



Mitteilungen

A publication of the

Sacramento Turn Verein

German-American Cultural Center – Library

Volume VIII, No. 2

April, May, June 2009

LEDERHOSEN

A Bavarian fashion tried and true

Americans might be tempted to consider German Lederhosen as kitsch, but they wouldn't think of putting that label on American blue jeans.

The point is that both are respected, well established items of clothing – and both have their roots in Bavaria. (Levi Strauss, the founder of what became the blue jeans craze, emigrated from Buttenheim, Bavaria.)

Nobility gets its kicks

During the Rococo period in Bavaria (the earlier 1700s), the nobility made entertainment for themselves by pretending to be country folk and enacting country weddings of farmers and day-laborers. In the process, they wore the appropriate peasant-style attire.

Playing “dress-up,” these nobles donned costumes just like the country people – except that the country people's Lederhosen were simple, constructed from black leather made from sheep skins, while the nobility's Lederhosen were made from expensive leather – deer skin or skin from other Alpine animals like chamois.

(The right to hunt these animals was reserved for the nobility.)

A yearning for ‘the simple life’

It was the clothing of the farmers and hunters in mountain country, especially those in the Alps, that attracted this higher society to the “simple life.” That clothing consisted of the short Lederhosen as well as the slightly longer “*Kniebundhose*.”

Although Lederhosen are still rather commonly seen in Bavaria, there are occasions at which they are “must” apparel – like the *Trachtenverein* (associations dedicated to

preserving traditional culture and costumes), as well as the *Schützvereine*, or shooting clubs.

At a time when people were looking for “the simple life,” their eyes turned toward the mountains, and to the clothing of farmers and hunters, from the Alps in particular.

That is where the short Lederhosen and the “*Kniebundhose*” became the everyday male attire.

In the early 19th century, this clothing became a means of honoring one's home country – in Tyrol, Salzburg, or in the Steiermark, as well as in the Kingdom of Bavaria.

Obscene! they cried

Unfortunately, the Catholic clergy was hardly amused. In fact, it banned, as “obscene,” both these short leather pants as well as the traditional décolleté Dirndl dresses that women were wearing.

The bann was ineffective, however, and these peasant outfits eventually became socially acceptable.

The ‘Lederhosen caper’

On one notable occasion in 1883, six brash fellows got together and went to church on Sunday wearing Lederhosen, where all they got for their trouble were laughs.

Their display of all that bare skin, however, was considered an offense against accepted morals guarded by the Church, which made the decision to dispel from church masses anyone wearing these disgraceful outfits.

Then in 1913, the archbishop chair in Munich declared the “Short-Lederhosen Association” immoral, whereupon the six fellows founded their own club for the preservation of the traditional dress in Leitzachtal and Bayrischzell.

Fortunately, though, they found support in a very high



The Sacramento Turn Verein's German-American Cultural Center is dedicated to preserving the same proud German heritage that was instrumental in the founding of the Sacramento Turn Verein in 1854. The Sacramento Turn Verein, a member of the German-American Heritage Foundation in Washington, DC, meets in the old “Turner Hall,” at 3349 J Street in Sacramento, where its German-American library is housed. Visitors are welcome.

place –King Ludwig II, who happened to be, just like his father,, a huge *Trachten*-fan. (the word *Trachten* refers to the clothing styles of specific localities.)

This interest in *Trachten* was part of a movement whereby a sudden interest in ancient customs and traditions led to the development of a strong interest in the preservation of clothing styles, especially Lederhosen.

Thus Lederhosen became an accepted, or even required, part of any event, including church masses, *Fingerhakeln* (the sport of pulling your opponent across the table with interlocked fingers) and dancing festivals.



Loferi, socks worn with Lederhosen

Even Austrian Emperor Franz Josef, during his stays in Bad Ischl (Upper Austria) appeared in Lederhosen on every suitable occasion. A bronze monument of him dressed in hunting attire still stands there.



Just like the kilt

“What the kilt is to the Scots, Lederhosen are to the proper mountain-dweller,” says Franz Grieshofer, director of the Austrian Folklore Museum in Vienna.

In the same way that kilts were worn around the world, he said, the Lederhosen has become increasingly popular.

