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Plattduetsche Park congratulates Original Enzian on its 100th anniversary and supports all its efforts to celebrate and pass on German heritage and tradition to new generations.
Grias Di Gott!

On this the occasion of SVV Original Enzian’s anniversary celebration we would like to extend a grateful thank you to our members past and present, and express appreciation for the support of our friends over the past 100 years, which has allowed our Verein to flourish and prosper. We also thank those who are participating in our celebratory events and those sponsors who have graciously donated to our efforts over the years. As you peruse this journal please consider patronizing our journal advertisers.

Having been founded in 1922 we are the second Schuhplattler Verein in North America to reach the 100 year mark. There will be a flurry of additional Vereine in Gauverband Nordamerika in the next few years reaching this milestone, and to them we extend anticipatory congratulations.

We have a long tradition of participation in the German American community which is well covered in the Club History section of this journal. This wonderful overview provides a glimpse into the journey of Original Enzian over its first 100 years – we are also working on a more expansive tome that will include details that had to be excluded from the journal version, and will include the celebratory events of this year. Look for it online on our web & social media links sometime in our 101st year.

Original Enzian is dedicated not only to preserving Bavarian Schuhplattler dance and cultural traditions – but in fostering lifelong friendships among young and old. It is truly family oriented and we take pride in our children’s group. There is great satisfaction in watching our children grow from tots having fun slapping their legs, jumping and spinning – to becoming full fledged members of our adult group. These Kindergruppe “graduates” now play a huge role in the life of Original Enzian.

It is the Mitglieder, each providing their unique contribution, that has allowed Original Enzian to continue moving forward as an organization – one that strives to uphold the Bavarian tradition of Gemütlichkeit – at our weekly practices and meetings and other events ranging from dances, festivals, skiing, weekend outings and Christmas caroling – where we invade selected members homes and mix adult beverages and singing for some interesting results. These same members are also present and accounted for when work is required.

We have a full year of public events in 2022 celebrating our anniversary – these include Festwochenende, the Bavarian Festival, marching in the Munich Oktoberfest Parade and capped off with our 100th Annual Bauernball. For this the 100th Anniversary Committee, headed by George Mueller, deserves acknowledgement for a job well done.

Special thanks and appreciation to the PVV and the management team at Plattduetsche Park, our Verein’s Lokal and the location for all of our annual events, and the host for our 100th Festwochenende. We are fortunate to have a home at the “Letze Duetsche Insel” on Long Island.

In closing, I personally thank all the Mitglieder of Original Enzian that make up our great Verein and have allowed me the honor of representing them for past few years.

Für die nächste 100 Jahre!

Fest und Treu Haltn Z’am, Die Buam und Deandl vom Enzian

Ferdinand Huber
1. Vorstand
2022. April
Schuhplattler V.V. Original Enzian
2022 Vorstand

1. Vorstand...............................................................Ferdinand Huber
2. Vorstand..............................................................George J. Mueller
3. Vorstand...............................................................Gina Weiss
Schriftführerin........................................................Kirsten Mueller
Korrespondenz Sekretärin........................................Christina Kraker
Finanzsekretärin.....................................................Evelyn Agnoli
Kassierin...............................................................Cathy Neumann
Vorplattler..............................................................Richard Gecsedí

2. Vorplattler...........................................................Richard Rom
Vortänzerin..........................................................Christina Rom
2. Vortänzerin.........................................................Stefani Kraker
Trachtenmutter.......................................................Cornelia Rom
2. Trachtenmutter......................................................Constance Schaefer
Kinder/Jugend Vorplattler.........................................Karl Rubenacker Jr.
2. Kinder/Jugend Vorplattler......................................Richard Gecsedí
Kinder/Jugend Vortänzerin.........................................Christina Rom
2. Kinder/Jugend Vortänzerin.....................................Cindy Rom
Kinder/Jugend Trachtenmutter.....................................Pauline Gecsedí
Archivarin.............................................................Brigitte Kruzynski
Fahnenträger........................................................Robert Eppich Sr.
2. Fahnenträger.......................................................Robert Gierl
Bierfuchs...............................................................Richard Kruzynski
2. Bierfuchs............................................................Tom Gecsedí
Fahnenmutter.........................................................Edith Handeler, Barbara Huber
A Message from the 100th Anniversary Committee Chairperson

Planning for Original Enzian’s 100th Anniversary began in earnest back in 2018. Many of us felt that we had so much time to prepare and plan; 2022 still seemed so far away. At the time, I held the position of 2. Vorstand/Festleiter. Nervously, I felt it was time to kick off and formalize the creation of the 100th Anniversary Committee. A meeting was held where all members of Original Enzian were invited to contribute their thoughts on what and how we would celebrate this significant milestone. There were so many great ideas shared and we had the forethought to group them into separate areas of responsibility. I was honored to be nominated Chairperson of the committee and have been grateful for all the enthusiasm and help received since then, especially from those that stepped up to take on sub-committee leader responsibilities. Our sub-committees included Festwochenende Planning, Advertising, Journal, Hospitality, Commemoration, Historical, Flag/Fahnen, München Oktoberfest, Finances and Dancing.

