

SAINT LOUIS

# Deutscher Kulturverein

GERMAN CULTURAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

## Rundschreiben

SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI



WINTER 2022, VOL 22.3

F. König



## Upcoming Events

**January 15th**  
**General Meeting**  
at the DKV Hall

**March 4th**  
**Rosenball**  
at the DKV Hall

**April 8th**  
**Easter Egg Hunt**  
at the Donau Park

**April 23rd**  
**Wurstmarkt**  
at the Donau Park

**May 19th-21st**  
**Maifest**  
at Donau Park

**July**  
**Ferienlager**  
at the Donau Park

**July 16th**  
**Wiener 'n' Schnitzel Dinner**  
at the Donau Park

**August 20th**  
**Kirchweih**  
at the DKV Hall

**September 1st-3rd**  
**Landestreffen**  
at the Mansfield Liederkrantz

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?*

To request a membership application or information about membership in the German Cultural Society, email Kathy Stark at [germanSTLnews@gmail.com](mailto:germanSTLnews@gmail.com) or call 314-596-7466. Completed membership applications can be mailed to the PO Box listed below or emailed to [germanSTLnews@gmail.com](mailto:germanSTLnews@gmail.com).

### 2022 and 2023 Membership Dues

We collect membership dues annually. Current members, please pay 2023 dues by 4/30/23. New members can pay dues when submitting your membership application.

<b>Senior (62+)</b>	\$25.00
<b>Adult (18-61)</b>	\$45.00
<b>Adult Dancer</b>	\$35.00
for Die Heimatgruppe	
<b>Child Dancer</b>	\$20.00
for the Kindertanzgruppe and Jugendgruppe	
<b>Family (2 Adults and 2 Children*)</b>	\$100.00

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

Please pay your 2022 and 2023 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 or 2023 DUES and the names of members for whom you are paying
- 6) Complete the remaining billing information requested by PayPal.
- 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 15th \*\*\* March 12th \*\*\* June 4th  
August 6th \*\*\* October 29th



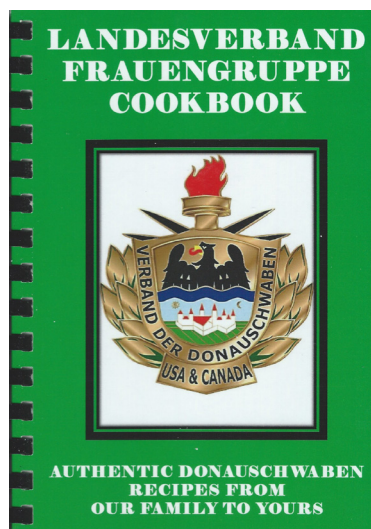
## Liebe Mitglieder,

As we approach the end of this year and the holiday season, Terry and I want to thank all of our members and wish everyone a healthy, happy holiday season. The DKV has had a successful year recovering from the remaining impact of the pandemic. Once again, we credit the members and families, subgroups and executive committee who attended, performed at, and or volunteered at our events, helped with any aspect of the DKV operations, maintenance, advertising, practicing, and spreading fellowship to allow the Society to continue sharing German culture. Our membership has increased, and we continue to have new people at festivals and events. We also tried some new things this year such as adding a Bier Night Friday to Oktoberfest, holding another World Cup watch party, and dancing at new performance opportunities at Grant's Farm, St. Louis City Soccer Club inaugural game vs. Bayer 04 Leverkusen, and at the Carmel, Indiana Christkindlmarkt. Once again, thanks to all for the support and memories!

*Monika Lorenz & Terry Ficken*

## 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](mailto:germanstl.fb@gmail.com)

314.914.7563



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](http://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 | [germansthallrentals@gmail.com](mailto:germansthallrentals@gmail.com)

Terry Ficken | [donauparkrental@gmail.com](mailto:donauparkrental@gmail.com)

### Tickets

314.771.8368

[germanstltickets@gmail.com](mailto:germanstltickets@gmail.com)

### Newsletter

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

This newsletter can also be found on our website,

[www.germanstl.org](http://www.germanstl.org)

On the cover: Kerweih in  
 Schanderhas 1980. Painted by  
 Franz König. Picture from Franz  
 Henzel. Read more about our  
 Kirchweih on pages 6-7.





### ***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 (except in Jan., Feb., & Aug.)

### **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)*

Coordinators: Monika Lorenz ..... 314-402-0679

Elisheva Mankofsky ..... 636-212-3728

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

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

#### **Jugendgruppe**

*Youth Dance Group (Ages 13-26)*

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

Instructor: Jennifer Thompson 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!*



# Kirchweihfest 2022

For me, Kirchweih is a way to be immersed in my culture, without ever having to leave St. Louis. It's getting a little taste of Germany, a little taste of my heritage, and feeling what it's like to sit through a German mass, without going more than an hour from my home. It has been some time ago that I was part of the group of jugend who went to Germany, and while over there I remember sitting in a beautiful, large cathedral and following along to mass. As someone who is currently learning German, it's very exciting when certain phrases or words click, and you can put them together and understand what was going on, unlike how it was when I was younger. As the bidding went on later after church, I could feel the tension rising as the numbers got higher and higher as we bid on the Strauss. When the bidding was cut and Mark and I were announced the winners of the Strauss, I was astonished. Receiving the Strauss was one of the most gratifying experiences I have ever had. I had always imagined what it would be like to be called up to win something like this, and now I can finally say that I have. I am excited to be the Vortänzerin for the group and will do my best to live up to my role!

