



GERMAN-AMERICAN CLUB GESANGVEREIN, INC.

The German American Club of Louisville, KY

September 2025 Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 9

Message from the President

Oktoberfest Time

The time of year has arrived once again for Oktoberfest on September 5th and 6th. So as always, we will need plenty of volunteers for this two-day event. So please, if you can spare some time, come join us with all the fun working during the Oktoberfest.

Our 5th Friday will be August 29th. Bring a covered dish and meet other members of our German American Club. This is a great way for our new members to meet some of us older members and just have some fun.

The bus trip to Evansville was a fun way to see other German Clubs. Thank you, Evansville, for hosting us again this year. The weather was perfect for setting outside and listening to the bands this year. I hope we have good luck with the weather as well.

We had a great turnout for the spare of the moment members only event August 16th. It seemed that everyone was having a great time chatting with each other. Just getting to know each other a little bit better.

We are having a special election for one board member, if interested the signup sheet for this is on the patio. We will vote for one person on September 3rd, before the general meeting.

I will be looking for a new Historian and IT person who can work on some of our equipment like our mess unit. If you are interested, please see me or send me an email at GAC2023president@gmail.com.

Helen, Georgia, will be celebrating their 55th Annual Helen Oktoberfest, the nation's longest-running Oktoberfest celebration, held in the charming Alpine town of Helen, Georgia. The 2025 festivities span from September 4 through November 2, featuring extended dates to commemorate this milestone anniversary. Most of the weeks it is only Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Cathy Reynolds, GAC President

URGENT NOTICE

Special Board Election on September 3rd
see page 3 for more details

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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, Tanya Schantz.

Happy September GAC Members!!!

Please join me in welcoming our newest board member, **Klaus Riedelsheimer** 😊 Glad to have you aboard! 🙌

Currently we still have one open board seat and will be holding a **special election** at the September meeting. A sign-up sheet will be out on the veranda for those that wish to sign up 🙌 Please take the time to review the duties of the board and sign up if you're interested.

Voting will open at 5:00 PM Wednesday and end at 7:20 PM before the September business meeting. The elections committee will announce the new official afterward. We decided to extend voting 20 minutes into our meeting to give those USPS members enough time to vote in case mail runs late due to the holiday.

Please help spread the word regarding the open seat—we want all members to have the chance to sign up and vote!

Playground Updates:

We've had several inquiries regarding the playground—particularly its size and the age group it serves. We hear you!

Everyone had the opportunity to review the specs, including cost and breakdown of where the money went, and to share opinions before plans were finalized. We understand things look different in real life than on paper.

The board is reviewing options, including **adding to the play area in the future** for older children in the designed age group. If you have suggestions, please contact a board member!

From Your New Board Chair:

I want to **apologize** 🙏 for how the August business meeting went. To say it was poorly executed is an understatement, and I truly am sorry this happened.

To be transparent, the board met and discussed what needs to be done to correct mistakes. The Board and Officers took an oath to uphold the GAC constitution and by-laws, and that's what we plan to do.

Regarding the license issue: No board member was aware we had the wrong license. When the State ABC came in and advised us previously, we believed we were in compliance. Unfortunately, after a recent call to the ABC, we learned otherwise. We are working diligently to **get this corrected**.

We are all human and make mistakes ❤️ We can't change the past, and yes, we sadly lost some great people because of this—but we hope members will give us a chance to **make things right** and move forward together.

My door is **always open** for any concerns you may have. I may not have all the answers, but I'll do my very best to find them for you!

Special Board Election

1840 Lincoln Ave
Louisville, KY 40213



Special Election Coming Up!

We'll be holding a **special election during the September 3rd general meeting** to fill an open board seat.

 A **sign-up sheet** will be available on the veranda. Please take a moment to review the board duties and **add your name by 6 pm on September 2nd if you'd like to run**.

 **Voting will open at 5:00 PM on Wednesday and close at 7:20 PM**, just before the September business meeting begins.

 **The Elections Committee** will announce the results **right after voting ends**.

Eligibility:

- 1) A member may only hold one office.
- 2) Candidates for this Board of Director position should be an active member of the GAC for last three (3) consecutive years.
- 3) The term of this Board of Director position shall be until the end of 2026.



Election Procedures:

- 1) This special election for the current open board seat will take place 2 hours prior to the beginning of the regular business meeting in September.
- 2) After voting closes, the Nominating Committee shall adjourn to count the ballots in private.
- 3) All elections shall be conducted by secret ballot and shall be presided over by the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee.
- 4) The candidate receiving the greatest number of votes in this election shall be declared the winner.

