



GERMAN-AMERICAN CLUB GESANGVEREIN, INC.

The German American Club of Louisville, KY

June 2025 Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 6

Message from the President

Happy Father's Day

Please keep Hans Prost family in your prayers. Hans was one of past presidents from 1970 to 1973. He also served on many committees within the club.

May has been a busy month, with Maifest, and the Spring Concert. With Mother's Day in the mix as well. Now it is already June. Hard to believe we are already into 6 months of 2025.

The Spring Concert was wonderful with the direction of Justin Romey. He does a great job with our choir, and it shows. Thank you, Justin for all the hard work you do keeping our choir sounding like angles singing.

June is our next Biergarten will be our Wurstfest! We will have several different brats to serve. Starts at 2:00, Dinner starts at 5:00.

They have started on the playground with hope it will be ready for our next outdoor event. The new Awnings are up and really look nice. Thank you, Joe Schwinehart for making sure they got done.

Bob Willinger and his team got the yard looking nice for the summer. They planted flowers and some of the hanging baskets. So please give them a big thank you.

It takes all of us working together that make the German American club what it is today. For if it was not for our volunteers works so hard we do not get to be as successful as we are. I for one cannot thank you enough for all the hard work.

Happy Father's Day to all of the dad.

Cathy Reynolds
GAC President

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GAC Mission Statement:

The purpose of the German-American Club, Gesangverein, Inc. (GAC) is to perpetuate German culture and German style of sociability, to promote the art of music through group singing of German songs, and to preserve the German heritage in Louisville.

From the Board

1840 Lincoln Ave
Louisville, KY 40213



Hallochen! From Board Chair, Ashlyn Ackerman

Board Meeting Highlights – May Update

The Board met in May and has some exciting news to share:

Playground Construction Has Begun!

Work is officially underway on the new playground. 🎉 Check below for sponsorship opportunities and how you can get involved.

Maifest Was a Huge Success!

A big **thank you** to all our amazing volunteers and planners for your hard work! 🙌 We can't wait to see everyone again at **Wurstfest on June 7th!** 🎉🎶

Supporting Student Dreams Abroad

The Board approved **\$5,000** to fund the **Jimmy Boeckmann Scholarship** at UofL. Several students are already interested in applying! 🇩🇪🎵 This scholarship helps German students study German or music abroad. Recipients will return to give a presentation about their travels to the GAC.

Got an Idea to Improve the GAC?

Drop your suggestion in the **Suggestion Box** located in the Main Hall by the stage! 📎 The Board checks submissions monthly. Feel free to remain anonymous, or include your name if you'd like follow-up. With a big membership and a small Board, **your input helps us grow!** 🌱🤝



Support the Playground Donation Drive – Every Gift Counts!

A heartfelt **THANK YOU** to everyone who has donated to the Playground Project! ❤️ Your generosity is helping bring this exciting new addition to life for our GAC families.

Below is a list of donors who have contributed **\$250 or more** to the project. If you donated and don't see your name listed, please contact **Jonathan Marks** at gactreasurer25@gmail.com or **Ashlyn Ackerman** at ashlynmackerman@gmail.com.

👉 Donors will be contacted by the end of **May** to confirm the text for the donor signage.

Major Donors (\$250+)

Walter F. Hauber, Jr.

Brian & Connie Menz

Ashlyn Ackerman & Alex Hoffmann

Sarah & Barry Pearrow

Leo & Judy Huelsman

Jonathan & Meghann Marks

Steve Riggs

The Gickler Family

Ladies Auxiliary

Germanic Heritage Auxiliary

Tony Diebold

Steve Wright

John Burke

The Addie & Baylor Foundation

B. Travis Newman

Jim & Kaye Wiesemann

Diana Sexson

Jeff Heimer

Jeremy Haysley



We are grateful for your support in making the playground a place of joy and community for years to come!

Membership News

1840 Lincoln Ave
Louisville, KY 40213



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

Thank you to all renewing members! Membership cards are available for pickup at club events. If not picked up, they will be mailed at a later date.

As of May 20, 2025, our **current membership count is 773**.

For any membership-related inquiries, contact Bill Willinger at **502-931-9336** or email gac.lou.membership@gmail.com.

Stay Connected – Share Member Updates

Help us stay connected by sharing member updates, including health changes, prayer list additions or removals, address changes, marriages, births, & more. To provide updates, please contact Bill Willinger at **502-931-9336** (leave a message) or email him at gac.lou.membership@gmail.com.

For member-related deaths, please notify Meghann Marks at gac.louisville@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support and for being part of our community!

