



# GERMAN-AMERICAN CLUB GESANGVEREIN, INC.

The German American Club of Louisville, KY

March 2025 Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 3

## Message from the President

### Willkommen Frühling (Welcome Spring)

Spring is time for the spring flowers to start blooming. The start of new beginnings and Easter on its way in April.

The first of February we had Fasching (the German Mardi Gras). A lot of people who attended wore Mardi Gras outfits. It was very festive, and everyone had a great time. On February 15th, was our Valentines dance. There was a lot of red and hearts and dancing. Time for lovers for sure.

We are starting to get ready for Maifest on May 10. The kitchen is getting ready with Schnitzel breading and rolling sauerkraut balls. Please come and help the kitchen on Thursdays. Check your emails to see when we are preparing the meat.

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 and other things behind the scenes such as peeling potatoes, setting up for the day.

March we will have 3 Bierhalle , on the 1st, 15th, & 29th, so this will be a very busy month and 2 rentals. So, if you can help with these events, it would be great.

As much as we love to see your children. Please don't let them run inside where they may trip someone, or they could get hurt as well. Also please keep them out of the kitchen area until they are ready to open. In the kitchen they are moving very hot foods and do not want any child to get burned. Thank you.

Does anyone have a wheelchair they no longer need and would like to donate to the club. We could use it to help get people up on to the chair when needed.

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

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

The Board met in February, and here are the latest updates:

- Approved **\$2,700** to repair a freezer—gotta keep those sauerkraut balls frozen!
- Gave the green light for **Koetter Construction** to proceed with part of the playground contract, ensuring the **Spielplatz** is installed before Maifest.
- Voted to **donate tips** from the **March 1 Bier Halle** to the **GAC St. Baldrick's team**.
- Looking into gradually replacing **wooden picnic tables** with **more durable metal tables**. This will be a costly effort, so we plan to replace a few each year as the budget allows. If you have a resource for metal tables, please contact **Cathy Reynolds**.
- The **Honey-Doers** will be repainting the **flag tables under the pavilion**. If you'd like to lend a hand, reach out to **Joe Schweinhart**.
- **2025 Calendars are here!** Pick one up at the club—they're perfect for the fridge and a great way to share our events with non-members. Huge thanks to the **Arrangements Committee** for their hard work!
- **Sign up for volunteer shifts!** Our goal this year is to have at least **50% of our members volunteer at least once**. Many go above and beyond—let's all pitch in to lighten the load! If you'd like to volunteer, reach out to **Andy Feulner**.

A big **thank you** to everyone braving the cold and snow to attend events. Hopefully, we're getting all the bad weather out of the way early so we can enjoy **fantastic summer events** outdoors!

## GAC Playground



### GAC CONSTITUTION UPDATE:

It's time to update the GAC constitution! The previous constitution was adopted in 2016, and the membership has approved several amendments since then as well. A committee has been established to review the current constitution, incorporate amendments already adopted, and propose new changes to the document. All members are encouraged to read the constitution and suggest changes to the committee. Copies of the constitution are available in the office – talk to Cathy to request one. Committee members are listed below, please get your suggestions to them in the coming months so a draft can be presented to the Board and GAC members this summer.

**Committee members:** Karin Naumowicz (chair), Bruce Zimmerman, Kelly Feulner, Tim Redmon, Kristina Carney, Bill Willinger

Bartenders  
Brendan &  
Elizabeth  
Johnson



Rob Foellinger, Ben Eiden, Joe Parsons, & Ashlyn Ackerman enjoying the "shotski"



# Membership News

1840 Lincoln Ave  
Louisville, KY 40213



## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

The deadline for membership dues has passed—thank you to everyone who has renewed!