Board Member Duties:

- 1) Serve as the governing body of the GAC in accordance with its Constitution and Bylaws.
- 2) Be responsible for all policies and procedures pertaining to the operation of the GAC.
- 3) Assume responsibility for the proper maintenance of all GAC property.
- 4) With the Arrangements Committee, set rates, fees and prices to be charged by the GAC for events.
- 5) Set the rental fees for use of GAC facilities and properties.
- 6) Make decisions relative to improvements to the GAC building, equipment and grounds, including expenditures up to an amount established by the Finance Committee. Any expenditure in excess of that amount shall be approved by the general membership.
- 7) Consider the dismissal of a member from the Board after two (2) consecutive unexcused absences from Board meetings.

Members of the Board shall serve for the benefit of the GAC without compensation and not for personal gain.

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 August 20, 2025, our **current membership count is 843**.

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!

August Applicants:

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

August membership applications are closed & will be voted on September 3rd at 7:00 PM at the Monthly Business Meeting.

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

Welcome New Members

Approved at the July 2nd Business Meeting:

Debbie Berlinghieri
Dennis & Krista Wiedmeyer
Tippi Mctyeire
Rachel Casey
Zachary Hooper
Stephen & Teresa Casey
Kevin Eisert & Mary Wells-Eisert
Lisa Salvitti
Cindy Salvitti
William Green
Rose Flowers
Darren Johnson
Gretchen Gambill
Ryan & Patricia Triplett

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 & Jurgen 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
Pat Zimmerman			



The **Bloody Monday Commemoration** was held on **Sunday, August 10**, and it was a **huge success!** There was a fantastic turnout at the historical marker on Main St. between 10th and 11th, with great representation from the **German American Club** and the **Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH)**.

Highlights included:

- A talk by historian **Shawn Herron**
- Remarks by **John O'Dwyer**, AOH State President
- Bagpipe performance by GAC member **Karen Brumley**
- Additional speakers: David Lindsey (AOH Louisville Secretary), Brian Clarke (poet), Tim McMonigal (AOH Membership Director), and Kathy Lee-Jarvis (GAC Germanic Heritage Auxiliary VP)

After the commemoration, the **after-party** continued at the GAC with:

- **Delicious food** (reubens, German potato salad, and amazing desserts from attendees)
- **German beer & Guinness**
- **Live Irish music** by Liam Fancy & Bev from Lexington

With **about 100 people in attendance**, the event was such a hit that there's talk of making it **annual!** A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who came and to AOH for this wonderful collaboration!



Irish & German flags



Great turnout!



Karen Brumley plays beautifully!



German Language Classes Are Back!

Our **German classes** will be starting soon, and we'd love for you to join us!

Dates: 9/18, 10/2, 10/16, 11/13, & 11/20

Time: 6:00 PM – 7:15 PM

Location: GAC (Main Hall)

Instructor: Jordan Gabbard, German professor at UofL

Cost: \$25 for all 6 classes (pay Jordan directly: cash, check, or Venmo)

All skill levels welcome!

To register: Text **Nancy Woods** at **502-489-2264** with your **name and email** so we can plan for attendance.

Come learn some German and have fun—we look forward to seeing you on **Sept 18!**

More GHA News

1840 Lincoln Ave
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Cooking Class Series with Nina Greipel Wrap-Up & What's Next!

Our last class in the first series was a success! Nina taught us how to make **chicken ragout, spaetzle, and potato pancakes**. Everyone got copies of the recipes, sampled the dishes, and enjoyed stories from Nina's mom!

Exciting news: We're hosting a **second series of classes!** Nina will lead three new sessions:

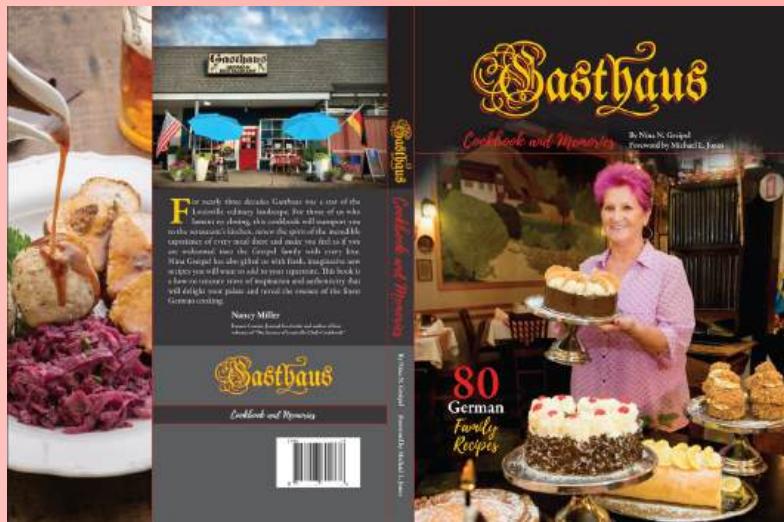
- **Sunday, Oct 19** → Soft Pretzels, Bavarian Cabbage Soup, Liptauer Cheese Dip
- **Saturday, Nov 1** → Frikadellen, Sausage Rolls, & Streuselkuchen
- **Saturday, Nov 15** → House Salad Dressing, Schnitzel, Spaetzle

