

LINDA HORTON BIO

The first 22 years of my life was spent mostly within a four mile radius: My family lived in 'Chilly' Gentilly; I graduated from St. Joseph Academy in 1974 and I received a BA in English Lit from UNO in 1978. My first job after college was in the Advertising Dept at Stratton-Baldwin, a Pro Hardware distributor. Later, I worked retail for Toys-R-Us and Zayre, and for over 25 years I was with the Times-Picayune. (Pay no attention to the fact that most of these entities ain't dere no more!)

My maternal great-grandmother, Regina Dudenhöffer was born in Rülzheim, Germany and arrived in New Orleans in 1872 where she soon met Anselm Regel, originally from Alsace-Lorraine. One of ten children, my grandmother Tillie Regel married Edward Schott and they had four children. Their youngest was ordained a priest in 1963: Over 90 years after his grandmother arrived in the US, and despite the families being on opposing sides during WWI and II, my uncle Ed celebrated his first Mass with German relatives in Rülzheim, Germany.

My introduction to the Deutsches Haus on Galvez St wasn't until 2008. As far as I know, none of my ancestors had ever been members, despite being proud of our German heritage. After my employment with the T-P ended in 2016, my participation at the Haus increased. I took German classes at the "halfway Haus" on Ridgewood and helped with DH Kinderchor. I also attended Kulturabend and German movies, among other activities. In 2018 when the Haus opened on Moss Street I became a lifetime member, and at first opportunity, a stockholder.

For a few years I was a member of DH Damenchor. But though I enjoy singing, I have no talent. With Ria Hilken, we started Liederkranz—on the 3rd Thursday of the month, 7pm-ish, you'll usually find us at the Haus singing old German folk and beer drinking songs—no musical talent or proper German pronunciation needed to join us, only a desire for gemütlichkeit.

I'm a member of the Ladies Auxiliary, sometimes (maybe affectionately?) known as the "Cake Ladies" where our motto is "building the Haus one slice at a time." You may have met me while I was volunteering for "Coming to America", or working for the Membership Committee, or "German Unity Day" or the Decoration Committee, or maybe we've walked together through City Park, taking a Wandergruppe stroll on a humid Thursday evening, or we've danced together around the Maypole, or shouted in unison "oy-oy-oy" at Oktoberfest.

The Deutsches Haus in New Orleans has a great legacy and it's my desire to help that legacy continue. If our paths have ever crossed, and you believe I'd be a good board member, I'd be honored to get your vote.

Danke. Linda Horton