**Membership cards are available for pickup at club events**, and any unclaimed cards will be mailed at a later date.

**Current membership** as of February 20, 2025: **841 members**  
Renewal period ends February 28.

**200 members are at risk of losing their membership if prompt dues payment is not received.** If you believe there is an issue with your payment, contact Bill Willinger at 502-931-9336 or [gac.lou.membership@gmail.com](mailto:gac.lou.membership@gmail.com).

**Dues Schedule:** Family: \$80 / Single: \$50 / Student: \$25

Invoices are not sent—**this newsletter serves as your reminder.** Please ensure your payment is submitted.

## Member Updates:

If you have news to share—health concerns, address changes, marriages, births, or other important updates—please let us know.

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

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

## February Applicants:

Joe Sommers & Joan Pohl	Warren Gray	Mimi Otten
Barbara & Michael Barclay	Benjamin Collett	Paul & Nancy Deaver
Robert & Karyn Ranzau	Ron Zorn	Troy & Kim Finsel

February membership applications are closed & will be voted on March 5th at 7:00 PM at the Monthly Business Meeting.

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

## Welcome New Members

### Approved at the Feb 5th Business Meeting:

- James & Rebecca Harl
- Lauren Ingram & Aaron Nusz
- Claudia Malone
- Margaret Parsons
- John & Petra Bellone
- Jackie Royce & Nick Layman
- William Murray
- Tom O'Bryant
- Donna & Phil Weisser
- Ron & Adressa Flynn
- Erin Grant
- David Throckmorton



John Gerhard,  
Barb Fey, &  
Bob Willinger

Alex Hoffman  
& Alex Otte



## CONQUER KIDS' CANCER

Our club is signing up a 2025 team to help raise money to fight childhood cancer. If you would like to sign up to be a Shavee, please get with Joe Parsons and he can get you registered on the team. If you would like to donate money to the club team, please click the link below. Our goal as a team this year is to raise \$6,500.00 and we know that is more than possible with the generosity of our amazing members.

[Click here: St. Baldrick's Donations](#)



# GHA News

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## Wine Queen of Baden Event Recap – February 16

We were honored to host **Lucia Winterhalter**, the Wine Queen of Baden, for a **6-wine tasting** and insights into **winemaking** and the **Queen selection process**.

Thanks to **GAC members**, the **Sister Cities of Jasper**, and all attendees for making it a memorable event. *Special thanks to the volunteers who helped with clean-up and event support!*

## Upcoming Events

### Guest Speaker – March 16 at 2:00 PM

Join us as **Dale Cobler**, retired Army veteran and author, discusses *The Cobler Family Story: From Palatinate Germany to 20th Century America*. His research traces his family's journey as part of the **Great Palatine Migration** from Germany. **The bar will be open—please bring snacks to share!**

### Gründerfest – April 13 at 4:00 PM

Celebrate **Gründerfest** at the GAC! The **GHA will provide German meats and bread**, and we ask guests to bring a **dish or dessert** for a potluck before enjoying live music from Steve Wright and friends. **Reservations required - RSVP by March 30th using the link in the GAC Upcoming Events emails.**

### 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!

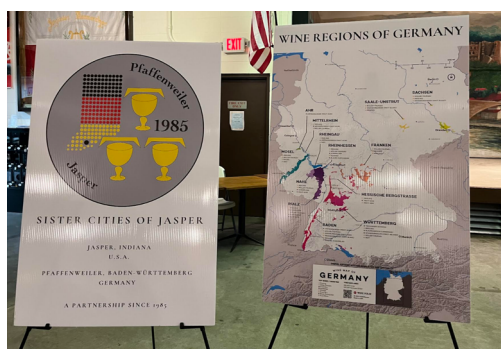
### 17 Next GHA Meeting – March 5 at 5:30 PM

Interested in getting involved? Join us for our next **GHA meeting** before the general business meeting. We'd love to see you there!

