



# GERMAN-AMERICAN CLUB GESANGVEREIN, INC.

The German American Club of Louisville, KY

August 2025 Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 8

## Message from the President

**Sommer ist Weinsaison** (Summer is Wine season.)

Looking ahead, our calendar remains full of exciting events. We're grateful for the energy and enthusiasm everyone brings to these gatherings which make our community so vibrant. Even with a little rain, the spirit of togetherness always shines through.

As most of us know by now our Weindorf (Wine) Festival has been cancelled due to our liquor license. We are actively working very hard to get an upgrade to our license, so we have it in time for Oktoberfest. We appreciate your understanding and support as we navigate this process.

July has been another busy month with 4th of July, biergarten on July 12 and the last cooking Class. Thank you to all who have volunteered to help our club succeed. I cannot begin to tell you how much I appreciate each one of you.

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.

Did you know there are plenty of opportunities to help the club? There are a lot of people behind the scenes that need volunteers. So, if you cannot help at the events there are plenty of other opportunities that you may be able to do. For example, Honey Doers that meet on Tuesday mornings from 9 to 12. Lunch is provided. The kitchen will need help with breading for Oktoberfest. This is most of time on Thursday's. There will be a notice sent out for this.

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.

As we were going to have our Weindorf (wine) festival, in Frankfurt Germany they to have an Apple Wine festival. This is a 10-day celebration of one of the city's most famous Apple Wine (Apfelweinfestival). Apple wine - known locally as "Ebbelwoi".

Try to stay cool as the month of August is one of our hottest months.

Cathy Reynolds  
GAC President

### \*\*\*URGENT NOTICE\*\*\*

***Our August 9th Biergarten is Canceled***

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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 July and here are a few exciting updates:

🚧 **Playground Fence Complete!** The new fence around the playground is up and looking great! 🎉 We're planning a special dedication during Oktoberfest—stay tuned!

🚧 **Stage Built with Love (and Sweat)!** Huge THANK YOU to all the amazing volunteers who braved a steamy Sunday afternoon to build our new outdoor stage! 🙌 A few finishing touches are still in the works, but we can't wait to start using it. This elevated stage will be a centerpiece at future events! 🎶🌟

🎁 **\$1,000 Donation in Honor of Mike & Ann Ackerman.** The Board voted to donate \$1,000 to the Jasper Deutscher Verein in honor of Mike & Ann, who brought the stage idea to life and donated time, materials, and equipment. Thank you both! ❤️

📋 **GAC Constitution Update Coming Soon.** An updated version of the GAC Constitution is almost ready for review.

Join us for a special presentation on **Wednesday, Sept. 17 at 6:30 PM** to hear about the proposed changes. 🎤

After the meeting, we'll email the proposal to all members for review. A second meeting will be held to give everyone a chance to ask questions and offer feedback.

Let your voice be heard—this document will help guide the club for the next 10 years! 💬✓

⚡ **Faster Internet = Better Experience!** We're upgrading our internet speed from 100 Mbps to 1 GIG!

That means smoother transactions and better streaming during sports events. 📊💻

💳 **New Credit Card Fee Policy!** Right now, GAC pays all credit card processing fees (around 3%), costing the club over \$15,000 per year. 😳 Starting at Oktoberfest, a small 3% processing fee will be added to all credit card purchases.

💳 **Cash payments will remain fee-free!** **Treasurer Jonathan Marks will share more at the August general meeting.**



Above & left:  
The new  
stage during  
construction  
& complete.

# 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 July 20, 2025, our **current membership count is 826**.

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!

## July Applicants:

Rachel Casey & Zachary Hooper

Kevin Eisert & Mary Wells-Eisert

William Green & Rose Flowers

Darren Johnson & Gretchen Gambill

Dennis & Krista Wiedmeyer

Stephen & Teresa Casey

Ryan & Patricia Triplett

Cindy Salvitti

Debbie Berlinghieri

Michael Coddington + 1

Tippi McTyreire

Lisa Salvitti

## Welcome New Members

### Approved at the July 2nd Business Meeting:

Peter Kriete

Rebecca Herbener & Bryan Frazar

John C Wantland & Janine Washle

Bob & Cheryl Schaefer

Zach Childress & Mackenzie Kirtley

Ryan Flatt

Jacob Hoeft & Dollie Kuzmickus

Julia & Bart Weigel

Brandon & Nicole Nabor

Mary & Jeff Ingram

Morgan Lyons & Luke Nunn

Christopher & Janelle Richardson

Josh & Liza Schneider

Bryan Sektnan

Joseph Mayrose

## Indiana Club Events



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

Join us for a fun evening at Volksfest!