April Applicants:

Chris & Virginia Dunlap	Michael Christensen	Michael & Wendy Schellenberger
Conrad & Julia Muller	Barry Soards	Jobe & Marc Miller
Brandon Fischer	Tim & Kathleen Burton	Scott & Tina Ashley
Todd Thorne		

April membership applications are closed & will be voted on June 4th at 7:00 PM at the Monthly Business Meeting.

Welcome New Members

Approved at the May 7th Business Meeting:

- Rob & Hayley Maehl
- Baker Holland
- Brian & Sandra Johnson
- Melissa Gottfried
- Carl Tannehill & Christine Wilkinson
- William Haefling
- Diane Wasnak
- Nova Garrett
- Roger & Tina Dospil
- Tricia & Ben Holland
- Anthony & Laura Ellis
- Victoria Gottfried
- William & Sandra Davidson

Attention Wurstfest Volunteers

Check in at the **Volunteer, Membership & Information Tent** (near the Schnapps/T-Shirt tent).

You'll grab your **volunteer package** there or the team will direct you where to pick up your packet — it includes your **wristband, meal ticket, and name tag** 🍪🍺

See you there — and thank you for volunteering to make this a great event!

If you have not signed up to volunteer for Wurstfest, we've got spots available! Reach out to **Andy Feulner** at andyfeulner@att.net or 502.758.0412 before June 5th to find out how you can pitch in and help!





cook German Cooking Classes Are Here!

We're excited to announce that our **German cooking classes** are all set! 🧑‍🍳 Nina Greipel will be teaching us how to prepare a variety of traditional dishes—including **desserts** 🍰, an **appetizer** 🥪, a **soup** 🥪, and a **main course** 🍲.

📅 Class Dates:

- **Friday, June 14**
- **Friday, June 28**
- **Friday, July 26**

🕒 All classes begin at **2:00 PM** and will run about **2–3 hours**.

💵 Each class is **\$30**, which includes a **surprise gift** along with a **copy of the recipe**. You can sign up for one class, two, or all three! 🤝 Check the **Upcoming Events** email for details on how to register!

📅 Connie Carver Presentation – New Date!

Please note: **Connie Carver's presentation** has been **rescheduled** from **May 25** to **June 22**, since May 25 falls during Memorial Day weekend 🇺🇸.

📍 Join us at **2:00 PM on June 22** to hear about Connie's journey and what she learned on her trip to **Mainz** last September 🇩🇪. Flyers with more info will be posted around the club soon!

🗣 German Language Classes Coming Soon

Jordan is planning to start **German language classes in August!** 📚 If you're interested in joining, please let us know so we can get a headcount and finalize details.

🎓 Scholarship Updates – Great News!

Thanks to the **\$5,000 Jimmy Boeckman scholarship**, three students are receiving support this year:

- ✈️ One U of L student studied abroad last summer
- 🌎 Two more are heading abroad this summer

We'll get to hear from them during **late summer or early fall**. Even better—more potential recipients are lined up, and the board has **approved another \$5,000** for the coming year! 🙌

📅 Save the Date: August 10 – Bloody Monday Joint Event

📅 Mark your calendars for **Sunday, August 10!** The **GAC and the Hibernians** will host a **joint event** to observe **Bloody Monday**.

Our first planning meeting went great—lots of exciting ideas💡 are in the works. Stay tuned for more details!

👥 Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 4 at 5:30 PM

Our next club meeting is set for **Wednesday, June 4 at 5:30 PM**, just before the general business meeting. Attendance is growing📈, and we'd love to see you there!

Ladies Auxiliary News

1840 Lincoln Ave
Louisville, KY 40213



Ladies Auxiliary Update

From Ashlyn Ackerman, President

 Next Meeting: Monday, June 16 at 6:30 PM

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Ladies Auxiliary at Maifest!  We completely sold out of our beautiful flower crowns in record time! 

 Proceeds from the crown sales help us continue to provide family-friendly programming at the GAC — your support makes it all possible!

 June Meeting Theme: Let's Make More Flower Crowns!

Get your creativity ready — it's flower crown time again!  With Oktoberfest expected to be bigger and better than ever this year , we want to make sure everyone is ready to accessorize in style! 

Join us at the June meeting as we craft fresh new crowns to help raise funds and spread the fun. All hands (and glue guns) welcome! 