**Looking forward to seeing you at these upcoming events!**

## Stein Lockers Fees Due Now

Stein Locker fees (\$20) are due by **March 5**. After this date, locker availability is **not guaranteed**. To renew, please email **Joe Schweinhart** at [joe.schweinhart@gmail.com](mailto:joe.schweinhart@gmail.com).



Sister Cities of Jasper presents the Wine Regions of Germany

Michael Diebold, Marie Diebold, & Wine Queen of Baden-Lucia Winterhalter



Sitting: L-R; Sister Cities of Jasper Members, Dave Wehr, Sandy Wehr-VP, Mary Leah Siegel-President, Kent Seger-Board Member, & Guy Younce  
Standing: L-R; Kathy Lee-Jarvis, Cathy Reynolds



# Ladies Auxiliary News

1840 Lincoln Ave  
Louisville, KY 40213



## Ladies Auxiliary Update & Upcoming Events

### Next Meeting – Wear Your Green!

The next Ladies Auxiliary meeting will be on **Monday, March 17 at 6:30 PM**. In celebration of **St. Patrick's Day**, don't forget to wear your green!

We'll also be crafting **flower crowns** to sell at Maifest. **All crafters are welcome!** Please bring a **glue gun and scissors**—all other materials will be provided. Proceeds from the flower crown sales help fund **Ladies Auxiliary member events** throughout the year.



Lana Wingham & Ashlyn Ackerman

## Upcoming Event: Children's Easter Party!

Open to **children and grandchildren of GAC members**, up to age 10.

**Date:** Sunday, April 13

**Time:** 1:00 – 3:00 PM

**Location:** Main hall & outdoors (weather permitting)

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon featuring:

**Easter egg hunts** for both little ones and older kids (bring a basket!)

**Crafts & snacks**

**Music & festivities**

**Osterbrunnen** (Easter fountain) decorating

To RSVP, please send the **number of children attending** to **Ashlyn Ackerman** via **text (812-630-8001)** or **email (gac.ladies.aux@gmail.com)**.



## Last Year's Event



Easter Fountain

Connie Menz & Easter Bunny



Diebold Family & Easter Bunny

Nancy Woods, Easter Bunny, & Kathy Lee-Jarvis



# Arrangements Committee

1840 Lincoln Ave  
Louisville, KY 40213



## Hello Fellow Members,

The yearly calendar is here—grab one for yourself and a friend!

At the last arrangements meeting, the team discussed upcoming outdoor festivals, which are starting to take shape. Mark Schroeder is quickly stepping into his role in planning and running these events. Please continue to support and assist him.

A bus trip to Hofbräuhaus is scheduled for Wednesday, April 30th, during Derby week. The bus holds up to 50 people, and the cost is \$30. A signup sheet is available at all upcoming events.

Spots are filling up fast! Don't forget to sign up and pay at the time of registration to secure your seat.

**Cheers** from the Arrangements Team

## Upcoming Events – March 2025

### Saturday, March 1st – Bierhalle. (New Band)

- Doors open at 4 PM
- Happy Hour Drinks & Pretzels: 4–6 PM
- Full Kitchen Service: 6–8 PM
- Live Music: Polka Cola, 6–10 PM

**Wednesday, March 5th** – General Meeting - 7pm.

**Thursday, March 6th** – Volunteer Committee Meeting 7pm.

**Monday, March 10th** – Arrangements Meeting – 6:30pm.

**Saturday, March 15th** – Bierhalle.

- Doors open at 4 PM
- Happy Hour Drinks & Pretzels: 4–6 PM
- Full Kitchen Service: 6–8 PM
- Live Music: **Polkatz**, 6–10 PM

**Monday, March 17th** – Ladies Aux Meeting – 6:30pm.

## Wednesday, March 26th – Heaven Hill Bourbon Tasting.

- Doors open at 5pm.
- Tasting Starts at 6pm.
- \$25 per person
- 4 samples
- Dinner included

