



# GERMAN-AMERICAN CLUB GESANGVEREIN, INC.

The German American Club of Louisville, KY

July 2025 Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 7

## Message from the President

### Schönen Vierte Juli (Happy Fourth of July)

I have often been asked what I get for my membership. I can tell you what I have gotten out of my membership to the German American Club. With my membership I have made many friends. Have traveled with some of these friends to different German Restaurants, or on road trips to different places. Without these friends I would not have known about these places. I have never had so much fun working within smaller groups as well. So, I guess getting free drinks and meals when volunteering is not high on my list. Meeting new friends is.

The Playground is done, all but the fencing. We hope to have that done by next Biergarten in July. A huge thank you to Ashlyn Ackerman for all the hard work and time she had spent to ensure that it all came together. Thank you to all that donated to the playground.

The Wurstfest was attended very well despite the rain. The children had a great time either playing on the new playground or playing in the rain and water puddles. Watching the children playing brings back memories of mine own boys at that age.

July 12 is our next Biergarten with the theme Summer Festival. We will have our normal German foods. Please sign up for a slot to help the German American Club. Without your help we cannot have these events. Thank you for all your help this year, it is very much appreciated.

August 2nd, we will have a bus to go to Evansville's Volksfest. If interested the cost is \$30 per person. Talk to some who have taken the bus to find out how much fun they have on the way there. See Tim Redmon, Mark Schroeder or Cathy Reynolds. Some of us are driving up on Friday because we also go to Jasper's Strassenfest, which is both on the same weekend.

Our 4th of July vs Germany Celebration on 3rd of October. Our 4th of July is celebrated in United States commemorates the passage of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. This document announced the separation of the 13 North American colonies from Great Britain. Whereas Germany Celebrate on 3rd of October celebrate the reunification. Germany celebrates the fall of the Berlin Wall and the subsequent reunification of east and west.

Happy 4th of July to everyone and be safe on your travels or shooting fireworks.

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! A Note from Board Chair, Ashlyn Ackerman

The Board met in June and here are a few exciting updates:

 **Playground Complete** - Construction is finished, and it was a joy to see kids enjoying the new *Spielplatz* during Wurstfest! A formal dedication will take place once donor signage is installed. Thanks to a successful sponsorship drive, we saved the Club over **\$22,000**—see the breakdown on the next page. A huge thank-you to all of our generous donors!

 **New Stage on the Way** - Thanks to a generous donation from the **Jasper Strassenfest Committee**, a new 20x20 outdoor stage is on its way! We plan to have it installed before Oktoberfest, providing more space for entertainment and smoother band transitions.

A big thank-you to **Jasper Strassenfest, Mike Ackerman**, and our dedicated volunteers—**Fritz Graas, Ray Krause, Bill Bartell, and Alex Hoffmann**—who helped prepare the foundation. Keep an eye on your email for upcoming volunteer opportunities to help bring the stage to life!

 **Giving Back** - The Board has approved a \$2,000 donation—raised through Wurstfest tips—to the **WHAS Crusade for Children**. Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible!

### 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!** 



## PLAYGROUND FINAL COSTS + DONATIONS:

We're excited to share that playground fundraising is now complete, and construction is officially finished! Thank you to our members, guests, and community for your incredible support.

Back in December, the GAC membership approved up to \$50,000 in club funds for the project. Thanks to generous donations and sponsorships, the final cost to the Club was just \$27,504—saving us \$22,496! These savings also allowed us to include a terraced seat wall in the final design.

A big thank-you to Koetter Construction and United Mechanical for their hard work and contributions to have the playground ready for Wurstfest.

A formal dedication is planned for later this summer, where we'll announce our naming rights sponsor and recognize all our donors.

 See the charts on the next page for a full breakdown of costs and donations.

 Questions? Reach out to Ashlyn Ackerman, Board Chair, at [ashlynmackerman@gmail.com](mailto:ashlynmackerman@gmail.com).



