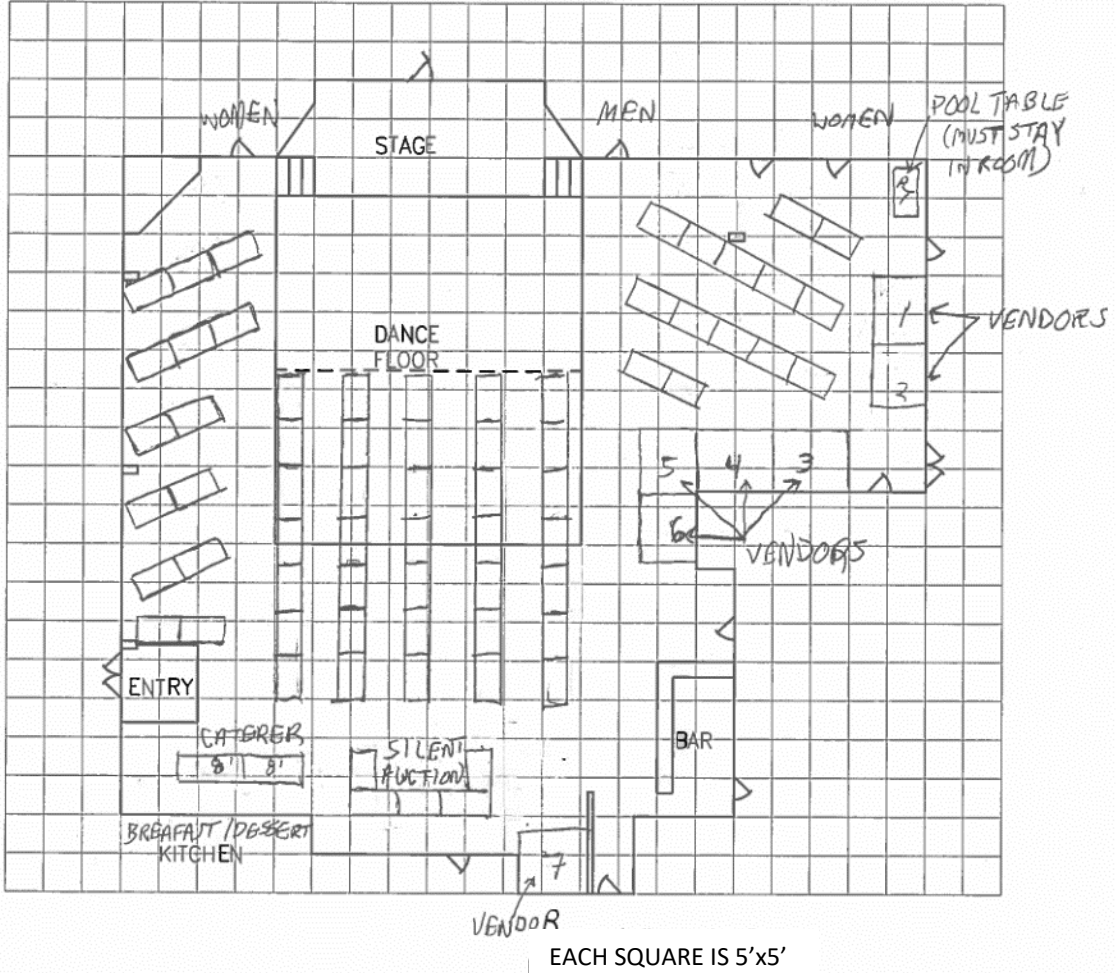
Directions to Tomball Historic Train Depot Museum:

From Waller, Magnolia or Houston: Take FM 2920 (Main St.) east (going towards IH-45/Spring) to S. Elm St. (street immediately before Railroad Tracks). Turn right onto S. Elm St. and proceed to Depot (parking is available next to Depot). If coming from Spring, turn left from FM2920 on S. Elm St. (first street after Railroad Tracks). Proceed on S. Elm St. to Depot.

Tomball VFW Hall Post 2427

Convention Layout

TEXAS GERMAN SOCIETY CONVENTION 2022 HALL LAYOUT



Visitor Information - www.TomballTX.gov

Chapter news

Bluebonnet Chapter

The Bluebonnet Chapter meets six times a year at the Hill Center in Sealy. The Chapter has programs and speakers who stress the importance of preserving the German language and heritage. Our chapter has gained many new members this past year and we are very happy for many of them are young. That is what we need to help preserve our German Heritage.

The chapter has six meetings each. The four remaining are:

July 14 – *All 'U Can Eat Blue Bell* with entertainment by the *Usual Suspects*

September 25 – *Establishing a Craft Brewery* by Ryan Huff

November 27 – *Determining your Identify through DNA Testing* and our Pot-Luck German Style Meal

January 22, 2020 – *A Look at the Holocaust Museum* presented by Susan Myers

Each year in April, the Bluebonnet Chapter and the Bellville Lions Club co-host the Fruehling Saengerfest. Plan to join us for German music, food and good fellowship.

The Bluebonnet Chapter is ready to get back together again. We had a few meetings in the past year. The annual Ice Cream Social (Blue Bell) was held on July 11, 2021. Lots of ice cream and lots of good German music provided by special guests (musicians). We are planning to attend the annual Texas German Society Convention coming up soon.