**Saturday, March 29th** – Bierhalle.

- Doors open at 4 PM
- Happy Hour Drinks & Pretzels: 4–6 PM
- Full Kitchen Service: 6–8 PM
- Live Music: **Rout 161 HW**, 6–10 PM

**Wednesday, April 30th** – Hofbräuhaus Bus Trip

- \$30 per person
- Meet at the German Club: 2 PM
- Depart: 2:30 PM
- Arrive at Hofbräuhaus: 4:30 PM
- Depart Hofbräuhaus: 9:30 PM
- Return to the German Club: 11:30 PM

## Messages of Care & Comfort

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

Mary Beck

Ilona Segó

Janet Schweinhart

Gerald Willinger

Norma Heitz

Gary Segó

Belinda Willinger

Mike Brauner

Bob Naumowicz

Bengta Sell

Andy Fuchs

Martha Liles

Mike Lawson

Diana Sexson

Judy Fuchs

Anita Waters (Dane's mother) Cecilia (sister of Steve Oswald)

Ron Kemper



# Choir & Volunteer Committee

1840 Lincoln Ave  
Louisville, KY 40213



## Choir News

### Hallo Zusammen!

It's been a busy month for the choir, and we want to thank everyone who attended our **Trivia Night fundraiser**. A special shout-out to the volunteers who helped make the evening such a success!

If you missed the fun, don't worry—we have pictures below and we're already planning our next **Trivia Night**, so stay tuned for more details!

Our **Spring Concert** is coming up on **May 18th**, and we're working hard to make it our best concert yet. **Ticket information** will be available soon, so be sure to check your emails for details on how to reserve your spot.

If you'd like to join the fun, we rehearse on **Thursday nights from 7:30-9:00 PM**. We welcome new voices of all skill levels to help us continue spreading the tradition of **German choral singing** in our club.

## 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 event!

Help organize events, support projects, and create memorable experiences while celebrating our culture and connecting with others.

**Next Meeting: Mar 6th, 6:30 pm at the club**

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



First Place Team



Volunteer & Choir Member Erica Pennington



Second Place Team



Steve Riggs & Manfred Schmidt participating for a chance to win one of the many raffle baskets



Co-Announcers Ashlyn Ackerman & Joe Parsons



# From the Kitchen

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This year marks my 22nd year in the kitchen, & let's just say, the hours add up fast! I've come to realize I need more help than I'd like to admit, so I'm excited to introduce some new kitchen assistants:

- **Karen Brown & Kathy Webber** will be helping out on the floor, making sure everything stays stocked—from steam tables & desserts to condiments. They'll also be the go-to people for our runners.
- **Patty Zimmerman** will be working in the kitchen, helping us keep up with the food demand so we can keep things running smoothly.

I'm still here, of course, but it's time to share the workload! Please join me in welcoming these three amazing ladies—we're so grateful to have them on board!

**Big Thanks to Our Frying Team** - Over the past few months, some fantastic folks have stepped up to help with frying:

- **Mike McDermott**—our go-to meat guy—has been an absolute lifesaver. He's jumped in last-minute more times than I can count, & I can't thank him enough.
- **Bob Webber**, our grill master, has done an awesome job learning the fryers. But once we move back outside, he'll be back at his grill!
- **Brad Lies** has stepped in & is doing a great job—huge thanks to him!
- **Chris Noe & Alex**, our newest team members, have also been a big help with frying & kitchen duties, & they're doing fantastic.

I can't tell you how much I appreciate all of you. If anyone else wants to learn how to fry—especially with **Oktoberfest** coming up—please let me know!

## Gearing Up for Maifest & Outdoor Events:

With **Maifest** & outdoor events around the corner, it's time to stock up on **Schnitzel & Sauerkraut Balls**—which means **breeding season is here!** We need volunteers, & no experience is needed—we'll show you the ropes. Keep an eye out for emails with breeding day details, & come lend a hand!