\$ \$30 per person

⚠ No kids allowed after 5PM

#### Bus Schedule (Louisville time):

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



You can sign up & reserve your bus seat at: <https://checkout.square.site/buy/B6MBRNES2MAPA3YUSMOHAQGO>



## Our Cooking Classes Were a Hit!

Our third cooking class was held on Saturday, July 26 — and it sold out again! 😊

If you missed out, don't worry — Chef Nina will be joining our next GHA meeting to chat about future classes, dates, and menus. 🍽️ Stay tuned!



Pat Otte & Nancy Woods help prepare vegetables for the 6/28 cooking class.



Chef Nina prepares the Flammkuchen for the 6/28 class.



Chef Nina prepares potato soup for the 6/28 class.



Yummy potato soup from the 6/28 class!



## Upcoming Joint Event: Remembering Bloody Monday

We're teaming up with the Ancient Order of Hibernians for a special event commemorating Bloody Monday, the election riots of August 6.



**Where:** Historical Marker on Main Street (between 10th & 11th)



**When:** Sunday, August 10 — Meet at 1:00 PM for a 30-min presentation



Then join us back at the GAC from 2–4 PM for food, music, and fellowship!



Doors open at 1:30 PM



Bring a dessert to share if you'd like — and drinks will be available for purchase! 🍻



**Please RSVP via the Upcoming Events email so we can plan accordingly.**



## German Classes Update!

We've got 18 people interested in German classes — wunderbar! 🎉 We're coordinating with our instructor, Jordan Gabbard, and will follow up soon with details on class dates, costs, and schedule. Expect classes to begin in late August or early September.



## Next GHA Meeting

Join us Wednesday, August 6 at 5:30 PM. We'll wrap up before the general business meeting at 7:00. Hope to see you there! 🙌



**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 welcome!**

*We're currently gauging interest — more details on dates to come.*

Interested? Email **Kelly Feulner** at [feulners@bellsouth.net](mailto:feulners@bellsouth.net) to sign up or get more info!

# Ladies Auxiliary News

1840 Lincoln Ave  
Louisville, KY 40213



## Ladies Auxiliary Update from Ashlyn Ackerman, President

**Next Meeting: Monday, August 18 @ 6:30 PM**

**Theme: Flower Crown Night!**

It's your *last chance* to stock up on flower crowns before Oktoberfest!

Come support the Ladies Auxiliary as we raise funds for kids' programs throughout the year. Bring your glue gun, scissors, and any extra flowers or ribbon you've got lying around. No crafting skills required – just good vibes and helping hands!

Every meeting includes a sweet treat, time to socialize, and **NEW this year** – beer education & tasting led by our VP, Connie Menz! All members are welcome – come help us keep the GAC fun and family-friendly!



**Looking Ahead: 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.

**Busy Buckets – Friday & Saturday**

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

# Arrangements Committee

1840 Lincoln Ave  
Louisville, KY 40213



## Arrangements Committee Update from Mark Schroeder, Committee Chair

We're deep into summer ☀️ and want to thank everyone for your continued support! A big **danke schön** to all who came out to **Sommerfest** on July 12! Despite not one but **two** surprise rainstorms ☁️, we had a fantastic time with: 🎵 Live music from Polka Cola & River City Polkatz, 🍽️ delicious scratch-made food, and 🍺 ice-cold beer. It was a success all around – thanks to you! 🙌

 **NEXT UP: Volksfest Bus Trip – August 2** - Join us for a fun day trip to the **Germania Maennerchor Volksfest** in Evansville, IN! While the festival runs July 31–August 2, our **chartered bus** leaves from the Club on **Friday, August 2 @ 2 PM** and returns around midnight 🌙. 🤗 *Sign up at the counter by the bar* if you'd like to hop on board! 🎟️ Planning to stay the night? A block of rooms is reserved at the Wyndham Evansville for GAC members – act fast!