The Saengerfest, sponsored by the Bellville Lions Club and the Bluebonnet Chapter, held in April, was a success with good attendance, good food, and good German music.

The winner of our \$500 scholarship was Alex Pinales.

He was a graduate of Sealy High School with a high academic record.

Our meeting date, time and location has changed because of the pandemic. The chapter will meet the second Sunday every other month at 3:00 p.m., starting in January. The meeting place has not been determined.

The officers this year are:

President – Herbert Schumann

2nd Vice President – Sandy Schuff

Secretary – Grace Holtkamp

Treasurer – Robert Herridge

Colorado County Chapter

February 28, 2019 – Our chapter voted to present a Scholarship to a student of Colorado County IDSD for \$1000 at the end of the school year, May 2019. Our program for the evening was *Show and Tell* by members of our chapter. We were able to view many items and hear many different stories.

March 9, 2019 – This was the State Convention at Cat Spring, Texas and there were 13 chapter members in attendance to see our own Kathryn Haluska elected president of the State Texas German Society.

April 25, 2019 – The Spring picnic/meeting was held at Shaw's Bend Social Club. We enjoyed a meal of Bratwurst, sauerkraut, side dishes and desserts by members.

Our scholarship winner, Evan Herchek, along with his parents, Billy and Beth Herchek and his grandmother, Elsie Kahlden, a long standing member of our chapter was present to see him receive the scholarship. He turned 18 today also received a birthday cake.

Jason Keepers and his accordion along with Rober Herridge and two of Robert's students entertained us with Austrian music for the evening.

April 22, 2021 - We had our Spring Picnic/Meeting at Shaw's Bend Social Club of Columbus with a Pot Luck Dinner using a theme of good old fashion recipes from our German background. It was so good to see so many of our members gathered again for good food and good fellowship.

President Kathryn had done a superb job of keeping in touch with membership during 2020 by sending out greetings, e-mail news and just plain mail information.

We had three new members join our group on April 22 - Elliott Koehn and Martha and Rico Frischknecht.

June 24, 2021 - Opened our meeting with everyone singing "Happy Birthday" to our president, Kathryn.

Election of officers followed with Kathryn Haluska and Shirley Frers being elected for new terms and a new treasurer elected, Nelda Hajdik. Elena Holub elected as Vice President. President Kathryn offered thanks to Siegfried Keierleber for his years of excellent service as treasurer of our chapter.

Our program was presented by one of our new members, Elliott Koehn, who presented an interesting fact finding approach to the "Passion Play" which is put on every 10 years in Oberammergau, Germany.

August 26, 2021 - Normal business meeting began our evening with an announcement of asking our members to meet for a picture on September 27 for the proclamation announcement of German/American Day on October 6.

Our program was presented by Nancy Williams entitled "The Influence of German Immigrants on Life in America Today." This was most interesting and presented with eye opening facts and pictures that we probably never think about.

Fayette County Chapter

The Fayette County chapter has not had a meeting since February, 2020. We will wait until the Delta variant has passed before we meet in person again.

Thank you- Lee Ann Hartmann

Fort Bend County Chapter

Nothing is happening in the Fort Bend Chapter of the Texas German Society. We have suspended all meetings and gatherings trying to protect our members from getting the Covid-19 virus. All the plans that we made for 2020 are waiting for us when the Covid-19 virus is under some kind of control and our members feel safe to meet again. Cathy Hanzik is hosting a German foreign exchange student from northern Germany. The foreign exchange experience has been very stressful because of the Covid-19. Anna was enrolled to be a foreign exchange student for an entire school year, but because of the Corona, she was not able to arrive until January 7, 2021. She will only get the experience of being a foreign exchange student for one semester. She needed a negative Covid-19 test before departure from Germany. She said she wouldn't allow herself to get excited until she was sitting in my car. Once she arrived, to be enrolled at Needville High School, she needed to show that she was negative for the Covid-19 virus. So far, she has remained Covid-19 free after almost 2 months of school. She is enjoying her experience here in Texas!



The Fort Bend Chapter of the Texas German Society had a booth at the Texian Market Days on October 23, 2021, at the George Ranch Historical Park. We demonstrated how to make paper snowflakes which we decorated a Christmas tree with. Our purpose was to share something about our German heritage. The Christmas tree was an important aspect that the German immigrants brought with them from Germany. It is fascinating to see the eyes of children and adults alike when they unfold their snowflakes to see the creation that they made. By the end of the event, the Christmas tree was fully decorated with paper snowflakes. Pictured are Cathy Hanzik and Loyce Anderson

Katy Tri-County Chapter



The Katy Tri-County Chapter met in October 2020 (after a long "covid" lockdown) at the Katy Heritage Park for a "brown bag" lunch. It was good to get outside and visit again. Present at the park were members, Heike May, Linda Phillips, Helga Miller, Peggy Schulin, and Kenneth and Annie Meador.



Then to celebrate Christmas, we were able to meet for a delicious lunch at Brookwood Center Cafe in Brookshire, Katy. The members at lunch were Helga Miller, Betty McMahon, Peggy Schulin, and Kenneth and Annie Meador. We are looking forward to 2021 and seeing each other more often.



