

Upcoming Events

December 31st

Silvesterfeier

at the DKV Hall

January 19th **General Meeting**

at the DKV Hall

February 1st **Trivia Nite**

at the DKV Hall

March 7th Rosenball

at the DKV Hall

March 29th Wurstmarkt

at the DKV Hall

April 11th **Easter Egg Hunt & Concert**

at the DKV Donau Park

May 16th-17th *Maifest*

at the DKV Donau Park

July 12th Wiener N' Schnitzel Dinner

at the DKV Donau Park

August 22nd Kirchweih

at the DKV Hall

For more information about our events go to www.germanstl.org

Deutscher Kulturverein Rundschreiben

German Cultural Society Newsletter

Published by the German Cultural Society of St. Louis and delivered to our members. If you are interested in advertising in our newsletter, please contact us for details.

Members please send submissions of articles and photographs by:

- · March 1 for the Spring issue
- · July 1 for the Summer issue
- November 1 for the Winter issue

Liz Young | lizy681@gmail.com

314.583.3053

Joey Wendl | germanstl.fb@gmail.com 314.914.7563



Interested in becoming a member of the German Cultural Society?

Please call us at 314.771.8368 to request an application.

2019 Membership Dues

Senior (62+)	\$25.00			
Adult (18-61)	\$35.00			
Dancer (1-17)	\$20.00			
Youth and Kinder Dance Groups				

2020 Membership Dues

Senior (62+)	\$25.00
Adult (18-61)	\$45.00
Dancer (3-17)	\$20.00

Youth and Kinder Dance Groups

Family (2 Adults and 2 Children*) \$100.00

*Children must be in the Kindertanzgruppe or Jugendgruppe

Dues may be paid in person or by check payable to "German Cultural Society" and mailed to:

Kathy Stark, Membership 9533 Donalds Ct St. Louis, MO 63126

Thank you for your support which is always appreciated.

Liebe Mitglieder,

I wanted to wish all of you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year on behalf of myself and the executive board.

This past year was successful because of all of you. We couldn't have done it without all of your hard work and dedication at events and festivals.

We are looking forward to the start of another great year, full of more events and fun memories.

Thank you for volunteering your time, talents, and treasures to the German Cultural Society. Please make sure to come to the annual meeting in January to get the most recent updates and information.

Moni Lorenz

President of the German Cultural Society

Meetings: General membership meetings are held on specific Sundays at 1:00 p.m. at the DKV Hall on Jefferson Ave., unless otherwise noted. Below are the scheduled meetings for 2020.

Sunday, January 19, 2020

Sunday, March 15th, 2020

Sunday, May 3rd, 2020

Sunday, August 2nd, 2020

Sunday, November 22nd, 2020

amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

Cookbooks For Sale!

The German Cultural Society is selling the Landesverband Frauengruppe cookbook. This book features over 500 recipes from the different Donauschwaben clubs all over the USA and Canada. Cookbooks can be purchased at our events or on our website at www. germanstl.org.

The Amazon Smile account has been set up for the German Cultural Society. When you shop on Amazon with us, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products.

Here's how to shop AmazonSmile:

- 1. Visit smile.amazon.com and sign in with your Amazon.com credentials
- 2. Choose a charitable organization to receive donations, like German Cultural Society St Louis MO
 - 3. Start shopping!

The purpose of the *German Cultural Society* "To foster and practice our culture, customs and folklore in all its forms... meaning language, music, song, dance, crafts, sports and good fellowship

-Gemütlichkeit." To do this as good citizens of the country we live in and to promote understanding with other ethnic groups. The German Cultural Society is a cultural, charitable, not for profit and non-political organization.

www.germanstl.org

Executive Committee

President Monika Lorenz Vice-President Terry Ficken Treasurer Heidi Warren *Recording & Correspondence* **Becky Warren** Membership Kathy Stark Controller Lisa Hoffmann Co-Controller Susan Bauer Members at Large **Christine Hoffmann**

Rosemarie Ficken Michael Wendl Donna Marlette

Rental

Call 314.771.8368

John Unterreiner | germanstlhallrentals@gmail.com Terry Ficken | donauparkrental@gmail.com

Tickets

314.771.8368 germanstltickets@gmail.com

Newsletter

Liz Young | lizy681@gmail.com Joey Wendl | germanstl.fb@gmail.com

This newsletter can also be found on our website,

www.germanstl.org

On the cover: The Maria Radna church in Romania. Photo taken by Rosemarie Ficken during the 4th Welttreffen.



We Are a Volunteer **Organization**

Every now and then, a request is made to the German Cultural Society for a translation from German to English. We have a wealth of German speakers and are looking for a volunteer to translate texts, often old letters from family and ancestors. Please let us know if you are available for this service to our community! Call the office or find Moni Lorenz or Terry Ficken at any event and let them know! Thank you!

John Unterreiner is looking for club members to help on Saturday afternoons for several hours to open the hall for caterers, bakeries, and music to set up before the events start that evenina.

Contact John Unterreiner at 314-771-8368 or e-mail at ijunterreiner@aol.com

Seniorengruppe Seniors Group

Coordinators:

Liz Young......314-583-3053.....lizy681@gmail.com Rose Hoh......314-660-9028.....rphoh2@gmail.com

Kathy Stark......germanstlnews@gmail.com

Gathering Afternoons: 2nd Tuesday / DKV hall

See page 36 for the 2020 Seniorengruppe Schedule

Performance Groups

Deutschmeister Blaskapelle Deutschmeister Brass Band

Secretary/Treasurer: Terri Gudowicz

Members at Large: Norbert Glassl and Becky Fischer Band Practice: Wednesdays @ 8:00 p.m. at DKV Hall

Damenchor

Coordinator: Käthe Tullmann 314-842-6798

Music Director: Peggy Pancella

Tanzgruppen Dance Groups

Kindertanzgruppe Children's Dance Group (Ages 3-12)

Coordinator: Stephanie Sharp electricsjg@aol.com

phone: 636-212-3728

Practice: at DKV Donau Park. For schedules, contact Stephanie.

Jugendgruppe

Youth Dance Group (Ages 13-26)

Coordinator: Rosemarie Ficken 314-487-3969 Instructors: Jessica Von Der Haar, Jennifer Taylor Practice: at DKV Hall. For schedules, contact Rosemarie.