 **UPDATE: Weindorf Cancelled** - Unfortunately, our **Wine Festival (Weindorf)** originally scheduled for **August 9** has been **cancelled** due to unforeseen circumstances. We appreciate your understanding.

 **Fifth Friday Happy Hour – August 29** - Let's warm up for Oktoberfest with a casual **Happy Hour** on **Friday, August 29** from **4:30–8:30 PM**. 🍻 Bring a potluck dish to share, enjoy good company, and help us get Oktoberfest-ready!

 **OKTOBERFEST – Sept 5 & 6** - Our **biggest event of the year** is right around the corner, and we need **you** to help make it great! 🎉 **Friday, Sept 5 (4–11 PM)**: Live music from **Good Bellows** 🎶 **Saturday, Sept 6 (2–11 PM)**: Performances by **Rheingold Band** (afternoon) & **River City Polkatz** (evening) 🎵 Expect all your Oktoberfest favorites: 🎉 King & Queen celebration & parade, keg tapping, stein sliding & stein holding, 🎹 face painting & storytelling for the kids – now with the **new playground!** 🎡 Fun, food, music & memories for all – invite your friends & neighbors! 🤘 Fingers crossed for great weather!

 **Post-Oktoberfest Festival – Sept 27** - Close out festival season with our final outdoor event of the year! 🎶 Enjoy a relaxed afternoon with **Polka Cola** and help us wrap up summer with a smile.

The **Arrangements Committee** truly appreciates your energy and support. Together, we're creating meaningful events that bring joy, culture, and connection to the GAC community. ❤️🇩🇪

## 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
Pat Zimmerman			

# Choir, Bowling Team, & Volunteer Committee

1840 Lincoln Ave  
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## 🎵 Choir News 🎵

### 🎵 Update from Joe Parsons, Choir Co-Chair 🎵

Hallo zusammen! 🇩🇪

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! 💡💡

GAC Choir  
participating at  
Sangerfest  
2025 in  
Evansville, IN



## 🎳 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 August 14th, 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.



# Technology Updates

1840 Lincoln Ave  
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## 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 (like for the **Volksfest bus trip**) are included in the Friday emails. 🎟️💡

Not getting the emails? Reach out to [gac.louisville@gmail.com](mailto:gac.louisville@gmail.com) or [ougac.technology@gmail.com](mailto: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! 📱💬

## Club Fun



Larry Ott & Mike Woods



Suzanne Powell & Petra Berchiolli



Tim Redmon



Sandi & Alex Otte



Thomas Kindler



Tanya Schantz & Ron Schlatter

## German Nursery Rhymes Fun Facts

**Catchy & historic!** 🎵 - German nursery rhymes (*Kinderlieder*) have been passed down for generations—many date back to the 18th and 19th centuries. They're little time capsules set to music!

**“Alle meine Entchen” is a duck anthem.** 🦆🎶 - This super simple tune about little ducks swimming on the lake is often one of the first songs kids learn. It's adorable, catchy, and basically Germany's "Twinkle Twinkle."

**Some are surprisingly dark.** 🌙🌐

Don't be fooled by the sing-song tone—some rhymes, like "Maikäfer flieg, dein Vater ist im Krieg..." reference war, loss, or old folktales. A reminder that not all kids' songs were originally meant just for fun.

**“Backe, backe Kuchen” = baking & fire.** 🎂🔥

🧁 - This sweet baking song includes the line "Der Bäcker hat gerufen..." ("The baker has called") — a nod to when townsfolk shared one hot oven. It lists ingredients too — great for little chefs in training!

**Sneezing rhymes are totally a thing.** 🤢🎶

- "Hatschi Bumba Tschatschi, der Teufel ist im Patschi!" is a silly nonsense rhyme involving a sneeze and... the devil in a slipper. Kids love the sound of it, even if it makes no sense. 🤢

**They sneak in life lessons.** 📚ǩ - Many German rhymes subtly teach kids everyday things: cleaning up, animal sounds, counting, seasons, or polite behavior — all through rhythm and repetition.