Soccer pay-back

German soccer champions Bayern Munich, to get back at the fans of the opposing teams who chant, “Pull the Lederhosen off the Bavarians,” intentionally arrive at away- games dressed in Lederhosen.

The joy of stylishness

As indispensable as beer

Although Lederhosen have long been replaced by blue jeans or suit pants in everyday life, this piece of cultural history is still just as essential at festivals, church processions, and the anniversaries of *Trachtenvereine* as beer is essential at the Oktoberfest.

Mitteilungen

Quarterly newsletter of the Sacramento Turn Verein’s German-American Cultural Center – Library, 3349 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95816

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EDITOR

Shirley J. Riemer

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E-mail: Lorelei@softcom.net

German Butchering Traditions – at Home and in the Butchering Trade

Friday, April 17, 7:30 p.m. Free admission

Presented by four experts, about their life experiences in the butcher trade in Germany and Switzerland



A program of the German-American Cultural Center – Library

A fragrance with a colorful history: '4711'

Talk to a German with strong memories of his or her grandmother, and you may hear mention of her affection for "4711."

This is a fragrance produced in Germany – a fragrance with a very peculiar name.

Its full name is *Echt Kölnisch Wasser, 4711* (pure water of Cologne, 4711.)

The story behind this "water of Cologne" is one of secrecy, a pragmatic event, sheer coincidence, and German women's long devotion to it.



The story of 4711, which carries with it a reputation for quality and prestige, goes like this:

It was 1792, during Napoleon's occupation of German lands west of the Rhine, when a fellow named Wilhelm Mühlens, son of a wealthy banker, was being married in Cologne.

A friend of the Mühlens family, a monk whom they had helped during these difficult times, presented Mühlens and his bride with a little wedding gift, just one among the many lavish gifts the couple received. It was just a piece of paper, but it turned out to be valuable indeed, for this paper contained a secret formula for a supposed elixir called "Aqua Mirabilis" (miracle water).

Two years after the wedding, Napoleon's troops were occupying the city of Cologne (*Köln*). By this time, Wilhelm Mühlens had already begun producing the

fragrance resulting from the mysterious wedding gift.

It so happened that the French occupying troops were being confused by the small, winding streets of the city, and so in order to make order of the city's geography, the commander ordered that numbers be assigned to each house.

The number on the house on Glockengasse (meaning "Bell Lane") where Mühlens was manufacturing the "Aqua Mirabilis," was "4711."

News of the special water was spreading. French soldiers, who called it "Eau de Cologne" (Cologne water) were buying it and sending it home to their families and loved ones.

Demand for Mühlens' product was increasing. Therefore, he decided to name the fragrance after the house number assigned to his home. And then he added a special touch to his label – a little bell to indicate that 4711 was on Glockengasse, or Bell Lane. (See the inscription on the box, above.)

Inquiries made among German friends reveal that although the name is recognized far and wide, 4711 seems to be used only by older German women these days. Its "fad days" have long passed.



Note the image of the bell in the logo printed on the box, denoting Glockengasse (Bell Lane), where house number 4711 was located

What do German words beginning with 'zer-' have in common?



zerbrechen (break, smash, shatter)

zertrümmern (smash to pieces)

zerkauen (masticate, chew thoroughly)

zereißén (tear up, rupture, rip apart)

zerspringen (fly to pieces, split, crack)

zerflattern (be scattered, flutter away)

zermürben (grind down, wear down)

zermalmen (crush, grind, pulverize)

zerstören (destroy, demolish, ruin)

zerfetzt (ragged, tattered, in rags)

zerbersten (burst apart)

zersplittern (disperse, split, break up)

zerknittern (crumble, wrinkle, crease)

zergliedern (cut up, dismember; dissect)

zerzupfen (pull or pick to pieces)

zerlöchert (full of holes)

zerstampfen (trample underfoot, crush)

zergehen (melt, dissolve, vanish)

zernagen (gnaw or eat away; corrode)

The 'German problem' and the 'Windsor solution'

(What! You're the king of England and you can't speak English?)