I would also like to thank the Heimat und Trachten Verein Edelweiss in Chicago, who celebrated their 100th anniversary in 2014. They were very forthcoming in sharing their planning experiences with us.

Who knew, when we started, that we would be thrown a curveball with COVID and all its variants. For the past 2 years we have planned and replanned trying to take into account all the constraints, mandates and restrictions imposed on us. As I’m writing this, I hope that when you’re all reading this that we’re gathered in the Plattduetsche Park Ballroom and enjoying all the celebratory festivities including music, dancing and gemütlichkeit of our Festwochenende.

In closing, I would like to thank my sub-committee leaders who have been proactive and dedicated in making our 100th Anniversary plans possible. Your help has been invaluable.

Mit Trachtengruß,

George J. Mueller
2. Vorstand/Festleiter & Chairperson – 100th Anniversary Committee
S.V.V. Original Enzian

Robert Eppich Sr., Richard Gecsed, George Mueller, Eric Hoffmann, Karl Rubenacker Sr.
Dorothy Ann Neubauer, Cathy Neumann, Barbara Huber, Kirsten Mueller, Brittany Kontos
Message of Greeting
On the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of Original Enzian

Dear Members and Friends of Original Enzian,

It is my honor and distinct pleasure on behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany to congratulate you on your 100th anniversary. Herzlichen Glückwunsch!

The roots of your club go back to the Roaring Twenties when a group of talented immigrants took steps to foster the traditions and culture of their former home. With the foundation of the "Schuhplattler Vergnügungs Verein Enzian" in October 1922, you enriched this credo with a new facet. I am deeply impressed by what you have achieved in the past 100 years by promoting and encouraging an interest in Bavarian folk dancing and other expressions of German culture here in New York. With your effort and engagement, you allow people of every age group to experience German culture.

I can imagine that it was not easy to keep your club life alive during the last two years. I heard of some especially small clubs that had to close their doors. You made the best out of the pandemic. Original Enzian used the challenge and developed new formats, like the virtual Bavarian Festival. That is an asset for the preservation of your and our traditions.
One of my most important duties as Consul General is to connect our respective countries and people. Therefore, I wholeheartedly support clubs like yours where historic ties between Germany and America can be strengthened for the future. As the second oldest Schuhplattler organization in North America, you are an important contributor to German-American relations and friendship. The longstanding history of your organization has allowed it to take part in milestone events including the 1964 World’s Fair, the 1976 Bicentennial celebration in Philadelphia and even the 100th anniversary of the Brooklyn Bridge in 1983. Additionally, you have the distinction of having participated in every German-American Steuben Parade since its inauguration in 1957.

We need clubs like yours to have the chance to communicate and represent both countries and continue this important work of celebrating German heritage. Your outstanding commitment is honorable and appreciated.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude and respect to all members and friends. I believe Germany and the United States are and will continue to be “Wunderbar Together”.

Best wishes to you all for a wonderful and unforgettable 100th anniversary! The Original Enzian is a great gain for this state and has laid strong foundations for a promising future. I look forward to another 100 years of providing a truly authentic German experience to your members and to the general public.

All the best,

Ihr
David Gill
April 2, 2022

Dear Members of Schuhplattler V.V. "Original Enzian":

Congratulations on one hundred years of preserving and sharing your Bavarian culture and customs in both the New York City area, and throughout North America. This is a very significant occasion in your Verein's history and you should take pride in this accomplishment, and celebrate in a manner befitting this momentous milestone.

From the very beginning of your Verein's history, your members have shown an incredible ability to uphold your traditions and customs. This is evident in the fact that they were able to host a Fahnenweihe only four years after your founding! Your group was a strong presence in the formation of both the Vereinigte Bayern (1945), and Gauverband Nordamerika (1966), both organizations that share your Verein's ideals of preserving the Bavarian culture. Your continuous strong support of all Gauverband events, Gaufeste, Preisplatteln, and Delegates' Meetings has made your Verein one of the pillars contributing to the strong foundation of our beloved organization. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do.

On behalf of the Gauverband Nordamerika, the Ausschuß, and all the member Vereine, it gives me great pleasure to wish you a very happy and successful Festwochende, and an equally joyous celebration throughout the rest of this year, culminating in your participation in the Trachten- und Schützenzug at the Munich Oktoberfest.

Mit Trachtengruß,

[Signature]

Tom Vogt
1. Gauvorstand
Liebe Freunde,

It is a great honor for me to congratulate S.V.V. Original Enzian on their 100th Anniversary. Such a milestone certainly deserves a grand celebration which I know they have planned for all of their friends and guests.