# From the Board

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GAC SPIELPLATZ / PLAYGROUND COSTS			
MATERIAL / SCOPE OF WORK	VENDOR	COST	STATUS
Playground Equipment	The Playground Boss	\$ 29,327.00	Complete
2-level retaining wall / seat wall	Koetter Construction	\$ 26,340.00	Complete
Install play equipment, place and spread ground surface	Koetter Construction	\$ 13,700.00	Complete
Aluminum fencing surrounding playground	Cardinal Fencing	\$ 3,308.00	Complete
Grade play area (in-kind donation)	John Burke (United Mechanical)	\$ 7,500.00	Complete
<b>TOTAL APPROVED WORK</b>		<b>\$ 80,175.00</b>	



GAC SPIELPLATZ / PLAYGROUND DONATIONS			
TYPE	INFORMATION	COST	STATUS
Sponsorships (received)	\$250 - \$1,000	\$ 10,000.00	Received
Sponsorships (pledged)	Naming rights sponsor John Burke (United Mechanical)	\$ 15,000.00	Pledged (donation split between 2025 & 2026)
In-kind donations			
Small-dollar donations	<\$250	\$ 7,500.00	Received, work complete
		\$ 7,067.00	Received
Tips collected	Bierhalles & Biergartens through 5-31-25	\$ 13,104.00	Received
<b>TOTAL APPROVED WORK</b>		<b>\$ 52,671.00</b>	

GAC SPIELPLATZ / PLAYGROUND FINAL COST TO MEMBERSHIP			
COSTS INCURRED	DONATIONS RECEIVED & PLEDGED	DELTA (FINAL COST TO CLUB)	COST SAVINGS FROM \$50K APPROVED BY CLUB
\$ 80,175.00	\$ 52,671.00	\$ 27,504.00	\$ 22,496.00

## 🚌 Volksfest Bus Trip – Saturday, August 2nd

Join us for a fun evening at Volksfest!

💲 \$30 per person

🚫 No kids allowed after 5PM

📝 Sign up at July events & meetings

### Bus Schedule (Louisville time):

- Leaves German Club: 2:00 PM
- Arrives Volksfest: ~4:30 PM
- Departs Volksfest: 10:00 PM
- Back at German Club: ~12:30 AM



# 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 eventually mailed.

As of June 20, 2025, our **current membership count is 800**.

For any membership-related inquiries, contact Bill Willinger at **502-931-9336** or email [gac.lou.membership@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:gac.lou.membership@gmail.com).

For member-related deaths, please notify Meghann Marks at [gac.louisville@gmail.com](mailto:gac.louisville@gmail.com).

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

## June Applicants:

Morgan Lyons & Luke Nunn  
John C Wantland & Janine Washle  
Jacob Hoeft & Dollie Kuzmickus  
Zach Childress & Mackenzie Kirtley  
Christopher & Janelle Richardson

Rebecca Herbener & Bryan Frazar  
Bob & Cheryl Schaefer  
Mary & Jeff Ingram  
Julia & Bart Weigel  
Brandon & Nicole Nabor

Ryan Flatt  
Bryan Sektnan  
Joseph Mayrose  
Josh & Liza Schneider  
Peter Kriete + 1

June membership applications are closed & will be voted on July 2nd at 7:00 PM at the Monthly Business Meeting.

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

## \*\*\*Attention German American Festival 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](mailto:andyfeulner@att.net) or 502.758.0412 to find out how you can pitch in and help!

## Welcome New Members

Approved at the June 4th Business Meeting:

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





## 🍒 A Sweet Start to Summer! - We've had an eventful few weeks at the GAC!

👩‍🍳 On June 14, we hosted our first German cooking class with **Nina Greipel**. She treated us to two delicious desserts—**cherry strudel** and **obstkuchen!** 🍰 Each participant received printed recipes and a gift packet of Clear Glaze, then got to sample both creations (spoiler: they were amazing!). With participants ranging in age from **7 to 70**, it was a fun and tasty afternoon for all!



Nina Greipel with  
Rhys Buschemeyer  
(cake decorator) &  
cooking class  
participants

🥗 Looking ahead, **Nina's next classes** will feature an appetizer & soup on **June 28**, and a full meal on **July 26**. Both are currently **sold out**, but due to the overwhelming response, we may add more classes in the future—**stay tuned!**

🇩🇪 **Sharing Stories from Mainz** - On **Sunday, June 22**, **Connie Carver** gave a wonderful presentation about her recent trip to **Mainz, Germany**, as part of a delegation commemorating the **30th anniversary** of the sister city partnership with **Louisville**.

📽️ Connie shared photos and videos of the sites, the people—including the Mayor of Mainz and members of the Friendship Circle—and even brought back a printed reproduction of a Gutenberg Bible page which will soon be on display at the club! Guests also enjoyed a **tasting of German wine** 🍷 and a great Q&A about the trip. Thank you, Connie, for representing the GAC and sharing your experience with us!



