



GERMAN-AMERICAN CLUB GESANGVEREIN, INC.

The German American Club of Louisville, KY

May 2025 Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 5

Message from the President

Muttertag, Blumen und Rasenmähen. (Mother's Day, flowers & cutting the grass)

The fish fry was well attended. We had a lot of fun & were glad to see everyone come out on Good Friday. Also, the cleanup day had a bunch of members come out to help. It is very much appreciated. We cannot have all the events we have it was not for all volunteers to help the club out. Thank you very much for all the work you have done.

They should be getting started on the playground here in the next few weeks & hopefully we will have done for Wurstfest. I believe that the children & parents will really appreciate the space & the new wall to be able to set & watch your children play. This has taken a lot of planning for Ashlyn Ackerman & the board.

Maifest is nearly here, our way to say welcome to Spring & warmer temperatures. The month of April has been busy getting ready for Maifest. Maifest is on May 10th, the gates open at 2:00 pm.

Mother's Day will be here soon as well. Thank all your moms for everything they have done for you over the years. The sacrifices she made for you. Moms have an undying love for their children & give all she has. Tell her how much you appreciate her.

May 18th is the Spring Concert of our very talented choir. You must have a ticket to get in to hear them sing. You can get tickets from Janet Schweinhart, Joe Parson, & Cathy Reynolds. The tickets are \$20 each & we only have 300.

Maifest is our first outdoor event. So please consider signing up to volunteer to help support our club. We will need bartenders, kitchen help, ticket workers & other things behind the scenes such as peeling potatoes, setting up for the day.

If you have any news or pictures for the newsletter, please send them to Kelly Feulner at gac.lou.news@gmail.com.

Happy Mother's!

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



Hallöchen! From Board Chair, Ashlyn Ackerman Board Meeting Updates – April

The Board met in April and approved several key initiatives:

- ✓ **Playground Construction:** Work on the playground site begins the last week of April, with all equipment installed and ready before **Wurstfest in June!**
- ✓ **Kid-Friendly Maifest Fun:** We're planning extra activities to keep the little ones entertained during Maifest.
- ✓ **Fresh New Look:** New awnings at the front and side entrances will be installed just in time for Maifest.
- ✓ **Maifest Fast Pass:** The Board approved a limited-edition **"Fast Pass" ticket** for Maifest! For **\$50**, you'll receive early entry, 10 tickets, a GAC pitcher, reusable cup, Maifest koozie, snack voucher, and access to the **Fast Pass line** to skip the crowds. Only 50 available! See **Meghann Marks** to grab yours.

Got ideas to make the GAC even better? Drop them in the **Suggestion Box** located in the Main Hall by the stage! The Board checks submissions monthly—we'd love to hear from you. You can stay anonymous or leave your name if you'd like a follow-up. With a big membership and a small Board, your input makes a big difference!



Support the Playground Donation Drive – Every Gift Counts!

Spielplatz (Playground) Update

A huge **thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Spielplatz (playground) project!** So far, we've raised over \$18,000, significantly reducing costs for the club.

A special shoutout to **John Burke**, who is generously donating his time & equipment to grade & level the playground site—a fantastic in-kind contribution to the project! Additionally, Koetter Construction has been authorized to begin work on the terraced seat wall in April.

We're excited to see progress by Maifest, but to allow enough time for installation, the **official ribbon-cutting will now take place at Wurstfest on June 7**. In the meantime, the playground area will be filled with yard game & kids' activities during Maifest to keep the little ones entertained!

There's Still Time to Donate!

Want to be part of this legacy project? You can still contribute!

- **See Ashlyn Ackerman or Cathy Reynolds** for a sponsorship form.
- **Drop a donation** in the tip jar at our last two indoor Bier Halles.
- Donations are **tax-deductible**, and those who contribute **\$250 or more** will receive tax letters in May.

Already donated?



Membership News

1840 Lincoln Ave
Louisville, KY 40213



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

Membership cards are available for pickup at club events. If not picked up, they will be mailed at a later date.

As of April 20, 2025, our **current membership count is 747**.