As a founding member of the Vereinigte Bayern, and only the second Vereinigte Bayern Verein to achieve such longevity, we are grateful to them for one hundred years of continuing to promote our beloved Bavarian culture through song, dance, and Feste. For one hundred years they have entertained countless thousands with their performances and Feste, and have welcomed all of us with their warmth, hospitality, and friendship. For this, we all owe them our sincerest, “Vielen Dank!”

As we all enjoy this weekend's festivities, we thank them for all they have done for the Bavarian culture and wish them much success and continued friendship for the next One Hundred Years.

Pfälz di Gott!

Jim Grieco
1. Vorstand

April 1, 2022
Schuhplattler is a traditional folk-dance originating in the southern German region of Bavaria and the northern Austrian region of Tirol. The word Schuhplattler comes from the combination of the two words "Schuhe" (shoe) and "platt" (flat), referring to how the dancers strike their shoes with their open, flat hands to create a loud slapping noise. One of the earliest records of Schuhplattler dancing came from the poem, Roodlieb, written by a monk living in the Tegernsee Monastery located south of Munich around the year 1050AD. The poem described the fascinating courtship dances performed in the local alpine villages, though some historians believe the origin of the dance may be thousands of years earlier.

There are many different "Schuhplattler" dances. Each area of Bavaria and Tirol specialized in its very own. The "Haushammer" is considered the basis of all "Schuhplattler". Some of the dances are named after places such as the "Reit im Wink'l," "Ruhpoldinger," "Wendelstoana" and "Ammersee". One is even called "Auerhahn" just like the bird.

The modern form of Schuhplattler is very different from the type of dance performed before the 19th century. Schuhplattler was originally a male-only dance where the dancer would "freestyle" to the music with impressive athletic feats thought to mimic the courtship dance of the Spielhahn (or Auerhahn) bird. Today, the dances have become more standardized, with dance clubs each specializing in their regional dances. Schuhplattler is now usually performed in a group with synchronized movements that include both men and women, leading to the displays of energetic dances paired with colorful traditional clothing that you might see at our events.

If you are interested in learning the "Schuhplattler," Original Enzian would be glad to have you come to our practices. We typically meet Thursdays at 7:30 PM for children and 8:30 PM for adults at Plattduetsche Park, Franklin Square. Please contact us at info@originalenzian.org for more information.

"Fest und Treu Halt'n Z'am, die Buam und Deandl'n vom Enzian"
[United and Loyal We Stand Together, The Men and Women of Enzian]
S.V.V. Original Enzian

1 – Rene Gaspar
2 – Karl Rubenacker, Jr.
3 – Stefan Huber
4 – Mark Huber
5 – Michael Teplansky
6 – Garrett Reichelt
7 – Torsten Gliszczyński
8 – John Krakor
9 – Nick Kontos
10 – Andrew Faas
11 – Karl E. Rubenacker
12 – Kurt Rubenacker
13 – Markus Gruber
14 – Brendan Gecsedli
15 – Eric Neumann
16 – Robert Eppich, Sr.
17 – Karl Riesterer
18 – Eric Hoffmann
19 – Tom Gecsedli
20 – Karl L. Rubenacker
21 – George J. Mueller
22 – Ferdinand Huber
23 – Walter Kohler
24 – Richard J. Rom
25 – Thomas Schneider
26 – Richard Gecsedli
27 – Anna Eppich
28 – Anastasia Gaspar
29 – Sydney Froehlich
30 – Connie Schaefer
31 – Melissa Gecsedli
32 – Elke Rugen
33 – Stefanie Morscher
34 – Maria Gruber
35 – Kristina Kren
36 – Brigitte Kruzynski
37 – Bernadine Stropnicky
38 – Lisa Kohler
39 – Tanya Handler
40 – Heidi Goeb
41 – Stefani Krakor
42 – Christina Krakor
43 – Christina Rom
44 – Cornelia Rom
45 – Cindy Rom
46 – Katherine Teplansky
47 – Karin Rubenacker
48 – Evelyn Agnoli
49 – Cathy Neumann
50 – Irene Mueller
51 – Kirsten Mueller
52 – Brittany Kontos
53 – Gina Weiss
54 – Pauline Gecsedli
55 – Dorothy Ann Neubauer
56 – Jessica Weiss
57 – Mackenzie Clarke
58 – Liam MacNear
59 – Kevin MacNear
60 – Joseph Serrano
61 – Henry Wall
62 – Hazel Wall
63 – Charlotte Fogarty
64 – Katie Stropnicky
65 – John Neumann
66 – Matthew Neumann
67 – Norma Faas
68 – Sophia Huber
69 – Peter Mechler
70 – John Schwab
71 – Erich Neubauer
72 – Lukas Gruber
73 – Erik Gliszczyński
A Year in the Life of Original Enzian...