## 17 Upcoming Events

- ◆ **Sunday, August 10** – We'll join the **Ancient Order of Hibernians** for a special **Bloody Monday observance**. More details coming soon!
- ◆ **Next GHA Meeting – Wednesday, July 2 at 5:30 PM**, just before the General Business Meeting.

# Ladies Auxiliary News

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 Ladies Auxiliary Update  
From Ashlyn Ackerman, President

 Next Meeting: Monday, July 21 at 6:30 PM

## July Meeting Theme: Flower Crowns!

Oktoberfest is shaping up to be bigger and better than ever—which means it's time to accessorize!

 The Ladies Auxiliary needs your help to restock our popular flower crowns.

Bring your **glue gun**,  **scissors**, and any **loose flowers or ribbon** you can spare. No crafting experience needed—just come ready to have fun!

 Our meetings always include sweet treats, time to socialize, and **NEW THIS YEAR: 🍺 Beer education & tasting** led by our Ladies VP, Connie Menz!

All members are welcome and encouraged to join us. Let's keep the GAC a fun, family-friendly place for all! 



Above: Fritz and Frieda want your help to make flower crowns for Oktoberfest!

**German Fest in Jasper, IN**

**Jasper Strassenfest**  
July 31 - Aug 3

Interested in attending?

Ashlyn will be handing out buttons and programs at the July General Meeting.

# Arrangements Committee

1840 Lincoln Ave  
Louisville, KY 40213



From Mark Schroeder, Arrangements Committee Chair

☀️ **Summer Is Here!** Thank you to everyone who helped make June such a success—especially during **Wurstfest** on June 7! 🍖🍺 Despite a few quick rain showers, the day was filled with delicious food, cold beer, and plenty of fun.

🎉 A huge congratulations to the Board, members, and donors who brought the **new children's playground** to life—it was heartwarming to see kids laughing and splashing through puddles! 🤗💦🌞 The **Spielplatz** is sure to be a treasured addition to the GAC for years to come.

🏆 Kudos to all our brave stein-holding and sausage-throwing contestants—your strength and coordination were impressive and entertaining! 🍺🌭

🍩 June also included our fun celebration of **National Donut Day** with a sweet Happy Hour on June 6. Who knew that donuts and beer could pair so well? 🍺+🍩=❤️

## 🎶 Coming Up in July...

Join us on **Friday, July 12 (2 PM – 11 PM)** for the **German American Festival!**

🎵 *Polka Cola* kicks off the afternoon, followed by *River City Polkatz* in the evening.

🥨 Enjoy great food, ice-cold beer, and plenty of family fun—especially with the new playground! 🎉

🚌 From **July 31 – August 2**, the **Germania Maennerchor Volksfest** returns in Evansville, IN!

The GAC has a **bus trip scheduled for Saturday, August 2**.

- Sign-up at any **July event or meeting**
- Limited rooms available at the **Wyndham Evansville Hotel** for overnight stays

🎉 Don't miss this weekend of German food, music, and fun!

## 🍷 Looking Ahead to August...

Mark your calendar for **Weindorf Biergarten** on **August 9**, featuring German wine sampling and live music!

🎵 Enjoy *Rheingold Band* in the afternoon and *Polka Cola* in the evening. Prost! 🥂

## 🇩🇪 And of course... OKTOBERFEST!

Our biggest event of the year is set for **September 5–6**.

Stay tuned for more details, but trust us—you won't want to miss it! 🍺🎪🎉

♥️ **Thank You!** The Arrangements Committee sincerely thanks each of you for your continued support. Our goal is to host meaningful events that bring joy and value to the GAC community—and we couldn't do it without you! 🙏

## 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, Bowling Team, & Volunteer Committee

1840 Lincoln Ave  
Louisville, KY 40213



## 🎶 Choir News 🎶

Hallo zusammen! 🇩🇪

The choir is currently enjoying a well-deserved **summer break** ☀️, but that doesn't mean you won't see us around — we'll still be **volunteering at club events** throughout the season! 🎉

🎤 Our next performance will be at **Lynn Family Stadium** as we sing the anthems before **Louisville City FC vs. Eintracht Frankfurt** on July 29th! ⚽️🇩🇪

🎟️ We'll be sharing a **special ticket link** soon — each purchase through this link helps support the choir, so be sure to check your **Upcoming Events emails** and **follow us on social media** for details!

🍁 Looking ahead to **October**, we'll be hosting our next **Choir Fundraiser Event** — stay tuned for more info on **table reservations** as we get closer! 📆

🎄 **Christmas Season rehearsals** begin **Wednesday, September 11 at 7:30 PM**.