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:

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

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

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

Welcome New Members

Approved at the April 2nd Business Meeting:

- Chris & Clare Noe
- James & Elizabeth Ransdell
- Jennifer & Jeremy Weissrock
- Marcel Caspar
- Joseph & Stephanie Galia
- Wesley Stover & Amanda Wolfe
- David Dillon
- Dennis & Ann Horn
- Leah Dienes
- Chuck & Terri Harp
- Valerie & David Casey
- Linda & Tim Barrett

Attention Maifest Volunteers

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

You'll grab your **volunteer package** there — 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, we've got spots available! Reach out to **Andy Feulner** at **andyfeulner@att.net** or 502.758.0412 to find out how you can pitch in and help!

German-American Club
Louisville, KY

Presents
Maifest 2025

Featuring
The Rheingold Band 2-6pm
&
The River City Polkatz 7-11pm

May 10th
2-11 PM

1840 Lincoln Ave
Louisville, KY 40213

Free Entry!

Stein Holding
Facepainting
Kinderchor Performance
Kids Scavenger Hunt

Want to be ahead of the rush?
Check out the link for the Fast Pass Option!





Thank you to everyone who came out for the **Walpurghisnacht Bierhalle!** 🍷

It was an exciting night with *two* performances by **Die Heisen Hexen** — the first dance was specially choreographed just for them, and the second was their original dance. 🧛‍♀️🧛‍♀️

They were also joined by four members of the **Bluegrass Black Hats**, a semi-local dance troupe, for the second dance. From all the great comments we heard, it sounds like everyone loved the show!

Interested in joining Die Heisen Hexen? Reach out to **Nancy Woods** or **Kathy Lee-Jarvis** — we'd love to have you!



L-R; Dane Waters, Ashlyn Ackerman, Sue Powell, Etta Lechleiter, Meghann Marks, Kathy Lee-Jarvis, Connie Carver

L-R: Bluegrass Black Hats (BBH) Guest, BBH Guest, Sue Powell, Nancy Woods, Ashlyn Ackerman, Connie Carver, Kathy Lee-Jarvis, Etta Lechleiter, BBH Guest, BBH Guest, Dane Waters



L-R; Andrew Chastain, Linda Starks, Sarah Cleary, Steve Wright

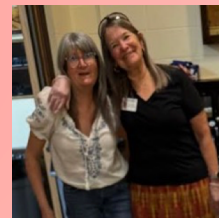
🌸 Grunderfest – April 13

A big thanks to everyone who joined us for **Grunderfest!**

We had a great crowd, lots of delicious food 🍴, and amazing musical entertainment by

Steve Wright, Andrew Chastain, Sarah Cleary, and Linda Starks. 🎵

A huge shoutout to **Steve and friends** for making this year's Grunderfest extra special! And of course, thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the prep, coordination, and cleanup — we couldn't have done it without you! 🙌🙌



Nancy Woods & Kathy Lee-Jarvis



🌍 Mainz Trip Presentation – May 25 at 2:00 PM

Join us as **Connie Carver** shares insights from her **World Affairs Council trip to Mainz, Germany**. Don't miss this exciting presentation!

🔍 Upcoming German Cooking Classes!

Mark your calendars for our **German Cooking Classes** on the following Saturdays:

- 📅 **June 14**
- 📅 **June 28**
- 📅 **July 26**

Details on recipes, class times, and signups are coming soon — stay tuned! 🍴👩🍳👨🍳

📅 Next GHA Meeting

Join us for our next **GHA meeting** on **Wednesday, May 7 at 5:30 PM** (right before the General Business Meeting at 7:00 PM). We'd love to see you there! 📅

Ladies Auxiliary News

1840 Lincoln Ave
Louisville, KY 40213












Ladies Auxiliary Update & Upcoming Events

Join us for the next **Ladies Auxiliary meeting** on **Monday, May 19 at 6:30 PM!**

May's Theme: Fill the Busy Buckets!