**JAN**
- Elections
- Ski Trip

**FEB**
- George Washington Dance

**MAR**
- Spring Dance/Heimatabend

**APR**
- 100th Anniversary Festwochenende

**MAY**
- Practice, practice, practice,...

**JUN**
- Bavarian Heritage Festival

**JUL**
- German Night @ Eisenhower Park
- PVV Volksfest

**AUG**
- Beach Party
- Steuben Parade Weekend
- Ompahfest
- Oktoberfest Season

**SEP**
- Riedlbauer’s Weekend

**OCT**
- Bauernball
- Christmas Outing
- Christmas Party
- Christmas Caroling
100th Anniversary
Schuhplattler U.A. “Original Enzian”
Franklin Square, NY
Founded in 1922

Founding to Silver Anniversary (1922 – 1947)

On October 4, 1922, a group of Bavarian, Austrian and German immigrants came together in the Manhattan neighborhood of Yorkville to discuss the formation of a club dedicated to the dance and music of their homeland. On October 22, 1922, Schuhplattler Vergnügen Verein Enzian was established. A club motto was adopted: “Fest und Treu Halt’n Z’an, die Buam und Deandl’n vom Enzian.” This motto, which translates to “United and Loyal we stand together, the Men and Women of Enzian”, is still recited before and after each club meeting and practice.

Schuhplattler Vergnügen Verein Enzian - 1922

The earliest Enzian club photo on record was taken in 1922 in Fink’s Park in the northern Bronx. That photo shows eight members of the Enzian band flanked by ten dancers, each holding a ribbon from a Maypole. They likely performed the Bandlantz, “Maypole Dance”, the day the photo was taken.
On September 25, 1926, Enzian dedicated its first flag with a traditional flag blessing or Fahnenweihe. The beautiful hand-stitched banner symbolizes Enzian’s heritage and purpose. The flag includes the club’s name, founding date, and the inscription “Treu dem guten alten Brauch, Sitt und Tracht der Alten wollen wir erhalten” which translates as “To Honor our Heritage, we Preserve the Customs, Traditions and Dress of our Ancestors.” GTV Almrausch, Philadelphia, a club which Enzian forged a strong friendship with, was asked to be Patenverein. Almrausch was presented with a banner commemorating the flag dedication. This Fahnenband is still in Almrausch’s possession today.

The next photo on record was taken in early 1927 of the Enzian Kapelle. It features Enzian President Teddy Milek standing in front of the 1926 Enzian Fahne. Peter Koska was the conductor of the band at that time. The Enzian Kapelle was considered to be one of the best German bands in New York City in the 1920’s and 1930’s.
The “Roaring 20’s” opened with Prohibition (1920-1933) and continued through the Great Depression (1929-1933). Enzian was resilient and remained active during this period by performing at annual events for many German organizations including fellow Schuhplattler clubs throughout the greater New York City area. Club meetings were held at the Deutsche Halle and Kreutzer Halle. Annual Enzian events for public attendance included a Bauernball, Old Fashioned Picnic, and Weinfest.

As the number of Bavarian clubs in the greater New York area increased, an umbrella organization called the Verband Bayerischer Vereine von Gross New York was formed in 1929. Enzian was a founding member.

In 1931, several members left Enzian and formed a separate organization. On April 15, 1933, as a result of the split, Enzian incorporated under the name Original Schuhplattler V. V. Enzian, Inc. From this point forward, Enzian became known as “Original Enzian.”

The filing for the 1933 incorporation outlined the organization’s intentions and desires, including:

- to foster a spirit of cultural and educational ideals
- to introduce, cultivate, exhibit and perform German and Austrian folk dances
- to inspire love for music, vocal and instrumental
- to promote a spirit of friendship, fraternity, civic pride and social intercourse among Americans and all other peoples
- to increase all voluntary activities which contribute to the greatness and glory of the United States and to the friendship of the United States and other nations
- to assist, by voluntary contributions, the distressed and poor
- to seek the improvement of social conditions
- to provide merriment, joy and entertainment by means of social gatherings, dances and meetings for its members and others
With the onset of World War II, activities of many German organizations ceased or were curtailed. However, Original Enzian continued to remain active. Original Enzian held its events in Yorkville, the Bronx and Brooklyn. The club showed strong support for the American troops by making donations and sending packages to our members in the US armed forces.

The year 1947 was a major milestone for Original Enzian. For its Silver Anniversary, the club held a 25th Jubiläum Bauernball on February 22, 1947, at the Yorkville Casino with music by two bands, the Mike Agnes Enzian Kapelle and the Karl Weiss Band. As you see from the advertising poster, the celebration started at 8:30pm and ended at “Wer Woass!” or “who knows!”
Silver to Golden Anniversary (1948 – 1972)

The post-war challenges faced by Bavarians touched the members of the Original Enzian. They, along with the other members of the Verband Bayerischer Vereine von Gross New York, provided direct aid to those who had lost so much in the war. Around this time the umbrella organization rebranded itself as the Vereinigte Bayern von Gross New York, Inc.