Die Heimatgruppe

Young Adult Dance Group (Ages 18-30)

Coordinator: Joey Wendlstlheimatgruppe@gmail.com

Practice: at DKV Hall. For schedules, contact Joey. Facebook: Die Heimatgruppe of St. Louis Facebook Messenger: @stlheimatgruppe

Wir Tanzen

Adult Dance Group (Ages 21 and older)

Coordinator: Eric Wallace wirtanzenstl@gmail.com

Practice: at DKV Hall. For schedules, contact Eric.

Volkstanzgruppe

Adult Dance Group

Coordinator: Monika Lorenz 314-402-0679

Practice: at DKV Hall. For schedules, contact Monika.

Service Groups

Bar Committee

Bar Managers: John Lasinski 314-313-9802

Herbert Lorenz 314-717-5303

Bar Co-Manager: Steve Ballew

Bartenders

Group 1: Matt Potje, Joe Vaughan, John Haas

Group 2: Susan Bauer, Marilyn Heidbrink, Dave Marlette

Group 3: Lisa Hoffmann, Hank Young, Matt Stark

Group 4: John & Kitty Lasinski, Rose Hoh, Gary Korte

Group 5: Charles Tate, Donna Marlette, Steve Hoffmann

Group 6: Steve Ballew, Christian Hoefke, Nancy Plunk

Reserves: Steve Ballew, Nancy Plunk, Monika Lorenz,

Charles Tate, Roger Gansmann

Donau Park Development Group

- The Wednesday Group -

Meets every Wednesday to develop and maintain our Donau Park in Jefferson County on a year-round basis.

Members

Herbert Fritz, Ralph Hoffarth, Frank Irovic, Hans Lengenfelder, Sepp Messmer, John Mueller, Sepp Neulinger, Matt Potje, Rudi Sterzl, Willy Tullmann, Marvin Young

Donau Park Expansion Project Committee

Coordinator: Fred Goebel

Frank Irovic, Klemens Wolf, John Romvari, Ted Mayer

Gartenverein

Maintains plants and flowers at both locations.

Coordinator: Kathy Starkgermanstlnews@gmail.com

Intermediary for Jugendgruppe: Rosemarie Ficken

List of Garden Volunteers:

Vicky Boncek, Frank Breitenstein, Stephanie Goetzmann, Becky Haas, Rose Lengenfelder, Barb Potje, Kathy Stark, Joe Wagner, David Witte, Gabi Wolf

Festkomitee

Responsible for the planning and executing of all menus for DKV-sponsored events, including ordering and receiving of the required supplies, the preparing and serving of food, and the workman-like maintenance of our kitchen facilities and related equipment.

The Festkomitee could not function without the numerous helpers who volunteer every time!

We need your help! To help the Festkomitee **per** event or every event, please join our Sign-up Genius online OR call Terry 314.566.2080 to volunteer.

Hall Maintenance Organization

- The Thursday Group -

Meets every Thursday year-round to maintain our hall on Jefferson Avenue.

Members

Frank Irovic, Hans Lengenfelder, Mike Wendl

Emeritus Members

Henry Erk, Hans Fischer, John Haas, Joe Wagner

For information about volunteering, please contact Terry Ficken, Coordinator, at 314-566-2080.

Newsletter Staff

Co-Editor Liz Young **Co-Editor** Joey Wendl Proofreader **Becky Warren** Distribution Kathy Stark

How to contact the Newsletter

Liz Young | lizy681@gmail.com 314.583.3053 Joe Wendl | germanstl.fb@gmail.com 314.914.7563

Deadlines:

- · March 1 for the Spring issue
- · July 1 for the Summer issue
- November 1 for the Winter issue

A thank you to all!

Named and unnamed--we appreciate all who help throughout the year to make the German Cultural Society the success that it is today.



Danube-Swabian Association of the USA, Inc. Verland der Donauschwalen in den USA. e.V.

Liebe Landsleut,

As another year comes to a close, it is once again time to ask you to support our foundation financially. Our expenditures for youth programs have never been stronger. The fourth "Welttreffen der Donauschwaben Jugend", the crown jewel in this year's budget, was a smashing success. Stipends for youth groups, brass bands, German schools, and the annual soccer tournament have never been higher. Thanks to volunteers at the club level, youth participation in club activities remains strong. To maintain the momentum in our youth programs let's reach into our" giving pockets" and make some sizeable donations to our foundation for the holidays!

The Welttreffen trip to Hungary and Romania gave our youth the opportunity to connect with their families' Heimat. Organized by Weltdachverband president Stefan Ihas, this bus tour visited Baja, Nadwar, Hajos, Seetsch, Mohacs, Boly, Temeswar, Hatzfeld, Warjasch, Maria Radna, Nitzkydorf, Budapest, and Taksony. Among the highlights, we participated in the dedication of the Ulmer Schachtel at the Internat, visited with the mayors of several cities, participated in two Kerweih celebrations, heard first-hand reports of Russia-deportations, made Strudel and Bratwurst, visited Weinkellers, danced at the Annaball and other fests, learned new dances and songs, and learned hat-making in Hatzfeld. We visited the pilgrim church at Maria Radna and the graves of Stefan Jaeger, Peter Jung, and others. From Seetsch we boarded a Donau ferry and placed a ceremonial wreath in the Donau! Almost ninety Schwowe from the USA, Canada, Germany, Austria and Brazil attended this Treffen. The average cost to attend, a major commitment for all participants, exceeded \$3000. Our foundation's support enabled many of the youth attending this event to make the trip. Results are already evident as the dances and songs learned in Europe are being introduced to our youth groups. The excitement generated among participants is flaming interest in our culture.

In closing, I once again ask every Schwob who reads this letter to reach into their pocket and make an annual donation of fifty dollars or more.

Frohe Weihnachten!

Robert F. Filippi President, Landesverband der Donauschwaben Chairman, Danube Swabian Foundation



The Danube-Swabian Foundation of the U.S.A., Inc. Die Donauschwäbische Stiftung der H.S.A., e.V.

Danube Swabian Foundation USA – (The Stiftung) By Definition

I have been asked many times what is the Stiftung /what is its meaning and purpose???

The German dictionary defines Stiftung as: "Eine Stiftung ist eine Einrichtung, die mit Hilfe eines Vermögens einen vom Stifter festgelegten Zweck verfolgt."