*Julia Witeka*









# Kirchweih Pictures from the Past



## Kirchweih 1951

Photo submitted by Anna Potje

Location: Saint Louis House

Known people: From left to right: Mike Schmitz (president of the Society at that time), Anna Stein Potje, Jacob Potje, Mr. Schuessler, & Nick Holzinger.

The kids in front: Kenny Willhelm and Susan Schmitz.

Please email [germanstl.fb@gmail.com](mailto:germanstl.fb@gmail.com) if you recognize anyone else or have any other information about this picture.



## Kirchweih - Year Unknown

Photo submitted by Aline Thalheimer

Location: 3652 S. Jefferson Ave.

Do you know the year of this Kirchweih? The year would be between 1974 and 1981 (before the new hall was built).

Please email [germanstl.fb@gmail.com](mailto:germanstl.fb@gmail.com) if you recognize anyone, know the year of this Kirchweih, or have any other information about this picture.

**Thanks to Mrs. Potje and Mrs. Thalheimer for submitting these great pictures of our Society's past!**



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



***Saturday - March 4, 2023***  
***at the German Cultural Society***  
***3652 S. Jefferson Ave.***



*Doors open at 5:00 pm*  
*Dinner & Drinks (for purchase) at 5:30 pm*  
*Live German Music by Die Spitzbuam*  
*Jugendgruppe Dance Performance*

*Admission: Adults \$15, Teens (ages 13-21) \$10, Kids (ages 6-12) \$5,*  
*Kids (5 & under) free*  
*For tickets, call Kitty Lasinski: 314-882-9850*  
*or email: [germanstltickets@gmail.com](mailto:germanstltickets@gmail.com)*



# Landestreffen 2022 Trenton, New Jersey

Over Labor Day weekend, some members of Die Heimatgruppe (and our President, Moni Lorenz) traveled up to Trenton, New Jersey, to represent the German Cultural Society of Saint Louis at the annual Landesverband treffen. Each year, clubs just like ours get together and celebrate our German and Donauschwaben culture.

Every Saturday, we all march in on the soccer field. We sing the US, Canadian, German, and Donauschwaben National Anthems as well as listen to representatives speak about the importance of the treffen and carrying on the traditions. We finish up the Ein March with friendship dances that dancers from various cities participate in.

We performed outside on Saturday and in the hall on Sunday. We did dances such as our Flötte Harmonika March In, our "clap dance," and our Schottische. We wanted to say thank you to our friend, Patrick, from Canada, who stepped in to dance a few dances with us.

This treffen was extra special because on Sunday, we all participated in the Kirchweihfest, a traditional Donauschwaben festival. We participated in a Catholic Mass, Kirchweih March, we all danced 3 dances together, and there was an auction of the Strauss. It was really cool being able to do some dances with all the groups from the US and Canada. We had a big circle of dancing on the pavement and representatives from each city got to perform it on stage. Two of our members, Becky and Joey Wendl, represented Die Heimatgruppe on stage and at the front of the march. It was a really fun weekend and we really appreciate all the hard work that went into this treffen.

*Leah Lorenz*









The German Cultural Society of St. Louis  
invites you to:  
**“OSTEREIERSUCHEN”**  
**ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT &  
CONCERT**

**Saturday, April 8, 2023**

**DONAU PARK**

5020 West Four Ridge Rd.  
House Springs, MO 63051

Deutschmeister Brass Band performs at 1:30 p.m.  
Easter Egg Hunt at 2:00 p.m.

**Bring Your Own Basket! Admission is FREE!**

Join us for fun in the Park!  
Easter goodies for all the children in attendance!

For more information:  
[www.germanstl.org](http://www.germanstl.org) or  
(314) 771-8368

**\*\*No coolers or dogs allowed at the Donau Park.  
Service animals are permitted.\*\***





# Report from Die Heimatgruppe

Die Heimatgruppe was so busy this past fest season! We kicked off our fest season by going to Trenton, NJ, for the annual Landestreffen. We performed our own dances twice that weekend and also participated in the Kirchweihfest with all the other groups! Our group learned 3 dances that we performed with everyone. It was really amazing to see all the couples from various Donauschwaben dance groups dancing together. It was perfect timing for us because right before we went, we performed these new dances for our club at our Kirchweihfest.

After our Trenton trip, we performed at the DKV Oktoberfest, Grant's Farm, St. Charles Oktoberfest, Eckert's, Soulard Oktoberfest, Troy's Oktoberfest, and danced at River City Casino. It was an Oktoberfest every weekend! Most recently, Die Heimatgruppe teamed up with Volkstanzgruppe to perform at the Inaugural Soccer Match at CITYPARK. We danced there and held the German flag during the ceremonies. Lastly, we also hosted our 3rd Winzerfest! Check out our Winzerfest article!



It was quite a busy and fun season! We even debuted a new dance this season too! We made a dance to the classic Oktoberfest song, Ziggi Zaggi. It was a fun Oktoberfest dance we could do and also get the crowd involved.

During this time, we also welcomed a few new members. We are so thankful for our group to be growing and we continuously welcome any new members who would like to join!

Lastly, we really want to say thank you to all of our members who worked really hard these past few months. We were so busy each weekend either performing or practicing for a performance. We rolled out several new dances too for this Oktoberfest season. We worked hard and it paid off!

*Leah Lorenz*





# DKV Oktoberfest 2022

Our DKV Oktoberfest was the weekend of September 9th-11th. We tried having a “bier” night on Friday night. It was just a fun, relaxing night with live music by Die Spitzbuam. We served pretzel brats, pretzel dogs, and pretzels as an easy meal to allow more of our members to simply enjoy the evening, instead of work at the event the entire time. Die Heimatgruppe, Volkstanzgruppe, and D’Frohliche Schuhplattler performed Friday night.