As post WWII prosperity increased, many Original Enzian members became homeowners. Several settled in the Ridgewood and Glendale communities of Queens. As a result, Original Enzian relocated its headquarters in 1951 to New Ridgewood Hall in western Queens, and subsequently to Glendale’s Welcome Inn in 1953. This remained club headquarters for some 25 years. In 1953 the 31st annual Bauernball was held at the beautiful and spacious Schwaben Hall located on Knickerbocker and Myrtle Avenues in Ridgewood, Brooklyn. The Original Enzian Bauernball continued to be hosted at the Schwaben Hall and featured the Mike Agnes Enzian Kapelle. The Bauernball often saw the Original Enzian perform the Kronentanz, featuring the lighting of the Reifen.

Performance of Kronentanz - 1949

On May 17, 1958, Original Enzian held a Fahnenweihe at Schwaben Hall to bless and dedicate a new and much larger flag. The new Fahne, made in Bavaria, depicts the significant cultural heritage associated with the organization and includes:

- crests of the old and new homelands (Bavaria and the United States)
- freedom and a new life of opportunity (Statue of Liberty)
- the organization’s name (Schuhplattlerverein Original Enzian)
- the beautiful blue Enzian along with clusters of other alpine flowers (Edelweiss and Almrausch)
- a dancing couple in ethnic Bavarian dress
- The inscription “Wir fördern mit Herz und Hand, stets Sitte und Bräuche aus unserem Heimatland” translates to “We continue with Heart and Hand to keep the Culture and Heritage of our Homeland.”
The connection with the original Patenverein, GTV Almrausch in Philadelphia, had been lost over the three decades since the first Fahnenweihe. Two local Bavarian organizations, Verein Die Würzburger and Ridgewood Bayern Verein, were honored as our Patenverein and Patenkind respectively. Fahnenbänder were presented to all clubs in attendance, including five Schuhplattler groups who performed Ehrentänze.

The first German-American Steuben Parade was held in 1956 with participants marching up Myrtle Avenue from Ridgewood into Glendale. In 1958, the Steuben Parade moved to its current location, New York's famous Fifth Avenue, marching up to 86th Street in Yorkville. Original Enzian has proudly participated and displayed its Bavarian and German heritage by marching in every one of the annual German-American Steuben Parades. Our adult and children marchers wear their Tracht, carry our flag, and attend an early morning mass in St. Patrick’s Cathedral where our flag is proudly presented. Many of Original Enzian’s young ladies have had the honor of being elected Cornflower Queen / Miss German-America, Princess and Junior Princess.

1964-1965 brought the World’s Fair to Flushing Meadows Corona Park in Queens. Original Enzian performed on several occasions, the first time with the United Bavarian Schuhplattler clubs at the Singer Bowl where over 100 couples took part. The second time was at the New York State Pavilion where Original Enzian performed the Kronentanz with fourteen couples.
Original Enzian is a founding member of the Gauverband Nordamerika, which was formed in 1966. The Gauverband is an organization of Schuhplattler Vereine from all over the United States and Canada. It holds a Gaufest, a convention and Schuhplattler competition, every two years. The Schuhplattler competition sees the top three clubs being awarded gold, silver, and bronze medals. Member clubs vie for the honor of hosting the Gaufest in their city by presenting a proposal at a biennial Gau delegates meeting. The first Gaufest was hosted by the Vereinigte Bayern at the Robert Treat Hotel in Newark, NJ in 1967.

At the March 1968 business meeting, Frank and Linda Keglovitz proposed that children should be encouraged to learn the Schuhplattler dances through the formation of a Kindergruppe or children's group. Up to this time, the only children being taught the Schuhplattler were those with parents or relatives in the Original Enzian. The Kindergruppe enabled Original Enzian to reach out to the German-American community at large to encourage participation by those under the age of 16. The announcement of the new Original Enzian Kindergruppe was greatly received by the German-American community in the greater Ridgewood and Glendale area. By early 1969, over 40 children were actively learning about their heritage and traditions, including the Schuhplattler. Without a doubt, the Kindergruppe has contributed to the longevity of Original Enzian. It has provided a source of new adult dancers and active members.
1972 marked Original Enzian's 50th Anniversary. Original Enzian hosted a dinner dance at Plattduetsche Park with approximately 600 in attendance. The highlight of the evening was Original Enzian’s presentation of a sixteen couple Kronentanz. The 32 Reifen carried by the dancers were covered with Princess Pine decorated with white and blue ribbons and lights representing the Bavarian flag. At the end of the evening all the Schuhplattlers in attendance performed a Massenplattler, featuring the Haushammer and Reit im Wink’l.
Golden to Diamond Anniversary (1972-1997)

During these 25 years, demand for performances by the Original Enzian Schuhplattlers continued to grow. The dancers performed all over the New York – New Jersey area for private engagements at Restaurants, Country Clubs, Cruises, Parks, Breweries, Churches, and Nursing Homes in addition to participation at the Gaufest and Fahnweihfe of various Schuhplattler Vereine. Original Enzian also performed at West Point, Bear Mountain, Great Adventure, the Waldorf Astoria, the World Trade Center, Ellis Island and the Westbury and Queens Botanical Gardens.