Maifest



Ladies Auxiliary flower crown booth



Louise Bornwasser



Sarah Wunderlin, Suzanne Powell, & Ashlyn Ackerman



GAC Children's Choir



Maypole fun

Arrangements Committee

1840 Lincoln Ave
Louisville, KY 40213



🎉 Thank You for an Incredible Maifest!

The Arrangements Committee sincerely thanks you for your amazing support at our **highly successful Maifest on May 10!** ☀️ We had a fantastic turnout thanks to the beautiful weather, mouthwatering food 🍽️, refreshing beer selections 🍺, lively performances by the **Rheingold Band** and **River City Polkatz** 🎶, fun games for the kids 🎈, and our talented vendor partners showcasing their handcrafted goods 🎁. A special shout-out to our hardworking **volunteers** 🤝—from setup at sunrise to clean-up after sundown (and everything in between)—you helped make this milestone event one to remember!

🍽️ **5th Friday Potluck – May 30** - Join us for a relaxed and fun-filled evening on **Friday, May 30, starting around 4 PM!** Bring a dish to share for our potluck 🥗, enjoy a happy hour beer 🍺, and groove to music spun by our vinyl DJ 🎵. A great chance to connect with friends and fellow members!

☀️ June Events: Kicking Off Summer in Style!

🍩 National Donut Day – June 6 (4–8 PM)

Celebrate with us on this sweet day! A **\$10 ticket** includes donut holes 🍩, beer 🍺, and entertainment on the big screen 📺. Plus, we may feature a special “**Roll Call**” led by our National Guard members 🇺🇸.

🌭 **Wurstfest – June 7 (2–11 PM)** - Get ready for our delicious summer highlight! Wurstfest is packed with **plenty of sausages** 🍖, refreshing beer 🍺, and **games and activities** for both kids and adults 🎯. Don’t miss the always-entertaining **slippery sausage toss** and **stein-holding contests**! Two live bands 🎵 will keep the energy going all day. We appreciate your support and volunteer spirit—this is the kind of event that makes our club truly special in the greater Louisville community 🏙.

📅 Save the Dates! - Looking ahead, here are more can't-miss events on the horizon:

- 🇩🇪 **German American Festival – July 12**
- 🍷 **Weindorf Biergarten – August 9**
- 🍻 **Oktoberfest – September 5–6**

📝 **We'd Love Your Feedback!** As always, the Arrangements Committee welcomes your suggestions and input. We aim to create events that are fun, meaningful, and beneficial to the Club and its members.

Thank you again for your continued enthusiasm and support. Prost! 🍻

Messages of Care & Comfort

Continue to pray for all who are in need of comfort and healing, especially:

Mary Beck	Ilona Sego	Janet Schweinhart	Gerald Willinger
Norma Heitz	Gary Sego	Belinda Willinger	Mike Brauner
Bob Naumowicz	Bengta Sell	Andy Fuchs	Martha Liles
Anita Waters (Dane's mother)	Diana Sexson	Judy Fuchs	Mike Woods
Leigh Yadon	Cecilia (sister of Steve Oswald)	Jimi Kirkman	Joyce French

Choir & Volunteer Committee

1840 Lincoln Ave
Louisville, KY 40213



🎵 Choir News 🎵

The **Choir's Annual Spring Concert** on **May 18** was a great success & received wonderful reviews! 🌟 From January through May, we rehearsed every week to prepare a memorable evening of **German choral music**, proudly continuing our Club's nearly **150-year tradition**



A heartfelt **thank you** to everyone who joined us for the evening—& a special shoutout to our amazing **kitchen team** for serving up a delicious meal! 🍽️👏

⚽ Singing at LCFC vs. Eintracht Frankfurt!

We're thrilled to share that the **choir will once again perform the American and German national anthems** 🇺🇸🇩🇪 at the upcoming **Louisville City FC vs. Eintracht Frankfurt** match later this summer!

❤️ Keep an eye on your inbox 📲 —we'll be sharing ticket info soon so you can come out to support both **our singers** and **our boys in purple!**

🧠 Trivia Night Fundraiser – October 17

Mark your calendars! 📅 We're hosting another **Trivia Night** to raise funds for **Sängerfest 2027** 🎤. It's happening on **October 17**, & we promise an evening full of fun, friendly competition, and great company. Details on **table reservations** will be shared as we get closer—so start gathering your team & brushing up on your trivia knowledge! 🧠🏆

🎵 **Thank you for supporting the choir!** We're proud to carry on this rich tradition—& we look forward to singing for you again soon!



Join the Volunteer Committee

Looking for a fun way to get involved with the GAC? The **Volunteer Committee** is the perfect opportunity!

