

SAINT LOUIS

# Deutscher Kulturverein

GERMAN CULTURAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

## Rundschreiben



SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI



SUMMER 2022, VOL 22.2

## Upcoming Events

September 2nd-4th

### ***Tag der Donauschwaben***

at the German American Society in Trenton, New Jersey

September 9th-11th

### ***Oktoberfest\*\****

at the Donau Park

October 2nd

### ***German American Day\*\****

at the DKV Hall

October 23rd

### ***Musikalischer Nachmittag\*\****

at the DKV Hall

November 6th

### ***Totengedenkfeier\*\****

at Sunset Memorial Park

November 12th

### ***Winzerfest\*\****

at the DKV Hall

December 10th

### ***Weihnachtsfeier\*\****

at the DKV Hall

December 11th

### ***Tag des DKV\*\****

at the DKV Hall

**\*\* Please note that all events are subject to change due to the coronavirus. Please check our website for updated information.**

For more information about our events, go to **[www.germanstl.org](http://www.germanstl.org)**

## Interested in becoming a member of the German Cultural Society?

For information or questions about membership in the German Cultural Society, email us at [germanSTLnews@gmail.com](mailto:germanSTLnews@gmail.com).

Or call us at 314.771.8368. Please leave a message with your name and phone number. Kathy Stark will call you back.

### 2022 Membership Dues

**Senior (62+)** \$25.00

**Adult (18-61)** \$45.00

**Adult Dancer** \$35.00

for Die Heimatgruppe

**Youth Dancer** \$20.00

for the Kindertanzgruppe and Jugendgruppe

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

\*Up to 2 Adults & 2 children/2 Youth Dancers in the same household

Please pay your 2022 membership dues to

The German Cultural Society

### BY MAIL:

Please make your check payable to: German Cultural Society

Mail to: German Cultural Society

PO BOX 190486

St. Louis, MO 63119

### BY CREDIT CARD ON OUR WEBSITE:

- 1) Visit [germanSTL.org](http://germanSTL.org) and click the CONTACT US tab.
- 2) Click on "Click here to make payment thru PayPal!"
- 3) ENTER the amount
- 4) SELECT payment by PayPal OR Credit or Debit Card
- 5) Write a note saying 2022 DUES and the names of members for whom you are paying
- 6) Complete the remaining billing information requested by PayPal and process.
- 7) QUESTIONS? Call or text Kathy Stark 314-596-7466.

**Thank you for your support, which is always appreciated.**

**Meetings:** General membership meetings are held on specific Sundays at 1:00 p.m. at the DKV Hall on Jefferson Ave., unless otherwise noted. The general board meeting schedule for 2022 is as follows:

January 16th \*\*\* March 13th \*\*\* June 5th

August 7th \*\*\* October 16th



## Liebe Mitglieder,

Welcome to summer! This time of the year families start vacationing, traveling and spending time with others. This is also the time for our outdoor festivals in celebration of spring, Maifest, Wurstmart, and Wiener'n'Schnitzel dinner with Kirchweih at the close of summer before the school year starts. The dance groups and Gruen-Weiss team started the season in May. All of the dance groups are supporting each other dancing together for performances at the St. Louis Hofbrauhaus Belleville Maifest and Maifest at Donau Park. The Gruen-Weiss participated in the annual Donauschwaben tournament. Look for the photos in the pages of the documented memories we can be so proud of sharing.

*Monika Lorenz & Terry Ficken*

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 Wendl
Secretary	
Membership	Kathy Stark
Controller	Lisa Hoffmann
Co-Controller	Susan Bauer
Members at Large	Rosemarie Ficken
	Donna Marlette
	Michael Wendl

### Rental

Call 314.771.8368

John Unterreiner | germanstlhallrentals@gmail.com

Terry Ficken | donauparkrental@gmail.com

### Tickets

314.771.8368

germanstltickets@gmail.com

### Newsletter

Joey Wendl | germanstl.fb@gmail.com

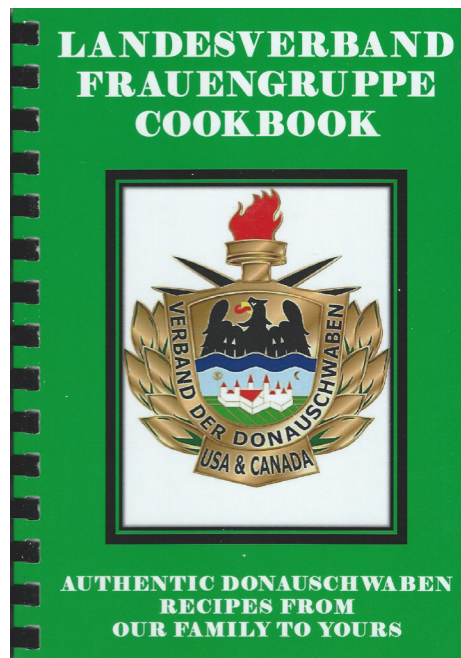
This newsletter can also be found on our website,

**www.germanstl.org**

On the cover: The Sackelhausen  
 Church - photo was taken by Joey  
 and Becky Wendl. Read more  
 about their trip on pages 32-34.

## 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](http://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**

Joey Wendl | germanstl.fb@gmail.com

314.914.7563





### ***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 evening.

Contact John Unterreiner at 314-771-8368 or e-mail at [jjunterreiner@aol.com](mailto:jjunterreiner@aol.com)

The Garden Club needs some help! See page 31 for more information.

### **Seniorengruppe *Seniors Group***

Coordinators:

Liz Young.....314-583-3053.....lizzy681@gmail.com

Rose Hoh.....314-660-9028.....rphoh2@gmail.com

Susan Bauer.....Susan-Bauer@sbcglobal.net

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

**Gathering Afternoons:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday / DKV hall

### **Grün Weiß *Soccer Team***

Coordinators:

Neal Thompson.....314-398-8893.....nmthompsoniii@hotmail.com

Steve Ballew.....314-486-2220.....ballewfam@aol.com

## **Performance Groups**

### **Deutschmeister Blaskapelle *Deutschmeister Brass Band***

Leader: Helmuth Glatt ..... 314-566-9557

Assistant: Adam Glassl

Music Director: Peter Krege

Email: [germanbandstl@gmail.com](mailto:germanbandstl@gmail.com)

Band Practice: Wednesdays @ 8:00 p.m. at DKV Hall

### **Damenchor *Ladies' Chorus***

Music Director: Peggy Pancella

### **Tanzgruppen *Dance Groups***

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

Coordinator: Elisheva Mankofsky ..... 636-212-3728

email: [elishevamankofsky@gmail.com](mailto:elishevamankofsky@gmail.com)

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

#### **Jugendgruppe *Youth Dance Group (Ages 13-26)***

Coordinator: Liz Young ..... 314-583-3053

Instructor: Jennifer Taylor and Stephanie Schiro

email: [stljugend@gmail.com](mailto:stljugend@gmail.com)

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

#### **Die Heimatgruppe *Young Adult Dance Group***

Coordinator: Joey Wendl ..... [stlheimatgruppe@gmail.com](mailto:stlheimatgruppe@gmail.com)

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

Facebook: Die Heimatgruppe of St. Louis

Facebook Messenger: [@stlheimatgruppe](https://www.facebook.com/stlheimatgruppe)

#### **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**

Matt Potje, Susan Bauer, Marilyn Heidbrink, Dave Marlette, Lisa Hoffmann, Hank Young, Matt Stark, John Lasinski, Kitty Lasinski, Rose Hoh, Gary Korte, Charles Tate, Donna Marlette, Steve Hoffmann, Steve Ballew, Christian Hoefke, Nancy Plunk, Monika Lorenz, & 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 Stark ....[germanstlnews@gmail.com](mailto:germanstlnews@gmail.com)

**Intermediary for Jugendgruppe:** Liz Young

### **List of Garden Volunteers:**

Vicky Boncek, Frank Breitenstein, Elisheva Mankofsky, Becky Haas, Barb Potje, Kathy Stark, Joe Wagner, & 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

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

## Newsletter Staff

**Co-Editor** Joey Wendl

**Co-Editor** Becky Wendl

**Advertising** Joey Wendl

**Distribution** Kathy Stark

### **How to contact the Newsletter**

Joey Wendl | [germanstl.fb@gmail.com](mailto: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!*