Original Enzian and Plattduetsche Park Restaurant’s shared vision of hosting an outdoor Oktoberfest style event led to the creation of the Long Island Bavarian Beer Festival. The first Bierfest spanned a three-day weekend, July 25-27, 1975. Like a mini version of the Munich Oktoberfest, there were beer tents, brass oompah bands, yodelers, and a Bavarian Marriage Bureau along with other novelty booths, and amusement rides for the kids. Great food included an authentic ox roast. The weekend attendance of over 7,000 people far exceeded any expectations. Years later the event was rebranded as the Long Island Bavarian Heritage Festival and is still held the second weekend in June.

Original Enzian proudly performed the Schuhplattler at many significant historical events:
- July 1976, at America’s Bicentennial celebration in Philadelphia
- 1980, at Giants Stadium in the Meadowlands in honor of German soccer star Franz Beckenbauer
- 1982, the Kindergruppe performed for ABC’s “Good Morning America” promoting German - American heritage in New York City
- June 1983, for the 100th anniversary of the Brooklyn Bridge
- 1986, for the 100th anniversary of the Statue of Liberty

Kindergruppe performing at the Long Island Bavarian Heritage Festival

In 1981, when 50 American hostages were released and returned home from Iran, the City of New York honored them at a special celebration at the famous Luchow’s German restaurant. Original Enzian performed the Kronentanz with the Reifens decorated with yellow ribbons and lights to mark their safe return.
Original Enzian became a contributor to the creation of a German-American Friendship Garden in Washington D.C. under the Presidential Commission for the German-American Tricentennial. The garden was commissioned in 1983 to mark the 300th anniversary of German immigration to America. The garden has a prominent position on the National Mall, near the Washington Monument. Members continue to support the Friendship Garden with an annual contribution associated with their membership dues.

Thanks to a strong relationship with Adam Barthalt and his band, Original Enzian had the good fortune to perform the Schuhplattler on several Oktoberfest themed Caribbean cruises in the 1970s and 1980s. The cruises left Fort Lauderdale, Florida with ports of call including Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Dancing at sea was always a challenge, especially for the girls while spinning. Original Enzian was also engaged in the mid-1970s to provide performances at a summer Oktoberfest in Kingston, Jamaica.

Original Enzian continued to compete at biennial Gaufests. The enthusiasm of our dancing members to participate, has allowed us to consistently field a team of six couples with two alternates. The Original Enzian dancers placed 6th at the 1975 Gaufest in Montreal and 5th at the 1993 Gaufest in Buffalo. The club improved and came closer to the podium with a 4th place finish at the 1995 Gaufest in Milwaukee.

In 1990 Original Enzian's 1958 flag was fully restored in Bavaria. The flag was rededicated and blessed on April 22, 1990 in Sacred Heart Church, Glendale. Fähnenträger Hermann Weber, flanked by Fähnenträgerin Edith Handeler and Maria Konrad, lead a mile long parade down Myrtle Avenue to the Glendale Memorial Building for a celebration.
Several years later, the club’s original 1926 flag underwent a complete restoration. To commemorate this milestone, over 100 members of Original Enzian gathered on Ellis Island on October 6, 1996, to bless and rededicate this flag. October 6th was selected as it is the anniversary date of the first immigrants from Germany arriving in America over 300 years ago. This was the first of several trips by Original Enzian to Ellis Island.

Original Enzian celebrated its 75th Anniversary in 1997. To commemorate this, we commissioned a silver medallion featuring a dancing couple on one side and a cluster of Enzian on the reverse.
On January 18th 1997, a Heimatabend was held at the Polish Hall in Port Washington. Over 300 Trachtlers were hosted by Original Enzian to kick-off our Diamond Jubilee. Our members donned their kitchen aprons and prepared a delicious Bavarian buffet which was enjoyed by all. Anniversary festivities continued at our annual Spring Dance and the Bavarian Heritage Festival, followed by participation at the 16th Gaufest held in Newark, Delaware. Original Enzian had strong participation at the St. Patrick’s Cathedral Mass preceding the 40th annual Steuben Parade where we proudly presented both of our restored flags, together for the first time. To round out the year, Original Enzian held its 75th Diamond Jubilee dinner-dance on November 8th, at the Plattduetsche Park Restaurant in Franklin Square. Music was provided by Die Spitzbuam. Following the Einmarsch, the combined Adult and Kindergruppe performed the Sternpolka. Festtänze performed by the Kindergruppe and Adults were the Bergmannstanz and Kronentanz respectively. The evening culminated with all Trachtlers in attendance performing the Gauplattler as a Massenplattler.
Diamond Anniversary to Centennial Celebration (1998-2022)