An English monarch who can't speak "the King's English" seems like a foolish enough idea, but that is exactly what the British got when the first of the Hanoverian line of English kings, George I (see his picture at right), ruled the land.

This German was brought to the English throne in 1714 because he was the closest Protestant relative of the dead Queen Anne. He spoke German, of course, but he could speak no English.

His subjects were not amused. In fact, his inability to communicate closely with the affairs of state led to his ministers having such strong power they became the prototype of the modern British Cabinet.

His son, George II, was not much more popular than his father, although he did have a greater command of the English language and British politics.

It was with George II's grandson, George III that the British monarchy finally had a king who spoke English with no trace of a German accent. Despite his loss of control of those British colonies across the ocean, George III did give his whole attention to his kingdom.

The German lines continue

The line of monarchs from the time of George I shows the heavy influx of German blood through the reigns succeeding him.

Although George I, as the first Hanoverian king, did not instill admiration in his subjects, the last of the Hanoverians, Queen Victoria, granddaughter of George III, finally established among her people a solid respect for the monarchy through her reign.

The British were even further reminded of their monarchy's German heritage by the marriage of Victoria to her first cousin, Prince Albert (baptized Franz August Karl Albert Emanuel).

Albert, whose elder brother had inherited the Duchy of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, took with him that name, Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, when he married Victoria.

Wartime attitudes bring innuendoes

By the time of World War I, all that German blood that had been flowing so heavily through British royalty, came to be seen as a liability. After all, the Germans' Kaiser Wilhelm II was also descended from Victoria.

On July 17, 1917, George V, the grandfather of Queen Elizabeth II, issued a formal proclamation that "the name of Windsor is to be borne by His Royal House and Family, relinquishing the use of all German Titles and Dignities."

Thus the House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha that Prince Albert had brought to the English throne, and which was adopted by Queen Victoria when she married him, was transformed into its more English-sounding "House of Windsor" (from the name of a castle).



Other members of the royal family were also convinced that they should abandon their German honors and titles:

Prince Louis of Battenberg became Marquis of Milford Haven and assumed the new surname of "Mountbatten." [Note: "Batten" combined with "Berg," the German word for mountain, logically became "Mountbatten."]

Queen Mary's brothers, the Duke of Teck and Prince Alexander of Teck, became the Marquess of Cambridge and the Earl of Athlone

The king had been disturbed by wartime mutterings about the royal family's Germanness and is said to have replied to H.G. Wells's criticism of "an alien and uninspiring Court" with the retort, "I may be uninspiring, but I'll be damned if I'm an alien."

Some people were unhappy about the renunciation of the German House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha and thought that George V should be above changing a dynastic name for a "mere war."

Elizabeth II follows suit

Then came World War II, followed by the ascension of Elizabeth to the throne in 1952. In 1960 she announced that she and her children would be known as the House and Family of Windsor and that future generations, except for princes and princesses, would bear the name of Mountbatten-Windsor, in honor of her husband, Philip Mountbatten.

She chose not to change the name of the royal house, however, so it remains the very British-sounding House of Windsor..



*Beersteins, Mugs, Bierkrüge, Steinkrüge, Humpen, Steins, Krüge, Steinzeugkrüge . . . Whatever you call them –
They Make the Beer Taste Better*

In February, The German-American Cultural Center – Library invited its members and other Turners to a program where information about *Bierkrüge* (Americans call them “steins”) could be shared. All were invited to bring one or more of their own *Krüge* from home to show them off.

It all started when we learned of STV-member Bobby Booser’s collection of *Krüge*. He brought several from that collection to share with the group.

Just some of those displayed at the meeting appear in the photo above.

They ranged from the very old, to the very elaborate, to those with sports and military themes. Also included were organizational and novelty *Krüge*.

Pewter lids were introduced in the 1700s, not surprisingly, by the Pewter Guild. By the 1800s, such lids were common. In fact, various *Krüge* can be dated by the style of their pewter lids.

The “Golden Age” of *Krug* production in Germany occurred between 1885 and 1910. The highly revered Mettlach manufactory, founded in 1809, is located on the

Saar River in western Germany. The trademarks on the base of its wares prominently feature the name Mettlach.