# Maifest 2022

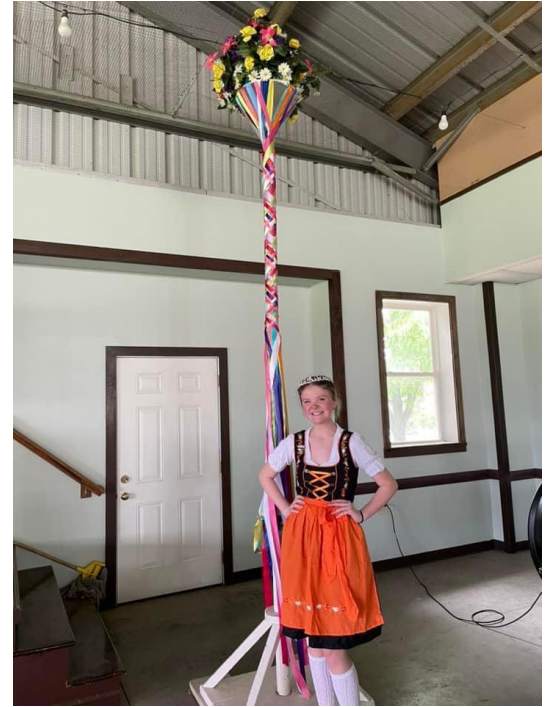
We celebrated Maifest at the Donau Park on May 14-15, 2022. We had wonderful music by Die Spitzbuam and the Deutschmeister Brass Band. There were multiple dance performances throughout the weekend. We even had an audience participation dance and had a lot of Kinder on the dance floor!

There was a combo performance on Saturday night! On Sunday, the Jugendgruppe presented the Maibaum, performed the traditional Maipole Dance, and crowned a new Maifest princess, Laine Hartzog.

There was a performance by Die Heimatgruppe and a combo performance that included members of the Jugendgruppe, Die Heimatgruppe, and Volkstanzgruppe. Thank you to everyone who helped at this event, for set up, tear down, cooking, working the bar, playing music, dancing, etc.

As always, our volunteers in the kitchen cooked and served delicious food. On Saturday, bratwurst dinners and sandwiches were served. They served two different meals on Sunday. One was fried chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, bread, and strudel for dessert. The other meal included Weisswurst, Bratwurst, potato salad, coleslaw, bread, and strudel for dessert.

*Becky Wendt*













# Porta Westfalica Festival 2022



The Waterloo Porta Westfalica Festival was a great performance with Jugendgruppe and Volks and Heimatgruppe members all involved!

*Liz Young*



## How to donate to the GCS through Amazon Smile

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](https://smile.amazon.com) and sign in with your Amazon.com credentials
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**Please check website for updates on the status of this event.**



## **DONAU PARK**

**5020 West Four Ridge Rd.  
House Springs, MO 63051**

## **LIVE MUSIC**

*Dance Performances by  
the Kindertanzgruppe  
the Jugendgruppe,  
Die Heimatgruppe, &  
the Volkstanzgruppe!!!*

## **ADMISSION IS FREE!**



*\*COVID Guidelines will be followed.*

*Please check our website [www.germanstl.org](http://www.germanstl.org) for updates!*

## **2022 DATES**

**Friday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> – 7:00-10:00 PM**

**Friday Night is Bier Night!**

Music by: Die Spitzbuam

**Saturday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> – 5:00-10:00 PM**

Music by: The Wendl Band

**Sunday, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> – Noon-6:00 PM**

Music by: The Deutschmeister Brass Band

**No Dogs in the Park, Please.  
Service Animals Permitted**

**German Cultural Society  
(314) 771-8368  
[www.germanstl.org](http://www.germanstl.org)**





# Report from Die Heimatgruppe

Happy Summer! Die Heimatgruppe has been doing great! Since our last newsletter, we have performed at Maifest and we have been continuing to welcome new members. We are so thankful that we are growing!

We have been keeping busy by teaching dances, learning dances, and preparing for Winzerfest. Some members of Die Heimatgruppe will be traveling up to Trenton, NJ, for the annual Landestreffen. Trenton is planning on having a Kirchweihfest while we are there on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend. So, we have been learning traditional Donauschwaben dances that we will dance with all the other groups present.

As mentioned above, we have been preparing for Winzerfest! It will be our 3rd time hosting Winzerfest. We are excited to be continuing the fun from the past two, as well as debuting new things... To see what we have planned and to join in on the fun, please contact us for tickets to Winzerfest on Saturday, November 12th.

We also wanted to congratulate a few of our members for milestone events. One of our members, Mathias Young, married Katie Gesell on May 14, 2022. We are so excited for them as they start this next chapter in their lives!

Olivia Schaffer received her Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) from the University of Missouri. Olivia was also an active member of the scholars honors society, Pi Theta Epsilon, where she served as treasurer. She plans to live in St. Louis as she begins her career assisting others to continue to live meaningful lives despite disability and barriers.

Becky Wendl graduated with her Master of Science in Education Literacy from Missouri State in May 2022. She also earned her Special Reading Certification for Grades K-12. While she doesn't want to currently pursue a career as a reading specialist right now, she plans to use those reading skills and strategies to help her current third graders.

We are looking forward to all the fun things we have planned for the rest of the year. We are always welcoming of new members so if you are interested, please do not hesitate to reach out to us! You can find us on Facebook at Die Heimatgruppe of Saint Louis or you can email us at [stlheimatgruppe@gmail.com](mailto:stlheimatgruppe@gmail.com). Have a great rest of your summer!

*Leah Lorenz*





# Seniorengruppe Report

The Seniorengruppe met on April 12 for their annual Easter luncheon; on May 10 for Mother's Day; on June 14 for Father's Day; and on July 12 for Independence Day. The following items were presented at each meeting: a moment of silence for those who passed away, upcoming events for the Verein, and jokes to humor our spirits. Each month we also recognized those members who had a birthday that month. In June, the Senioren played Bingo for money, and Richard Fischer won two times on the same card. There were other winners from a couple more games played. Everyone has enjoyed seeing one another and catching up in conversations with their friends at each gathering. A "thank you" to Walter Fett for assisting the Seniorengruppe Committee at our July meeting. There will be NO Seniorengruppe meeting in August and we look forward to seeing everyone again at our September 13, 2022 meeting at the German Cultural Society Hall, 3652 South Jefferson.

Seniorengruppe Committee

*Liz Young, Kathy Stark, Susan Bauer, and Rose Hoch*



## Seniorengruppe 2022 Schedule

September 13th at 1:00PM- School Days

October 11th at 1:00PM - Fall Season

November 8th at 1:00PM - Thanksgiving

December 13th at 12:00PM - Christmas Lunch



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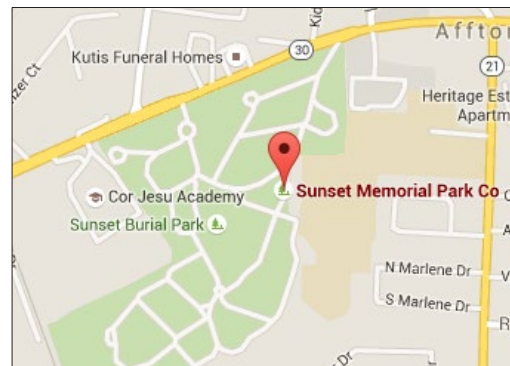
**Please check website for updates on the status of this event.**

# TOTENGEDENKFEIER



## GERMAN CULTURAL SOCIETY OF ST. LOUIS

Join us for a  
remembrance of our  
loved ones during a  
memorial service at



## Sunset Memorial Park Cemetery

10180 Gravois Rd., Affton, MO 63123



**Sunday,  
November 6, 2022,  
at 2:00 p.m.**

Please check our website [www.germanstl.org](http://www.germanstl.org) for updates.  
For more information, please call (314) 771-8368



# Grün Weiß at the Memorial Day Tournament

The DKV's Grün Weiß O35 Mens team traveled to Cleveland, OH over Memorial Day weekend to compete in the 47th Annual Donauschwaben Soccer Tournament.

