



Founded 1871

Los Angeles Turners



News October-November 2010

Discussions



My dear fellow Turners,



I have begun my letters to you with these words for some 14 years now, and I have been privileged to serve you the members, my Turner Society, and our community for what is more than a tenth of our group's 139 year history in Los Angeles.

Ours is a historic organization, the Turners are special. From the early thinkers of 1848 who came from Germany, through President Lincoln's bodyguards at his inauguration, with the pioneers who brought physical education to the American public schools and by the many athletes on US Olympic teams, we Turners have had a mission. Although the dawn of social networking on the internet and big-screen home entertainment has taken its toll on organizations everywhere, we stand together, we sing, we fence, we socialize, and most of all, enjoy each others company. For all of these reasons and more, it has been a source of deep joy to have served.

I am proud to have made a contribution to an era of peace, financial revival, an elegant new cultural center, of stretching our arms to embrace young new members and building close ties to the American Turners, the Ger-

man American League, our LA city council district and to our consulates, with the modern media of a website and a newsletter to keep us connected.

Whatever achievements I have accomplished I share with the good people who have stood beside me and behind me. I am grateful to our members who have over these years given their time and effort and worked with me to build the LA Turners.

As I pass the gavel to Vice President Carole Brennan, and move off the Board to an honorary post, I want to say that I value the chance to have been entrusted for nearly a decade and half with the responsibility of leading our LA Turner Society. I thank you the members, for the tremendous support you have given me, the members of our Board of Directors for the encouragement and teamwork they have always provided, and to the larger community around us for their ongoing welcome.

We have taken Turnvater Jahn's fellowship into the second decade of the 21st century, and this is what I hope you will remember as the legacy of these years.

With fond Turners greetings,

Dennis Fredricks
Dennis Fredricks
Honorary President

End of an Era And A New Beginning

Dennis Fredricks steps down this month from the presidency of the Los Angeles Turners after 14 years, the longest serving president of the oldest German-American organization in the Southwestern US. The LA Turners (then Turnverein Germania) was established in 1871, and Dennis' tenure spans more than 10% of the group's existence. His term will best be remembered for relocating the society into the cultural center in the Westchester District of LA, for re-establishing the ties to the American Turners, the German-American League, the German-speaking consulates, for rejuvenating the membership, for commissioning the launch of both the website and newsletter, and for instituting badges of membership such as lapel pins, logo-shirts and Karneval medals.

Dennis worked to build relationships in the community and provided German-World Magazine's first headquarters rent-free. He led the Turners in co-sponsoring a jazz night with the Goethe Institut and the "Immortal beloved" program as well as the Karl May lectures with the German American Cultural Society and the an opera workshop with UCLA which featured an instructor from Germany. He has cooperated with the German American League on numerous ventures. He still talks about the 2008 American Turners Convention in Fort Wayne, and the many new friends that he and the LA delegation made there. The 2011 National Council meeting of the American Turners will be the first ever to be held in LA.

Through his friendship with TOP Magazin Köln publisher Rainer Schillings he has built a strong bridge to Germany and with several organizations in the Rheinland as well as with the popular journalist who is today a member of the honorary Trustees of

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Calendar 2010

October

- 2 DAV - German American Day - Alpine Village, 4-6pm
- 16 Bavarian Club - 2nd Oktoberfest - John Borowitz Band
- 16 L.A. Soccer Club - Las Vegas Night
- 23 Austrian American Club - Austrian National Day Celeb.

November

- 7 LA Turners - General Membership Meeting at the Los Angeles Turner Center, 1-3 pm
- 13 Santa Monica Club - Dinner Dance - Connection
- 14 Damenchor Frohsinn - Fall Concert - Alpine Village
- 20 LA Soccer Club - Anniversary Dance - Express Band
- 27 Santa Monica Club - Thanksgiving Dinner

December

- 5 DAV - Childrens' Christmas Party
- 11 L.A. Soccer Club - Christmas Party / Bluebirds
- 12 Donauschwaben - Weihnachtsfeier
- 17 DAV - Delegate Meeting & Weihnachtsfeier
- 18 Santa Monica Club - Christmas Party / Lazlo Duo