Here's a photo of the Tri County Members who met at the Messina Hof Winery in Richmond on Saturday April 10, 2021, for brunch. They are from left around the table: Rena Severin, Maesa Williams, Betty McMahon, Linda Phillips, Joy and Larry Denk, and Peggy Schulin. It was a really great experience, with good farm to table food and delicious wine! This is our first "meeting" of 2021 and we hope to continue to get together more often this year



In May 2021, we enjoyed a trip to the San Jacinto Monument. Then had lunch at the Monument Inn Restaurant. A good time was had by all.



The Katy Tri-County Chapter enjoyed a tour of the Witte-Schmid Haus Museum on October 6th (German-American Heritage Day). The group was greeted by Verena Aeschbacher and Mike Yancey, their tour guides. They were given the history of the Haus and were able to view the upstairs bedrooms and the cellar. After lunch, everyone was treated to the musical talents of Robert Herridge and his student, Ella Broussard. We all recommend the Chapters to also take this opportunity.

Lavaca/DeWitt Chapter

The Lavaca/DeWitt Chapter experienced a difficult year in 2020. Due to the restrictions imposed by the Corona Virus, we held only one in person meeting in February 2020. Meetings for the rest of the year were cancelled.

In the last year, three members passed away. Our beloved Vice President, Virginia Flathmann lost her battle with the Corona Virus. Fred Ackermann and Iris Riske also passed away.

Instead of joining in our usual Oktoberfest celebration at a local restaurant, members received a special Oktoberfest themed snack package which included sausage, cheese and a sweet treat. Without being able to gather to celebrate with the traditional Weihnachtenfest, members each received a traditional holiday card with an angel decoration.

Hopefully, 2021 will see us once again meeting for evenings of Freundschaft und Gemutlichkeit!

North Harris County Chapter

January 20, 2020 - For this meeting, we watched a video about Dresden and Leipzig. We also had a group activity to create an item that can be donated at the State Convention for the Silent Auction.

January 25, 2021 - For our first meeting since last year, we watched a video of Rick Steve's Frankfurt and Nürnberg. We held our meeting at Beautiful Savior Our Redeemer Lutheran Church as our usual meeting space at Trinity Lutheran (Klein) Church was unavailable.

March 22, 2021 - For this meeting, we watched a video presentation made by Joh Haggins, the GlobeTrotter, about Trier, Germany. As noted on the video description, Trier is one of Germany's oldest cities. The city has several well preserved Roman structures like the Porta Nigra Gate. It's also a UNESCO World Heritage site, and it won the prize for the best Christmas Market in 2019.

May 24, 2021 - For this meeting, we watched a Rick Steves video presentation on Salzburg, Austria and its surroundings. The birthplace of Mozart — and everyone's Sound of Music fantasies — Salzburg is a Baroque jewel of a town. It's also the springboard for lots of alpine fun — from thrilling summer bobsledding, to idyllic boat rides in the Salzkammergut Lake District, to exploring the delightful romantic town of Hallstatt.

July 26, 2021 - We viewed a video from 2014 about the Houston Ship Channel. In 2014, the Houston Ship Channel was celebrating its centennial as a deep-water port. This documentary explored the rich history, as well as present-day operations of the Houston Ship Channel and Port of Houston, one of the busiest ports in the U.S. In addition, we welcomed special guest Jürgen Schröder, CEO of Schröder Marine Services. Schröder Marine's mission is to provide "Old World" service with Modern Day solutions.

September 27, 2021 - This month's program continued the theme from last meeting of looking at some local area history. The video "Post Oak Boulevard: A Texas Legacy" was presented. This film, created by Houston Public Media (from KUHT) and produced by the Texas Foundation for the Arts, presents Uptown Houston which is often called Houston's 'second downtown'. But not too long ago this stylish neighborhood was home to dusty farms and vegetable stands. From the early settlers to shopping mecca and urban oasis... "Post Oak Boulevard: A Texas Legacy" examines the transformation of Houston's most glamorous address.

Southbelt Chapter

Southbelt chapter is meeting on Saturdays for lunch and a quick program, at different dining establishments throughout the winter months as, our membership prefers to not commute after dark. We normally meet at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church on Scarsdale, on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

We have had had a very sporadic schedule of meeting, since the unfortunate arrival of COVID.

We met last month (October) in person, and had a most cheerful and well attended meeting! We had guests from Turkey attend, who are staying with one of our members for a brief visit to the US.

We have had some of our membership fall ill with COVID. Some with worse symptoms than others. At present, Jim Hamm is still in Hospital dealing with ongoing issues from a continuing difficult battle with COVID. Prayers for his lovely wife Carol, and their entire family! Everyone else in our chapter is recovered if they had a bout with the virus.

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Reiterlesmarkt in Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Germany – Christmas Market

The city lies above the deep valley of the Tauber River, on the scenic “romantic route”. It was first mentioned as Rotinbure in the 9th century. The city is encircled by a many-towered wall and is one of the best-preserved medieval cities in Germany.

OPEN FOR TOURS
WITTE-SCHMID HAUS MUSEUM

THE WITTE-SCHMID HAUS MUSEUM IS NOW OPEN FOR GROUP TOURS.

TO SIGN UP FOR TOURS AND VISITS, EMAIL TO:

Witte.schmid.museum@gmail.com

MUSEUM COMMISSION MEMBER, VERENA AESCHBACHER, WILL ANSWER YOUR EMAIL REQUESTS AND MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUR VISIT.