Ingeborg Carpenter presented a brief history of *Krug* production, including the changes from earthenware to fine porcelain through the ages.

A caution: When you’re sitting in a Bavarian Biergarten drinking your beer from a *Krug*, don’t be forgetful. Close the lid!

The tradition there is that if your drinking buddies catch you in a state of forgetfulness, you will automatically be stuck with paying for the next round of drinks.



Helga Hecht displays one of her prize *Krüge*



Krug-carrying members of the audience show off some of their prizes.



Area high school students practice speaking German at the Turn Verein

The German language is a prominent part of German culture – an excellent reason for the Turn Verein’s German-American Cultural Center – Library to reach out to high school German students by providing them with opportunities to practice their German with native German speakers.

The first “Wir sprechen Deutsch” (We speak German) event was held at the Turn Verein on January 25, as the program’s kick-off.

Through their German teachers, students from four area high schools: Casa Roble, McClatchy, Folsom, and Foothill high schools were invited to join the program at the Turn Verein

Plans are underway to repeat this program for German students from these and additional high schools on Sunday, April 26.

Teachers of German have long complained that there is simply not have enough class time available for their students to practice speaking German. Teachers have therefore heartily welcomed the Turn Verein’s invitation to spend a couple of hours on a Sunday afternoon with speakers of fluent German.

With tables set up in two rooms of the Turn Verein, the first go-round included 17 native speakers of German (mostly members of the Turn Verein who emigrated to America as adults after World War II) and 21 high school students.

With either one or two students sitting at a table with one fluent speaker of German, the conversa-

tions went on for two hours on that Sunday afternoon.

Some of the students were mere beginners in German, while others were more advanced. The adult German speakers adjusted their vocabulary and syntax during their conversations in an effort to match the level of competence they perceived in their respective guest students’ speech.

Because there are 19 German language programs being offered in area high schools, the number of students available to this program is quite large .

The Turn Verein appears to be unique in the Sacramento area for having so many members who are fluent in the German language. These members represent the influx of Germans who settled in the United States as young adults in the years following the devastation of World War II.

The Sacramento Turn Verein, founded in 1854 as a gymnastic and social club for German immigrants, is the oldest still-active organization in the entire Sacramento area. It is the center for German traditions and culture in Sacramento.

The German-American Cultural Center – Library, a section of the Turn Verein, is devoted to preserving and promoting German culture and language. The Turn Verein’s German Language School has students, both adults and children, eager to learn and improve their German language skills.



'Wir sprechen Deutsch'

A community outreach program of the
Sacramento Turn Verein's German-American Cultural Center – Library



Barricades, border guards – then ‘Operation Vermin’

This year, in 2009, the world celebrates the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Wall, in 1989. Everywhere, it seems, we’re reminded of the sad history of the years when the Wall divided the German nation.

What we do not read about, however, is the story of how the very idea of separation began, which is this:

The ‘iron curtain’ order

The date was May 26, 1952. On that day, the East German Council of Ministers enacted an “Ordinance on Measures to Demarcate the German Democratic Republic from the Western Occupation Zones of Germany.” With that, an iron curtain fell across Germany, cutting off east from west, with the exception of Berlin.

The fortifications at the border between the two halves of the city became a visible symbol of German division. In late May, train and street traffic between East and West Germany was virtually cut off, as gates and barricades went up all along the border. Dozens of train lines, highways and interstates, as well as thousands of regional and rural roads, were closed. Just six rail lines and five streets were left accessible.

Clearings established

Under the code name of “Operation Anvil,” GDR border guards erected the first reinforcements. In the early hours of May 27, tractors began to clear a 30-foot-wide path through fields and meadows along the border. Trees and shrubs were torn up and houses razed, replaced by a provisional divider of barbed wire and poles.

‘Operaton Vermin’

At the same time, the first group of people living in the border region were sent into exile. Within just a few days, “Operation Vermin” led to the removal of 8,175 “politically unreliable” individuals from their border homes to the East German hinterland. Within a few years, the pole-and-mesh divider had begun to rust and rot, prompting East German officials to lay mines and put up a double layer of barbed wire between concrete pillars all along the border; 600-foot-wide swaths of forest were flattened for a clear view of – and

shot at – potential “border violators.”

