



Los Angeles Turners

August/September 2002

News

Letter
Editor & Layout
Alexander Hest

Fencing with the Los Angeles Turners

Back to their roots - Turners offer a traditional sport to their members

To return in part to our athletic origins, we are considering starting a weekly fencing program at the Turnerhaus. Fencing was one of the core-sports during the years of athletic focus at the LA Turners. It is great exercise, open to men and women, and along with tennis and golf, is one of the sports which one can pursue over a lifetime without any major loss of competitive ability.

Our resident fencer, Dennis Fredricks, would be the instructor. Our "strip" would be the wooden squares we use for our dance floor, laid out in our main room. To make the evenings truly competitive and to give each participant a variety of opponents, we are looking for a minimum of 8 participants in order to start the program.

Initial sessions will be an introduction to basic technique. You will need to bring only sport shoes and white shorts, knickers or sweatpants. If the program has the necessary interest and we bring back fencing as an LA Turners' activity, the Turners will provide the necessary gear.

Please call Dennis' office at (310) 820-3600 before August 18, 2002 if you are interested and will commit to a three-month program. If we receive the needed number of participants, we will call you back for an organizational meeting. Sessions will be on Monday or Thursday nights, 7:45-8:45PM, as the majority of new fencers prefers.

Let's put the "Turnen" back in "Turners"!

Garden Concert with Champagne

More than 70 music lovers enjoy a delightful afternoon with the Singers

On Sunday, June 23, 2002, two days after the start of summer, the Turners invited friends and members to their Summer Garten Konzert. Shortly after 2:00 pm on this gorgeous day, the first guests arrived, helping themselves to Kaffee & Kuchen of their choice from a plentiful buffet.

Dennis Fredricks, President of the Turners, welcomed the guests and singers, followed by Lilly Layton, Vice-President and Choir Leader, who also greeted the large group of guests and introduced the songs. "A musical trip through the Brandenburger Land" was the theme of the Garten Konzert that was prepared for in the lacy shade of the beautiful garden of the Turnerhaus. As Lilly Layton explained, at the end of 2001 the journalist Friedrich Landkammer had written an article about the LA Turners. A copy of this article ended up with Irmgard Büchschütz in Berlin through her brother, who lives in Palm Springs. Irmgard Büchschütz felt touched by the dedication of the Turner Singers and immediately sent a letterpackage to Choir Leader

Lilly Layton that contained texts and notes of a range of songs that her late husband had created in his long and productive life.

In his youth, Gustav Büchschütz, born in 1902, joined the popular Youth Movement of the "Wandervögel" (Wander Songbirds). Evidently the spirit of the Wandervögel Movement must have influenced Mr. Büchschütz deeply, because many of his songs describe his love for wandering,

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Calendar preview

with participation of Turners

August 25:

German American Day
in Alpine Village

September 15, 2 pm:

Turners Oktoberfest

October 20, 3 pm:

General Membership meeting



Garden Concert with Champagne

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singing and "Gemütlichkeit". In his long and active life - he died in 1994 - Büchschütz created a vast treasure of music with mostly folksy themes, many of them expressing his love for the Brandenburger Land, the beautiful Berlin County, but also contemplative songs. Thanks to the generosity of Irmgard Büchschütz, the Turner Singers were able to choose from the treasure to share the songs with their guests, as their new, talented director, Linda Kaan, accompanied them on the keyboard.

Just as the Turners were finished singing the last song, dedicated to all guests recently celebrating their birthdays, Horst Neu, President of the German South Bay Club, his wife Ellen and two of their sisters from Canada, entered the garden, bringing a bouquet of flowers for Lilly Layton. Since on this day it was the birthday of both, Horst Neu and his wife Ellen, the Turners sang the joyous birthday song by Gustav Büchschütz one more time.