Translated: A foundation, institution that uses an asset to pursue a purpose established by the founder.

Many years ago the Foundation founders established the purpose which states:

"To foster, support and encourage the preservation of the customs, traditions, literature, culture and history of the Danube-Swabian people (Germanic people of Southeastern Europe). To encourage the pursuit of studies in the German language, in the history, culture, literature, music and folklore of the Danube-Swabian people. To provide food, shelter, clothing and other assistance to the Danube-Swabian people in dire need of help caused by war, acts of God, or other disaster. To foster and encourage the participation of the Danube-Swabian youth in amateur athletic competition at the national and international level."

The Danube-Swabian Foundation was founded in 1982 to provide financial support for the educational activities of all associated organizations and other educational institutions.

The Danube-Swabian Foundation is incorporated in the State of Wisconsin and organized exclusively for charitable purposes under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. The Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors which includes two volunteers from each associated organization.

Thanks to generous donations, the Danube-Swabian Foundation has had an outstanding record of financial support and assistance of German language schools, dance groups, sports tournaments, travel groups and culture prizes. The Foundation has assisted in recording the oral history, in the translation of historical books and has published books of our Danube-Swabian people.

In continuing to define our goals /pursue our purpose and continue with our outstanding record of financial support of our Danube-Swabian activities, the Stiftung needs your support.

Please give generously. The past 37 years assisting the preservation our culture has been an honor.

Frohe Weihnachten und ein Glückliches Neues Jahr von uns allen in der Donauschwäbische Stiftung der U.S.A. Eddie Tullius - President

KIRCHWEIH 2019



To start off, the German Mass was wonderful as I read along in the booklet. Seeing my grandma singing in German and my mom reading a passage too, really helped me realize how great of a connection I have with the language and with the unique culture as well. After that, the auction went off smoothly as other people and myself bid on the Strauss. Receiving the Strauss was one of the most gratifying and connecting experiences I have ever been a part of, as it really felt satisfying to have put in all of the time and effort to be awarded with the position of the group. The Strauss also reminded me of my German heritage as rosemary is a common herb to see in the household. The significance of the Strauss to me is that it connects others, just as these events connect us to the culture we grew up in or appreciate together. To me, the Rosemary bush symbolizes a warm and welcoming family as my mom often gardens and has tried to grow her own rosemary, but unfortunately that didn't last very long. Being given the Kirchweih sash not only strengthened my role in the dancing group, but also reminded me of the strong bond that holds each and every one of us in celebrating this amazing culture.

Kayleigh Stroup





















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We are excited to announce that our Kinder group is now practicing at: DONAU PARK 5020 W. FOUR RIDGE RD. **HOUSE SPRINGS, MO 63051**

Kinder ages 3-12 years will practice as a combined group to learn German dancing.



On Thursday, August 8th (which also was last Kindertanz practice before school started back), all of our kids received a Schultüte from mom and dad. During dance they were filled with back to school stuff that our Kindertanz parents brought to dance class. This is a really neat tradition that is done at the beginning of school each year in Germany.

Jen Engel

The Jugendgruppe of the German Cultural Society cordially invites you to attend their annual

ROSENBALL





Saturday - March 7, 2020 at the German Cultural Society 3652 S. Jefferson Ave.

Doors open at 5:00 pm

Dinner & Drinks (for purchase) at 5:30 pm

Live Music by: Die Spitzbuam at 6:30 pm

Jugend Dance Performance at 7:15 pm

Admission: Adults \$15, Kinder (ages 6-12) \$5 / (5 & under) free

For tickets, call Mike Wendl: 314-842-2652

or email germanstltickets@gmail.com

Landestreffen Milwaukee, Wisconsin





The Landestreffen this year was held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on August 30th-September 2nd.

Our club was well represented by our dance groups. We all participated in the march onto the field. There were performances by the Kindergruppe, Jugendgruppe, Die Heimatgruppe, and the Volkstanzgruppe.

Labor Day is always a nice time to get together with the other clubs from around the United States. This year, the dance groups from our club came together to dance a combined performance. There were members from Die Heimatgruppe, Wir Tanzen, and Volkstanz. Performances like that help to carry on traditions and our culture.

We also were able to see the performance by all who went on the Welttreffen. We had five people from St. Louis go on that trip. We have since been able to learn some of those dances for other performances.

There was also a group from Szar, Hungary that performed twice over the weekend. Their performances included traditional Donauschwaben dances and a few gypsy dances.

We are looking forward to next year's Landestreffen in Cleveland, Ohio!

Becky Warren

















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Die Heimatgruppe

Die Heimatgruppe has been extremely busy practicing, performing, and planning for Winzerfest this year. Check out our article about Winzerfest later in the newsletter on pages 24-25! This year, we had a couple of first time performances. We performed at the Landestreffen in Milwaukee and at Saint Charles' Oktoberfest. We have also continued dancing combination performances with the Volkstanzgruppe. Recently, we also performed at the DKV's Oktoberfest and at a local assisted living home.

It is crazy to think that we are wrapping up our second year as a dance group! Over the past two years, we have grown so much as a group. We have choreographed several dances together, as well as learned a number of dances performed by various groups across the United States, Canada, and Europe. We are proud of our dedication and passion for the DKV and our culture. It will be exciting to see how we will keep growing as a group!

Die Heimatgruppe

Garden Club

On behalf of the Executive Committee and the membership of the German Cultural Society, we extend heartfelt thanks to Becky Haas for the many years she coordinated the German Cultural Society Garden Club. Becky is retiring as the Garden Club Coordinator. Under Becky's direction, many hours were spent planting, weeding, trimming, deadheading, transplanting, and cleaning out the garden areas at the Hall on Jefferson and at the Donau Park. For many years, the Garden Club has done a wonderful job of keeping our properties looking beautiful. We are grateful to Becky Haas and all the members of Garden Club for their service and dedication to the Verein.

Kathy Stark



Stiftung Donations

Please note that our address to send donations has changed. The new address is below.

Please send donations to: **Danube Swabian Foundation, USA** c/o Joseph Brandecker, Treasurer 11 Senf Drive, Yardville, New Jersey 08620

Donations are fully tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.