End of an Era And A New Beginning

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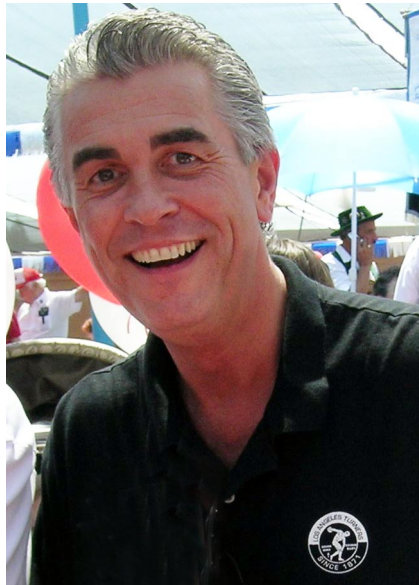
the LA Turners. As a fencer since childhood, Dennis brought the 'turnen' back to Turners when he formed the fencing squad of the Turners and recruited top coaches as members.

It was a rocky start in 1996. Dennis was still a new Turner when he received the call that the sitting president had unexpectedly resigned the night before, and that he was the new top man. He inherited, what many regarded as a troubled Board, a declining membership, a hemorrhaging bank account and a clubhouse requiring substantial repair that was not suited to a community group's needs. He called an emergency members meeting to map out the future and set out to build a new progressive Board of Directors. He got the telephones working, had a fax machine installed and had a computer and a new big-screen television donated for movie and sports afternoons. He recruited me to take on the creation of a newsletter and a website.

Immediate to his 1996 agenda was commemorating the 125th anniversary of the Turners, for which he invited then-Consul General Hans Alard von Rohr to be the honorary patron. Prominent actor Eric Braeden and Deputy Consul General Josef Beck co-helmed the 130th anniversary, which had performances and dancing and was the first Turners event to be videotaped.

The sale of the old Turnerhaus at Wilshire and Highland and the acquisition and remodeling of the new Turner Center were the central themes of the last five years.

Dennis Fredricks led the quest for a new home. After selling the old Turner Center for more than even the realtors envisioned, Dennis negotiated a favorable price for the former Westchester Library because he saw the potential for this building to be an amazing center for the Turners' Purpose.



Dennis Fredrick's professional life has also brought credit to the Turners'. He is the managing attorney of the firm of Fredricks & von der Horst in West Los Angeles and is Special Counsel to the German and Austrian Consulates General and to the Austrian Trade Commission in Los Angeles, and a consulting attorney for the Consulates General of six other European nations. He holds the Federal Cross of Germany, the Amicus Poloniae from the Republic of Poland, the Freedom Medal from the Republic of Hungary, and in 2009 was named Commercial Ambassador of the City of Köln. His seminar series for the diplomatic missions is in its eighth year. He will soon be training his 100th Referendar, many of whom have visited Turners events over the years.

Though Dennis passes the acting gavel, he will be an Honorary President of the Turners for consultation and assistance. He also remains active as board member of the Austrian American Council West, the Friends of Goethe and the German American Cultural Society. Dennis has often said how he regretted that his presidency started on a chaotic note and neither of his predecessors was there for counsel. He met Carole Kulzer Brennan at a Zachary luncheon years

ago, brought her to the LA Turners and recruited her for the Board. She had been a Turner in Chicago and remains active in many non-profit organizations. As Vice President, Carole will succeed him in a harmonious transition and Dennis is glad that a capable president will continue the work.

Dennis hands over a professionally designed architectural gem in Westchester, a younger membership than the Turners had in 1996, an excellent Board of Directors and an orderly presidential succession, a newsletter and a website, Turners are at the helm of the German American League and on the Board of the American Turners, and the tradition of the LA Turners remains intact since 1871. This is his legacy.

Alexander Hast

Our "Gemütlicher Abend"

with Karaoke and Ventriloquist was



a huge success. We are looking at doing a similar member night every month.

BIRTHDAYS

October

Kuno Gertz	Oct. 7
Bill Williamson	Oct. 13
Hildegard Winders	Oct. 13
Carl Spahr	Oct. 19

November

Janet Buccowich	Nov. 1
Uwe Russmann	Nov. 4
Richard Imendorf	Nov. 5
John Crongeyer	Nov. 7
Gerry Woodruff	Nov. 16
Walter Nollac	Nov. 26

December

Christel Chang	Dec. 2
Else Lotz	Dec. 8
Angie Hegedus	Dec. 16
Ilse Stassart	Dec. 17

Congratulations!

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