We're collecting items for the "busy buckets" used at our outdoor bier gardens to help keep kids entertained while the adults relax. Please consider donating items like:

-  Coloring books & crayons
-  Stickers
-  Bubbles
-  Small cars/trucks
-  Blocks
-  Small balls or outdoor games
-  Action figures or toy animals
-  Kids' shovels & rakes
-  Sidewalk chalk...or anything fun and kid-friendly!



Above – ideas for busy buckets!

Every meeting includes a **sweet treat**, time to **socialize**, and—**new this year**—a fun **beer education & tasting** session led by our VP, **Connie Menz**!

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Let's work together to keep the GAC a warm and family-friendly space for everyone!

Event Highlight: Children's Egg Hunt + Easter Party | April 13

A huge **thank you** to everyone who joined us—and especially to our amazing volunteers—for making this year's Easter Party such a joyful celebration!

We had over **40 children** hopping around hunting eggs, crafting adorable **bunny hats**, and decorating beautiful Easter eggs for our very own **Osterbrunnen**.

The **Osterbrunnen** is a cherished tradition from the Franconia region of Germany, where towns decorate their central fountains with greenery, flowers, and colorful eggs to mark the Easter season.

Our **GAC Osterbrunnen** is now proudly displayed on the **veranda**—stop by and admire the kids' wonderful artwork next time you're at the club!



Margaret
Parsons &
granddaughter
Nora



Ron Kemper's
granddaughters

Easter Bunny
& Sybille
Marshall's
granddaughter
Tania



Easter Egg
Hunt!



Marie &
Michael Diebold
with Easter
Bunny



The GAC
Osterbrunnen with
all the eggs
decorated by GAC
kids!



Unknown, but
very cute,
Easter Party
attendee



Arrangements Committee

1840 Lincoln Ave
Louisville, KY 40213



Hello Fellow Members!

The **Arrangements Committee** is gearing up for an exciting spring, full of events for you to enjoy and support! **April** was a busy month, featuring:

- 🍺 **Bierhalle** – April 12
- 🎉 **Grunderfest** & 🐰 **Children's Easter Party** – April 13
- 🐟 **Fish Fry** – April 18
- 🎵 **Sängerfest** in Evansville – April 25–26
- 🍺 **Hofbräuhaus Night** – April 30

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who rolled up their sleeves for **Club Clean-Up Day** on April 19! 🙌

🌸 Coming Up in May: Outdoor Season Begins! 🌸

Get ready for **Maifest** on **Saturday, May 10** — our first outdoor event of the year! Enjoy:

- 🎵 Two bands:
 - **Rheingold Band** (2:00–6:00 PM)
 - **River City Polkatz** (7:00–11:00 PM)
- 🍺 Great beer and delicious food
- 🎁 Games, vendors, and more
- 🎪 Dedication of our brand-new **Spielplatz (Playground) Project!**

Volunteers Needed! If you haven't signed up yet, please do—**many hands make light work!**

🍷 Save the Date: Wurstfest – June 7! 🍷

Come hungry and ready to celebrate with:

- A mouth-watering selection of sausages and specialty beers 🍺
- Live music from:
 - **Rheingold Band** (2:00–6:00 PM)
 - **River City Polkatz** (7:00–11:00 PM)

Thank you for supporting the **Arrangements Committee**. We are so excited for a season full of fun, community spirit, and *Gemütlichkeit!* 🇩🇪💛

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 🎵

SPRING CONCERT:

The choir is hard at work preparing for their **Spring Concert on May 18!** 🎤🌸

We have a wonderful program of choral music lined up, along with a delicious dinner. 🍽️🎵

Tickets are required for this event — please contact **Janet Schweinhart** at janetschweinhart@gmail.com to purchase your tickets **as soon as possible**, as we anticipate selling out! 🎫

🧠 Trivia Night Coming This Fall!

Mark your calendars — we'll be hosting another fun-filled **Trivia Night** in **October!** Stay tuned for updates and details about table reservations as the date gets closer. 📝✨

🎄 Christmas Choir Season – Join Us!

