



GERMAN-AMERICAN CLUB GESANGVEREIN, INC.

The German American Club of Louisville, KY

October 2025 Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 10

Message from the President

Herbst (Autumn)

Oktoberfest 2025 was a success thanks to all our volunteers. We appreciate everyone who contributed throughout the weekend.

Karin Naumowicz and I participated in an interview with Councilwoman Josie Raymond, along with Niki Lechniakm from Metro TV. The interview can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iXe675kwEV0>.

Mark Schroeder has stepped down as Arrangements Chair due to family and work commitments. Tim Redmon will resume the role, with Ben Collett learning from him throughout the year and likely taking over as Chair in 2026.

Bill Murray and Suzanne Powell have both agreed to serve as historians for the German American Club. They have already taken numerous photographs during Oktoberfest and are eager to further explore and document our organization's history.

In October, Bierhalle events will be held indoors. After moving inside, children may only be on the dance floor when accompanied by a parent, for safety reasons. There will also be a designated area where children can be without adult supervision. We have a Bierhalle October 11th and 25th . Also, we will have a member only 5th Friday on October 31st .

Historical Significance of the Day of Germany Unity The fall of the Berlin Wall on the 9th of November in 1989, which marked the end of the Cold War, had paved the way for German reunification barely a year later. The Unification Treaty that was signed on the 20th of

September in 1990 and declares the 3rd of October the national holiday, sealed the end of the division of Germany. (<https://www.berlin.de> › Homepage › English Events)

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, Tanya Schantz

🍂 Happy October, GAC! 🍂

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to our newest board member, **Alex Otte** — 🙌 Welcome aboard, Alex!

Important Updates: Licensing, Rental Agreements & Club Meetings

✓ We're excited to share that our **new license has been approved and is on its way!** To make sure everything runs smoothly, the board is conducting a thorough review of the license and all related rules and regulations to help prevent any future issues.

📝 We're also **updating our rental agreement** to provide clearer guidelines on the use of club amenities—like the 📺 big TV—to help protect both the club and our renters in case of any unexpected incidents.

📅 A quick reminder: **our monthly business meetings are designed to be informative and collaborative.** We kindly ask that debates or extended discussions be saved for separate conversations. We truly value everyone's input 💬 — if you have a specific concern you'd like to discuss, please reach out to any board member to schedule a dedicated meeting.

💡💡💡 As always, if you have any questions or need assistance, don't hesitate to **contact any member of the board.**

THE CHECKMATES



📅 Date: October 10th

⌚ Gates Open: 5:00 PM

💵 Cash & Credit Cards Accepted

🍺 Bar Opens: 5:00 PM

🍴 Food Booth Menu:

🌭 Brats

kå Kraut

🍟 Fries

🥨 Pretzels

🎵 Performance: 6:00 – 10:00 PM

We're planning for an **outdoor event** — but if the weather doesn't cooperate, we'll move the fun **inside!**

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 September 20, 2025, our **current membership count is 860 & growing.**

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!

September Applicants:

September membership applications are closed & will be voted on October 1st at 7:00 PM at the Monthly Business Meeting.

Michelle Reiss & Dan Bauer
Shannon & Lane Swanson
Sheila & David Church
Richard & Barbara Reynolds
Matthew Dietz & Carey Haskamp
Carl Reuff & Elisa Cavazza

Jay & Jackie Bourke
Rachel Moore
Lisa & Brian Carter
Julie & Andy Eggers
Paolo Maguino
Ted Scharre

Erika Rivertree
Mary Potter
Mark Metzner
Patrick Ryan
Sarah Fletcher

Welcome New Members

Approved at the September 3rd Business Meeting:

- Dave & Kim Lindquist
- Timothy & Patsy Bourke
- Greg Bourke & Michael DeLeon
- Mark & Debbie Bourke
- Paul Ham
- Leo & Sue Camp



*****All applicants & GAC members are encouraged to attend*****

Messages of Care & Comfort

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

Mary Beck
Norma Heitz
Bob Naumowicz
Anita Waters (Dane's mother)
Leigh Yadon
Pat Zimmermann

Ilona Sego
Gary Sego
Bengta Sell
Diana Sexson
Cecilia (sister of Steve Oswald)

Janet Schweinhart
Belinda Willinger
Andy Fuchs
Judy Fuchs
Jimi Kirkman

Gerald Willinger
Mike Brauner
Martha Liles
Mike Woods
Joyce French



🇩🇪 German Language Classes Are Back!

