



# Los Angeles Turners News

MAY TO JULY 2006

**letter**  
Editor & Layout  
Alexander Hast

## WE'RE BACK

The Turners newsletter is back with articles, news items and photos. The long hiatus was occasioned by the 18 month campaign to sell the Wilshire/Highland Turnerhaus and to find and then negotiate the purchase of the new location, which became the Turner Center, located in Westchester. The two large transactions needed the input of only the Turner members, based upon information that was, at the time, confidential to Turner members. For this reason, our communications were through Rundschreiben – letters sent only to the members.



### HAPPY 99!

– Best wishes to longtime Turner Ellen Knodel who celebrated her 99th birthday on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

## WE'RE "HOUSED" AGAIN

On December 29, 2005, the Turners closed on the purchase of a well-designed stone building that was formerly home to the Westchester Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library, first located by Carl Schaefer. The new building has a large open hall, with a high ceiling,

making it ideal for the type of dinners, dances, concerts, fencing-meets, Karnevalsitzungen and Heurigen that the old Wilshire/Highland Turnerhaus could never accommodate.

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## Discus

Short bytes from



## sions

the discus thrower

### 135 YEARS YOUNG

How the time flies! Only yesterday, we celebrated 130 years, and this year another milestone is at the door. 135 years have passed since that historic convergence of the Los Angeles Turnverein and the Teutonia-Concordia Turn- und Singverein, a fusion that became, with time, the Los Angeles Turners. We celebrate the anniversary this year with a gala film premiere, co-sponsoring the festive opening of the Goethe Institut's blockbuster film series. More news to follow as the time draws nearer.

### INGE CRONGEYER IS DAV MAIKÖNIGIN



2006 May queen crowned at German American League's Spring event.

Bottom right: German Day at the Alpine Village. German Consul General Dr. Christian Stocks (right) and then-DAV President Frigga Breitenstein (left) enjoy the occasion with Turners Willi Jablonski and Alexander Hast.



From the DAV Maifest 2006 (photo) to German Day - The Turners were present.



# Choir Notes

**After the sale of the LA Turnerhaus on Wilshire Blvd. in Los Angeles, the singers found themselves homeless. Everyone missed the weekly choir practice. But on October 18, 2005, the singing started again in a rented space at the LA Soccer Club in North Hollywood.**

Earlier, the Frohsinn Männerchor had invited the LA Turner Singers to sing at the Frohsinn final concert on Nov. 20 2005 at the Phoenix Club and singing at the LA Soccer Club gave the choir a chance to practice for this concert. For some of the singers the long trip to North Hollywood was a real sacrifice.

Finally, on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, 2006, the choir met for the first time at the new Turnerhaus in Westchester. The singers were happy to be able to be together again. There were no chairs, piano or music notes only a huge room with yards and yards of book shelves. Edelgard Pedersen and her husband brought the keyboard back which they had stored at their house and with Ollie Rasbury, the choir director, it was a new beginning

for the choir at the new home.

Some singers of the former Frohsinn Männerchor missed the singing and had joined in the weekly practices on Tuesday night, but regretted not to be able to continue and become choir members of the LA Turners. The trip to Westchester, taking sometimes over two hours one way, was getting too much. But four new singers joined the Choir: Willi Jablonski, Elise Olsen, Renate Kix and Carole Brennan.

Since March 21, Pianist Mariam Gasparian supports Ollie and the choir in introducing new songs. On May 2, The choir celebrated Ellen Knodels 99th birthday. Ellen has been with the singers for many years.

Right now the choir is busy building up a new repertoire of songs. It is the biggest wish to have their next concert in the renovated Turnerhaus. The choir practice is every Tuesday at 7:30pm, 8946 S. Sepulveda Eastway, Westchester, CA 90045.

*Inge Crongeyer*

**WELCOME WILLI** – Reinforcing and invigorating the men's section of our Turner Singers is longtime Frohsinn President and respected vocal artist, Willi Jablonski, who together with a group of men from the Frohsinn, has joined the bonds of the Turners.



**"NOW CUT THAT OUT!"** – That line was made famous in the 1950's and 1960's by radio and television star Jack Benny. The late comic lives again at the KSLG Playhouse Theatre Players where Turner Peter Marx portrays him in a one-act play on May 26th at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10. Call Peter at 310-442-0052.

**KUDOS is HUGO'S** – A tip of the Turner's hat to Hugo Bakos who was elected to the post of Recording Secretary of the Deutsch-Amerikanischer Verband.