Tremendous effort and great national pride were poured into expanding and maintaining the “anti-fascist barrier.” In 1970, as part of a program to establish “new quality in the pioneering technical extension of national borders,” spring guns were installed along the border.

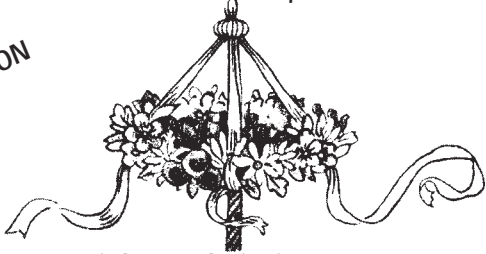
Borders maintained to the end

As late as 1988, just a year before the wall was crushed by the weight of history, the GDR had budgeted billions of marks for the “protection of national borders.” On October 3, 1990, with German reunification, the east-west border vanished altogether.

Come to the

Maifest and Family Picnic

Sunday, May 3, 2009
12 noon until 5 p.m.

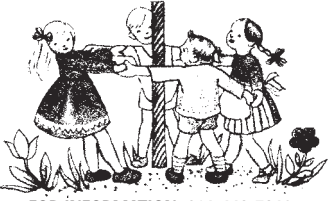


McKinley Park, in Sacramento
(At Alhambra and H Streets; look for us next to the Rose Garden)

Sponsored by the German Language School
of the Sacramento Turn Verein

Traditional German food and German Biergarten for your enjoyment
Entertainment for the entire family, great German music and dancers

Watch authentic German Schuhplattlers dancing
around the Maypole. We invite you to join in the dancing. Your children
can also learn the “Maypole dance” – to celebrate the arrival of spring



FOR INFORMATION: 916-442-7360
Sacramento Turn Verein German Language School
3349 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95816

www.SacramentoTurnVerein.com School@SacramentoTurnVerein.com

Side-by-side poetry

Heinrich Heine, whom the German government associated with the “Young Germany” movement in 1835, and whose written works it banned, went into exile in Paris for most of the rest of his life. In this poem he writes from that exile experience.

In der Fremde

Ich hatte einst ein schönes Vaterland.
Der Eichbaum
Wuchs dort so hoch, die Veilchen
nickten sanft.
Es war ein Traum.

Das küßte mich auf deutsch und
sprach auf deutsch
(Man glaubt es kaum,
Wie gut es klang) das Wort:
Ich liebe dich!
Es war ein Traum.



Heinrich Heine

Abroad

I had a lovely homeland long ago.
The oak trees seemed
So tall there, and the violets blew
so sweet.
It was a dream.

It kissed me in German, spoke in
German
(You'd scarce believe
How good it sounds) the words:
I love you true!
It was a dream.

COME TO THE TEA DANCE

May 17, 3-6 pm
at the Turn Verein

Recall the Germany of the 20s and 30s – especially in Berlin – where the Tea Dance was the place to go on a Sunday afternoon for cake, coffee, wine, and for listening to the musical hits of the day. Women wore floating chiffon gowns, hats and gloves – and the men dressed accordingly.



Frederick Hodges, pianist
Food and beverages available
Reservations required
Tickets: \$15
Make reservations by May 1
For information,
916-939-0401 or
schrisparker71@msn.com

If you like, dress in the era of the 20s and 30s. Come for fun and relaxation!

Performance in the Banquet Hall at the Turn Verein
Sponsored by the German-American Cultural Center – Library

Spring Session STV German Language School

Children's classes (ages 4-7)

Saturdays, March 21 - May 23
10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
(Snack time 10:00 - 10:30)

Children's Class (ages 8 - 12)

Saturdays, March 21 - May 23
9:00 - 10:30 a.m.
(Children are encouraged to stay until 11:30 a.m.)

Beginning German

March 17 - May 14
Tuesdays and Thursdays
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Intermediate or Level 2 German

March 17 - May 14
Tuesdays and Thursdays
7:45 - 8:45 p.m.