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THE GERMAN CULTURAL SOCIETY HALL 3652 S. JEFFERSON AVE. – ST. LOUIS, MO 63118

GERMAN SAUSAGE DINNER

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SUNDAY TO 5:00

DKV Oktoberfest

Over the weekends of September 7-8 & 14-15, our club hosted another fun festival: Oktoberfest! Both weekends, Die Spitzbuam and The Deutschmeister Brass Band entertained us with their music and our dance groups entertained us with their dances. There were performances by the Kindertanzgruppe, Jugendgruppe, Die Heimatgruppe, Wir Tanzen, Volkstanzgruppe, and D'Fröhliche Schuhplattler. All of the performances were great! Our members helped to serve cold beer and delicious food. Bratwurst, weisswurst, Hungarian wurst, potato salad, coleslaw, and strudel were served. As always, Oktoberfest was a lot of fun and we are looking forward to it again next year!

























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THE GERMAN CULTURAL SOCIETY

invites you to get your gang together and join us for

(Once you've been to THE BEST, you won't want to go to the rest)

Saturday, February 1, 2020

German Cultural Society Hall

3652 South Jefferson Avenue St. Louis, MO 63118

Doors open at 6:00 p.m. / Trivia begins at 7:00 p.m.

A good time will be had by all!!! Come to play or come to enjoy the evening!!!

Only \$160.00 per table

(8 players per table maximum) FREE BEER, SODA & SNACKS

Only 40 tables available so RESERVE YOUR TABLE EARLY!!!

> For reservations contact: Helga Thalheimer

314-775-5800

or email: helga@sixthstartravel.com

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Proceeds benefit the German Cultural Society

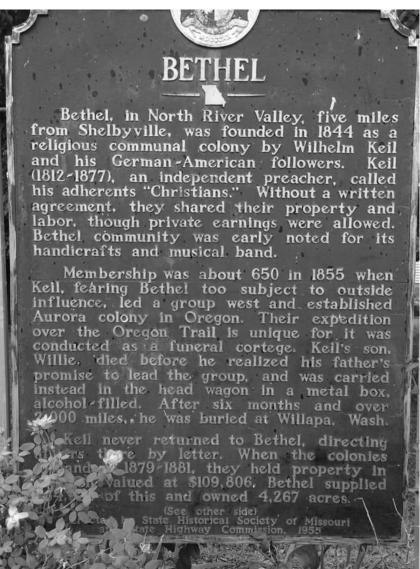
Donations of all kinds – including alcohol, gift cards, or other gifts – are always welcome!

Trip to Bethel, Missouri

Two of our Jugendgruppe members had a great weekend spending time with the folks of Historic Bethel German Colony. On October 5th 2019, the German Cultural Society Of St. Louis - 2019 Rosenball König Josiah Webb and Königin Olivia Heidbrink performed in the Bethel Heritage Day & 175th Anniversary -2019 pageant on Saturday night. It was an interesting history lesson on the life and hardships endured by a group of Germans that made a go at communal living in the 1800s in Northern Missouri. They felt honored to be invited to dance at this very special event in Bethel Missouri.

Stephanie Goetzmann-Sharp







Important Upcoming Events

The German Cultural Society will be hosting the Landesverband Annual Meeting on April 24th-26th, 2019. Please note that this event is not open to the public, but we will be needing volunteers to work in the kitchen and bar.

The German Cultural Society will be turning 75 years old on December 31, 2020. To commemerate this milestone, we will be holding a year long 75th anniversary celebration. This will be celebrated from 12/31/2020 to 12/31/2021.

For our 75th anniversary, the history of our organization will be rewritten/updated. We are collecting any DKV related pictures, flyers, historical information, etc. from 1945 to present day. Please send all information to Joey Wendl by emailing germanstl.fb@gmail.com or by giving it to him in person. He can scan any pictures or documents and then return them to you.

Did you receive the honor of winning the Kirchweih Strauss, being Rosenball King or Queen, becoming Maifest Prince or Princess, or being Miss German Cultural Society? Please send what year you won, so our historical documents can be updated. If you have a picture, please include that as well. Please send all information to:

> **Joey Wendl** germanstl.fb@gmail.com 314-914-7563





Musikalischer Nachmittag





Although the Chor ceased to exist after the National Sängerfest in Peoria in May, it was felt that our German culture of song should be featured again at an event. Since we do not have enough singers to put on a concert, we collaborated with the Kindertanzgruppe and the Deutschmeister Brass Band to create a "Musikalischer Nachmittag". Judged by the attendance, it was a success. Since this was a new idea, there is a lot of room for improvement, however.

As usual, the kids stole the show with their rendition of the "Vogelhochzeit". Our thanks to Stephanie and the teachers, Olivia and Josiah. Thank you, Rosemarie, for your group's participation. Helmuth and Pete, it's always great working with you. Sometimes the "ad lib" parts are the best. Michael Wendl, we needed you, and you helped us greatly with your accompaniment. Moni manned the kitchen very capably, (Moni, they loved the onions on the Leberkäse), and Helga and Sig hustled back there. Our ladies supplied the potato salad and the Torten and desserts, and I am told they were delicious. To all who helped put this event together and make it a success, I thank you.

But above all I thank our audience. The turnout was above expectation. Hopefully, this event can be continued in the future.



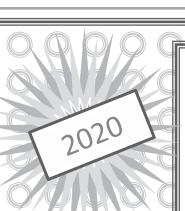
Katherine Tullmann









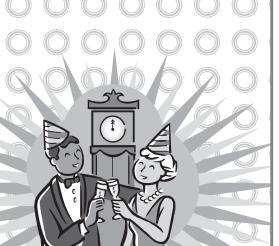


** NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION!! Silvesterfeier

DINNER, DANCING, & DRINKS!!

Come join us on December 31, 2019 3652 S. Jefferson Ave.

(One block North of Chippewa. Parking is on the top of the hill behind the GCS building.)



DINNER IS SERVED 6:00-8:30PM

Complimentary Beer, Wine, & Soft Drinks provided all evening

At 8:00 PM MUSIC BY:

THE ST. LOUIS EXPRESS

Midnight Champagne (21 and over) and a light buffet will be served.