YOU CAN CHECK OUT THE MUSEUM ON FACEBOOK UNDER “TEXAS GERMAN SOCIETY”, “WITTE SCHMID HAUS MUSEUM” UNDER “GROUPS”.

PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION ABOUT OUR TGS MUSEUM WITH YOUR CHAPTER MEMBERS. THEY AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE WELCOME TO ENJOY A TOUR AND EVEN PICNIC ON THE BEAUTIFUL GROUNDS.

**Verena Aeschbacher
Witte-Schmid Haus Museum Commission**

Witte-Schmid Haus Museum

The Witte-Schmid Haus Museum is a great place for an outing with family and friends! It is not just the beautiful location on top of a hill with views all around, there is landscape to relax and enjoy, and an interesting museum depicting a lifestyle of early 1900's. For visits, Covid safety precautions are maintained, as recommended by the Texas Historical Commission.

The Witte-Schmid Haus and Cemetery are located at 260 Witte Schmid Road, off Schoenau Road near FM 1457, near Shelby.
More information is available on the website of the Texas German Society, the Texas Historical Commission www.thc.texas.gov and the National Register of Historic Places www.gsa.gov/national-register-of-historic-places

Reservations can be made on a mutually convenient time. All inquiries will be answered. There is no charge for the visits, donations are appreciated.

Swiss Heritage in Texas

Schoenau was a Swiss settlement in Austin County, Texas, founded in the 1850s by Swiss settlers from Ehrendingen and surrounding areas in the Canton of Aargau. Schoenau (“beautiful meadow”) was located on a low hill side with two creeks that provided fresh water, walnut and oak trees, and a quarry for building materials. As Schoenau grew it included a grist mill (cotton), a one-room school, a store and, as the Swiss enjoy singing, the Maennerchor Helvetia, founded in 1886.

Today only the Witte-Schmid Haus and a historic cemetery remain, where some of the Swiss settlers are buried. The house, built in 1860, is now a house museum depicting the lifestyle of early settlers. The Witte-Schmid Haus is a registred landmark with the US National Registry of Historic Places and recently received a Historical Marker from the Texas Historical Commission. Ledgers and records of residents’ activities are saved in the library of the Witte-Schmid Haus; some of the names registered are: Schmid, Meier, Suter, Spiess, Wunderlich, Weber, Lehrer, Rinderknecht.

The Witte-Schmid-Haus is a stone structure, unusual for the area, with interior “Fachwerk” walls, a wooden framework filled in with cut stones or adobe bricks. It features a breezeway where the family would converge for meals and evening hours; the kitchen, 2 bedrooms, storage room and “die gute Stube” (parlor) flank on either side. The house was heated with a wood burning oven, and of course, a wood burning stove. Also unusual for Texas it has a cellar for food storage and homemade wines. The upper floor is divided into three fairly large rooms and storage under the roof. The upper rooms house a number of beds, a crib and other furniture. The roof was originally covered with cedar shingles.

Why so many beds upstairs when the family primarily used the downstairs? The explanation is simple: travel in the olden days by ox wagon required several weeks from Galveston, the nearest port at the Gulf of Mexico. As there were no guesthouses, new settlers found accommodations and food with local people who already had built a home, and with whom they could stay until their new homesteads were established. Of course, even in those days people liked to visit family and friends or attend church services or festivities; as locations were mostly far apart, such trips would extend over several days and accommodations were needed.

Among the contents of the armoires at the Haus were two red cloths rolled on wooden sticks. When the deteriorating fabric was carefully unfurled, they each revealed a white cross hand stitched on the red fabric. Swiss flags – a memory of home! Records tell of “Saengerfeste” in the area when “Fahenschwingen” was part of the enjoyment.

How did this historic home become part of Swiss heritage? The house was built in 1860 by Dr. Ernst Witte from Hanover, Germany. In 1874 his granddaughter, Emilie Witte, married John Schmid, a Swiss settler from Ehrendingen, who owned 200 adjacent acres and bought the house and land. Since then the home and land was in Swiss hands by the Schmid family until the last direct descendent, Sanford Schmid, 92, passed away this spring. He was very proud of his Swiss origins and his last wish was to have the Swiss Flag displayed at his funeral and burial. Today the property is owned by an organization for maintenance and used as a house museum.

Further information at Texas Historical Commission www.thc.texas.gov

National Register of Historic Places www.gsa.gov/national-register-of-historic-places

Verena S. Aeschbacher,

Member Austin County Historical Commission

Witte-Schmid Haus Museum Commission



Even though we did not have the Convention this year, we still sent out invitations to the German language teachers to have their students enter the essay contest for our Scholarship awards. There were 16 essays sent into Grace Holtkamp, the Scholarship chair. Here are the winners:

EMMA ZIMMERMAN, BRYAN HIGH SCHOOL \$1000 FIRST PLACE

MOLLY BENNETT, LA GRANGE HIGH SCHOOL \$750 SECOND PLACE

There was a tie for Third Place:

VINCENT MUSSER, COLLEGE STATION HIGH SCHOOL \$500

ANDRES PAUMAN, CLEMENTS HIGH SCHOOL \$500

Kathryn Haluska, TGS President

Grace Holtkamp, Scholarship Chair

Below are the scholarship winners essays as they were submitted by the applicants:

Emma Zimmermann, 1st place – Bryan High School

As much as I would like to attend law school after college, I understand that it can be expensive, often leaving students saddled with thousands in student debt. My mother works as a public school teacher, and is a single mother with three children. As such, there are no savings for me to use for college expenses. I plan to tighten my undergraduate budget as much as possible in order to reduce student loan amounts. While my studies will remain my priority, I intend to look for an on-campus job immediately, to supplement my living expenses. This will unload some financial strain from my mother and siblings. My hope is that any scholarship awards I receive will be used to alleviate the stress of paying my tuition fees, thus allowing me to focus more on my academic studies. I will need standout scores to be admitted to law school, and I will greatly appreciate any additional time that I can dedicate to school. I am hopeful that by my sophomore year, I will be able to find some relevant part-time employment in law or government, that can further prepare me for a career in law, while also relieving my mother and I of further debt.

Molly Bennett, 2nd place – La Grange High School

This scholarship would help me go to college and focus more on my studies rather than worrying about how to pay for my education. I really need to focus on my grades so I can keep my GPA high to get into dental school. The reason I really need this scholarship is because both me and my parents do not get paid enough to send me off to school with no scholarships. I work at a job where I get roughly \$17 a week, so even though I do have some money saved up, it is not a whole lot. My parents both work for the school; my mom is a teacher and my dad is the director of technology. They are already helping pay for my older brother's education, and on top of that, they have many more expenses, so money is tight. This scholarship would benefit me so much. The more money I can earn to help me accomplish my goal to become an orthodontist, the better. Thank you for your consideration.

Vincent Musser, 3rd place – College Station High School

I originally found my father's German heritage a superficial influence due to its similarity to American culture, but it has recently opened my eyes to a deep rabbit hole. Although I would later continue my journey due to my curiosity and propensity to always explore, I was falling down the rabbit hole long before I knew it. In my early childhood, my grandmother introduced me to basic German words and placed an emphasis on German composers when I was learning the piano. And my father has cooked German-style potatoes, sausages, and the occasional schnitzel.

My first official introduction to German outside of my home was via my high school German I class. I often read ahead in the class textbook and even frequently looked at translation dictionaries in the hopes of learning more. I was always ready for a challenge, and I approached the material with excitement and enthusiasm.

My most exciting experience in my journey to study German culture has been visiting Munich, Germany. I was there for a Neuroscience Camp and an internship focused on neurological diseases. I spent 10 weeks taking advantage of these astounding opportunities, all the while basking in an authentic German environment. Much of what I thought was exaggerated about Germany was actually real: people wore Lederhosen; parties and festivals were frequently thrown; and there was beer everywhere I looked. The food was no exception: there were wickedly good sausages, uniquely tender schnitzels, and wondrously cheesy Spätzles. My grandmother's influence came into play when I attended live musical performances and viewed statues and museums of composers. As a pianist since the age of 5, it was a dream come true.

I am proud of the role that German culture plays in my life and the enrichment it has brought me.

Andrew Pauman, 3rd place – Clements High School

Throughout my time as a student, Germany has always been equated with the ideals of Nazism and the vice of World War Two. When Germany was ever mentioned, the conversation would Segway its self towards either one of these two topics. Therefore, the constant talk of these subjects would bring shame and guilt. I felt like I could never escape the Hitler jokes or constant questioning whether my ancestors killed Jewish people. I wanted to completely remove Germany from my blood. However, this would change when I visited the fatherland in 2016.

Visiting Düsseldorf and talking with my “Opa” and “Oma” gave me a new sense of what being a German truly is. It is beyond Kristallnacht and the Waffen SS. History of Germany did not commence in 1933 nor did it end in 1945. The idea of being a German and all the qualities that surround it have existed since Arminius and the Germanic tribe’s victory over the Romans at the Battle of Teutoburg to the fall of the Berlin Wall nearly two thousand years later. Within this time frame, millions of honorary human citizens from this great land have emerged in every field that exists, from military science to auto manufacturing. They have impacted our world in every way possible so that Germany and humanity could progress. Thus, my ancestors weren’t Nazis. They weren’t genociders nor war criminals. They were inventors, innovators, farmers, soldiers, and exceptional human beings.

This enlightenment was further expanded from my travels on the Rhine and visiting the towns that inhabit the area. The serene beauty of the area, which inspired German romantic writers, showed me a world beyond the consumerist and urban landscape. The medieval castles on the cliffs and the traditional villages on the slopes grew my interest in this land. By the time the ferry ended and it was time to return to the United States, I fully embraced my “Teutonic” side. I made a pact with my grandparents to learn German and further my understanding of this beautiful country and the elements that make it this way.

Now four years on, my passion for Germany has not faded an inch but instead grown. Learning the German language and culture unlocked an element of myself. I was able to link myself with my relatives and ancestors, most notably my great-grandfather, Maximilian Paumen, who served during the Great War. Four years from now, as a university student, I hope to become fluent in the German language and fully embody myself with “das Land der Dichter und Denker”.



TEXAS GERMAN SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

This Scholarship is given by the Texas German Society.