Then, Saturday evening, we had live music by the Wendl Band. We served brat dinners. There were performances by the Jugendgruppe, Die Heimatgruppe, Volkstanzgruppe, and combo performance of all three dance groups.

On Sunday, we had live music by the Deutschmeister Brass Band. We served two types of brat dinners. The afternoon was filled with many performances from the Kindergruppe, Jugendgruppe, Heimatgruppe, Volkstanzgruppe, and even a combo performance as well!



*Becky Wendl*









# Seniorengruppe Report

The Senioren Gruppe met in September, in October, and on November 10, 2022.

We have had 22 to 27 people at our monthly events. At each meeting Kathy Stark greeted everyone; had a moment of silence for Ursula Weber, who recently passed away in November; made announcements about upcoming changes to the DKV calendar, including the annual Membership luncheon which will be changed to December 18, 2022 at noon. Several jokes were announced to the members, some of which were brought in by Becky Haas. Birthday wishes were made to those who had birthdays in that particular month. Dessert was served to the members and several games of bingo were played in November.

On December 13, 2022, the Christmas luncheon will be held at the German Cultural Society Hall at 12:00 noon. Seniors are asked to make a reservation by contacting Kathy Stark at 314-596-7466, if you did not sign up at the November meeting. A donation of \$10.00 can be made on the day of the event. Please bring a \$10.00 wrapped gift for playing the Christmas story game that was played last year. Everyone enjoyed playing it.

There will be no Senioren meetings in January and February, 2023. Our next meeting in the New Year will be on March 14, 2023.

Seniorengruppe Committee

*Liz Young, Kathy Stark,  
Susan Bauer, Walter Fett,  
and Rose Heh*

## Seniorengruppe 2023 Schedule

January - No Meeting

February - No Meeting

March 14th at 1:00PM - St. Patrick's Day

April 11th at 12:00PM - Easter Lunch

May 9th at 1:00PM - Mother's Day

June 13th at 1:00PM - Father's Day

July 11th at 1:00PM - Independence Day

August - No Meeting

September 12th at 1:00PM - Oktoberfest

October 10th at 1:00PM - Fall Season

November 14th at 1:00PM - Thanksgiving

December 12th at 12:00PM - Christmas Lunch







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# Oktoberfest Season 2022

Our club was busy this fest season at all of the Oktoberfests around town! The Deutschmeister Brass Band performed at Grant's Farm, St. Charles, and at Soulard Oktoberfest. They provided great entertainment and a lot of audience participation. Over the weekend of September 16th-18th, our dance groups partnered with D'Frohliche Schuhplattler to provide dancing entertainment and crowd involvement the entire weekend at Grant's Farm's Oktoberfest. Our dance groups performed 6 times over the weekend at St. Charles Oktoberfest, on the 24th-25th of September. The Jugendgruppe, Heimatgruppe, and Volkstanzgruppe took turns performing together to make sure we had plenty of dancers at each of the performances. Die Heimatgruppe performed twice in the evening at the Soulard Oktoberfest on October 8th. It was another great and busy fest season. We are looking forward to performing at these events again next year!

*Becky Wendt*









# German–American Friendship: Flight of *Die Drei Luftmusketiere* and their Visit to St. Louis

Michael C. Wendl

## Introduction

The Wright Brothers made the first powered, controlled flight of a heavier-than-air craft in 1903, touching-off an extraordinary expansion of aeronautical research and development work that continues to this day. Regular airmail service had already been established in several countries by the next decade and biplanes had become effective military instruments in the First World War (1914–1918). The period after the War experienced an even greater boom, as the airplane became an increasingly visible part of the socio-economic fabric of the industrialized world. Numbers of aircraft manufacturers were multiplying and there were growing peacetime efforts for advancing aviation science and engineering, as well as a fledgling commercial air travel industry. But, what captured the general public's attention in the 1920s were the air races, barnstorming, and record-breaking attempts for feats of speed, altitude, distance, navigation, and endurance. And among all the daring knights of the sky, the most famous was undoubtedly Charles Lindbergh, the *Lone Eagle*, who in May 1927 made the first non-stop, trans-Atlantic flight from New York City to Paris. Flying solo in the *Spirit of St. Louis*, he made the west-to-east trip in roughly 34 hours, achieving instant stardom and a place in the history books.

Around this same time, there were also serious attempts at a non-stop east-to-west flight, which was considerably more difficult because of unfavorable weather patterns and adverse air currents. Lindbergh himself believed that such a flight was not possible at that time, given the current state of aeronautical technology [1], and the statistics of the day certainly supported his opinion. At least 7 known east-to-west attempts by experienced aviators\* had already been made, most ending in tragedy. The French team of Captains Charles Nungesser (Fig. 1a) and Francois Coli, flying a Levasseur PL8 biplane, disappeared over the north Atlantic, never to be seen nor heard from again. The same fates had also befallen two British teams, one consisting of Princess Anne of Löwenstein–Wertheim–Freudenberg (Lady Anne Savile, Fig. 1b), who financed an attempt in a Fokker Trimotor, and her two pilots Lieutenant Leslie Hamilton and Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick Minchin. The other British team was comprised of Lady Elsie Mackay, who financed her own attempt in a Stinson Detrouiter, and her pilot Captain Walter Hinchliffe. Like the others, they disappeared over the Atlantic, never to be seen again. Aeronautical engineers and manufacturers were becoming ever more concerned that the advancement of aviation science and the goal of safe, routine air travel for the general public were being increasingly overshadowed by the media-stirred sensationalism of daredevil attempts and dead aviators [2].