Classes last about 3 hours starting at 2 PM

Cost: \$40 per class | Max 15 participants

These fill up fast—sign-up details coming soon!

Nina has also created a **Gasthaus Recipe Cookbook**, and we'll host a **book signing** at the GAC soon—stay tuned for details!



October 19th Menu:
Soft Pretzels, Bavarian Cabbage Soup (below left), Liptauer Cheese Dip (below right)



November 1st Menu:
Frikadellen (below left), Sausage Rolls, Streuselkuchen (below right)



Shop at Oktoberfest!

We'll be selling **German books, magnets, and tote bags** at **Oktoberfest (Sept 5–6)** at the GHA booth. Perfect for gifts— birthdays, Christmas, and more!



Next Meeting

Wednesday, Sept 3 at 5:30 PM (before the General Business Meeting). Come join us and hear about more exciting events in the works!

Ladies Auxiliary & Choir Updates

1840 Lincoln Ave
Louisville, KY 40213



Ladies Auxiliary Update

Next meeting: Monday, September 15th at 6:30 pm
Everyone is welcome!

Oktoberfest Kids Activities!

🎂 Kuchen & Karacters – Saturday Afternoon

Kids & grandkids of GAC members can enjoy cupcakes 🍰 and story time 📖 with real fairytale princesses! 🎀

✉️ Watch your email for sign-up info.

🎨 Face Painting – Friday & Saturday

Kids *and adults* can show their Oktoberfest spirit with fun face paint designs! 🎭

🔍 Scavenger Hunt – Friday & Saturday

A selfie scavenger hunt to teach kids German words 🇩🇪 and Oktoberfest traditions 🎣. Everyone who completes it wins a prize! 🎁📸

🖍 Coloring Contest – Friday & Saturday

Help us decorate the main hall with Oktoberfest-themed artwork! 🖼️

🏆 Prince & Princess Contest – Saturday Afternoon

Kids can compete for sashes, crowns, and fun prizes! 🎉 Events include a pretzel ring toss 🍞 and root beer stein hold 🍺 (kid-friendly, of course!).

✉️ Sign-up details coming soon.

buc Busy Buckets – Friday & Saturday

As always, we'll have bubbles, chalk, toys, and games to keep kids entertained outdoors near the playground! ☀️🧸🎈

🎵 Choir News 🎵

The choir is warming up and getting ready for the 🎄 **Christmas season!** Rehearsals will resume on **Thursdays at 7:30 PM starting September 11, 2025** 🎤.

Whether you're a seasoned singer or just love to hum along, *all skill levels* are welcome to join us in continuing our Club's nearly **150-year tradition** of celebrating German choral music 🇩🇪🎵.

💡 Save the Date: Trivia Night Fundraiser – October 17, 2025!

Brush up on your fun facts and stay tuned for more details about our next exciting **Trivia Night** fundraiser—always a great time for a great cause! 🎉🍺

Arrangements Committee & Technology Updates

1840 Lincoln Ave
Louisville, KY 40213



🎪 Arrangements Committee Update from Mark Schroeder, Committee Chair

🎉 We're just days away from the biggest event on our calendar: Oktoberfest! 🍻

We can't wait to celebrate this phenomenal event with you – and it's all possible because of YOU! 🙌

Event Schedule:

- ✓ **Friday, Sept 5** – 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM
- ✓ **Saturday, Sept 6** – 2:00 PM to 11:00 PM

🍺 Enjoy a tasty collection of renowned beers and food, plus great music:

- 🎶 *Friday: The Good Fellows*
- 🎶 *Saturday: Rheingold Band & River City Polkatz*

🎯 Saturday Fun: A full range of games and activities for everyone!