They finished the tournament with a record of 1-3-0 playing 2 matches on Saturday and two matches on Sunday. The team beat the Detroit Carpathia Club 2-1 in the opening match on Saturday, but lost a tough match 0-1 to Akron GFS on a penalty kick late in the second half of the second match of the day.

On Sunday, the team lost 1-4 to Cleveland Concordia in the first match of the day, then loss another tough match 2-3 to Mansfield Liederkrantz after pulling level twice in the match only to lose on another late goal.

The team finished in 4th place out of five teams on the head-to-head tie breaker rule.

The DKV's Grün Weiß O35 Men's Team looks forward to continuing to promote the German Culture of Fußball in this Tournament next year at either the Mansfield, OH or Chicago, IL Club!

As always, we'd like to thank the St Louis German Cultural Society for their continued support of the DKV's Grün Weiß O35 Mens Soccer team!

Vielen Dank,

*Stephen Ballew*





# Männerchor, Ernst Herzwurm, and the 38–th Sängerfest in St. Louis

Michael C. Wendl

## Introduction

During the years 1824 to 1827, a German attorney named Gottfried Duden lived in, farmed, and studied the countryside of Missouri around Dutzow in Warren county, just west of St. Louis, in what is now often referred to as the Missouri Weinstrasse. He subsequently published a book about his experiences back in Germany that would quickly come to play a very influential role in emigration to America. *Bericht über eine Reise nach den westlichen Staaten Nordamerika's und einen mehrjährigen Aufenthalt am Missouri* \* was a promotional tour-de-force that prompted a massive rise in emigration of Germanic peoples from the 1830s. Numbers grew dramatically further after the failed 1848 revolutions in Germany and several neighboring countries and, excepting the years around the First World War, continued to be relatively strong for decades into the 20th century. And, of course, there was another wave after the Second World War that nucleated the American Aid Societies, leading ultimately to our present German Cultural Society. Today, at more than 40 million strong, German-Americans are among the largest ancestry groups in the United States, according to the US Census Bureau.

But I'm getting a little ahead of myself here. This piece is not actually about Duden, nor his Bericht, nor emigration *per se*, all of which are interesting topics perhaps for future examinations. It is rather about one of the distinct cultural revetments that swept-in with German arrivals and that further developed into a large, nationally-organized movement. I am referring here to the phenomenon of the male chorus. Along with many traditional organizations and activities like *Sport & Turnvereine*, *Schiesswettbewerbe*, *Volkstanzgruppen*, and *Blasskapellen*, \*\* came the *Männerchor*. This was not the informal *Gemütlichkeit* variety of card-playing and beer garden singing, but rather consisted of organized and directed orchestral groups that gave formal performances and recitals. And, as with many of the other traditions just noted, festivals and friendly competitions geared around singing arose soon thereafter. This article introduces some of the history of the *Männerchor* in America, ultimately coming to focus on a large event that took place in St. Louis in 1934, namely the 38–th Sängerfest (Fig. 1) and the contributions of one of its important directors, Ernst Herzwurm.

**Figure 1: Official banner of the North-American Sängerbund's 38–th Sängerfest (postcard from author's collection). It depicts the Greek Muse of song, Erato, and her cherubic attendants on a throne supporting a pendant of King Louis IX of France, namesake of St. Louis. This edifice is flanked by names of classic composers, as well as portraits of Franz Schubert (left) and Stephen Foster (right), reflecting the emphasis on music of both the Old Country and the New Homeland. A scroll at the top announces the festival. The staff at bottom is from the Richard Wagner opera "Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg"; which symbolizes the high level of singing skills to which Männerchor aspired.**



\* The title translates roughly to The story of my trip to the western states of North America and my several-year stay in Missouri. See reference [1].

\*\* These are clubs and activities respectively organized around soccer & gymnastics, rifle-shooting competitions, folk-dancing, and brass music.



## Growth of Männerchor in America

By the 1840s, German-American Männerchor were springing-up all over the midwest and the east coast, with notable early groups in Cincinnati, Louisville, and Columbus and significant clusters of groups appearing in cities like Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, Buffalo, Milwaukee, and St. Louis. There soon was a call to coordinate activities, including visiting performances among clubs, with some sort of larger structure that would organize Männerchor at a national level. In 1849, that vision was realized in the form of the newfound *North-American Sängerbund*. Chartered in Cincinnati, the Sängerbund organized a national singing festival, a Sängerbundfest, in that same year. A total of 5 societies attended, with singers numbering about 120. This was impressive in the days of horse and buggy and when rail travel was still relatively unusual.

A national Sängerbundfest would subsequently be held every year for more than a decade, mostly in various Ohio cities, until the existential crisis of the US Civil War erupted. Priorities changed immediately, of course, and singing was among the many activities that were set aside as men went off to fight. After 4 bloody years, the war's conclusion brought earnest attempts to return to normalcy. For many German-Americans, this meant that singing with the Männerchor would now blossom into a new era. National gatherings had already resumed by 1865, with 17 groups numbering about 300 singers meeting in Columbus, Ohio for the 13-th Sängerbundfest. But interest expanded briskly. The 1866 festival in Louisville swelled to 800 singers from 31 groups and the 1867 gathering in Indianapolis topped 1000 singers [2]. The growing logistics of moving and hosting such large groups prompted the Sängerbund thereafter to switch to a schedule of every other or even every third year for roughly the next 5 decades.



These figures are interesting, but it would be a mistake to boil this all down to just collegial singing performances and festival attendance numbers. The Männerchor phenomenon in the United States actually developed into something much more, namely a social structure having its own customs, traditions, and hierarchies. This was especially true in cities sufficiently populated with German-Americans to sport multiple clubs, rather than just one or two. Membership certainly depended, to some degree, on where one lived, since transportation was still very primitive by the standards we are accustomed to today. But, it was also a function of other factors, including where a man's family had come from in the Old Country, as well as how he made his living (e.g. laborer, professional, or businessman) and what his social and financial statuses were. For example, in St. Louis, the *Deutsch-Ungarischer Arbeiter Männerchor* (of which my maternal grandfather was a member) catered to the "working man" (the literal translation being the "German-Hungarian Workingman's Chorus"), while the *Liederkranz Club* was comprised moreso of professionals and businessmen, counting among its members restaurateur Tony Faust, brewers August A. Busch Sr. and William Lemp, and grocer Herman Kroeger [3]. You could actually know a lot about a man from his Männerchor affiliation and, in fact, the question "Which Männerchor group do you belong to?" (asked invariably in German in those days) served much the same functionality as the question "Where did you go to high school?" does today. However, these Männerchor also had a great deal in common, including a keen sense of musical taste, from the great composers, to folk songs of the Old Country, to classics of the New Homeland. This musical unity was reflected in, for example, the North-American Sängerbund standard repertoire (Fig. 2), which included works by Beethoven and Wagner, volkslieder like *Muss I Denn*, and patriotic songs like *America* (My Country, 'Tis of Thee) and *The Star-Spangled Banner*.

**Figure 2: First edition of the standard repertoire for Männerchor chapters of the North-American Sängerbund published in 1902 (author's collection). The repertoire was sanctioned by the Sängerbund advisory board and separate staffs were published for different voices, this one being for bass singers. The stamp in the upper right corner indicates that this particular copy once belonged to the Chouteau Valley Männerchor, one of the many groups that once existed in St. Louis.**



St. Louis was certainly among those cities in which the Männerchor phenomenon flourished to its fullest cultural extent. Duden's book [1] attracted early settlers, whose economic successes gave rise to something of a feedback loop that attracted evermore German immigrants. Most found ready employment in St. Louis' growing industrial and commercial bases, becoming permanent residents rather than passers-through. Many would join the ever-expanding collection of active Männerchor. Rippey's St. Louis Index [4] already listed 24 separate groups by 1888, among them the *Apollo Gesangverein* (1408 Salisbury, north St. Louis Hyde Park neighborhood), the *Chouteau Valley Männerchor* (2817 Chouteau Ave. in midtown; one of their songbooks is shown in Fig. 2), *Germania Sängerbund* (Broadway and Park Ave., downtown), *Harmonie Männerchor* (4820 North Broadway, north St. Louis near O'Fallon Park), the *Liederkrantz Club* (13th and Chouteau near Lafayette Square), the *Orpheus Sängerbund* (226 Market near the riverfront), the *North St. Louis Bundeschor* (1623 North 14th Street, old north St. Louis), *Rock Spring Sängerbund* (Manchester and Clayton Roads), *St. Louis Liedertafel* (3419 1/2 South Broadway at the Lemp Brewery), and the *Teutonia Gesangverein* (22nd and Benton, St. Louis Place). By 1912, Glaesser's Directory [5] had expanded this list to 39 active singing groups and clubs within the St. Louis area.