**DORIS and BORIS** – Baby Sophie has company! Baby George Douglas weighed in with seven pounds.

## Birthdays

### May

Ellen Knodel	May 4
Arnold Giesbret	May 11
Inge Crongeyer	May 14
Kurt Toppel	May 14
Elise Olsen	May 15
Carl Schaefer	May 17
Irma Hast	May 19
W.A. Altmann	May 24

### June

John Beckner	June 9
Marianne Williamson	June 12
Betty Giesbret	June 13
Hugo Bakos	June 15
Edelgard Pedersen	June 17
Alexander Hast	June 20
Hans Mueller	June 21
Walter Fuernkaes	June 23
Carole Brennan	June 24
Petra Schuermann	June 27

### July

Lieselotte Cresmer	July 2
Anton Merle	July 7
Renate Schneider	July 10
Eugen Goetz	July 14
Christa Dinsnbacher	July 18
Carolyn Mueller	July 21
Eliane Ubassy	July 30
Horst Niemann	July 31



*The Turners table at the 2006 Königsball. The Ball was sponsored by the Donau-schwäbische Tanzgruppe.*

**THEATRICAL TURNERS** - Renate Kix and Angie Hegedus enjoyed the performance of "NEVER GONNA DANCE" at Musical Theatre West in Long Beach, with tickets Angie won at Christmas. Turner Carole Brennan is with the MTW and arranged the ticket-prize, and can secure group rates for twelve Turners or more (562) 938-9026.

**WOMEN TO THE FORE** – The last 12 months enriched the Turners with several great new members and women took the lead. Carole Brennan, already a Turner in Illinois, Irma Hast, Renate Kix, Elise Olsen and Lilian Radulea were sworn in to the Los Angeles Turners family.

# "HOUSED" AGAIN



WESTCHESTER  
8946

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Although the new building features better potential facilities, buying it made good financial sense as well. We sold the old Turnerhaus for \$3,010,000, with the help of the brokers at Bailes & Associates. After Bailes' best price for

the new building was \$1,800,000, Dennis Fredricks took over the negotiations and lowered the purchase price that we paid for the new Turner Center to \$1,675,000. Closing escrow on time, at 6:00 PM on December 29, 2005, was made possible by Alex Hast's now notorious freeway ride to the title company, arriving just five minutes before the 6:00 PM deadline!

## MAKING A HOUSE INTO A HOME

The future Turner Center has the solid stone frame of a great cultural center and fraternal home for the Turners. The months ahead will require effort to get it there.

Zoning will be the first challenge and remodeling will be the second.



**ELIANE UBASSY NEW CFO**  
- The longtime Board member assumes treasurer job after Alex Hast steps down to take the post of General Manager of the new Turner Center.

Los Angeles' complex zoning laws are so restrictive, that purchases of buildings invariably need variances or conditional use permits unless they maintain the exact same use of the premises.

We had placed offers to buy area Masonic and for Elks Lodges, which are the same uses, but did not succeed. The Westchester Building that we purchased had been a library, and the Turners are not. To get us through the bramblebush of zoning, we are retaining Steve Afriat of The Afriat Consulting Group, a veteran land use consultant with many successful campaigns behind him on the West Side of Los Angeles.

Alex Hast is coordinating the remodeling of the Turner Center in step with the pace of the zoning. Visit the Turners Center these days and you will see a great many improvements from even one month ago.



# Turners out and about



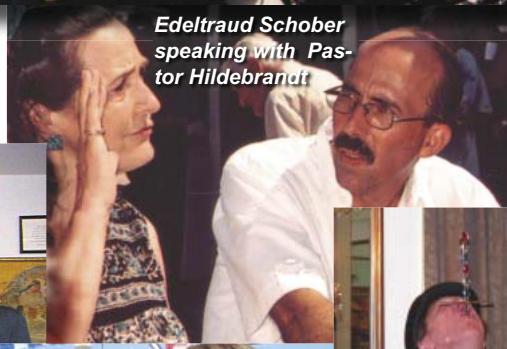
Join us at the Turners' table!



Former German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer (left) and Turners President Dennis Fredricks.



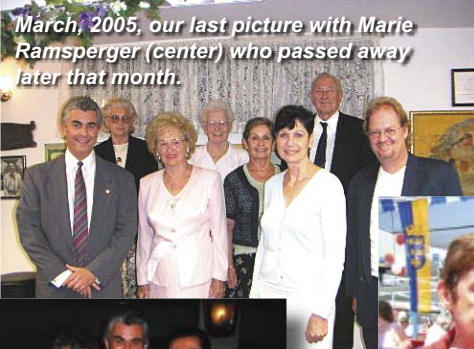
Opä John Crongeyer with the grandkids.



Edeltraud Schober speaking with Pastor Hildebrandt



"Those lazy, hazy, crazy days of Summer..."



March, 2005, our last picture with Marie Ramsperger (center) who passed away later that month.



Renowned actor and honorary Turner Eric Braeden, DAV-topper Resi Lengsfeld (DAV) and Dennis Fredricks (l-r).



Eliane Ubassy and Irma Hast sharing the moment.



Turners at the DAV's 100th Anniversary Gala.

<< Miracle Man Dave Markham swallowed swords at the Turners Christmas Party.



Parents of Sophie and George, Boris and Doris.



German-World publisher and fellow Turner Petra Schürmann at the mic.



Wearing the colors at Austrian-American Day.

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