Children under 12: \$10.00 (Includes child's meal and drinks)

Youth (13-20): \$25.00 Adults over 21: \$60.00

Tickets:

M. Wendl 314-842-2652

germanstltickets@gmail.com

(Security will be on premises)



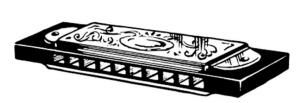
GERMAN CULTURAL SOCIETY

www.germanstl.org



Visit us on Facebook





Free Harmonica Lessons

Calling all ages and abilities Learn how to play harmonica! We are starting a harmonica group and would love for you to come join and learn as well. We will be using diatonic harmonicas in the key of C. Practice will most likely be at Donau Park. We are starting off with simple tunes. Lessons are free and will be starting soon!

Contact for more details

Stephanie Sharp electricsjg@aol.com (636) 212-3728



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Winzerfest 2019



Winzerfest was a huge success! All of our hard work paid off! Die Heimatgruppe has been planning for this event for about a year. Winzerfest has not been held in almost two decades, so it was a lot to work to start from scratch. We had to make decorations and remake all of the jail and trellis. It was truly an honor to host this event and bring back wonderful memories.

At Winzerfest, we served homemade, traditional goulash, spätzle, bratwursts, vegetables, and cake. We had a lot of different activities. We had various German and Donauschwaben wines for a wine tasting. People were able to try the wines and then buy a glass or a bottle of whatever they liked! There was also a wine pull, where people paid \$20 to pull a wrapped bottle of wine, valued between \$20-\$60. After our first performance, we also had a straw raffle.

For most of the night, we had grape bags hanging from the trellis that people were trying to steal. Our "police officers" were busy that night, trying to catch all of the thieves! On the bags of grapes that we hung from the trellis, there were raffle tickets. At the end of the night, three lucky people won a grand prize (a bottle of wine and a \$100 gift card)! Even though people were sent to jail for stealing, we still wanted them to have fun so we turned the jail into a photo booth and had a special surprise for those eligible when they got out (a shot of alcohol).

Throughout the night, we performed twice. There was a mixture of traditional and modern dances. Many of our dances we created, while others are traditional dances that many groups perform. It was humbling to perform the dance, Kathi Laendler, which used to be performed by the Trachtengruppe (who also used to host this event and helped guide us this year for our event). It is special to carry on these traditions, dances, and customs.

Die Heimatgruppe is very thankful for all of our amazing family, friends, sponsors, and donors who helped make this Winzerfest a success. We could not have done this without their generous help!

We look forward to hosting this event again and we have already started planning for Winzerfest 2020. Join us again on November 14th, 2020!

Die Heimatgruppe









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4th Welttreffen Donauschwäbischer Kulturgruppen Baja, Hungary & Hatzfeld, Romania July 24 - August 7, 2019

Rosemarie & Terry Ficken, and Monika, Herbert & Christoph Lorenz all had the opportunity to participate in the 4th Welttreffen Donauschwäbischer Kulturgruppen in Baja, Hungary and Hatzfeld, Romania this year. We are sharing a summary and personal highlight of this amazing cultural experience. A special thank you to Moni who served as one of our translators throughout the trip!

The program began on Wednesday, July 24, 2019 in Baja, Hungary, where 80+ people, all from different Donauschwaben groups from USA, Canada, Brazil, Austria, and Germany were housed in the Ungarndeutsches Bildungs-zentrum (UBZ) dormitories. This school is a Deutsche Auslandsshule (German school for Hungarians) and is from Kindergarten through Hochschule (high school). During our time in Hungary, the UBZ was our home base, where breakfasts and sometimes lunches & dinners were served from the school's cafeteria.

Thursday, July 25 - This was our first full day in Hungary and the organizers made this a transitional day - surely to combat the jetlag for us travelers. We had a group dance practice (learning new folkdances). We also all attended lectures about Trachten and had an actual demonstration on how to starch underskirts. Did you know that the more underskirts a girl wore under her Tracht – the richer her family was and sometimes there were 5-6 underskirts under a Tracht making for a very, very full skirt and dowry!

Friday, July 26 - On this morning, we attended a lecture on the Donauschwaben settlement in Entre Rios, Brazil, given by a Brazilian attendee of the 4th Welttreffen. Our afternoon and evening took us to the town of Nadwar with a very intense cultural program. We were led to their culture house and were greeted with Palinka (fruit brandy) and Pogache (a bread pastry). Their group's program included performances by a group of young accordionists (12 and younger), a young girl telling a story in Schvowisch (Swabian) dialect, and a choreographed play and dance of a typical Kerweih (Kirchweih). The play also included the engagement of a young couple and the Vertreibung (expulsion). It was a wonderful performance and left many of us in tears. Since Nadwar is the city with the most Weinkeller (wine cellars), we went on a walking tour up the hill passing many rows of the wine cellars and vineyards, through the cemetery and back down to more rows of wine cellars. The evening was spent eating a delicious dinner and wine tasting inside two private wine cellars and we ended up actually "dancing in the streets" serenaded by an accordionist! ...ja, ja der Wein is guat (gut)!!!









Saturday, July 27 - The UBZ was also the venue for the christening of the full-scale Ulmer Schachtel, the boats which the Donauschwaben people used to travel down the Donau to land in Hungary and Romania in the late 1700s. Many of the Donauschwaben clubs around the world sponsored the construction and the Schachtel is to be used as a classroom and part museum. The Ulmer Schachtel was named "Hoffnung" translated to hope. Christoph had the honor of burying a timecapsule which contained items such as the Welttreffen program which included participant names, a coin from each participating country, a Donauschwaben song book and music CD, and other items. The timecapsule is to be opened again in 50 years. All participants received a piece of wood made from the scraps of the UBZ Schachtel. Each piece was stamped with the Ulmer Schachtel symbol. In the evening the UBZ hosted a traditional (Tracht & dirndl attire) 'Annaball' with dinner and dancing by the music from the Heimattöne Kapelle (the band that performed in St. Louis when Taks came to visit.)

Sunday, July 28 – Today, we spent the day in the town of Seetsch. This was a very active day full of cultural experiences; a welcome reception with music, Schnapps, and bread; sausage and strudel making; a remembrance ceremony with wreath laying in the Donau (Danube River); a visit to two very old churches; a visit to a Schnapps distillery; and a visit to a flour mill run by manpower. The welcome reception was heart-warming as their brass band started playing the moment we entered the courtyard and we were greeted by the Seetsch group (dressed in Tracht) with Schnapps and Hochzeitsbrot. The commemoration ceremony on the Donau began with their brass band escorting us through the streets of Seetsch, down to the Donau and onto a small ferry. The ferry traveled a short distance up the Donau where two of our participants laid a wreath in the water. We all prayed together in German honoring our forefathers and heritage, it was a solemn and tearful experience for all. The evening dinner and dance program was another part of our wonderful experience in Seetsch, as we ate the Wurst and Strudel which we made with our own hands earlier that day. Terry helped make sausage and Christoph, Rosemarie and Monika all had their hands in the dough for making the Ziehstrudel: cherry, poppyseed and cheese with raisins. We danced the rest of the evening away with the accompaniment of their band who ended up marching us to our busses when we had to leave.