**“Fuchs, du hast die Gans gestohlen” brings drama.** 🐕🦆ǩ - In this classic, a fox steals a goose, and the farmer wants it back. It's suspenseful, a bit grim, and somehow totally charming. Think of it as a folk tale in song form.

**Clapping & movement are essential.** 🤸

♫ - Songs like "Aramsamsam" or "Hände waschen" come with motions, claps, and actions to match the lyrics—perfect for building coordination and keeping little hands busy.

**There's even a goodbye lullaby.** 🖐️🌙

“Ade, zur guten Nacht” is a soft farewell song, perfect for winding down. It's sung with a calm rhythm and warm lyrics—ideal for tucking in sleepy little ones. 🌙🌙

# Meet the Board

1840 Lincoln Ave  
Louisville, KY 40213



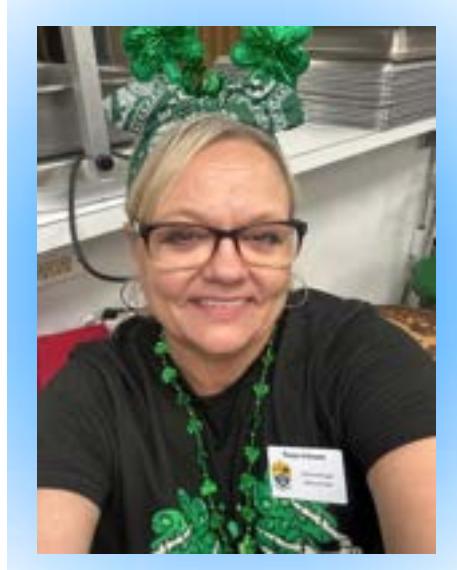
## Meet Tanya Schantz

**Board Position:** Board Member

**Other Club Involvement:** Kitchen Manager. Over the years I have been involved/worked in various areas of the club such as: Cashier, bar, snack bar, kitchen, choir, arrangements committee, catering private events, and just about every other area you can think of.

**GAC Member Since:** I officially joined the GAC in 2004; however, I have been attending the GAC since I was a child with my mom, Karin Naumowicz. As a child, I also helped wherever I could.

**Why You Joined GAC:** Although I had been volunteering in the bar for a few years prior, in 2003, my mom asked me to join her team (2nd crew) in the kitchen that she was running. After a year working with her and her team, she asked me to join. Considering the best part was the people I worked with, and spending quality time with my mom and dad, I thought it was a great idea to officially become a member.



**Life Outside GAC:** I work a full-time job as a Post-Pay Auditor, that I particularly enjoy. I have 2 adult children, Autumn and Adam and 1 adult “adopted” daughter, Charlee. I’m also a Mimi to 3 awesome grandkids and 4 bonus grandkids. I enjoy spending as much time with my family as I can. In the summer, we enjoy swimming a lot and going to the zoo when we can. I love going to my grandsons’ games and cheering them on when time permits.

**Favorite GAC Memory:** I have many great memories in the GAC, but the best times were prior to and right after our club opened to the public. Things were simpler then. You got to actually know the people. Although there are many people that I have worked with over the years, some of my favorite people, which are no longer with us unfortunately, were Jimmy Boeckmann, Brad Stout, Jackie and Joe Steinemann, Ingrid and Kurt Hoffman and Otto Becker. One of my favorite GAC memories was probably Oktoberfest 2012. Such a great night working with people like Joe Steinemann, Otto Becker, Patsy Stout and so many more. Oktoberfest 2009 was also the start of my daughter, Autumn, coming and helping, and has helped every Oktoberfest since. I grew up in this club, and so did my children. I now have one of my grandkids, Clarity, who comes in and helps also.



Bruce & Pat Zimmerman



Ashlyn Ackerman &  
Connie Menz



Nancy Woods &  
Nancy Williams



Joe  
Schweinhart &  
the Top 10  
Reasons to  
Join GAC!