Two of these unsuccessful attempts actually set the stage for our story here. One was by the German team of Baron Günther von Hünefeld and Captain Hermann Köhl and the other was by the Anglo-Irish team of Major James Fitzmaurice and Captain Robert McIntosh. Both had to abandon their respective attempts, turning back because of adverse weather and wind conditions, but both teams managed to survive, setting their ships down safely. However, Lindbergh's triumph had stirred incredible resolve across Europe to complete the round-trip circuit with a successful east-to-west flight and this resolve was not going away.



(a) Captain Nungesser



(b) Princess Anne

**Figure 1: Charles Nungesser and Princess Anne of Löwenstein–Wertheim–Freudenberg were among the many aviators who were presumed lost at sea after attempting east-to-west air crossings of the Atlantic. (respective photos courtesy of the George Grantham Bain Collection of the US Library of Congress and the National Portrait Gallery, London.)**

\*Most of the pilots were or had been in various military flying services and most had accumulated high flying-hour tallies in combat during the First World War.



## The Bremen and its Historic Flight

Few had more desire and enthusiasm for completing the east-to-west route than Baron von Hünefeld (Fig. 2). Lindbergh had been financed by deep-pocket backers, but Hünefeld was wealthy in his own right, and, following the European model of aristocratic self-sponsorship, decided to personally underwrite his next attempt. In 1927, he had purchased a single-engine W-33 monoplane from Junkers Aircraft and Motor Works in Dessau, christening it the *Bremen*. Unlike most fabric-skinned craft of the day, the W-33 was all metal with cantilever wings, unburdened by the usual struts and braces of conventional airplanes, which dramatically increased aerodynamic drag. It was a somewhat more advanced ship than several that had already been lost on previous attempts.

Captain Köhl was eager to join another mission, and, as an experienced flyer in the Great War and a high-ranking pilot with *Deutsche Luft Hansa*, his skills and flight hours would put him in the pilot's seat. Hünefeld and Köhl discretely busied themselves with shakedown and training flights with the new airplane. In the meantime, the Weimar government of Germany had ordered air controllers to deny take-off permission for any pilots foolishly attempting to cross the Atlantic again. However, the two aviators were already several steps ahead; unbeknownst to Weimar officials, they had visited Ireland (or the Irish Free State, as it was then known) a few months earlier to scout take-off sites, deciding on a military base near Dublin. On March 24, 1928 at Berlin's Tempelhof airfield, Köhl filed what appeared to be a flight plan for another routine training run in the *Bremen*, but it was a ruse and the team took off instead for Ireland [1]. They would launch their flight from there.

The Irish authorities had a sympathetic "hands off" philosophy regarding cross-Atlantic attempts, but there was another reason for the team to choose the Emerald Isle as their jump-off point. Namely, they could recruit Major Fitzmaurice as co-pilot and navigator, picking him up, as it were, on their way across the Atlantic. The next 2 weeks were spent readying for the mission and waiting for favorable weather conditions. At 5:38 am local time on April 12, 1928, the *Bremen* lifted off from Baldonnel Aerodrome outside of Dublin [3]. Their destination was New York, from which Lindbergh had initiated his own historic flight the prior year.

In order to keep their intentions hidden from the authorities, Hünefeld and Köhl had only been able to do limited testing and simulation of flight conditions back in Germany, so there were an uncomfortably large number of variables for which they could only make estimations. All were rooted in a few over-arching themes, namely the weight and aerodynamic loads on the *Bremen* itself, the weather and its effects, and the ability to maintain accurate navigational bearings. Indeed, there had already been a close-call at take-off. With its crammed fuel reserves of more than 2,500 liters of gasoline, calculations suggested a take-off run of 600 yards, i.e. the length of 6 football fields, but the *Bremen* still had not hauled itself aloft at this mark. Instead, it lumbered on for another 300 yards before lifting off, clearing some sheep and a stone wall near the end of the field by only a few feet.

Captain Köhl would later say that he was certain of their success, provided the over-loaded *Bremen* could actually get off the ground. And, indeed, the weather for the first leg of the trip was favorable, but it progressively deteriorated as the flyers continued further west over the Atlantic. First was heavy fog, after which sleet started to pelt the *Bremen*; this went on for several hours. But, the parade of potentially disastrous problems grew even worse. An electrical fault blacked-out the interior, making instrument readings extremely difficult during the night, and there was a potentially fatal oil leak for which Fitzmaurice managed to cobble an impromptu repair. Yet, perhaps the most serious issue was the accumulating error in their navigational heading. The sleet storm certainly took its toll, but Baron Hünefeld would later attribute more of a contribution to magnetic variances in their on-board compass [4]. The *Bremen* flyers had been on the wrong course for quite some time and were now thoroughly lost...over the ocean.

Köhl and Fitzmaurice had been alternating pilot duties, 3 hours on then 3 hours off, while Hünefeld continued to monitor fuel from his aft position and manually pump it from large reserve tanks in the wings and fuselage into the proximal engine tank. As the hours ticked away, concerns mounted about making land, given their dwindling fuel supply. Shoreline was eventually sighted, to their overwhelming relief, but now a new problem became apparent. Mile after mile of snow-covered forest wilderness furnished no discernible clearing in which to actually land the plane. And, of course, they still had no idea where they were at. After wandering about the skies for another 4 hours and nearing the bottom of their fuel tanks, the crew sighted a lighthouse and set the *Bremen* down on what turned out to be a frozen lake on tiny Greenly Island wedged between Labrador and New Foundland in Canada. They had been in the air for more than 34 hours and had flown more than 2100 miles...but they had also just completed the first successful east-to-west non-stop airplane crossing of the Atlantic.