German classes began Thursday, Sept 18 — but it's **not too late to join in!** The first session was just an introduction, so if you've been thinking about it, simply come to the **next class on Oct 2.**

📅 **Remaining Dates:** 10/2, 10/16, 11/13, 11/20

📍 Main Hall at the GAC

👩 Instructor: *Jordan Gabbard*, German professor at UofL

💵 \$5 per class (the first class was free!)

🌟 All skill levels are welcome — no need to sign up, just show up on Oct 2!

👩 Cooking Class Series with Nina

We're excited to offer a second series of hands-on cooking classes led by Nina! Each session lasts about 3 hours and starts at 2 PM. Cost: \$45 per class. Limited to **15 participants** — these fill up fast, so don't wait!

⌚ Class Schedule:

- **Sunday, Oct 19** → 🍞 Soft Pretzels, 🥬 Bavarian Cabbage Soup, 🧀 Liptauer Cheese Dip
- **Saturday, Nov 1** → 🍖 Frikadellen, 🌭 Sausage Rolls, 🍰 Streuselkuchen
- **Saturday, Nov 15** → 🥗 House Salad Dressing, 🍖 Schnitzel, 🍲 Spaetzle

👉 Check the upcoming events email to sign up and pay for the class(es) you'd like to attend!

📚 Nina's Cookbook Signing Event

Join us for a special **book signing** celebrating Nina's brand-new *Gasthaus Cookbook and Memories!*

📅 **Sunday, Oct 5 at 2:00 PM**

📍 Main Hall at the GAC

💵 Books available for \$35 + tax (limited to 200 copies!)

🍺 The bar will be open & light refreshments will be served.

See the Upcoming Events email for full details.

👗 Trachten Donations Wanted

If you have any gently used **trachten** — dirndl, blouses, lederhosen, hats, etc. — we'd love your donations! Your contributions help keep traditions alive at our events.

ℹ Interested in Learning More About the GHA?

If you've been curious about the GHA, please join us for our **next meeting on Wednesday, Oct 1, at 5:30 PM**, before the general business meeting.

Arrangements Committee

1840 Lincoln Ave
Louisville, KY 40213



🍻 Thank You for Making Oktoberfest a Success!

A huge thank you to everyone who came out and supported our **Oktoberfest** on September 5–6! The weather was fantastic, and it brought **large crowds**, especially on Saturday, to enjoy **boisterous music, abundant beer 🍺, and tasty food 🍲**. Oktoberfest is one of our **highest profile events of the year**, and it could not have been such a success without the hard work of our amazing **members and volunteers**.

🎃 Fall Fun Ahead!

As we transition from summer to fall, the fun continues! Our last scheduled outdoor **Biergarten** event was September 27, but depending on the weather, **October Bierhalle events may also be outdoors**. Here's what's coming up from the Arrangements Committee:

Upcoming Events:

- **Friday, Oct 10** → Enjoy the musical band **Checkmates** 🎵 and a small kitchen menu
- **Saturday, Oct 11** → **Harvest Festival Bierhalle** 🍂 from 4–10 PM featuring the **Rheingold Band**
- **Saturday, Oct 25** → **Halloween Bierhalle** 🎃 from 4–11 PM featuring **River City Polkatz**
👻 Bring your costume for a **costume contest!**
- **Friday, Oct 31** → **5th Friday Happy Hour** 🍺 for members from 4:30–8:30 PM
- **Saturday, Nov 8** → **Veterans Day Bierhalle** 🇺🇸 from 4–10 PM with the **Polka Cola Band**
- **Friday, Nov 28** → **Black Friday Chili Cookout** 🌶 for members from 4:30–8:30 PM

🍁 Our **fall season** is packed with fun events! We look forward to celebrating the **colors, tastes, and smells of fall together** with our **members, volunteers, and friends**.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Schroeder
Arrangements Committee Chair

Ladies Auxiliary

-  **Children's Christmas Party is Sunday, December 7 | 2–5 PM**
-  GAC Main Hall - Open to GAC member children & grandchildren age 10 and under.
-  RSVP by Nov 8 with child's name, age, & gift ideas (\$20 limit) to Connie Menz at (502) 599-5832 or cmenz625@gmail.com

Next Ladies Auxiliary Meeting - Monday, Nov 17 | 6:30 PM - We'll be wrapping gifts for the party!

Kitchen News

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🍁 Happy Fall, GAC!

Break out the **cider** 🍎 and **scarecrows** 🎃, because **spooky season** 🧟 has landed!

🍻 Oktoberfest Wrap-Up

Our Oktoberfest was so incredible, we're still running on **schnitzel fumes** 🍖! Huge thanks to every **volunteer** who gave their time, energy, and spirit to make our **two-day festival** an epic success. Extra props to **Elliot Segvich**, my grandson, for being our very own **new goblin** 🧟 on the serving line. You came, you saw, you conquered! Thank you all so much!!