Although many of these clubs met and rehearsed at rented facilities, the more affluent ones were able to erect massive "temples of song" that rivaled the great halls raised by other building-minded societies, like the Masons, Odd Fellows, and Elks. This was probably nowhere more true than with the *Liederkrantz Club*, which owned and/or built several such structures. Fig. 3 shows perhaps their most well-known home, the New Liederkrantz Hall, which opened in 1907. Following the southwesterly expansion of St. Louis City that had already established itself by that time, the Club sold its original hall on 13th and Chouteau, moving about 3 miles further out to the corner of South Grand and Magnolia at the eastern edge of Tower Grove Park. The building, designed by the firm of Helfensteller, Hirsch, and Watson, fronted 120 feet on Grand Avenue, with a depth of almost 180 feet and was erected at a cost of \$100,000 [6]. (That sum translates to about \$3 million today.) It sported all the necessary facilities for the society's members, including bowling alleys, billiard parlors, banquet rooms, library, separate ladies' facilities with a private cafe, and of course, a 5,000 square foot concert hall and ballroom. \*\*\*



**Figure 3: The *Liederkrantz Club* Hall at South Grand and Magnolia circa 1910 (image cropped from a postcard furnished by the Mary Alice Hansen Postcard Collection, courtesy of the Missouri State Archives).**

Typically, clubs' social functions also extended into the realm of dances, formal balls, and masquerade parties (especially Karneval a.k.a. Fasching during the period preceding the Lenten season), which, as "society events," were duly covered by newspapers of the day. A February 12, 1888 article in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch recounted the almost 2,000 Karneval revelers that had descended upon the *Liederkrantz Club* the prior evening, giving detailed descriptions of individual ladies' costumes and noting the long lines of horse-drawn carriages up and down Chouteau Avenue that resulted in what was

\*\*\* For more Liederkrantz-specific history, see Michelle Heitmann's article in the Summer 2020 issue of the Rundschreiben [7].

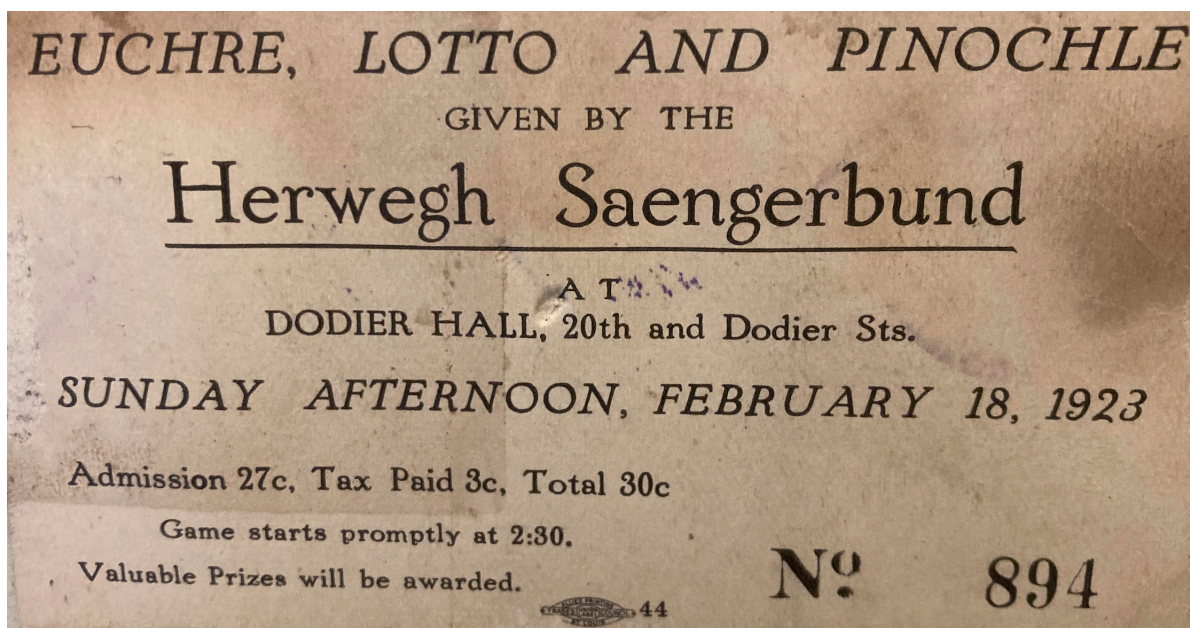


probably one of the earliest traffic jams in St. Louis. For the *Orpheus Sängerbund* Faschingsball the following season, that same newspaper wrote on February 17, 1889:

At 10:30, Vollrath's Orchestra struck-up the Pappenheimer March and the grand entry took place... The costumes were remarkable, not only for their beauty, but also for their historical accuracy... Dancing was kept up until an early hour in the morning, and all departed greatly pleased with the entertainment.

There was another aspect, too. As is typical with almost all socially-structured and/or ethnic communities, marriage prospects had to be considered and perhaps even promoted within socially-acceptable norms. Männerchor balls also served in this more subtle capacity for debutante and match-making purposes [8].

Other types of social functions were also common, with the old-style card party being a perennial favorite. Revelers tended to play "trick-taking" card games popular in the Old Country, like Pinochle, Fuchser, or Euchre, as well as Lotto, a "covering" type of game that was a forerunner to modern Bingo. Fig. 4 shows an admission ticket to a card party thrown by the *Herwegh Sängerbund* in 1923 at the German Freethinkers (*Freie Gemeinde*) Hall, a.k.a. the Dodier Hall, at 20th Street and Dodier in the St. Louis Place neighborhood. Note the ticket number of 894. As with the masquerade balls above, these gatherings were large, significant social events within the German-American community. They were important to attend, as well as to be seen attending. The practice of organizing social events around games (as opposed strictly to music and dancing) would diffuse into larger American culture and remains alive and well today, for example in the bingo and trivia nights held by numerous non-profit, civic, and church organizations. Note also that, except for the society's name, the entire ticket is printed in English, rather than German. In the years following the First World War, Männerchor became evermore conscious of avoiding the fallout of ongoing anti-German sentiments.



**Figure 4: Admission ticket to a 1923 *Herwegh Sängerbund* card party (author's collection).**

## **Ernst Herzwurm: Männerchor Dirigent**

Around this same time, one Ernst F. Herzwurm was completing his studies at the Aachen Conservatory and Cologne State University in Germany. Intending to leave for America, he made his way to the port of Antwerp, boarded the *SS Lapland*, and arrived in New York City in October of 1922. As an educated man, Herzwurm (Fig. 5) had little difficulty with passing then-mandatory immigration tests and had already arranged his final destination to central Kansas, specifically to a tiny hamlet called Belpre, where he had an uncle. However, by 1927, he was living in Edwardsville, Illinois, a small community a few dozen miles northeast of St. Louis. He had tacked-up a shingle as a piano teacher, operating out of a small studio at 117 1/2 Purcell, being one of six professional music instructors listed in Polk's Edwardsville City Directory [9]. Earning a living in music has never been considered especially easy, or even necessarily secure. Then, as now, it usually meant cultivating a large and stable clientele of paying students to augment whatever professional income one might make. In the meantime, Ernst had met and married his wife Helen, and they would soon start a family. Nearby St. Louis seemed to offer much more opportunity for the young couple.