Whether you're a seasoned singer or just getting started, we **welcome all voices** to join us in celebrating our club's rich tradition of **German choral music!** 🎵❤️

## 🎳 Bowling 2025 🎳

Ready to roll into another fun season? We're planning to have our 3rd bowling team join the league this year! 🚀

🎳 Be sure to let Joe Schweinhart know if you are interested!

- ⌚ Senior League bowls Fridays at 10 AM
- 📅 Season runs from late August to March
- ❄️ No bowling on holidays or snow days
- 💵 Just \$11/week for 3 games
- 🏆 Prizes for high scores, handicaps & more!

You don't need to be a pro — just someone who enjoys a good time and rolling a few frames. It's a handicapped league, so everyone has a chance to shine! ✨

Come join the fun, beat the winter blues, and enjoy great company! 🎉

## 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 July 10th, 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



## German-American Fun Facts

The relationship between Germany & the U.S. has been shaped by immigration, shared values, global cooperation, & rich cultural exchange.

 **Immigration & Culture** - In the 1800s, millions of Germans immigrated to the U.S., bringing **traditions, food, language, & ideas**. From **kindergarten** to **beer gardens**, their influence is still strong today.

 **Shared Ideas** - Both nations value **democracy, education, & civic life**. After WWII, the U.S. helped rebuild Germany with the **Marshall Plan**, laying the foundation for a modern alliance.

 **Military & Political Ties** - Former wartime enemies became **Cold War allies**. The **Berlin Airlift** & **NATO partnership** solidified a deep bond through decades of cooperation.

 **Economic Partnership** - German & U.S. companies are global leaders. They collaborate on **trade, technology, & innovation**, creating jobs & driving progress on both sides of the Atlantic.

 **Exchange & Education** - Student programs, language learning, & travel have built bridges between generations. Cultural ties grow stronger through **festivals, music, & shared traditions**.

 **Ongoing Cooperation** - Together, the U.S. & Germany address global issues like **climate change, security, & human rights**, continuing a **partnership rooted in mutual respect & common goals**.

## Wurstfest Fun



Mid-Shotski



Post Shotski

### 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](mailto:ougac.technology@gmail.com)

# Meet the Board

1840 Lincoln Ave  
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## Meet Andy Feulner

**Board Position:** Board Member

**Other Club Involvement:** Volunteer Committee Chair, Volunteer

**GAC Member Since:** 2019

**Why Andy Joined the GAC:** I joined the club to learn more about my **German heritage**, connect with my roots, and better understand the traditions and culture that shaped **my family's history**.

But it quickly became so much more than that. I met **wonderful new people**, made **lasting friendships**, and found a true sense of **community**.

Being part of this organization has given me the chance to not only **celebrate culture**, but also to **give back**—through volunteering, participating in events, and helping to build volunteerism at the club.



## Life Outside the GAC:

I've had a **lifelong passion for history**—it began at age five and led to a **degree in History**. The past and its influence on today continue to inspire me.

My wife, **Kelly**, and I love to **travel**—we've definitely caught the **cruise bug**, and exploring the world is one of our favorite pastimes. At home, our **two dogs and two cats** always keep us on our toes.

Over the years, we've **hosted three German exchange students** which has been a rewarding way to **broaden our family and deepen our connection to German culture**. If you've ever considered it, we **highly recommend hosting a student!**

I enjoy **connecting with others**—you can learn so much through conversation and shared stories. In my free time, I like to **work out** and unwind with a **fine cigar**.

## Favorite GAC memory:

There are **too many great experiences to name**, but I especially enjoy the **club bus trips**. They offer a **fun** change of scenery while still keeping that same club spirit! Plus the **Jell-O shots are pretty legendary!**

Being part of this organization has been a great way to connect, give back, and celebrate shared interests!



## In Memory of Beverly Boeckmann

It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of **Beverly Boeckmann**, a cherished member of our community since **1997**. Beverly passed away peacefully on **June 21, 2025**, at the age of 85. She was born on **April 8, 1940**, in **Brandenburg, KY**.

Beverly was a devoted **wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, and friend**. Her warmth, kindness, and steady presence will be remembered by all who knew her.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to her husband **Richard**, a loyal GAC member since **1971**, as well as to her children, extended family, and all those who loved her. May they find peace and comfort in the **memories shared** and the **lasting legacy** she leaves behind.