Monday, July 29 - Our morning & afternoon consisted of learning group dances and singing German folksongs. Our singing was led by Jozsef Emmert and the Wemender Duo. This was followed by a late afternoon/evening cultural program in the town of Hajosch. After arriving in Hajosch, we had a walking tour through their town (by the accompaniment of an accordionist) that led us to a park with a stage where the Hajoscher Tanzgruppe (dance group) performed for us. The Hajoscher Schwaben pulled many of us up for a group dance that had us all laughing. Dinner was at the Gösser-Schlosser Beer Garden where we sang (our morning rehearsed songs) along with our hosts. At the end of the evening we all walked to our bus singing in the streets of Hajosch!

Tuesday, July 30 - This morning we had fun learning some Kindertänze (children's dances) - Ringel, Ringel Reihe, Zipfel-Mitzel, among others. After lunch at the UBZ, we left for the town of Boly for another cultural program and dinner. The cultural program was of a wedding between a Donauschwaben girl and a Croatian boy, highlighting the customs and dances of two different groups. The two different groups, the Mohatscher Nationalities Folk Dance Group and the Naarader Dance Group from Großnaarad put on a wonderful performance. Dinner was at the Pincet/Weinkeller Roth. The Roth family hosted our entire group with delicious food, wine, and of course Schnapps. We headed back to the UBZ after 10:00pm.







Wednesday, July 31 - This was the day that the Welttreffen transitioned from Hungary to Romania, traveling in our buses. Our first stop was in Temeschburg for a walking city tour. We drove through Sackalas and thought of everyone back at home! Accomodations in Romania were at the Hostel Ilina Classic in Hatzfeld, aka FC Bayern München Fan Central. During our time in Romania, this Hostel was our home base, where breakfasts and sometimes lunches & dinners were eaten.

Thursday, August 1 - The entire day was full of learning dances, cultural traditions, and lectures. Our dance courses were directed by Hansi Mueller "Tanzi-Hansi" and his Hatzfeld dance group. We also learned the art of Kirchweih Hutschmuck (hat decoration making). You would not believe that the hat 'jewelry' is completely handmade with starting materials of only bare wire, crepe paper, fabric and thread. Each city has its own design. These decorated hats are only worn at Kirchweih and traditionally were made by the girls and presented to the boys Kirchweih morning. That evening two speakers talked about their personal deportation into Russia. This was another very tearful and impactful experience for all participants.



Friday, August 2 - Most of this day was dedicated to the Deutsche Wallfahrt nach Maria Radna (the pilgrimage to the Basilica of Maria Radna). Historically, August 2nd has been declared as the pilgrimage day of the German faithful. This place of pilgrimage is a sanctuary of awakening, reflection, guidance, strength, and comfort for the Catholic German-speaking settlers on the Danube. Donauschwaben from many different countries continue this pilgrimage every year. The Bishop of Temeswar, his excellency Josef Csaba Pál, officiated the mass in the Basilica. Afterwards, we were invited for lunch inside the monastery, where we had delicious white bean and sausage soup, bread, and beer. Our return trip to Hatzfeld took us to the town's cemetery to honor the grave site of Stefan Jäger, (a famous Donauschwaben folk artist whose paintings captured the life in our former homeland). We also went to the Catholic Church in Hatzfeld and listened to a beautiful concert given by the organist, a violinist, and soloist. As a side note, in the morning we were detained by one of our buses having mechanical problems, which held up the entire church service at the Basilica, but we were all doubly blessed as we attended mass twice that day – once at the Basilica and then again in Hatzfeld's Catholic Church!

It was also on this day that the Lorenz family were fortunate enough to be able to visit Herbert's hometown of Schöndorf. Since Schöndorf was only about 30 kilometers from Maria Radna, a couple of hometown friends drove them to the house where Herbert was born. They walked through the remainder of the town to where his Oma's house was and to the Korbflechterei (basket weaving business), where Herbert's parents worked weaving baskets, suitcases, trunks, chairs, and many other items. We talked with the people that now lived there and had Birnen (pear) Schnapps and Pfirsiche from the trees in their yard. It was so awesome for Herbert to be in his hometown again and also for Moni and Christoph to be able to see this part of Herbert's history.



Saturday, August 3 - Kirchweih in Warjasch, Romania was like no other Kirchweih we've ever been to. Upon our arrival in Warjasch, we witnessed the setting up the Kirchweih-baum (tree), the young boys carrying the Stamm (pole), and the girls carrying the crown down the street into the Platz (courtyard) of Warjasch's Culture House. After raising the Kirchweihbaum, we joined other dance groups in a 3-hour long Kirchweih procession walking practically through the entire town to get to the church. Just imagine -102 couples in Tracht with a marching brass band parading down the streets of Warjasch! This old custom was meant to invite the townspeople to the consecration of the church - the Kirchweih. Many people came out from their houses, waved, and watched us walk by. During the parade, we actually stopped at three different houses to invite the families to the Kirchweih. In turn, we were invited into their courtyards and each family offered the entire group Wein, Wurst, Brot, und Kuchen. The Welttreffen participants were made to feel truly special and honored as the other groups in the procession parted and stood on each side of the driveway of the courtyard to allow us to enter each place first. After mass, we returned to the Platz where we joined in on the Versteigerung (auction) of the Strauss and we all danced in the courtyard around the Kirchweihbaum. Dinner music and dancing were held in the culture house until it was time to go.