**Figure 5: Ernst Herzwurm at about 36 years old, circa 1934 (image from Ref [2], author's collection).**

Ernst and Helen eventually set-up housekeeping in a \$62.50 per month apartment on Harter Avenue in Richmond Heights, an inner-ring suburb of St. Louis, with their infant son Ernest. The 1930 US Census lists Herzwurm's profession as a teacher of both piano and organ, but he also gave other lessons, especially in voice. Because he spoke English, he could cater both to established St. Louis society, as well as to the more affluent German immigrants who desired first-rate professional instruction for their children. A piano was a relatively expensive musical instrument to own in those days and proficiency of voice and key was one hallmark of a cultured *Ausbildung*. Polite society still considered such cultivation to be especially important for the eligible young lady of the household, a point personified by a scene in the 1944 MGM movie *Meet Me in St. Louis*, with Lucille Bremer at the piano and Judy Garland singing in the parlor of their home prior to the opening of the 1904 World's Fair.

Besides teaching and performance fees, there were various other ways a professional musician might augment income, including arranging and transcribing music. (This generally had to be done by a union-affiliated musician, who in St. Louis would have been a member of the American Federation of Musicians Local 2.) However, in those Männerchor heydays, there was yet one other avenue open to certain qualified music professionals, that of chorus director. The director's position was a technically demanding job and groups were extremely eager to have educated music men at their helms. Of course, since singing was both in English and in German, bilingual ability was also a must.

In April of 1931, the longtime musical director of the *Liederkrantz Club*, Hugo Anschuetz, passed away unexpectedly at the age of 51. The Sunday edition of the May 3 Post-Dispatch estimated that 2,000 people had gathered at the St. Louis German House on Lafayette Avenue to pay their respects. With banners of 40 Männerchor clubs surrounding the casket, eulogies were delivered by a passel of dignitaries, including the German Counsel Georg Ahrens and the North American Sängerbund president Fred Nuetzel. A combined chorus of over 200 sang Schubert's *Sanctus*. With Anschuetz' passing, the *Liederkrantz* had big shoes to fill, especially as it and the other Männerchor would soon start preparing for the next national Sängerbund to be held in St. Louis. After some consideration, Ernst Herzwurm got the nod as the new dirigent (conductor) of the *Liederkrantz* and would go on to make his debut at the 1932 spring *Liederkrantz* concert held at the Grand and Magnolia building (Fig. 3).

## The 38-th Sängerbund in St. Louis

Planning a national Sängerbund presented the same kinds of logistical problems as something like the Olympic Games do today in that thousands of people had to be transported, housed, ferried to venues, and fed. The prior 37-th Sängerbund, held in Detroit in 1930, had drawn more than 4000 active participants from 110 Männerchor clubs [2], not to mention their families and many thousands of paying concert-goers who attended. The 38-th Sängerbund slated for 1934 in St. Louis was expected to top those figures. The national gathering had not actually been held in St. Louis for more than 30 years, when the 31-st Sängerbund in 1903 was among the "warm-up" events preceding the gigantic Louisiana Purchase Exposition, a.k.a. the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair. (The 31-st festival was actually held in the not-yet-completed Palace of Liberal Arts on the fairgrounds at the east end of Forest Park.) A suitable venue would be needed here, but the established stand-by was the old St. Louis Coliseum at Washington and Jefferson Avenues and it had seen better days, not to mention the significant logistical headaches it posed. On the other hand, the St. Louis Arena bordering the south edge of Forest Park had just been completed in 1929, and, with a capacity of more than 14,000, it would fit the bill. The Sängerbund organizers secured the Arena for the main 3 days of concert activity scheduled for May 31 through June 2, 1934 (Fig. 6).

Ernst Herzwurm's reputation had grown considerably since becoming the *Liederkrantz* director only a few years prior and he was invited to serve as a member of the musical advisory board for the 38-th Sängerbund, which he accepted. In fact, Herzwurm and fellow board member Karl Reckzeh from Chicago were further tapped as the head choral conductors for the festival (Fig. 6), with Herzwurm slated to direct the gigantic *Empfangs Konzert* (reception concert) on opening night [2]. In its May 29, 1934 issue, the Post-Dispatch predicted the attendance for the 38-th Sängerbund at over 10,000. This would include a massed chorus of 4000 singers, a combined chorus of 2000 children drawn from St. Louis catholic and public





**Figure 6: The North-American Sängerbund ran this advertisement in the St. Louis newspapers promoting the upcoming 38-th Sängerfest. The festival's venue, the St. Louis Arena, appears in the background (lower right). At this time, the Arena still sported its grand entrance towers, which would later be damaged in a 1959 tornado and subsequently removed.**

school glee clubs, as well as noted soloists Helen Traubel and Frederick Jagel of the New York Metropolitan Opera, and recently-retired New York Symphony Orchestra conductor Walter Damrosch directing the musical accompaniment of 76 pieces [2]. The allegorical banner designed for the festival (Fig. 1) hinted at the program and, on opening night, Ernst Herzwurm presided over a massive vocal interpretation of the works of Beethoven, Wagner, Schubert, and Foster [2]. The concert, which began promptly at 8:15 PM, sported such a power-packed schedule that the program announced that no encores would be given. Helen Traubel was accompanied by Damrosch's orchestra and Herzwurm also directed the Ladies Auxiliary Chorus, which sang several selections from Max Reger near the end of the evening. The closing piece was Psalm 150, in which Herzwurm conducted the entire ensemble. Thomas Sherman, who was covering the festival for the Post-Dispatch, wrote the following day that:

...the singing was remarkable for its solidity, coherence, unity, and the balance between the four sections of basses and tenors...Mr. Herzwurm, by an illuminating distribution of emphasis and careful regulation of the dynamics made the interpretation very expressive.

Ernst Herzwurm's magnum opus had been a success, even with the critics.

The festival would continue for several days, but Herzwurm could now relax to some degree and enjoy the rest of the shows. Directorial responsibilities for the full-scale evening concerts would now shift to Herzwurm's Chicago counterpart, Karl Reckzeh. The smaller matinees would feature individual groups led by their own conductors, including the Catholic and Evangelical Church choirs, the McBride High School Glee Club, the *Akron Liedertafel*, and the United Singers of Chicago. Well-wishes for the success of the 38-th Sängerfest had rolled in from all corners, everyone from local dignitaries, like St. Louis Mayor Bernard Dickmann, all the way to the German Reichspräsident Paul von Hindenburg and the President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt. Reprinting these greetings ran to 13 pages in the souvenir program that commemorated the event [2]. These well-wishes were born out and, by any measure, the festival had been a smashing success. The Sunday edition of the Post-Dispatch for June 3, 1934 reported an attendance of 7500 for the closing concert the prior evening and said all that remained was the delegates' meeting at the Jefferson Hotel to select new national officers and to open preliminary discussions for the next festival. The 38-th Sängerfest was now in the history books.



## Epilogue

Ernst Herzwurm would go on at various times to direct not only the *Liederkrantz*, but also the *Harmonie Männerchor*, the *Apollo Chorus*, and the *Bäckermeister Gesangverein* (Master Bakers' Union Chorus). He and his wife Helen would ultimately have 6 children, 3 each of boys and girls, and live a comfortable life in the Holly Hills neighborhood of south St. Louis City near Carondelet Park. Ernst died in 1964 and Helen followed in 1992.

Singing societies remained strong in St. Louis for many decades after the 38–th Sngerfest, but by the 1970s they were experiencing the kinds of membership pressures that inevitably arise as the social landscape evolves. Some groups disbanded, while others joined forces. Today's *Deutscher Mnnerchor* was born out of the 1986 merger of 4 independent organizations [10], the *Eden Club Mnnerchor* founded in 1928, *Harmonie Mnnerchor* founded in 1885, the *Swiss Singers* founded separately as the *Schweitzer Mnnerchor* in 1872 and *Schweitzer Damenchor* in 1907, and finally the *Schwaben Sngerbund* founded in 1903 (Fig. 7), to which my maternal grandfather Nick Holzinger belonged. Led by longtime president Klemens Wolf, they are still singing. Norman Cleeland is still at the helm of the *Liederkrantz Club*, which has the distinction of being the oldest extant society (from 1870) in St. Louis [10] and which recently welcomed members of the ladies' chorus of the German Cultural Society into its ranks.