The recipient shall be a Texas high school or Home School senior and is planning to attend college.

The purpose of the Texas German Society is to preserve and promote our German-Texan heritage, culture and language.

1. Applicant must be a graduating high school senior and have passed all university/college admission requirements. Copy of the seventh semester high school transcript must be submitted with completed application.
2. Applicant must submit an essay of at least 300 words written in the English language on the topic "My Interest in the German Language, Culture, and my German Ancestry". In addition, on a separate page, we require that you briefly demonstrate your ability to write in the German language a 30 to 50 word profile of yourself.
3. This scholarship is awarded for the academic year immediately following high school graduation. (Must be used during this year) for two long terms (fall and spring) as a full-time (12 or more semester hours) student.
4. The amount of the scholarships is 1st place \$1,500.00, 2nd place \$1000.00, and 3rd place \$750.00

The application deadline is **MARCH 1, 2022**

MAIL OR EMAIL COMPLETED PAPERWORK TO:

**MS. GRACE HOLTkamp
1452 SOUTH CIRCLE
SEALY, TEXAS 77474-3914
graceholtkamp@att.net
(979)885-2169**



TEXAS GERMAN SOCIETY
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

CELL PHONE # _____ HOME PHONE # _____

NAME OF FATHER _____ ADDRESS _____

NAME OF MOTHER _____ ADDRESS _____

Are you currently employed? _____ Name of employer _____

Do you plan to work while attending college? _____

What is your educational objective? _____

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Extracurricular Activities

Offices held in organizations, clubs

Special Honors and Awards _____

On a separate sheet of paper, please explain in a HANDWRITTEN statement how the Scholarship will help you achieve your educational goals. Please explain any extenuating circumstances which might add to your educational costs.

YOUR APPLICATION WILL NOT BE PROCESSED WITHOUT THIS STATEMENT.



COLE McNANNA

Recent Sealy High School graduate Faith Morgan was awarded the Jason Guilbeau Memorial Scholarship as this year's outstanding German student.

Grad earns scholarship

By RONALD BRUNE

The Jason Guilbeau Memorial Scholarship for German was awarded to Faith Morgan, who completed four years of German and was named this year's outstanding Sealy High School senior German student.

The Jason Guilbeau Memorial Scholarship for German was given in recognition of Jason's role in leading the effort to offer German as a Foreign language at Sealy High School. Through his efforts, hundreds of students have had the opportunity to study and learn German. For many students in this community, it has been the chance for them to learn the language of their ancestry and heritage as well.

Jason (1981-2020) graduated as one of the top students in his class at Sealy High School in 2000. He went on to study at Texas A&M where he graduated with a degree in Political Science in 2004. At Texas A&M, he was a member of the student organization Pi Sigma Alpha, and a member of the fraternity Delta Tau Delta. He participated in MSC Aggie Leaders of Tomorrow as well as The LEAD program. Jason was truly an outstanding individual.

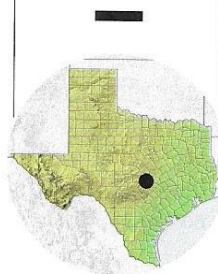


Time Flies

Cuckoo clocks keep on ticking in Fredericksburg

By Sallie Lewis

KUCKUCK'S NEST
 3150 N. SH 16,
 Fredericksburg,
 830-997-9707;
kuckucks-nest.co



Inside the Kuckuck's Nest in Fredericksburg, country tunes emanate from a small radio. But that's not the only music playing. There's also quiet *ticking* and sporadic *cuckoos* marking the passage of time.

Store owner Paula Kager sells authentic German products like lederhosen, dirndls, and beer steins. She also stocks genuine cuckoo clocks, timepieces believed to have originated in Germany's Black Forest, where the Brothers Grimm supposedly sought inspiration for fairy tales like "Sleeping Beauty" and "Hansel and Gretel." Kager grew up in Ludwigshafen in southwestern Germany and remembers spending time as a child at her grandparents' home. With great anticipation, she would sit by their clock, waiting for the cuckoo bird to arrive. "It seems like every house had one," Kager says. "We'd tell Opa, 'Make it move! Make it cuckoo!'"

After moving to Fredericksburg, a German enclave celebrating its 175th anniversary this year, Kager opened her business in 2015. She began importing and selling cuckoo clocks upon request. Kager's new and vintage pieces—from \$200 to \$1,800, with larger designs reaching upward of \$5,000—are mostly all handmade in the Black Forest. Cuckoo clocks are delicate devices, but one look at their mechanics reveals a solid network of gears, bellows, and heavy pine cone weights.

Traditional German cuckoo clocks typically have leaves, goats, and dogs carved into the wood. Kager's collection—made by notable manufacturers like Hekas—includes these and more. Some of her chalet clocks feature men drinking beer or chopping wood, while others show dancing maidens, accordion musicians, hand-painted edelweiss flowers, and Saint Bernard dogs. Each clock is slightly different, but tucked inside all but the least-expensive clocks is a cuckoo bird ready to spring forth and sing on the half-hour and hour.