**Figure 2: Baron Ehrenfried Günther (Freiherr) von Hünefeld around the time of the historic *Bremen* flight at about age 36. (photo by Nicola Perscheid, 1864–1930.)**



## The News from Greenly Island

Greenly Island had a population of 14 people at that time and news of the *Bremen* landing had to be carried 12 miles by dog sled from the lighthouse to the nearest wireless station at Point Amour. Hünefeld composed a short message:

Made a safe intermediate landing on Greenly Island, necessitated by lack of fuel and strong head winds encountered on way.

It was relayed by a Canadian Government wireless station at Louisbourg, Nova Scotia (further down the Gulf of St. Lawrence), and was subsequently picked-up by amateur (ham) radio operators, including 18-year-old Stewart Davis in Manchester, New Hampshire, who flashed notice of the safe *Bremen* landing to the waiting world.

News wires exploded. Congratulatory cables streamed into Greenly Island from all corners, including from US President Calvin Coolidge, "my most heartfelt congratulations upon your safe landing after your fine westward flight across the north Atlantic", and from German President Paul von Hindenburg, "hearty congratulations to the bold ocean flyers on their fine success". Evidently, all was well with the Weimar government, now that the *Bremen* expedition had been successful, and any ideas of punishing the foolhardy German flyers were quickly forgotten.



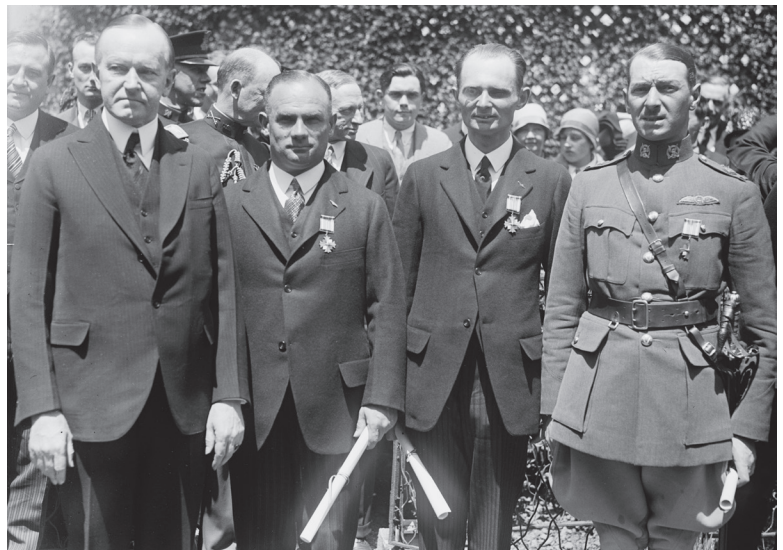
**Figure 3: The *Bremen* on Greenly Island after landing on April 13, 1928 (photo from Library and Archives Canada PA-126212). Note the absence of the damaged propeller. Baron von Hünefeld is clearly visible at the extreme right.**

## Luftmusketiere National Tour and Visit to St. Louis

Hünefeld, Köhl, and Fitzmaurice arrived in New York on April 28, 1928 to a heroes' welcome that they were not entirely prepared for. An estimated 50,000 were on-hand to cheer as their ship docked at Battery Park at the south end of Manhattan. It was the beginning of a grand victory tour that would take them across much of America. Among several events and a parade in New York, the *Luftmusketiere* were personal guests of Mayor Jimmy Walker at Madison Square Garden, sitting ringside for the Sharkey-Delaney fight. From there, it was on to Washington to meet President Coolidge, who, by special act of Congress, conferred the Distinguished Flying Cross upon each man (Fig. 4). They were now members of a supremely select confraternity that included Lindbergh himself, who

However, Hünefeld, Köhl, and Fitzmaurice, who by now were being called *Die Drei Luftmusketiere*, or the "three air musketeers", had larger concerns. The *Bremen* had broken partially through the ice and nosed-over during their landing, heavily damaging both the undercarriage and the propeller (Fig. 3). It would not fly out of Greenly Island in that condition. As the back-and-forth communications between the island and the outside world blossomed into a tidal wave, it became clear that requested replacement parts and fuel would not be able to be delivered immediately. It was increasingly looking like the *Luftmusketiere* would have to leave the island without their plane.

The marooned aviators were on the island for about 2 weeks, trying to effect makeshift repairs on their ship. Even with parts, fuel, and mechanics from the Junkers Company that had arrived by April 23, they were still unsuccessful. The necessary repairs were ultimately too extensive to perform in the field. The *Luftmusketiere* would shortly depart Greenly, reluctantly leaving the stranded *Bremen* behind.



**Figure 4: The *Luftmusketiere* were each awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross at the White House on May 2, 1928. Standing in the White House garden left-to-right are US President Calvin Coolidge, Captain Hermann Köhl, Baron Günther von Hünefeld, and Major James Fitzmaurice. (Image from the Harris and Ewing Collection of the US Library of Congress.)**



was able to meet with the *Luftmusketiere* and congratulate them during their Washington stay.

By now, a fairly large press corps had attached itself to the aviators in order to transmit stories back to their respective newspapers to satisfy hungry readers eager to know more about these 3 men and their aeronautical triumph. G. P. Putnam's Sons, a major New York publisher, quickly inked a deal for a *Luftmusketiere* autobiography (Fig. 5), and Baron von Hünefeld would later recount in this book that their tour would take them not only through New York and Washington, but also to Philadelphia, Cleveland, Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Louis, Indianapolis, Detroit, Boston, and several additional cities in Canada [5]. Hünefeld was not especially eager for celebrity status or accolades, but he did enjoy the American tour that the *Luftmusketiere* found themselves on. He had only one request and that was to make sure their tour passed through St. Louis. Hünefeld would explain to reporters that his father had regaled him as a boy with stories of St. Louis, especially of the 1904 World's Fair, and he wanted to be sure to see the city in person [6].