Sunday, August 4 - Romania surely knows how to celebrate their Kirchweih! The town of Nitzkydorf celebrated their Kirchweih very similar to the one we attended the day before. Upon our arrival, we first toured a little bit of the town, were shown the home of Herta Müller who won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2009, and visited the cemetery and placed a wreath upon a Donauschwaben memorial. We were greeted with a cake and coffee reception at a school. Then, we lined up in the school yard with the other groups and brass band and the Kirchweih procession began! We paraded down the streets of Nitzkydorf. Our first stop was the Greek Orthodox Church, where we invited them to participate. Then, it was off to the Catholic Church for the Kirchweih mass. After mass, we danced through the streets to the Cultural Center, where we watched several cultural performances. The Welttreffen participants were invited into the Cultural Center for a formal seven-course dinner with music and dancing. This was one of the few places that actually had air conditioning, which was very welcoming in the sweltering heat. By 10:00, the buses were loaded, and we headed for Hatzfeld singing songs all the way back. The entire program and the people of Nitzkydorf made this Kirchweih outstanding!









Monday, August 5 - This day was a travel day as we left Romania and headed back to Hungary. This time, we stayed at a hotel in Törökbalint, Hungary very close to Budapest. Late afternoon, we attended a lecture by Jürgen Harich on the topic: "Journey to the Danube Swabians Worldwide". At 6:30 pm, the buses left for Budapest and we all went on a dinner cruise on the Donau (Danube River).

Tuesday, August 6 - The morning was spent on a walking tour of Budapest with a little sightseeing and shopping. By 3:00 pm, we were on the bus again for an Abschiedsabend (farewell evening) with our friends in Taks. We were welcomed with smiles and familiar faces at the Sziget Etterem (beer garden). After a welcome toast, we all got to participate in a fun tour of the town - by riding in a Trabi (a small sporty car). There were 10 Trabi cars of all different colors, each only holding a maximum of 4 people, so we had to go in several different shifts. All of the cars followed one another racing through the streets of Taks. We made one stop at a new church and another stop at a Heimatsmuseum with both places welcoming us with drinks & Schnapps and Pogache. Back at the beer garden, we had dinner, drinks, music, dancing, and a cultural performance by the Taks group. This was a perfect ending to an amazing Welttreffen.





There are really no words to express our gratitude and appreciation of all of the hundreds of people who planned, hosted, taught, and guided us through these 2 weeks. It was well worth all the hard work and commitment of these people. Thank you to the Weltdachverband and especially Stefan and Anna for making this another memorable event.

We were all very honored to represent the German Cultural Society of St. Louis and will always remember and continue to share the learnings and experiences with as many people as possible.

Rosemarie Ficken & Monika Qorenz



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The German Cultural Society of St. Louis invites you to:

"OSTEREIERSUCHEN" ANNUAL EASTER EGG **HUNT & CONCERT**

Saturday, April 11, 2020

DONAU PARK

5020 West Four Ridge Rd, House Springs, MO 63051

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In Memoriam

Deceased Members from June 1st, 2019-November 30th, 2019

Hilda Trendle June 13, 2019

Kristina Glassl June 24, 2019

Margaret Maus August 8, 2019

Maria Cendekowitsch August 18, 2019

Frank Rohatsch August 28, 2019

Louis Schweiss November 14, 2019

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Mein Reise Bericht

My name is Christoph Lorenz and I am of Donauschwaben heritage. I live in the United States of America and am the son of Monika and Herbert Lorenz. My father, Herbert, was born in Romania and moved back to Germany with his family after the second world war. His parents, my grandparents, are Elizabeth and Peter Lorenz who were also born in Romania, but before the first world war. Ever since I was a child, I have been a part of our German Cultural Society (DKV-Deutscher Kulturverein) which has a strong presence of Donauschwaben and is a not-for-profit organization that resides in our city. I started dancing in the Kindertanzgruppe when I was 4 years old and haven't stopped dancing with the various dance groups since. I have also been playing music with the Blaskapelle for about 5 years now.

Since 2007, the Weltdachverband has hosted 4 Welttreffens, which are events in which Donauschwaben, old and young, from all over the world come together for a week or two. The Weltdachverband is a Donauschwaben organization that helps maintain and grow the various Landesverbands as well as coordinate and organize events. My father and I have attended two of the four Welttreffens, my brother has attended 1, and my mother has attended all 4. Both my parents and I attended this year's (2019) Welttreffen and we all had a great time.

During every Welttreffen, our time is focused on learning about the Donauschwaben culture and history. This Welttreffen was two weeks long and took place first in Hungary and then in Romania. In Hungary, we spent a lot of time learning traditional Donauschwaben dances and songs so that we could bring them to our Donauschwaben communities back home. We were part of two ceremonies that helped us remember our Donauschwaben heritage. The first ceremony we attended was the burying of a time capsule at the boarding school where we were staying. They had built a replica of the boats that were used to sail down the Donau River (Ulmer Schachtel) and this ceremony was like an opening ceremony for the mini-museum they had created inside the boat. I actually got to be a part of the ceremony and helped place the time capsule in the ground to bury it, which was really cool.

In Romania, we visited lots of places and listened to many speakers. It was very interesting learning about the different towns' and churches' histories and how they were linked to the Donauschwaben. One of the churches we visited was the Maria-Radna which was my favorite out of them all. It was my favorite because I was told a story about how my Oma would walk to the church once a year to celebrate the Wallfahrt and participate in the pilgrimage. It would take her almost all day to walk there so she would stay the night and walk back in the morning. It was really awesome to go to that same church and attend a mass.

We also listened to several speakers while in Romania. Some of the topics that were covered included how to starch a traditional Tracht, a report on the differences in Donauschwaben communities across the world, and a first hand experience from two Donauschwaben men who were deported to Russia during the war.

It was interesting to hear about the different Donauschwaben communities around the world outside of Germany. I knew of the communities in the U.S. and Canada but I learned that there were also Donauschwaben in Brazil, Argentina, and in Australia. After the second world war, there were many waves of Donauschwaben who were wanting to move back to Germany, but were forced to move to other countries. The story of the Donauschwaben in Brazil was the most interesting to me. At the time, the Brazilians needed farmers and the Donauschwaben that moved there were mostly farmers. The Brazilians gave them a huge plot of land and the Donauschwaben started growing crops for the nearby towns. Over time, their farms grew and they started an agricultural business that is still flourishing to this day.



There were other speakers that I thought were interesting but did not have as happy of a story as the first poeple. We had two Donauschwaben men tell us about their experiences of being deported to Russia. My Oma has told me stories of how her mother was sent to Russia for 5 years, but she never told me any details of her mother's experience. The two men told us all the sad things that happened to them and their families, which made everyone cry, but it was important for everyone to hear and to remember our history.