"Cuckoo clocks have been in existence for hundreds of years," Kager says. "If you go to Germany, a cuckoo clock is a must to bring back." Until then, a visit to the Hill Country will do. 🐦

In Memorium

FREDERICK RICHARD ACKERMAN
October 7, 1933 – April 29, 2020

Frederick Richard Ackerman, 86, completed his earthly journey Wednesday, April 29, 2020. He was born October 7, 1933 in Birmingham, Alabama to Louis and Mitzi (Hallmeister) Ackerman. Fred was proud of his 20 years of service in the Texas National Guard and retired from Southwestern Bell after 39 years. He faithfully served in Lion's Club for over 50 years and was a faithful friend to many. In his later life he met and married his beloved Archie. They traveled to every state in their motorhome and met new friends everywhere they went. Fred was a member of First United Methodist Church in Yoakum and was grateful to his Lord for the gifts in his life

IRIS RISKE
January 30, 1948 – February 23, 2020

Iris Riske, 72, passed away suddenly Sunday, February 23, 2020. She was born January 30, 1948 in Shiner to the late Milton and Lorene (Findeisen) Riske. She was a kind, compassionate person, offering a smile and encouragement to others. She was retired from Yoakum I.S.D after a 35 year teaching career and served as treasurer for the Texas Retired School Personnel of the Shiner-Yoakum branch and was a member of Alpha Phi Sorority. She was a member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church and served her Lord through helping others.

LUCILLE ANN MUELLER TIEDT
May 9, 1943 – May 12, 2021

Lucille Ann Mueller Tiedt passed away Wednesday May 12, 2021 at the age of 78 years and 3 days. Lucille was born to Anna Tresler Mueller and Paul W. Mueller on May 9, 1943 in Houston, Texas. She grew up in the Klein/Tomball area.



BETTY HERRIDGE

June 21, 1931 - June 12, 2021

Betty Alice Dorothy Gerstenberger Herridge passed into the loving arms of her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the evening of Saturday, June 12, 2021. She was born in Rockdale, Texas, on June 21, 1931. Her first language was German. Betty and her family moved to Houston after World War II, and she graduated from Jefferson Davis High School. On August 16, 1949, she married Charles (Dale) Herridge of Llano, Texas. Dale passed April 12, 2004. Betty worked many years for the U.S. Postal Service, retiring as Postmaster of Clayton, Texas, in 1996. She was very active after retirement in the Bluebonnet Chapter of the Texas German Society, Ladies Aid of Trinity Lutheran, Bellville Hospital Auxiliary, Hermann Sons Lodge 11-2, the Bellville Town & Country Garden Club, and sang in the Concordia Gesang Verein. . . .

JOAN ELIZABETH WOODS WATSON

March 3, 1945 – January 25, 2021

Joan Elizabeth Woods Watson passed away on Monday, January 25, 2021, at the age of 75 years. She was born on March 3, 1945, in Houston, Texas, to B. Ray Woods and Charlotte Augusta Selma Woods. Joan grew up in Brookshire, but lived in Katy the majority of her life. On September 10, 1965, she married James E. Watson in Houston, Texas. Joan was a nurse, mom, grandma, rice farmer, cattle rancher, and an airplane pilot who enjoyed flying her mom and dad over their rice fields to check on the water – she was proud of being able to do this because her dad never would let a girl drive a combine during harvest. She was also a life member of the University of Texas Ex Students Association, a pharmacy owner and bookkeeper. Joan sang in the Methodist Church choir for 60 years; she always had a smile on her face and will be missed by all.

GLADYS MAE ROTTMAN

(August 19, 1928 – January, 19, 2020)

Gladys Mae Wehmeyer was born in Port Arthur, Texas, on August 19, 1928. She was the daughter of Henry William Wehmeyer and Emma Julia Louise Schaefer and was the third of nine children. Her family was deeply rooted in the Lutheran faith. At church, she met the love of her life, Gerhardt "Garry" Paul Rottmann, when he accepted his first teaching call to Port Arthur, Texas, at Trinity Lutheran Church and School where Gladys' family attended. They married at Trinity on August 12, 1949,

and celebrated 51 years of marriage. Gladys worked for a mortgage company for 30 years; 25 years in downtown Houston and five years in the Galleria area. She and Garry sang in their church choirs for many, many years, and later in life, sang in the Houston Lutheran Chorale as well. The Chorale led them to many singing events and concerts which included Carnegie Hall and Europe. This was always such a joy for her and a special memory.

BURL SEBASTON HOLLOWAY

FEBRUARY 24, 1943 – OCTOBER 29, 2021

Burl SEBASTON Holloway, age 78, of Houston, Texas passed away on Friday, October 29, 2021. Burl was born February 24, 1943.

MARJORIE CAROLINE WUNDERLICH

December 22, 1931 – July 27, 2020

Marjorie Wunderlich, 88, passed away July 27, 2020. Survived by: husband Harvey; daughters Dorothy Rode and husband John, Anita Jaksch and husband Joe; sons Joe Wunderlich and wife Cathy, James Wunderlich and wife Cheryl; 10 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren and 1 on the way; sisters JoAnn Ehrhardt, Beverly Sue Tracy and husband David. Numerous relatives and friends.