Practices for our **Christmas season** will kick off the **Thursday after Oktoberfest.**

If you've ever thought about joining the choir, this is the perfect time! 🎵

- Practices are **Thursday nights** from **7:30–9:00 PM.**
- **All skill levels are welcome** — we love seeing new faces! 😊

Interested? Please reach out to **Joe Parsons** or **Karin Naumowicz** with any questions. 🎤🎵

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 May 8th, 6:15 pm at the club

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



Meet Andy Feulner!

Andy is the Chairperson for the Volunteer Committee.

You've probably seen Andy & his wife, Kelly, around the club. Andy is also a GAC Board Member. If you haven't met Andy, please introduce yourself when you see him & let him know if you are interested in volunteering!

Stein Lockers

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



From the Kitchen

1840 Lincoln Ave
Louisville, KY 40213



Maifest is on the Way – Join the Kitchen Crew!

With **Maifest** just around the corner, the kitchen is heating up. Keep an eye on your email 📧 and come lend a hand — It truly takes a village to keep everything running smoothly — **your help makes all the difference!** 🙌

🚫 Kitchen Safety Reminder! 🚫

Just a quick reminder: **Please stay out of the kitchen during Bierhalles and Biergartens** unless you're actively volunteering in the kitchen, snack bar, or at the grill. 🔥🍞

We're always on the move with hot food, and we want to keep everyone safe! 🛑👨🍳👩🍳

If you're helping with **trash collection**, you're absolutely welcome to pop in and grab the garbage. 🗑️👍

👨🍳 Kitchen Volunteer Reminders 👩🍳

- **Hairnets or hats are a must!** 🧢👒
(If you forget yours, no worries — we have extras!)
- **It takes all of us** to keep things moving! With **700+ members**, we need every extra hand. 🙌

✨ Teamwork Makes the Dream Work! ✨

It takes all of us to make these events a success — please volunteer where you can and help keep our traditions alive! ❤️🙌

Communications Update:

We're working on a **special webpage** to **showcase our outdoor gatherings**. Please send any photos from past outdoor events to lougac.technology@gmail.com

Did you know you can **integrate our events calendar directly into your Google or Apple calendar**? You can add single events or sync everything, **so you never miss a thing!** Plus, each Bierhalle and festival includes a full band schedule for the summer.



<https://www.gaclouisville.org>



New Members Clare & Chris Noe volunteering with their daughters



Chris Noe & Patty Zimmerman



Ben washes dishes



Doube Trouble Karens!



Kathy Webber

Meet the Board

1840 Lincoln Ave
Louisville, KY 40213



Meet Joe Schweinhart

Board Position: Board Member

Other Club Involvement: Honeydoer, stein locker landlord, club t-shirt maker, head honcho of the schnapps booth, and active volunteer!

GAC Member Since: can't remember! Over 10 years!

Why Joe Joined the GAC:

When Joe retired over 10 years ago, he wanted to be useful and drink good beer. The GAC was the perfect fit!

Life Outside the GAC:

Until he retired, Joe worked in the public sector, including as chief of staff for Senator Wendell Ford in Washington, DC. He has also served as a city manager and business lobbyist. Nowadays, he and his wife Janet stay busy with their grown children, bunches of friends, and plenty of bourbon tastings.

Favorite GAC memory:

Joe's favorite GAC memories include all of his good friends and having fun at the club – mixing good beer, food, and lots of laughs. A memory he can't forget was his "near death" experience a few years ago. "I was working on the 20-tapper one afternoon putting up signs. Just as I was stepping down off the bar onto a chair to get down, there was an earthquake in far Western Kentucky. The tremor shook all the way to Louisville, although not much, it was enough to shake my chair and I fell. It resulted in an emergency visit to the hospital where my elbow received stitches and I had a broken wrist!"



Tom O'Bryant, Beverly Gottfried, & Mark Jarvis

Judy Braden & Mary Beck



Tom & Suzanne Powell

Tim Redmon, Cathy Reynolds, & John Gerhard



Brian & Connie Menz



Judy Schroeder, Meghann Marks, & Beccy Kirtland



Karen Brumley & Steve Oswald

Karin Naumowicz & Pat Zimmerman



Matt & Lisa Fluhr



Ron Schlatter

Pat O'Bryant, Kelly Feulner, & Linda Blackman