The *Bremen* crew did finally arrive in St. Louis at Lambert Field on May 14, 1928 to the usual fanfare, with about 2,000 people turning out to greet them. A subsequent hop saw them land at the old airmail field at Forest Park, the very site of the 1904 World's Fair that Baron von Hünefeld had fond recollections of hearing about from his father. He was very pleased to set foot on this ground. There was a prepared reception immediately following their landing and an honorary dinner that evening hosted by German Consul Georg Ahrens at the University Club. As with the other cities on their tour, the *Luftmusketiere* would only be in St. Louis for a very brief period, so their social schedule would be packed.

A large municipal parade commenced the next morning, Tuesday May 15, at 9:30 am sharp, starting from the intersection of Lindell and Union and proceeding to City Hall, following the same route as Colonel Lindbergh's parade had taken the prior year. By 1 pm, the flyers had been ushered to 2345 Lafayette Avenue for a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Deutsches Haus, i.e. the German House. This "house" would actually be a \$300,000 temple that would provide a collective home to many of the St. Louis' German-American organizations and for their cultural and social events.\*\* Its enormous size was commensurate with the fact that a large fraction of the St. Louis City population in those days consisted of German-Americans and German immigrants and that the city sported 2 major dailies printed in German, the *Westliche Post* (morning edition) and *Anzeiger des Westens* (evening edition).

During the national tour that the *Luftmusketiere* had now been on for the past 2 weeks, their speeches and conversations repeatedly emphasized friendship and understanding between Germany and the United States, and their addresses at the German House groundbreaking were no exception. Köhl hoped that the new facility would "stand as an emblem of liberty and tolerance", while Hünefeld made a direct reference to the First World War, proclaiming "may all discord be buried in this earth which we break today". This was perhaps a more profound statement than one might first appreciate. As soldiers in opposing armies, Fitzmaurice in one and Hünefeld and Köhl in the other, they had fought against each other on the Western Front 10 years prior. All three had been wounded in action and Köhl had even been shot down twice, had been a POW, and had even

\*\*The \$300,000 cost of the German House translates to about \$5.2 million today. Among various types of events, it would host a good many *Männerchor* singing performances. For more on *Männerchor* in St. Louis, see the prior issue of the *Rundschreiben* [7].



**Figure 5: The *Luftmusketiere* jointly recounted their autobiographies and reflections of their historic flight in this book from Putnam's Sons. The cover (left) and title page (right) depict a silhouetted Bremen, showing only the registration number it flew under, D-1167. It was published in both English and German and was dedicated to Floyd Bennett, who had contracted and subsequently died of pneumonia during the evacuation operations from Greenly Island (German first edition: author's collection).**



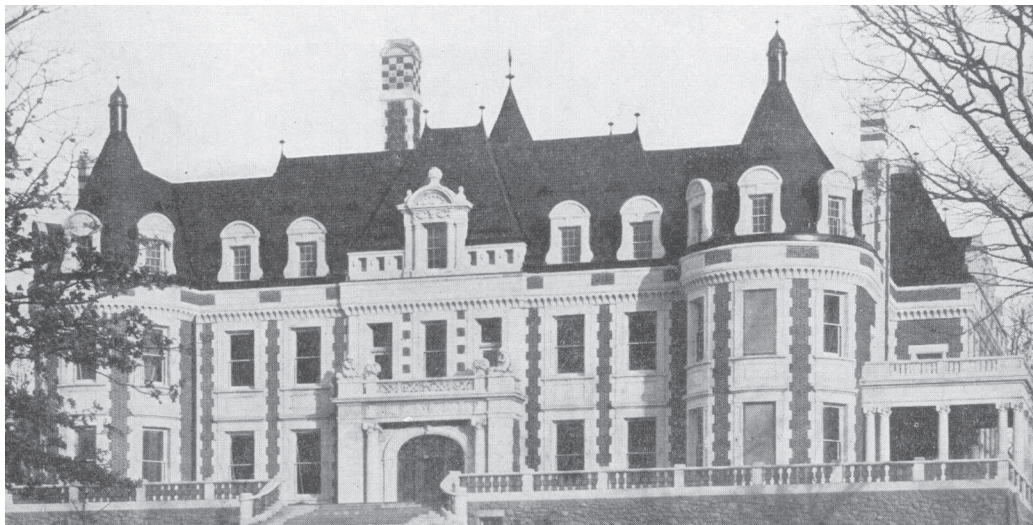
escaped. But these enmities had all melted away long ago in the face of their fellowship toward a common goal. They were now blood brothers of the air and were spreading their philosophy of unity and friendship to whomever came to hear them speak. In the main address to the roughly 2,500 people who were on-hand for the groundbreaking, retired Missouri Congressman Richard Bartholdt repeated their message in somewhat more flowery terms:

My first obeisance is to our guests of honor, the three courageous men who overnight earned world-wide fame by accomplishing what no one else before them has succeeded in doing...In admiring their bravery, we also felicitate them not only upon the success of their daring feat, but also upon the deeper significance of their mission. For they have come to us as friendly messengers of peace and benign carriers of new ties of amity between Germany and the United States.

The world had had enough of the Great War and its peoples were eager to continue on a peaceful path forward into the future. A May 15 article in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* proclaimed the *Luftmusketiere* the “godfathers of the German House”.