Another thing we did in Romania was attend two traditional Kirchweih Fests. During these Kirchweih Fests, we had mass and then marched around the town going to different people's houses. At the different houses, the hosts had prepared food and drinks for us and the band played music for everyone to dance to. It was so incredible with all the local dance groups and their colorful Kirchweih hats and Trachts. Our DKV has hosted a Kirchweih every year so I was familiar with the Fest, but we don't do it like this. I didn't know how much I was missing out on until this summer (2019) when I attended Kirchweih in Romania.

The best thing I got to do during the Welttreffen was go to Schöndorf which is the town where my father and grandparents were born. It was the first time I have seen my father's hometown and the first time he has been back since he and his family left after the war. It was such a special and memorable experience. We walked around the town and visited the church that my father used to attend and pump air into the organ while the organist played the music. I also got to see the factory where my Opa was a manager. While we were walking around town, we were seen and invited into a local's home. It turns out that the people who invited us into their house used to work for my Opa at the factory and knew my father's family. After talking for a while, they gave us wurst and marmalade to take home with us. It was so crazy how we ran into them and I will never forget that experience.

During the trip, I got to see old friends and make so many new friends. We had a lot of fun most days, and enjoyed the sad moments together as we were honoring our relatives and remembering what they had gone through. This trip was one of the most important trips of my life and I will always remember everyone I met, all the great experiences I had, and all the memories that were made.

Christoph Lorenz

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Senioren

This is my last newsletter article regarding the Senioren.

We have enjoyed 10 years of hosting the Senioren afternoon every month.

In 2020, Liz Young, Rose Hoh, & Kathy Stark will be taking over.

I want to thank all the ladies for all the help every month. They are Becky Haas, Anni Rohatsch, Caroline Messmer, Anni Ruppe, Anni Pappert and Hilde Frank and also our husbands.

Thanks.

Rose Lengenfelder

2020 Senioren Schedule

January: None February: None

March 10th: St. Patrick's Day (1:00 P.M.) April 14th: Easter Lunch (12:00 P.M.) May 12th: Mother's Day (1:00 P.M.)

June 9th: Father's Day (1:00 P.M.)

July 14th: Independence Day (1:00 P.M.)

August: None September: None

October 13th: Fall Season (1:00 P.M.) November 10th: Thanksgiving (1:00 P.M.) December 8th: Christmas Lunch (12:00 P.M.)

Thanksgiving

- is for the time I have here on earth. T
- is for happy I was given birth. Н
- is for another chance to show I care,
- is for the numerous things I have to share, N
- K is for the kindness I can show to others,
- S is for all of my sisters and brothers.
- G is for the gifts my Father gave to me,
- is for the intelligence to be all that I can be.
- V is for the variety that in nature does abound,
- is for incredible the beauty all around.
- is for the newness of each dawning day,
- G is for grateful this Thanksgiving Day.



An original poem by Judith E. Both 2019

Ve	reinskalender	2020	Event Calend	lar
19 Jan.	General	Meeting at th	e DKV Hall	Jan. 19
1 Feb.	Trivia	a Nite at the DKI	/ Hall	Feb. 1
7 März	Rose	nball* at the DK	V Hall	Mar. 7
29 März	Wurst	markt at the DI	(V Hall	Mar. 29
11 Apr.	Ostereiers	uchen at the DK	V Donau Park	Apr. 11
16-17 Mai	Maife	st at the DKV Done	au Park	May 16-17
TBA	Fereienla	ager at the DKV L	Donau Park	TBA
12 Juli	Wiener n' Schn	itzl Dinner at	the DKV Donau Park	July 12
22 Aug.	Kirchw	eihfest* at the	DKV Hall	Aug. 22
12-13 Sept. 19-20 Sept.	HUTANAR	fest at the DKV D	onau Park	Sept. 12-13 Sept. 19-20
TBA	German An	nerican Day a	nt the DKV Hall	ТВА
25 Okt.	Musikalische	r Nachmittag	* at the DKV Hall	Oct. 25
1 Nov.	Totengeden	kfeier at Sunse	t Memorial Park	Nov. 1
14 Nov.	Winze	erfest* at the DI	(V Hall	Nov. 14
TBA	Tag des Deutsch	en Kulturverein	s at the DKV Hall	TBA
12 Dez.	Weihna	chtsfeier at the	e DKV Hall	Dec. 12
13 Dez.	Weihnachtsgo	ottesdienst at Peac	e Lutheran Church	Dec. 13
31 Dez.	Silvest Offical Kick-Off of th	erfeier* at the he DKV 75th Annive		Dec. 31

^{*} Event Tickets are available from germanstltickets@gmail.com or 314.771.8368

The German Cultural Society has its origin in the St. Louis Chapter of the American Aid Society, which was founded in 1945 to help the German refugees of Eastern Europe who fled to German and Austria. When immigration to the United Sates became a possibility, many of these refugees who came to St. Louis joined the Society, as did many other immigrants from Germany & Austria.

When the need for help abated in post-war Germany, the members of the Society set the preservation of their cultural heritage as the primary goal. To more accurately reflect this purpose, the organization changed its name in 1969 to the "German Cultural Society".

Check out our Website www.germanstl.org

Check out our Facebook page German Cultural Society of St. Louis



German Cultural Society's Hall & Offices

3652 South Jefferson Avenue St. Louis, MO 63118

Directions: From I-44, _ turn south at the Jefferson Ave exit. The Hall is on the left. a block north of the Jefferson/Broadway/Chippewa intersection.



Or from I-55, turn north at the 4500 Broadway exit. Proceed to Jefferson Ave. and the hall is on the right.



German Cultural Society's Donau-Park 5020 West Four Ridge Road House Springs, MO 63051



Directions: From I-270. take *HWY 21* south past HWY 141 to the exit at **Old Route 21**-Shady Valley and turn left (south). Turn Right on West Four Ridge Rd and the entrance to the Donau Park is on the right.

To rent these locations for your event... John Unterreiner at germanstlhallrentals@gmail.com or Terry Ficken at donauparkrental@gmail.com

or call 314.771.8368



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Winzerfest Returns to the German Cultural Society

Die Heimatgruppe brought back this fun event. Read all about it on pages 24-25!