In the new Millenium, Original Enzian moved its headquarters to Plattduetsche Park Restaurant in Franklin Square, Long Island after 8 decades of calling New York City home. This seemed to be a natural progression for the club, given the annual Bauernball and Bayerian Heritage Festival were being held there since the 1970’s. Original Enzian became a member organization in 2005 of the Plattduetsche Volksfest Vereen Inc. (PVV), the owners of the festival grounds.

In 2006, **Vorplattler** Eric Hoffmann was approached by Lenny Coyne. Lenny indicated that some Hollywood producers were interested in seeing **echte** Bayerian Dancers. The producers came and watched our dancers perform the Kronentanz at Original Enzian’s Long Island Bayerian Heritage Festival. After spending the day at our festival, they decided to include some dancers in the 2006 Disney film, **Enchanted**. For a week they filmed at Central Park’s Bethesda Fountain, Belvedere Castle, Bow Bridge and other locations. If you watch the credits at the end of the movie, you will see the names of several Original Enzian members!

![Members of Original Enzian and other Schuhplattler Vereine with the Stars of Enchanted Amy Adams and Patrick Dempsey](image)

In conjunction with the June 2008 Bayerian Heritage Festival, Original Enzian hosted the **Mid-Atlantic Kinderfest**. **Kindergruppen** from across the Mid-Atlantic region came together at the Plattduetsche Park festival grounds to celebrate a day of friendship filled with music, games and of course Schuhplattler dancing. The Ice Cream Parade provided much needed relief on that sweltering June day. Each dancing child returned home with a souvenir Original Enzian branded duffel bag, many of which are still used to this day.

![Original Enzian Kindergruppe Performing the Miners Dance at the 2008 Kinderfest at Plattduetsche Park](image)

![Original Enzian Kindergruppe 2008 Kinderfest at Plattduetsche Park](image)
In celebration of our 90th and 95th anniversaries, Original Enzian hosted Heimat Abende for our members and fellow Trachtlers from neighboring Schuhplattler clubs. The Polish Hall was again chosen as the venue for these festivities. It has become a custom for our members to man the kitchen to prepare and serve a Bavarian buffet at these events.

It should come as no surprise that when Original Enzian was planning to host an event commemorating the 50th Anniversary of our Kindergruppe, that we once again found ourselves cooking in the kitchen of the Polish Hall. The afternoon’s festivities began with sounds of the *Tiroler Holzhauser Marsch* providing a pulse for the marching feet of all former and current Kindergruppe members in attendance. Led by the current Kindergruppe, a chronological succession of Vorplattler with their *Kinder*, dating all the way back to that first Kindergruppe in 1969, marched around the dance floor. Everyone participated in a rousing rendition of *Die Schnitzelbank*. A perfect cap to the afternoon was the Massenplattler, performed by all members, current and former, young and old, cherishing their memories and fostering new ones as they danced along.
GTV Almrausch discovered a Fahnenband presented to them by Enzian more than 90 years ago at our first Fahnenweihe in 1926. Upon investigation, they realized there was a special relationship between our clubs which had been lost over the years. We celebrated this discovery when GTV Almrausch invited Original Enzian to a Heimat Abend in April of 2019. The bond between Patenverein and Patenkind was renewed.

*Heimatabend with G.T.V. Almrausch Reuniting Patenverein and Patenkind - 2019*

Original Enzian continued to participate at the biennial Gaufests, holding fast to our conviction of fielding six couples on the competition dance floor. At the 2019 Gaufest in Washington D.C., Original Enzian medaled for the first time, taking the 3rd place prize.

*Original Enzian Third Place Gau Team - 2019*
Since March of 2020, COVID-19 restrictions imposed by the various Local, State and Federal governments resulted in a shutdown of most club activities including the:

- In-person meetings
- Spring Dance
- LI Bavarian Heritage Festival
- Summer Picnic
- Steuben Parade
- Bauernball
- Christmas season events
- Vermont Ski Trip

Once Original Enzian resumed meetings, they needed to be held remotely. Leading up to our June 2020 Heritage Festival, and with the foresight of our Vorstand, Original Enzian decided to put on a virtual event with music, Schuhplattler dancing, and other entertainment. Original Enzian’s “Virtual” Long Island Bavarian Heritage Festival can be viewed on both Facebook and YouTube.