The final event of the afternoon was a car trip out to August A. Busch’s country estate in southwest St. Louis County. Busch, who was president of Anheuser-Busch Brewing Association and one of the leading German-American industrialists in St. Louis, managed to have the afternoon visit to his place inserted into the *Luftmusketiere* social schedule. A caravan of cars trundled more than 10 miles down rough Gravois Road to the gates of his estate and up the drive to the “Castle” (Fig. 6). Busch reveled in the quiet sanctuary of his estate, which he enjoyed showing to visitors.

That day, the dining room table was set for 22 guests, which, in addition to the *Luftmusketiere*, included Harold Bixby, chair of the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce and one of Lindbergh’s financial backers, Joseph Pulitzer, publisher of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, German Consul Georg Ahrens, and City of St. Louis Mayor Victor Miller. The group spent a quiet afternoon, which was a welcome respite for the flyers, and the visit concluded around 5 pm, giving everyone time to regroup for a final banquet at the Chase Hotel later that evening. The aviators’ stay in St. Louis concluded the following morning, when they departed for their next stop in Indianapolis. They would eventually arrive back in Europe and by late June were in Berlin, but the days of *Luftmusketiere* camaraderie would soon come to an unfortunate close.



**Figure 6: The “Castle” at August A. Busch’s country estate on Gravois Road circa 1913, shortly after it was built. It sits on more than 200 acres of land that had once been part of the much larger White Haven plantation owned by President Ulysses S. Grant’s father-in-law, Colonel Frederick Dent. (Image cropped from an original photo in ref. [8].)**

## Epilogue

Baron von Hünefeld died less than a year later in February 1929 from complications of stomach cancer. It is unclear whether he was aware of his condition at the time of the *Bremen* flight, but if he was, he certainly did not let on to his comrades or allow it to affect his role in the expedition. Major Fitzmaurice lived much of the 1930s in America, though he would later go back to Ireland, where he died in Dublin in 1965, close to the spot where the *Bremen* had taken flight almost 40 years prior. There is a street named after him in the city of Bremen. Captain Köhl returned to civilian aviation, but would leave *Deutsche Luft Hansa* in 1935 and pass away in 1938, aged 50. The city of Bremen has a street named after him too and the Bundeswehr named an army barracks in Niederstetten in his honor.

Mechanics eventually gave-up on trying to fly the *Bremen* off of Greenly Island and departed. In the meantime, it stood unguarded and by July of 1928 had been heavily looted and stripped by locals. It was later shipped off the island and refurbished and Baron von Hünefeld, who still held its title, offered to donate the plane to the Deutsches Museum [1], which inexplicably declined.



It wound its way through several owners and display locations after Hünefeld's death in 1929, ultimately falling into the hands of the Henry Ford Museum of Dearborn Michigan. It is currently on permanent loan from the Ford Museum to the Bremen International Airport in Germany (Fig. 7).



**Figure 7: The refurbished *Bremen* on display at the Bremen Airport in 2007 (photo by Tomas Mellies, courtesy of Wikimedia Commons).**

The east-to-west flight of the *Bremen* was an accomplishment of the first order, on par with the Wright Brothers' work, Lindbergh's Atlantic crossing, Eugene Ely's demonstration of shipboard landings and take-offs (prefiguring the aircraft carrier), and other seminal advancements in the early days of powered flight. The *Luftmusketiere* were, in essence, among the first test pilots of modern times, without whom the aviation sciences would have been unable to proceed. Yet, their feat is largely unknown today, undoubtedly due in part to anti-German sentiments that increased significantly during and after the Second World War and because of changing social views of who and what are considered to be commendable and noteworthy. But, the messages of peace and fellowship from a group of men, who in earlier years had been arrayed against each other by the unavoidable circumstances of war, continue to be as profound today as they were in 1928.

## Acknowledgement

There was tremendous news coverage of the *Luftmusketiere* over the several months that bracketed their mission in 1928, many of the reports having been issued by the Associated Press news service. These updates were carried daily by major metropolitan newspapers. To that end, the archives of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* were especially helpful in researching this story.

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# Musikalischer Nachmittag 2022

The Musikalischer Nachmittag was a fun afternoon of song and Gemütlichkeit. We enjoyed live music by the Deutschmeister Brass Band and a musical performance by the Männerchor. There were also sing-along songs, lead by the Deutschmeister, Damenchor, and Männerchor. Bill Wolz and Madi Hauck also performed a few songs as a saxophone duet. There were pretzels and dessert for sale as well! Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success!

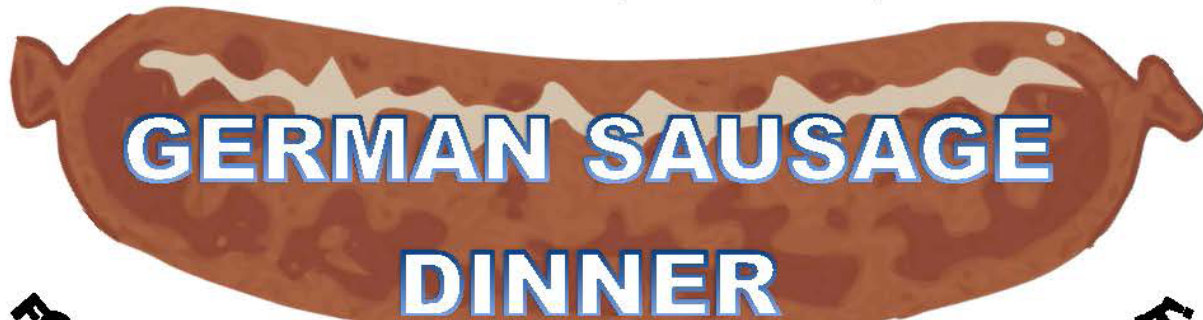
*Becky Wendt*





# WURSTMARKT

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# Our New Glockenspiel!