Our goal in 2025 is for 50% of our membership to volunteer for at least one tracked event!

Next Meeting: Thurs June 5th, 6:15 pm at the club

Contact: Andy Feulner at andyfeulner@att.net or (502) 758-0412

Stein Lockers

To apply for a stein locker, email **Joe Schweinhart** at joe.schweinhart@gmail.com.



From Jasper & Pfaffenweiler Sister Cities

1840 Lincoln Ave
Louisville, KY 40213



Maifest Volunteers



Robert Kirtland



Ed Knabel



Beccy Kirtland



Etta Lechleiter

Joe Parsons & Bob Willinger



Michelle, Dallas, & Hannah



New QR Codes for Festival Info

Keep an eye out for the **new QR codes posted around the club!** These codes link directly to the **online event information and site map** for each festival. The pages will go live a few days before each event.



<https://www.gaclouisville.org>

Prefer not to use QR codes? No problem — the same information is available on the **Events page of our website**, just above the calendar.

Calling All Canva Users!

If you have experience with **Canva** and would like to help create flyers or social media graphics for upcoming events, we'd love your support!

Email the technology team at: ougac.technology@gmail.com

Maifest Volunteers



Kathy Webber, Karen Brown, & Tanya Schantz



Julie & Todd Schermbeck



Kelly, James, & Bev Bowman



Mike McDermott



Emily & Ben Webber

Bob Webber



Neal Hardesty & Jeff Heimer



Rob Foellinger & Morreau



Sandi & Alex Otte



Anthony Irwin, Nancy Williams, Clare Noe, & Karen Arnold

Meet the Board

1840 Lincoln Ave
Louisville, KY 40213



Meet Alex Hoffmann

Board Position: Board Member

Other Club Involvement: Choir Member, Music Committee, Active Volunteer, Bartender, Oktoberfest Committee, Christkindlmarkt Committee

GAC Member Since: 2020

Why Alex Joined the GAC:

My wife Ashlyn and I decided to join the GAC because we lived nearby, had attended many events over the years, and were looking for something new to get involved in. Ashlyn grew up active in Jasper's Deutscher Verein and always enjoyed being part of that community — so we thought, *why not give the GAC a try?*

Getting involved with the Club has truly given us a sense of belonging. We've met so many wonderful people and even encouraged several of our friends to become members too! I'm excited to continue volunteering, connecting with others, and being part of this growing community — both with familiar faces and new ones!



Life Outside the GAC:

I'm an architect with Schmidt Associates here in Louisville and fortunate to be involved in some exciting projects happening around the city. My wife Ashlyn and I share our home with two energetic pups, Noodle and Roux, who definitely run the show.

Outside of work, I enjoy staying active with golf, volleyball, and horse racing — pretty much anything that keeps me off the couch.

Ashlyn and I also love to travel and explore the world together. For our anniversary in 2024, we took a memorable trip down the Rhine River from Amsterdam, and wrapped it up in true Bavarian style with Oktoberfest in Munich.

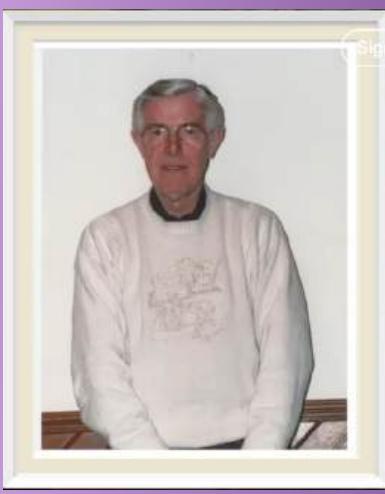
Favorite GAC memory:

One of my favorite memories with the Club has been helping to bring back the Christkindlmarkt.

For years, my family has taken an early December trip to Chicago to visit their holiday markets—it's become a tradition that really kicks off the season for us. Being part of the team that revived this event at the GAC has been incredibly rewarding.

I've truly enjoyed working alongside a great group of volunteers to coordinate vendors, activities, food, and drinks. I'm excited to see how the Christkindlmarkt continues to grow and become a beloved tradition for our community as well.

In Memory of Hans Probst



We are deeply saddened to share the passing of **Hans Probst**, a beloved member of our community, former **GAC President**, dedicated contributor, & trusted advisor. Hans went to be with our Lord on **May 13** at the age of **91**, having lived a full & meaningful life.

Please keep his **wife**, **children**, & all who loved him in your thoughts & prayers during this time. May they find peace & comfort in the memories shared & the legacy he leaves behind.