**Figure 7: Membership badge of the *Schwaben* singing society, founded in 1903 (author's collection). Like the *Liederkrantz*, the *Schwaben* owned their own hall, acquired in 1915, at 3514 South Jefferson, just a block north of the present German Cultural Society hall. That building would be their home until they combined with 3 other organizations in 1986 to form the *Deutscher Mnnerchor*.**

The venues I have mentioned in this article have generally not fared as well. While the *Schwaben* Hall (Fig. 7) is still standing, others are gone. The New *Liederkrantz* Hall on South Grand (Fig. 3), which had since been a Masonic building for some decades, was torn down in 1963. The St. Louis Arena (Fig. 6) had a long and storied history as a sports venue. I fondly remember my father taking my brother and I to many St. Louis Steamers' soccer games there as kids, long after the voices of the 38–th Sngerfest had faded. It was torn down by a spectacular implosion in 1999 and a passel of smaller commercial buildings now stands in its place. The demise of the Dodier Hall (Fig. 4) in north St. Louis is much more tragic. Vacant and later abandoned, it was left to gradually deteriorate for decades, partially collapsing in 2013, until it was finally destroyed by a suspicious fire in 2021.

Germans first arrived in America in 1683 [10] and Americans of Germanic heritage have contributed enormously to the cultural, commercial, and intellectual developments that have built our country into what it is today. There has always been an element of conscious assimilation, perhaps somewhat more than with other large immigrant groups, like the Italians and the Irish, because of the long shadows of two World Wars. Today, many people of German descent might only have a vague awareness of their heritage or fuzzy memories of their grandparents or great–parents speaking or singing in German, playing Fuchser, or talking about the Old Country. There is a good chance that some of these same ancestors once belonged to a Mnnerchor group. Today's growing collection of genealogical organizations and resources, including online tools, open–up many opportunities for researching these ancestral connections and the many contributions these people made to American life.

## Acknowledgement

The author wishes to recognize the late Karl Kasper for gifts of several historical Mnnerchor–related artifacts, including the *Liederbuch* in Fig. 2. This book belonged to the *Chouteau Valley Mnnerchor* that Kasper once directed and for which he was, in fact, the director–of–record at the 38–th Sngerfest [2]. Like Ernst Herzwurm, Kasper was prolific in that he ultimately conducted many of the various St. Louis groups at one time or another throughout his career, including the *Bckermeister Gesangverein* and the *Eden Club Mnnerchor*.



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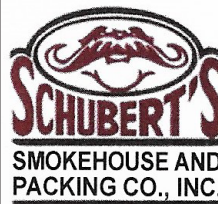


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# Sub-Group Reports

## Volkstanzgruppe Report

Members of the Volkstanzgruppe started practicing and using the time afterwards to go to dinner to make up for lost time during the pandemic. Several Volkstanzgruppe joined forces with die Heimatgruppe for two weekend performances at the St. Louis Hofbrauhaus Belleville Maifest on April 30th and May 1st. Volkstanzgruppe has also been practicing with the Jugendgruppe and die Heimatgruppe and had fun dancing with the combined group at Maifest at Donau Park. The latest performance was at Good Shepherd School picnic where a few members of the Volkstanzgruppe and Jugendgruppe performed for the elementary school children and families. A couple of Kindertanzgruppe also joined in for the beloved Fliegerlied and Zillertaler Hochzeitmarsch with the audience. The most recent performance was 21st June at the performance Porta Westphalica festival in Waterloo, IL with the combined groups and we made it into the local paper. We are looking forward to the remaining festivals and events.

*Moni Lorenz*

## Garden Club Report

### Jefferson Ave Hall in St. Louis City

Mike Wendl has offered to take over care of the mulched area in front of the building. Thanks to Mike Wendl and Helmuth Glatt for all their help trimming, weeding and general care on the grounds at the Hall on Jefferson Ave.

### Donau Park in Jefferson Co.

Thanks to Ralph Hoffarth for cutting grass, watering and daily care out at Donau Park. Thanks to Frank Breitenstein, Becky Haas, Klemens and Gabi Wolf for help with planting, weeding, and watering in the heat out at Donau Park.

Despite the hot weather, the whole park looks very nice.

Come garden with us. We work early in the morning to beat the heat. Please call me at 314-596-7466 or email me at [Germanstlnews@gmail.com](mailto:Germanstlnews@gmail.com) to volunteer with the Garden Club.

"The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul." – Alfred Austin

*Kathy Stork*

## Kindertanzgruppe Report

With the focus on growth of the organization we are focused on rebuilding the Kindertanzgruppe. We have missed seeing the Kinder at festivals and activities since we re-opened last year.

Practices and appearances were/are scheduled as follows:

Sunday 22MAY was our first meet and greet with 8 kinder dancing fun to the Duck dance, Fliegerlied and learning Siebenschnitt (7 steps)

Sunday 10JUL practice was held with 10 kinder attending and more fun with Fliegerlied, DJ Oetzi's Burger Dance, and Zillertaler Hochzeitmarsch

Sunday 17JUL, time 2 - 2:45 pm at the German Cultural Society Donau Park Wiener'n Schnitzl

Sunday 24JUL, time 2 - 2:45 pm at the German Cultural Society Hall

Sunday 14 AUG time 2 - 2:45 pm at the German Cultural Society Hall

Sunday 21 AUG time TBD at the German Cultural Society Hall Kirchweihfest

We look forward to seeing you and having fun sharing our Kindertanzgruppe German dancing culture with everyone!

If you know kinder that want to join in the fun, you can contact us at [lorenzstl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lorenzstl@sbcglobal.net) and [elishevamankofsky@gmail.com](mailto:elishevamankofsky@gmail.com)

Communications are also sent via text or Facebook personal message/post at DonaukinderSTL group.

*Monika and Elisheva*

Kindertanzgruppe parent/leaders





**Please check website for updates on the status of this event.**

# Winzerfest

German Wine Harvest Festival

Hosted by *Die Heimatgruppe*  
of the German Cultural Society

**Saturday, November 12th, 2022**

German Cultural Society Hall  
3652 South Jefferson Ave.

Admission:

21+: \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door

13-20: \$5 in advance, \$8 at the door

Under 13: Free

Doors open at 5:30

Food and drink\* available for  
purchase at 6:00

Homemade Hungarian Goulash

Music by: The Wendl Band 6:00-10:00

Dance Performance by *Die Heimatgruppe*

\*Wine Tastings are also available.

For tickets, call Joey Wendl (314) 914-7563  
or email [germanstltickets@gmail.com](mailto:germanstltickets@gmail.com)



See back for more information...



## What is a Winzerfest?

A Winzerfest is a German Wine Harvest Festival. The festival is meant to celebrate the dedication, the hard work, and the successful harvest of the year. Our event includes a fun "German" twist. At the fest, grape bags will be displayed on the trellis on the dance floor. People try to steal them throughout the evening. Watch out! If you are caught, you may be taken to the "jail" where you may have to pay a fine for stealing from the trellis.



## Die Heimatgruppe

Die Heimatgruppe was founded in 2017 and is the newest dance group at the German Cultural Society! Passionate about celebrating our German and Donauschwaben heritage, we are mainly traditional, but incorporate modern dances as well. Everyone is welcome to join! Our age range is 18-30 years old. If you are interested, please consider coming to a practice or watching us perform.

## The German Cultural Society

The Saint Louis German Cultural Society was founded in 1945 and is a not-for-profit, non-political organization (501(c)(3)). The purpose of the society is "To foster and practice our culture, customs, and folklore in all its forms...meaning language, music, song, dance, crafts, sports, and good fellowship (Gemütlichkeit)". For more information, check out the society's website: [www.germanstl.org](http://www.germanstl.org)



## 2022 Winzerfest Sponsorship Form



All forms and designs must be received no later than **October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

Please mail your donation & this form to: German Cultural Society, PO BOX 190486, St. Louis, MO 63119

Please make checks payable to: **German Cultural Society** (Memo: **Winzerfest**)

### Event Sponsors

Event sponsors will be printed in the program for attendees.

☐ My donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for a **FULL PAGE** (5"x8")

- Donations of \$100 or more will receive a **FULL PAGE**
- Largest donation will be displayed on the **BACK COVER**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Largest donation will be displayed on the **INSIDE FRONT COVER**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Largest donation will be displayed on the **INSIDE BACK COVER**

☐ My donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for a **HALF PAGE** (5"x4") (Minimum donation of \$50.00)

Please include your design, logo, business card, message, etc. with this form or send to: [stlheimatgruppe@gmail.com](mailto:stlheimatgruppe@gmail.com)

- ☐ My design is included.  
☐ My design has been emailed  
☐ Contact me for design help.