Original Enzian has been planning the celebrations for our Centennial Jubilee since 2018. A 100th Anniversary Committee was established, including several sub-committees. Our hope is that you will be reading this during our Festwochenende at the Plattduetsche Park Restaurant and Biergarten. In 2022, we also look forward to hosting our annual Bavarian Heritage Festival in June and our Bauernball in November. We plan on competing in the Gaufest in Atlantic City in July. The highlight of our 100th Anniversary celebrations will be our planned September trip to Bavaria. This includes marching in the Trachtenzug to open the Munich Oktoberfest and performing in the Oide Wiesn.

The last 100 years have been awesome with many members of all ages having come and gone; all contributing to the legacy of Original Enzian. Without them, Original Enzian would not be where it is today. A special thanks and heartfelt congratulations to all members, past and present, who have contributed their time and energy to the continuance of Original Enzian. Always remember our Club Motto/Vereinsgruss which is recited at the start and end of each Original Enzian gathering:

“Fest und Treu Halt’n Z’am, die Buam und Deandl’n vom Enzian”
Schuhplattler V.V. Original Enzian
Vereinslokal
Plattduetsche Park Restaurant & Biergarten
1132 Hempstead Turnpike
Franklin Square, NY 11010
Practices: Thursday evenings, 7:00 Kinder 8:30 Adults
info@originalenzian.org

facebook.com/originalenzian/

Ski Trip - 2020

Riedlbauers - 2006

Kinderguppe - 2013

Riedlbauers - 2009

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Garufest - 2003

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Schuhplattler V.V. Original Enzian
"Das Beste" an ihre 100. Jubiläum

Join us for our Katharina Fest on November 6, 2022 at Plattduetsche Park Restaurant
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Happy 100th Anniversary

to our dear friends

Schuhplattler V.V. Original Enzian

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Original Enzian has been a great part of our lives.

We are proud of our 60 plus years of membership in
such a fine organization. (and I am still alive!)

I wish the Original Enzian continued success for
another 100 plus years to come.
Congratulations to all current and former Enzian members who have made possible our 100th Anniversary!

Sitt und Tracht der Alten wollen wir erhalten!

Karl & Karin Rubenacker

Christina, Karl, Karl & Kurt Rubenacker

Katherine & Michael Teplansky
DIE HERZLICHSTEN GLÜCKWUNSCHEN
ZUM 100. JUBILÄUM

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In loving memory of Ludwig, Luxie and Joe Gruber
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Zum 100. Jubiläum
wünschen
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In loving memory of Hermann Weber and Anna Schwarz

Immer in unseren Herzen und Gedanken
So Happy To Be a Small Part of These 100 Years!
The Huber Family
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Die beste Wünsche für die Zukunft!

Magda Schlierf
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Herzlichen Glückwunsch!

WE ARE PROUD TO BE A PART OF HISTORY. LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEXT 100 YEARS!

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Larry Dittmer
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wünschen Sonia Juran Kulesza u. Gabrielle Kulesza Weaver

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1. Vorplattler von Original Enzian

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jahr</th>
<th>Vorplattler</th>
<th>Jahr</th>
<th>Vorplattler</th>
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<tr>
<td>1944-1945</td>
<td>Willy Stärmer</td>
<td>1977</td>
<td>Bob Hoffmann</td>
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<td>Hans Grabner</td>
<td>1982-1983</td>
<td>Jerry Kelly</td>
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<td>1949</td>
<td>Willy Hohwald</td>
<td>1984-1985</td>
<td>John Gruber</td>
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<td>1960</td>
<td>Heinrich Nussbaumer</td>
<td>2002-2007</td>
<td>Eric Neumann*</td>
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<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>George Titza</td>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>Thomas Schneider</td>
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<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>Heinrich Nussbaumer</td>
<td>2010-2015</td>
<td>Eric Neumann*</td>
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<td>1963</td>
<td>Robert Denger</td>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>Eric Hoffmann</td>
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<td>1968</td>
<td>William Masel</td>
<td>2021-2022</td>
<td>Richard Gecsedi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969-1971</td>
<td>Frank Keglovitz</td>
<td>* Ehren i. Vorplattler</td>
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</tr>
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</table>
Unsere Freunde

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Prost! - Sydney Froehlich
Go Enzian 100th! - Eric Hoffman
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Congratulations – The Gliszczynski Family

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100 Years & Getting Stronger – Heidi Goeb
Prost to 100 years – The Agnoli Family
Cathy Neumann

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Katherine and Michael Teplinsky
Augusta Wachsmann

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To you, for celebrating this milestone with us...
To the contributors of this 100th Anniversary Journal.

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November 5th

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Heidi Goeb for her cover design and customized ads!
Karl Rubenacker Sr. and Stefan Huber for their contributions to the 100th journal history.
George Mueller, our 100th Anniversary Chair.

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