As in the past, the Turner Singers felt very pleased to have so many loyal friends as their guests in their midst; some of them, who were coming as representatives of other German clubs, i.e. Margaret Wobig, president of the Damenchor Frohsinn; Willi Jablonski, president of the MGV Frohsinn; Annie Surface, representative of the Phoenix Club Gemischter Chor and Fritz Schmid, representative of the LA Schwabenverein.

After the concert there was a break for more Kaffee & Kuchen, but also some hearty Abendbrot (bread with cold cuts), before Lilly invited all guests to join in for a Singalong. Director Linda Kaan

Horst and Ellen Neu celebrated their birthdays with the Turners.

spontaneously accompanied the Singalong on the keyboard. The many magically smiling faces were witness of the enjoyment that guests and singers alike were having with the songs that most of them had already sung in their childhood. As always, Ray, Lilly's husband, was diligently serving at the bar plenty of delicious drinks the entire afternoon.

Towards the end of the afternoon, the Turners were happy to welcome to their ranks a new member, Gisela Heumann, who was introduced by Carl Schaefer, the Historian of the Turners. Still, a few surprising performances added to the enjoyment: Willy Jablonsky, President of the MGV Frohsinn, sang "Die Kirschen in Nachbars Garten" and „Schütt die Sorgen in ein Gläschen Wein", followed by the solo song "Vor meinem Vaterhaus", presented by Fritz Schmid, representative of the LA Schwabenverein.

Classical tunes, played by Turner member Wolfgang Sauer on the grand piano inside the Turner House, were accompanying the closing hour, as the many helping hands of guests and Turner Singers were moving dishes, tables and chairs back into the building.



Meet the Board

Most of our members know the board, but not many know the history behind the faces. In this issue we introduce the Laytons: Ray, our Chief Financial Officer, and Lilly, our Vice President and Choir Leader.

Ray and Lilly Layton are longtime dedicated Turners and have been serving on the Board of Directors since 1996. Residing in southern California for more than 32 years, both had a professional career with GTE (Verizon).

Ray grew up in Chicago and served in the US air force in the 1950's. Lilly calls Thuringia, Germany, where she spent her childhood and youth years, her beloved "Heimat". She came to the US in 1958.

Besides his duties as Chief Financial Officer,



Lilly & Ray Layton: The heart and soul of the Los Angeles Turners.

Ray also takes care of the Turner buildings and garden and fully supports our Singers, Lilly's favorite group of people, and she considers all of the members her friends. She continues to promote our German heritage and culture with her tireless effort to keep the choir singing and performing, and thus the LA Turners active as a club. As a team, Ray and Lilly plan and coordinate events at the Turner Center and have dedicated their retirement years exclusively to the Los Angeles Turners.

Stitch & Bitch afternoon

The Turner Singers plan to hold "Stitch & Bitch" afternoons on Tuesdays at 3 pm before choir rehearsal. Interested members can call Lilly Layton: (805) 485-2085.

Watch Movies with the Turners

The Los Angeles Turners hold their German language movie afternoon every first Sunday of the month. On this occasion the Turners present the most beautiful German movies.

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Vice President/Choir Leader:

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The audience (top) enjoys the concert and Angie (right) watches the Turner's mascots, Henery (left) and Pee-Wee, during the breaks.

Without the dedication of all the lovely people involved with the Turners, the Konzert would not have been such a great success. Thanks to all of you; guests, helpers and members alike!

At about 7 pm, a delightful afternoon of singing, sharing of food and memories came to an end, with apparently many of the music lovers looking forward to the next Wiedersehen.

Uwe Russmann

Birthdays

August 2002

Lisa Schmitt	Aug. 21
Helga Niwa	Aug. 22
Erwin Tuppan	Aug. 23
William Dinsenbacher	Aug. 26
Henri Schneider	Aug. 26

September 2002

Karen Imendorf	Sept. 2
Wolfgang Sauer	Sept. 23
Inge Wolgast	Sept. 27
Otto Friedler	Sept. 29
Marianne Thielemann	Sept. 29