🌐 We're thrilled to host such a global celebration right here in Louisville! Many folks in our region count on us for an event packed with **flavors, colors, and cheer**. So, grab your friends, bring your energy, and let's raise a glass together! **Prost!** 🍻

👉 **What's Next?** After Oktoberfest, join us for one more outdoor beer festival on **Sept 27**, before we move indoors for our **Bierhalle series in October**. A full calendar of fall and winter fun awaits! 🍻

❤️ **Thank You!** The Arrangements Committee thanks you for your continued support. Oktoberfest is our biggest event of the year and a major undertaking—but we're ready for it, thanks to YOU! 🎉

💻 Update from Meghann Marks, Committee Chair 💻

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

We're now using **Square** for pre-payments and RSVPs 🛍 – it's working great! Links are included in the Friday emails.

Not getting the emails? Reach out to **gac.louisville@gmail.com** or **ougac.technology@gmail.com**

👉 If you previously unsubscribed, I'll need to send a special link to re-subscribe, and your email must be tied to a current membership.

Need to add more than one email for your household? Just let me know!

Kitchen, Volunteer Committee & Other Updates

1840 Lincoln Ave
Louisville, KY 40213



Excitement is Building in the GAC Kitchen!!!

Oktoberfest is almost here, and we're preparing for our **biggest fundraiser of the year!** 🍻 It takes a village to make this event a success, and we truly appreciate all the help we can get.

🥔 **Potato Power:** We'll need lots of hands to help peel 600 lbs of potatoes for our German potato salad!

📅 When:

- 300 lbs on **Wednesday**
- 300 lbs on **Thursday** (week of Oktoberfest)

We usually start around **9:00 AM**, so please come lend a hand!

🍰 **Sweet Treat Prep:** We'll also need assistance cutting all those delicious cakes and strudel, led by our very own **Neal Hardesty & Michelle Osbourn**.

🥩 **Menu Sneak Peek:** Our special Oktoberfest meat order is IN! Look forward to:

- Schweinshaxe (Pig Knuckle) 🐷
- Kassler Rippchen (Grilled Smoked Pork Chops)
- Fleischkäse (Grilled German Bologna)

PLUS new this year: Bierstube Brats on the Brat Grill! 🌭

👉 **Want to help?** If you haven't signed up to volunteer yet, now's the time! Oktoberfest is our biggest fundraiser, and we need all our amazing members to make this year's celebration one of the best yet (hats or hairnets required)!

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 Sept 25th, 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.



Looking to get moving and have some fun?

Jazzercise is offering a **FREE 45-minute Low Impact** dance fitness class at the German-American Club!

Expect **Low Impact** cardio & strength training — easy on the joints & set to upbeat music that'll keep you smiling while you move!

Open to anyone 16 or older — men & women at ANY fitness level are



Interested? Email **Kelly Feulner** at feulners@bellsouth.net to sign up or get more info



Meet the Board

1840 Lincoln Ave
Louisville, KY 40213



Meet Karin Naumowicz

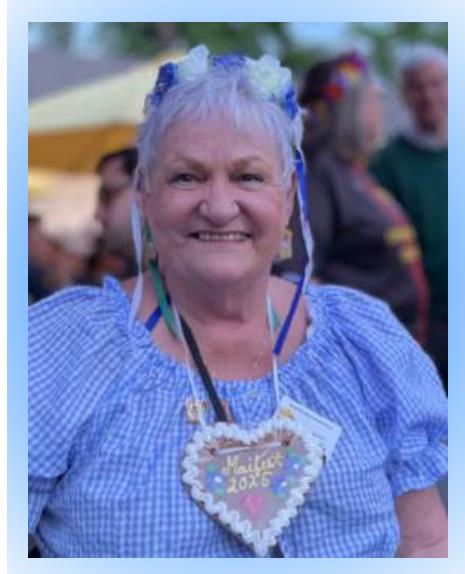
Board Position: Board Member

Other Club Involvement: GAC Vice President & Choir Chair

GAC Member Since: 40+ years

Why You Joined GAC: I discovered the Club shortly after returning from Germany, and over the years, I've had the privilege of serving in almost every position—both elected and as a volunteer. Along the way, I've met so many wonderful people and built lasting friendships.

I joined the choir right away because I love to sing and have always enjoyed the traditional German folk songs I remember from school. Coming to the Club feels special to me—it's a connection to my heritage. Even though I've made my home and citizenship here, in my heart, I will always be German.



My daughter Tanya shares the same passion for the Club as I do, and together with my husband Bob, we've hosted many guests from Germany throughout the years.

Favorite GAC Memory: I truly enjoy meeting new people, talking with them, and making them feel welcome at our Club. One of my favorite activities is going on trips like Saengerfest. The bus rides are always a highlight—filled with laughter, singing, and the chance to get to know each other better.

Being a member of this Club is such a joy. It's all about great friendships and unforgettable experiences, and I always look forward to every visit.

Fun at Volksfest