🧙 Shout-Out to Our Kitchen Wizards!

You are all **superstars** 🌟. The countless hours you put in throughout Oktoberfest week were unmatched, and the results were absolutely **delicious** 😋. Thank you for making our kitchen such a huge success—we couldn't have done it without you. You deserve a **standing ovation** 🙌!

🍺 Bierhalle Season is Brewing!

Hold onto your **steins** 🍺! Our cauldron is already brewing for the next big thing—the fantastic **Bier Halles!** Our kitchen is moving indoors to get ready for all the **breading and stocking up** 🍔. Invitations for our famous **breading parties** will be sent soon—keep an eye out for your summons!

🧙 Join the Magic!

We're looking for more **ghouls** 🧟 and **goblins** 🧟 to join our quest! Your help is a genuine **treat** 🎁, and we'll sweeten the pot with **good times and great people** 😊—no tricks here! We can't do it without our incredible community, so please step up and lend a hand. **No mission is too small!**

💬 Stop by the kitchen with any questions or just to swap a few **spooky stories** 🎃!

Your GAC Kitchen Manager

Tanya Schantz



Elliot Segvich

Elliot & Autumn Segvich



Tanya Schantz & Elliot Segvich

L to R: Elliot Segvich, Ashley Bridwell, Autumn Segvich, Tanya Schantz, Courtney Carpenter, & Rachael Matthews.



Choir & Volunteer Committee

1840 Lincoln Ave
Louisville, KY 40213



♪ Choir News ♪

Welcome to all our new and returning singers! Practice is already in full swing for our 🎄 Christmas Concert. If you've been thinking about joining us, there's still time — we'd love to have you! 🎤🌟

🎼 Kinderchor is Back! 🎶

Kinderchor will meet every Saturday from 10:00–10:45 AM, through December 13.

Please note there will be no Kinderchor on October 4, 2025.

🎤 Mark Your Calendars: The Kinderchor Concert with the Sängerbund will be held on December 14 — a wonderful way to wrap up the season! 🎉



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 October 23rd, 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.



Oktoberfest Fun

1840 Lincoln Ave
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Thank You to Our Volunteers



Louis Lyvers, Linda Blackman, Pat Ott, Laura Lyvers, & Larry Ott



Kristina Carney



Tom O'Bryant



David Bonhan &
Alex Otte



Bob Willinger,
Karen Brumley,
Jim Weissman,
& Etta Lechleiter



Linda Knabel & Brian
Menz



Sybille Marshall



Don & Sharon DeBragga



Joe Schweinhart & Don DeBragga



Dawn Wilkerson &
Jeff Schabel



Karen & Karin



Potato Crew



Kathy Webber

 Stay Connected! Our Friday emails are the best source for event updates, sign-ups, and club news!

Not getting the emails? Reach out to gac.louisville@gmail.com or <https://www.gac louisville.org> louac.technology@gmail.com

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: louac.technology@gmail.com



2026 Election

Interested in shaping the future of the club?

Consider becoming an **Officer or Board Member!**

 Talk to the **Election Committee** to learn more.

 **Sign-ups begin in November**
 **Elections will be held in December**



Meet the Board

1840 Lincoln Ave
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Meet Nancy Woods

Board Position: German Heritage Auxiliary President

Other Club Involvement: I've helped in the kitchen serving food at biergartens and Oktoberfest, washed pitchers, peeled and sliced potatoes, baked cakes, and assisted with cleanup after biergartens and bierhalles.

GAC Member Since: 2017 (though we attended biergartens and bierhalles for about 10 years before officially joining).

Why I Joined the GAC: After years of attending events, we wanted to get more involved through volunteering and meeting people. In doing so, we met many wonderful individuals and built great friendships. Becoming members also allowed us to attend general business meetings, learn more about the club, and of course, enjoy free bier—which was just a bonus!



Life Outside the GAC:

I've been retired since August 2022. I enjoy music and concerts, sewing and quilting, attending U of L football games (season ticket holder), watching other U of L sports, bowling on one of the GAC teams, babysitting two of my three grandchildren, playing bunco, volunteering at my church food pantry, and spending time with friends and family.

Favorite GAC Memory:

One of my favorite memories is when the GHA, with help from Kathy Lee-Jarvis and the Swiss Ancestors group, organized a concert with the Kalberweidli Brothers band from Einsiedeln, Switzerland. It was a first-of-its-kind event for the club, the house was packed, and both the concert and accompanying documentary were fantastic. I also cherish many other moments, including our witches dance group, *Die Heisen Hexens*.



Robert & Beccy Kirtland



River City Polkatz