PATRICIA ANN HILBURN

July 2, 1942 – January 21, 2021

Patricia Ann “Pat” Kaiser Hilburn, 78, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, January 21, 2021 in Klein, Texas. She was born on July 2, 1942 to Edna Doerre Kaiser and Edward “Eddie” Kaiser in Tomball, Texas. After high school she went to work for Houston Lighting and Power Company for several years before landing a position with the Texaco Corporation, working in the royalty department until retirement in 2000. Pat was involved in numerous activities as a lifetime member of Trinity Lutheran Church including the Ladies Aid, Braille Large Print, and Food Pantry, to name a few, and volunteered with many other organizations. She also was a member of the Texas German Society of North Harris County.

VIRGINIA ROSE FLATHMANN
September 14, 1937 - September 12, 2020

Virginia Rose (Spill) Flathmann, 82, of Hallettsville, passed away on September 12, 2020 in Victoria, Texas. Virginia was born in Winters, Texas, on September 14, 1937, to Herman and Katharine Spill as the sixth of seven sisters. Virginia graduated as an RN in Milwaukee in 1962, and continued as a nurse for much of her life. Virginia married Albert Ernest Flathmann Jr. on September 2, 1962. The couple then went as missionaries with the Lutheran Church to Papua New Guinea, where they served for 20 years, Albert as pastor and Virginia as wife, mother and nurse. . . .



ROBERT FROEBEL
SEPTEMBER 16, 1932 – MARCH 17, 2021

Robert Gene Froebel, of Houston, Texas passed away on Wednesday, March 17, 2021, at the age of 88. Robert was born on September 16, 1932, in Cat Spring, Texas. He was the son of Arthur, Sr. and Clara Marie (Leenen) Froebel. After high school, Robert enlisted and served his country as a Corporal in the United States Army from 1953-1955. He was united in marriage to the love of his life, Ruth Reeder on August 26, 1956, at St. John Lutheran Church in New Ulm, Texas and they were together for 64 wonderful years. Robert had a very strong work ethic and worked in the shipping department for Cameron Iron Works for 44 years until his retirement. Robert and Ruth enjoyed traveling through the lower 48 states, Canada, Hawaii, and to Europe and Germany where their ancestors originated. Robert was fluent in German and loved sharing travel adventures with the family. . . .



LOUIS HANATH

November 28, 1927 ~ March 12, 2021 (age 93)

Louis Charles Hanath, aged 93, passed away peacefully on Friday March 12, 2021 at his home. Louis was born November 28, 1927 in the Possum Trot community near Brenham, Texas to Richard Hanath and Anna (Herrmann) Hanath. He served his country from 1950 to 1952 in the United States Army during the Korean war. He proudly served in the 40th division- 24th regimen- 3rd battalion. After returning from the war, he met the love of his life Joycine Eckermann at a dance in the Industry area. They were united in marriage on June 29th, 1957 at the Industry United Methodist Church. Louis having a strong work ethic worked several jobs prior to retiring from Baker Hughes after 30 years with the company. Louis was fluent in German. Louis was proud to serve his community and was a founding member of the Chappell Hill Fire Department. He was also honored as a fireman of the year.



JOYCINE ADELA HANATH

January 29, 1938 ~ October 3, 2021 (age 83)

Joycine Adela Eckermann Hanath of Chappell Hill, aged 83, passed away peacefully and joined the Lord in her home on October 3rd, 2021 surrounded by loved ones. Joycine was born January 29, 1938 in Austin County near Industry in the home of her grandparents to Barnet and Resada (Galle) Eckermann. She grew up learning German as her first language in the home and developed a love of her family and her heritage. Joycine was united in marriage to Louis Charles Hanath on June 29th, 1957 at the Industry United Methodist Church. Joycine was passionate about genealogy and loved to share this passion with many others. Joycine was very involved in her community, starting with Boy Scouts, teaching Sunday School, 4-H, Chappell Hill Historical Society, Texas German Society, Washington County Genealogical Society, Washington County Fair and the Chappell Hill Volunteer Fire Department. Joycine was the Co-Leader of the Chappell Hill Word Famous Marching Kazoo Band and was Woman of the Year for both Washington County Chamber of Commerce and Chappell Hill Chamber of Commerce. She was an active member in the United Methodist Church.



FLORENCE ARNET BERGER HOFF
January 11, 1930 - September 13, 2021

Florence Arnet (Berger) Hoff, age, 91, was born January 11, 1930 to Henry E. Berger and Delta Manske Berger in Houston, Texas and passed away September 13, 2021. Florence graduated from Reagan High School in 1947 where she was a proud member of the Reagan Red Coats and graduated from Texas Lutheran College in Seguin. She was a lifelong faithful member of Zion Lutheran Church. She was a member of Edelweiss/Sons of Hermann Lodge 47, SPJST Lodge 88, Singer and honorary member of Houston Saengerbund, member of Texas German Society and German-Texan Heritage Society, Past President Heights Lioness Club and Past President of Heights Lions Club (being the first lady President for that club). She received the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award and lion of the Year award from the Lions Club.

RUTH V. DITTMAR
1925-2020



Ruth Verdell Dittmar (nee Emshoff), 94, of Houston died of cardiac arrest on March 15, 2020 at the Greater Heights Memorial Hospital. A true Texas German in all her ways, she grew up on a farm at Welcome, Texas in Austin County near Brenham, the daughter of Henry Emshoff and Emmie Becker Emshoff. She lived with an aunt in Baytown and then in Houston where she met engineer Ray Dittmar at a dance. They were married in 1951. . . .