### Freundschaftsliste (Friendship List)

Become a friend of *Die Heimatgruppe* and be listed in the program.

☐ My donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be listed on the *Freundschaftsliste* (Minimum donation of \$20.00)

Please print your name how you would like to have it listed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

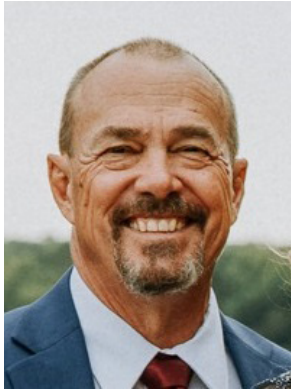
**Phone:** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ **Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please note: The program will be printed in black and white.



# In Memoriam

Deceased Members from April 15th, 2022-July 31st, 2022



**Peter Heddell**

May 9, 2022

Member of the Volkstanzgruppe  
Member of the Fest Committee



**Hilda Ruppe**

July 18, 2022



**Father Elmar Mauer**

May 10, 2022

Father Mauer said our Kirchweih  
Mass for many years

Please send pictures and information about club involvement to  
[germanstl.fb@gmail.com](mailto:germanstl.fb@gmail.com) when a member passes away. Thanks

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# Wiener 'n' Schnitzel Dinner 2022

Our 2022 Wiener N Schnitzel Dinner was a huge success! We had a full afternoon of entertainment with dance performances from our Kindergruppe, Jugendgruppe, Die Heimatgruppe, Volkstanzgruppe, and even a combo performance! Everyone enjoyed the Wiener 'n' Schnitzel dinner, which included a chicken or pork schnitzel, a wiener, a pretzel, and 3-bean salad with apple or cheese strudel for dessert. Thanks again to our volunteers who helped at this event, but especially to the volunteers in the kitchen who made the dinner such a success. The afternoon was filled with wonderful music from the "Schnitzel Band," which was a combination of a few different bands.

We are always happy to see new faces at these events and there were a lot of people who came out to the Donau Park for the first time! It's always great to see so many people come out to our events to enjoy good food, music, and Getmütlichkeit. We love to share in our German culture with new and old friends!

*Becky Wendt*













# Floor Cleaning Demo

On Friday, 7/22/22 approx. twelve employees from Tacony Corporation, manufacturers of “Tornado” brand Commercial Floor Cleaning Equipment, came to the German Cultural Society’s Jefferson Ave. Hall, to clean floors using their equipment. There was no charge for cleaning our floors.

The owner of the H & J Janitorial Services, who currently cleans for DKV, attended the floor cleaning in the morning, and used some of the equipment. Terry Ficken also used some of the equipment. Tacony representatives welcomed feedback from H & J Janitorial. Tacony coordinated stripping wax in Hall 1 with H & J Janitorial Services. H & J Janitorial will wax Hall 1 the week of 7/25/22.

Tacony Corp. hired a professional photographer to take pictures and videos of the floor cleaning process, using approx. twenty different pieces of equipment. These videos will be used by Tacony Corp. for marketing and training.

Floors cleaned at Jefferson Ave. Hall:

Hall 1 washed and wax stripped

Kitchen foyer and floor washed

Lobby floor washed

Main Bathrooms washed

Hall 2 washed

Unterreiner Room carpet was cleaned (several times)

Hallway into Hall 2 and 3 washed

We greatly appreciate the generosity of Tacony Corp. for cleaning floors at The German Cultural Society's Hall. The employees were eager to show us how to use cleaning equipment to properly clean floors, making the Hall look great!

*Kathy Stark*





# Member Announcements

We are starting a new section of our newsletter where we can announce milestones of our members. Examples of announcements include milestone birthdays, weddings, graduations, milestone anniversaries, birth of a child, etc. If you would like to share your announcement, please send the information and a picture to [germanstl.fb@gmail.com](mailto:germanstl.fb@gmail.com)



*Congratulations to Alex Wendl, who graduated from St. Louis University with his Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering with a minor in Computer Science!*



*Congratulations to Katie and Mathias Young, who were married on May 14th, 2022!*



*Congratulations to Olivia Schaffer, who graduated from the University of Missouri with her Master of Occupational Therapy!*



*Congratulations to Becky Wendl, who graduated from Missouri State University with her Master of Science in Education Literacy & received her special reading certification!*



*Please support our Newsletter sponsors. They help make this newsletter possible! Thanks in advance!*

## **Our newsletter is now in color!**

*Check out our digital version of our newsletter on our website. It is now in color! If you would like to switch your subscription to the digital version, please email [germanstlnews@gmail.com](mailto:germanstlnews@gmail.com)*



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## **Help Wanted!**

### **Newsletter Journalists**

Duties include writing articles for our newsletter about our GCS events and other outside events where our GCS subgroups perform.

### **Garden Coordinator at Jefferson Ave. Hall**

Duties include weed control in the bed in front and on the side of the building. These beds already have commercial landscape fabric and mulch to minimize weeds.

Also trimming bushes as needed. No watering needed at Jefferson Ave. Hall. A lawn service cuts the grass so there is NO weed wacking or grass cutting.

### **Garden Coordinator at Donau Park**

Duties include weed control in the several gardens throughout the Donau Park as needed. Also gardens need watering during hot, dry periods in the summer. Annual planting at the circle between the pavilion and lodge. Trimming bushes as needed.



# Donauschwaben Corner

In June 2022, we took a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Europe. We did a lot of sightseeing in London, Paris, Berlin, Munich, Vienna, and Budapest. While we were over there, we also spent a week in Romania so that Joey could do a lot of genealogy research! We saw a lot of small Donauschwaben villages, their churches, and their cemeteries. It was really awesome to visit and look around these villages where Joey's family comes from! We even went to a few houses of Joey's ancestors. We actually visited 15 villages in the Banat over our 5 days there! While we were in Hungary, we also visited two Donauschwaben villages of Joey's ancestors as well.

We wanted to share about a few of our trips to these small Donauschwaben villages. We will be sharing this with you in the next couple of newsletters. We wanted to start with the first village we visited, Sackelhausen, which is where the families of Joey's Omi (Betty Wendl) and Opa (Mike Wendl, Sr.) are from.

While in Romania, we worked with a travel guide, Alexandra Irimia (from Timisoara Tour Guide). She drove us from Timisoara to each of these villages. She was our translator to the people we met along the way, and she planned the trips to the various museums we visited. We would highly recommend working with her if you are interested in completing your own genealogy trip to Romania. She was a great help to us. Alexandra was our contact to be able to get into the Sackelhausen Catholic Church. We were so excited to see the baptismal font of Joey's ancestors. The Church was beautiful and in fairly good condition. We were happy to hear that they still celebrate Mass at this Church.

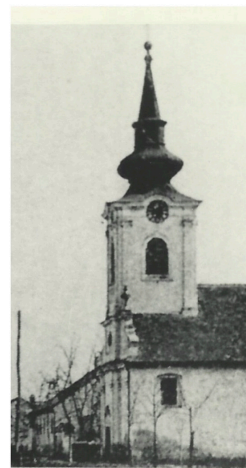
Next, we met up with Christine Neu at the cemetery. With the help of Christine and the Sackelhausen Cemetery Book, we were able to locate 5 graves, with 9 of Joey's direct ancestors buried there. We found 3 Wendl graves, 1 Egler grave, and 1 Michels grave. The oldest direct ancestor that we could find in the Sackelhausen Cemetery was Nicolaus Schaffer, (Joey's great-great-great-grandfather) born in 1847.

The Sackelhausen Cemetery Book was such a great resource for our "hunt". Joey had already located those 5 graves in the book- we just had to find them in the cemetery, based on the location provided in the book (which was still accurate). We know that there are many more ancestors buried there that we didn't find.

There could be many reasons why this happened. For example, we may not have been able to find them because the tombstones were unreadable, tombstones or markers were no longer there, etc. We found this to be true in many of the village cemeteries that we visited.