Advanced German

Mondays, January 5 - March 16- May 11
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

No classes April 4 - April 12

Cost of the 8-week Spring Session:

\$80.00

(Plus an additional materials fee of \$10)

Special 4-week classes (\$40.00)

Beginning/Intermediate: Tuesdays, June 2-25

Advanced: Mondays, June 1-22

Children: Saturdays, June 6-27

Contact: Monika Ponce

Telephone: 916.230.3826

E-mail: MonikaGLS@rocketmail.com

All classes are held at the

Sacramento Turn Verein

3349 J Street, Sacramento

Website:

www.SacramentoTurnVerein.com

Calendar of Meetings and Events

Sacramento Turn Verein

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
A	29 Anyssa Neumann pianist In Concert 3pm – Main Hall \$20.00 adult	30 STV Harmonie Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Banquet Room	31	1 STV Memb. Mtg. 8:00 p.m.	2	3	4 STV Library Open 10 a.m. -2 p.m. Library
							Bockbierfest 6:00 p.m.
P	5	6 STV Harmonie Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Banquet Room	7	8 STV Soccer Meeting 7:00 p.m. Club Room	9 STV Library Meeting 7:30 p.m. Library	10	11 STV Library Open 10 a.m. -2 p.m. Library
	12	13 STV Harmonie Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Banquet Room	14	15 STV Memb. Mtg. 8:00 p.m.	16	17 STV Library Program German Butchering Traditions 7:30 p.m. Library	18 STV Library Open 10 a.m. -2 p.m. Library
R	19	20 STV Harmonie Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Banquet Room	21	22 STV Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.	23 STV Actives Meeting 8:00 p.m. Tavern	24	25 STV Library Open 10 a.m. -2 p.m. Library
	26 STV Library Program Wie Sprechen Deutsch 1:00 p.m. Banquet Hall	27 STV Harmonie Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Banquet Room	28	29	30		

						1	2 STV Library Open 10 a.m. -2 p.m. Library
M A Y	3 STV German Language School Maifest & Family Picnic McKinley Park	4 STV Harmonie Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Banquet Room	5	6 STV Membership Meeting, 8:00 p.m.	7	8	9 STV Library Open 10 a.m. -2 p.m. Library
	10	11 STV Harmonie Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Banquet Room	12	13 STV Soccer Meeting 7:00 p.m. Club Room	14 STV Library Meeting 7:00 p.m. Library	15	16 STV Library Open 10 a.m. -2 p.m. Library
	17 STV Library Program Annual Tea Dance 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Banquet Hall	18 STV Harmonie Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Banquet Room	19	20 STV Membership Meeting, 8:00 p.m.	21	22	23 STV Library Open 10 a.m. -2 p.m. Library
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See you at the
BOCKBIERFEST
At the Turn Verein

Saturday, April 4
Doors open at 6 p.m.



The Al Gruber Band
Big Earl and the Cryin' Shame
Camtia Schuhplattler Group

Cover charge: \$10
Children 6-12: \$5.00

German Food, Bockbier, Biergarten, Wine,
Champagne, Kaffeehaus

LIBRARY HOURS
Sacramento Turn Verein Library
3349 J Street, Sacramento
Tuesdays and Saturdays:
10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Upcoming events at the Turn Verein

Mar. 29: Anyssa Neumann piano concert, 3 p.m. at the Turn Verein; \$20 admission; \$10 for students

Apr. 4: Bockbierfest, 6 p.m., in the Main Hall of the Turn Verein. See information at left.

April 17: "German Butchering Traditions – at Home and in the Butchering Trade." Presented by four German-American experts with experience in home slaughtering and the butcher trade in Germany and Switzerland. Free admission. In the Library at 7:30 p.m. See page 2 for more information.

May 3: Mayfest and Family Picnic in McKinley Park. Sponsored by the German Language School. See page 8.

May 17: Annual Tea Dance, 3-6 p.m. in the Banquet Hall. Sponsored by the German-American Cultural Center – Library. Admission \$15. See page 9 for more information.

**COMING VERY SOON
TO THE TURN VEREIN**

SPECIAL PIANO CONCERT
Sunday, March 29, 3 p.m.

Anyssa Neumann, Pianist
performing works of Bach, Schubert,
Prokofiev, Rachmaninoff

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