## Kitchen Volunteer Reminders

- If you're working in the kitchen, **you must wear a hat or hairnet**. If you forget, no worries—I've got extras!
- It takes a village to keep things running, & with **800+ members**, we **need all hands on deck**. There's a lot to do before we move outside, so if you can help, please do—every little bit counts!

If you have any questions or concerns, my door is always open. Thanks to all of you for your hard work & support—I truly couldn't do this without you!

## Tanya Schantz

GAC Kitchen Manager



Connie Menz  
& Bruce  
Zimmerman Sr.



Karen Arnold



Joe Parsons &  
Susie Powell



Bob Webber &  
Chris Noe



Sauerkraut Ball Volunteers



Clay & Tom  
Powell



L-R; Tanya Schantz, Karen Brown, & Kathy Webber



L-R; Tom Powell, Linda Knabel, Connie Carver, &  
Robert Workman



L-R; Alex (training), Chris Noe (training), Bob Webber,  
Brad Lies, Bruce Sr & Bruce Jr



# Meet the Board

1840 Lincoln Ave  
Louisville, KY 40213



## Meet Joe Parsons

**Board Position:** Board Member / Board Secretary

**Other Club Involvement:** Choir Member / Chairperson, Arrangements Committee member, active volunteer, and trivia night host!

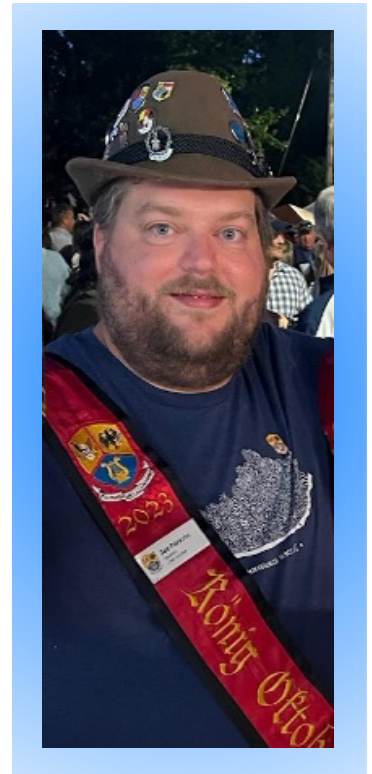
**GAC Member Since:** 2020

## Why Joe Joined the GAC:

Joe and his friends attended GAC events on and off for years. Then, one Christmas, his brother gifted him a **GAC membership**—and that's when his involvement truly began. He became an active **volunteer and choir member**, eventually serving **three years as GAC Secretary, two years as Choir Chairperson**, and now as a **Board Member**. Joe loves being part of a club that gives back, provides a welcoming space for the community, and keeps **German culture alive**.

## Life Outside the GAC:

A graduate of **Butler High School** and the **University of Louisville**, Joe works in **accounting** for a shoe retailer. He lives in **Louisville** with his dog, **Fern**, and enjoys **karaoke, trivia nights, and stein collecting** in his free time.



## Favorite GAC Memory:




One of Joe's most memorable experiences was attending the **National Sängerkfest in Madison, Wisconsin**. Singing alongside a massive choir, all united in celebrating **German choral music**, was truly inspiring. That energy and passion continue to fuel his dedication to sharing **German traditions** within our club and community!

## Communications Update:

Stay Connected – **Check Your Spam & Promotions Folders!**

Email providers have strengthened their filtering for mass communication, so be sure to check your spam, promotions, or other auxiliary folders to avoid missing important updates from the club.

## Communications Schedule:

-  Weekly Events Email: Sent every Friday by 5 PM
-  Extra Reminders Email: Sent every Tuesday by 5 PM
-  Monthly Newsletter: Sent on the 1st of each month

To ensure you receive our emails directly in your inbox, consider adding us to your contacts or marking our messages as "Not Spam."

**Stay informed and never miss an update!**



<https://www.gaclouisville.org>