**Sacalaz entrance sign (Sackelhausen in German)**



**Pictures of the Sackelhausen Church**  
On the left: Early 1940s. On the right: June 2022



**Inside the Sackelhausen Church**



Unfortunately, the Michels grave was in really bad condition and didn't have a marker anymore. Fortunately, because of our trip and with the help of Christine Neu's organization, we are going to fix the grave and have a new marker made so that future descendants can also find his grave. Since our return home, Christine and her organization have already begun work on restoring this grave. See picture for progress and we may be sharing more pictures later of other graves we are going to clean/repair.

Then, we drove around town with Alexandra Irimia and Christine Neu locating 3 houses of Joey's ancestors. We also stopped by the Mill that Joey's great-great-grandfather owned at one point.

Since there are many people in our club that have families from Sackelhausen, we thought we would offer our help. If you would like to find out the condition of a family's grave or if your family's graves need repair, please talk to Joey, who can help you get in contact with Christine Neu.

Up next, we will be featuring our visit to the village of Johannissfeld, where Joey's Oma (Kathy Heitzmann) is from.

### *Becky and Joey Wendt*



**At the Sackelhausen Cemetery with Christine Neu**



**Grave and Pictures of Michael and Margareta Wendl, Joey's great-great-grandparents**



**Grave and Picture of Michael Wendl, Joey's great-grandfather**

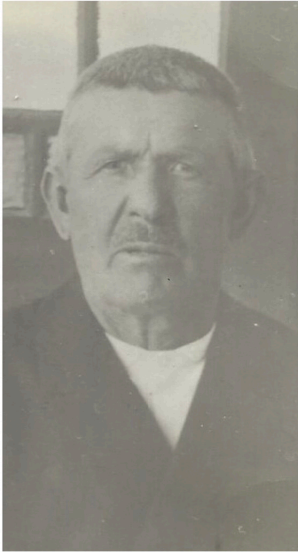


**Grave (Before & After) & Picture of Franz Michels, Joey's great-great-grandfather**



**Sackelhausen Baptismal Font**





To the Left: Grave and Picture of Johann Egler (Joey's great-great-great-grandfather). This grave is also where Nicolaus Schaffer and Margaretha Neumann Schaffer (Joey's great-great-great-great-grandparents) are buried.

To the Right: House Number 392: This is the plot where Johann and Margaretha Egler (Joey's great-great-great-great-grandparents), Michael and Katharina Mueller (Joey's great-great-great-great-grandparents), and Michael and Mary Wendl (Joey's great-grandparents), and Michael Wendl (Joey's Opa) lived. This is not the original house.



At the Sackelhausen Cemetery with Alexandra Irimia



House Number 21: House of Michael and Margareta Wendl, Joey's great-great-grandparents



Grave of Michael and Christina Wendl, Joey's great-great-great-grandparents



House Number 54: House of Franz and Theresia Michels, Joey's great-great-grandparents



This is the Mill in Sackelhausen that Joey's great-great-grandfather (Michael Mueller) owned at one time.



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# Join us in supporting the Polish community at their dance at our hall!



## It's Polka Time Sunday Oct. 9, 2022

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Food & Refreshments will be available so NO B.Y.O.B.

Sponsored by Polish Cadets Lodge 1134 P.N.A. of NA St. Louis, MO

Tables of 8 & 10 can be reserved. Limited seating.

For tickets contact Carolyn 636-938-4641 or Email: [carolynbaras@ymail.com](mailto:carolynbaras@ymail.com)



# Vereinskalender 2022 Event Calendar

16 Jan.	<b>General Meeting</b> <i>at the DKV Hall</i>	Jan. 16
5 Feb.	<b>Trivia Nite</b> <i>at the DKV Hall - CANCELLED</i>	Feb. 5
27 März	<b>Wurstmarkt</b> <i>at the Donau Park</i>	Mar. 27
2 Apr.	<b>Rosenball</b> <i>at the DKV Hall</i>	Apr. 2
16 Apr.	<b>Östereiersuchen</b> <i>at the Donau Park - CANCELLED</i>	Apr. 16
14-15 Mai	<b>Maifest</b> <i>at the Donau Park</i>	May 14-15
11-15 Juli	<b>Ferienlager</b> <i>at the Donau Park - CANCELLED</i>	July 11-15
17 Juli	<b>Wiener n' Schnitzel Dinner</b> <i>at the Donau Park</i>	July 17
21 Aug.	<b>Kirchweihfest</b> <i>at the DKV Hall</i>	Aug. 21
9, 10, & 11 Sept.	<b>Oktoberfest</b> <i>at the Donau Park</i>	Sept. 9, 10, & 11
2 Okt.	<b>German American Day</b> <i>at the DKV Hall</i>	Oct. 2
23 Okt.	<b>Musikalischer Nachmittag*</b> <i>at the DKV Hall</i>	Oct. 23
6 Nov.	<b>Totengedenkfeier</b> <i>at Sunset Memorial Park</i>	Nov. 6
12 Nov.	<b>Winzerfest*</b> <i>at the DKV Hall</i>	Nov. 12
10 Dez.	<b>Weihnachtsfeier</b> <i>at the DKV Hall</i>	Dec. 10
11 Dez.	<b>Tag des Deutschen Kulturvereins</b> <i>at the DKV Hall</i>	Dec. 11
11 Dez.	<b>Weihnachtsgottesdienst</b> <i>at Peace Lutheran Church</i>	Dec. 11
31 Dez.	<b>Silvesterfeier*</b> <i>at the DKV Hall - CANCELLED</i>	Dec. 31

\* Event Tickets are available from [germanstltickets@gmail.com](mailto:germanstltickets@gmail.com) or 314.771.8368

**\*\*All events are subject to change due to the coronavirus. Please check our website for updated information.\*\***

Check out our Website  
[www.germanstl.org](http://www.germanstl.org)

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

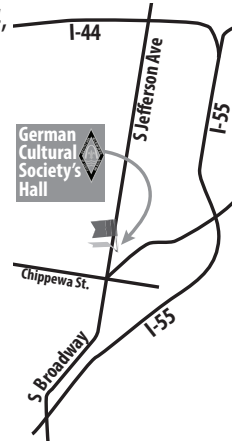


**German Cultural Society's Hall & Offices**

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](mailto:germanstlhallrentals@gmail.com)  
or Terry Ficken at [donauparkrental@gmail.com](mailto:donauparkrental@gmail.com)  
or call 314.771.8368



# German Cultural Society

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## GCS Dancers perform at Porta Westfalica Fest!

Members of our dance groups performed at the annual Porta Westfalica festival in Waterloo, IL on Tuesday June 21st. Check out page 7 for more pictures from the event!

Wednesday

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# Republic-Times

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### Primary election is Tuesday

The general primary election takes place this coming Tuesday, June 28, with polling places open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

In addition, early voting takes place at the Monroe County Courthouse in Waterloo from 9 a.m. to noon this day, June 25.

View sample ballots for Republican and Democratic in Monroe County, see C and 3C, respectively. Other election information at [mococlerk.com/election](http://mococlerk.com/election) or call the county office at 618-939-8623.

When there are no contests for Monroe County voters will decide on the candidates for U.S. senator, U.S. House of Representatives, secretary of state, and other key contested positions.

Republican side, county incumbents (commissioner), (sheriff), Carl (senator), Kevin Koe (senator) and Jona-

### Prost to Porta Westfalica Fest!



KERMIT CONSTANTINE photo

Members of the German Cultural Society in St. Louis pose before performing traditional German dances during the 40th annual Porta Westfalica Festival in downtown Waterloo on Tuesday evening. Pictured, from left, are Olivia Heidbrink, Jennifer Taylor, Steve Ballew, Denise Ballew, Nancy Plunk, Jim Randazzo, Herbert Lorenz, Matt Stark and Kathy Stark. See more photos from the festival in next week's paper or online at [republictimes.smugmug.com](http://republictimes.smugmug.com).

### Liquor license limbo for RRR Bar

By COREY SAATHOFF  
Editor

Tensions were high at a meeting of Waterloo's advisory committee Tuesday night at City Hall.

This committee, led by Jim Transtam, a new alderman, is reviewing the application for a new liquor license for the RRR Bar & Grill, owned by Pro-Tem Clyde. The committee will view and make recommendations for the Waterloo that will be made to the city council.

The decision on the non-renewal of Heller's license is expected to be made by the final body of the city council, which is expected to meet on Tuesday.