Items needed for Glockenspiel. Donations of your new or used items would be appreciated. Search your storage areas/basements/garages for any of these items you might want to donate for the Glockenspiel. Please contact Nancy Plunk if you have any of these items at nancyplunk50@gmail.com or 314-610-9765.

We are looking for people interested in being a part of the skits on the Glockenspiel. We may even want to make up our own skits. We need bell ringers, sign holders, dancers, Schuhplattler dancers (we will teach the moves), people who are able to make music tracks and more!

1. Two – Four hanging flower boxes to hang over windows dimensions: something similar to this picture. New or used. We can clean it up and put flowers in it.
2. Flowers for the flower boxes. Bright Austrian/German like flowers. I have geraniums and greenery that could work.
3. Large Bell to Ring to hang. To be rung on the hour when it's time for a performance.
4. Clock - round and large enough to see the numbers



*Nancy Plunk*

## Germany vs Spain World Cup Watch Party!

Thanks to everyone who came out to watch the game. It was a great time!





# New Gate and Tree Trimming

Easy access to the front lawn from the parking lot was the motivation for adding a gate into the fence on the southwest corner of the DKV Hall. The new gate eliminates dragging yard waste, mulch, tools, etc. around the outside of the building by the driveway and sometimes through the middle of the hall and then cleaning up the debris afterwards. New gate construction included cutting back the old fence; digging a hole and setting a heavier pole into concrete for holding the gate; reconnecting and stabilizing the old fence to the heavier new post; and installing the new gate.

The branches hanging over driveway from the tree growing behind the wooden fence near the northeast corner of the DKV Hall had to be removed. They were a hazard since strong winds could cause them to fall and injure/disrupt traffic flow along the driveway. Trimming of the tree extended from the low overhanging branches to the high foliage that could be reached only from a ladder with the long arm of the electric chain saw. The freshly trimmed tree has a much nicer shape and should not pose a hazard to the driveway traffic for some time in the future.

The overall effort of gate installation and tree trimming took several Saturday mornings to complete. Appreciation goes to Steve and Michael Wendt and Steve Gallagher for all their expertise and assistance.

*Mike Wendt, Sr*





# Totengedenkfeier 2022



Members of the German Cultural Society gathered at Sunset Memorial Park Cemetery on Sunday, November 6th for the annual Totengedenkfeier. We were lucky to have good weather for this remembrance ceremony. Thank you to the Maennerchor, Damenchor, and Deutschmeister Brass Band for providing the music and singing. This event was a good way to remember our ancestors, past members, and members who have past away this year.

*Joey Wendt*



## 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:

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# In Memoriam

Deceased Members from August 1st, 2022-November 30th, 2022



**Elizabeth Lukoszyk**

August 28, 2022



**Ursula Weber**

November 6, 2022



**Mary Frank**

November 24, 2022

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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**DANIEL A. KAUFMANN, D.D.S.**  
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# Winzerfest 2022

We hosted our 3rd Winzerfest this year! It was a great success. We had 7 couples this year! There was also musical entertainment from the Wendl Band!

The night started out with us serving dinner. We made homemade goulash and spaetzle alongside green beans, corn, bread, and of course, cake. It was very delicious!

We naturally had ice cold beer and soda at the bar, but we also had our wine tasting table! We had over 20 different types of German and Donauschwaben wines. People were welcomed to do tastings, have a glass, or even get a whole bottle if they loved it! There was also a wine pull. This is a fun “game” where people pick a wine that’s been wrapped for \$20. The wine is valued between \$20-\$50.

After our first performance, we also did a straw raffle where people pick random straws that may have a winner or “try again” paper wrapped up in the middle. We had 6 tables filled of raffle prizes!

We performed twice that night. There were some of our well loved dances that we perform often but we also performed a handful of new dances too! We performed two new dances that we performed at the Trenton Treffen (check out our group report!). One of the dances is a nice waltz called the Liebesgedanken and the other is a traditional Donauschwaben dance that is still performed over in Europe! We love dancing to Veilchenblaue Augen and we’ll even sing along to it too. We also performed a newer dance to Ziggi Zaggi that we debuted earlier in this fest season. For our last new dance, we debuted our Hoop Dance! This was in the works for a few years and got delayed due to the pandemic. We were finally able to work on it and perform it. It was a success for our first time performing! Thank you so much to Becky, Joey, and Becky’s mom, Heidi, for making the hoops. Thank you to Jay for making the stand to display our hoops nicely for the performance.

We finished off the night with 5 grand prizes! On each of the bags of grapes that hung from our trellis, there were raffle tickets. It was really fun to see so many people stealing the grapes! People were getting really smart on how to steal the grapes without getting caught. There was a conga line that would move their hands up in the air repeatedly to mess with our grape police! If people did get caught, they didn’t waste their party time. There were people dancing to the Wendl Band as they waited their jail time. People finished out their time with a shot of alcohol, too! We loved all the participation in dancing, stealing the grapes, and going to grape jail. It’s so much fun when everyone gets into it. We restocked the trellis 3 times that night!

We want to thank all of our members, family, and friends who helped make this night a success! We truly couldn’t have done it without our help. We are so thankful for the support that we have. A special thanks to two of our members, Joey and Becky Wendl, for being the brains and manpower behind the event! Winzerfest wouldn’t have happened without these two. Lastly, thank you to everyone who came to support the event and helping it be such a success!

We can’t wait to do it again next year! See you there on November 11th, 2023!

*Leah Lorenz*







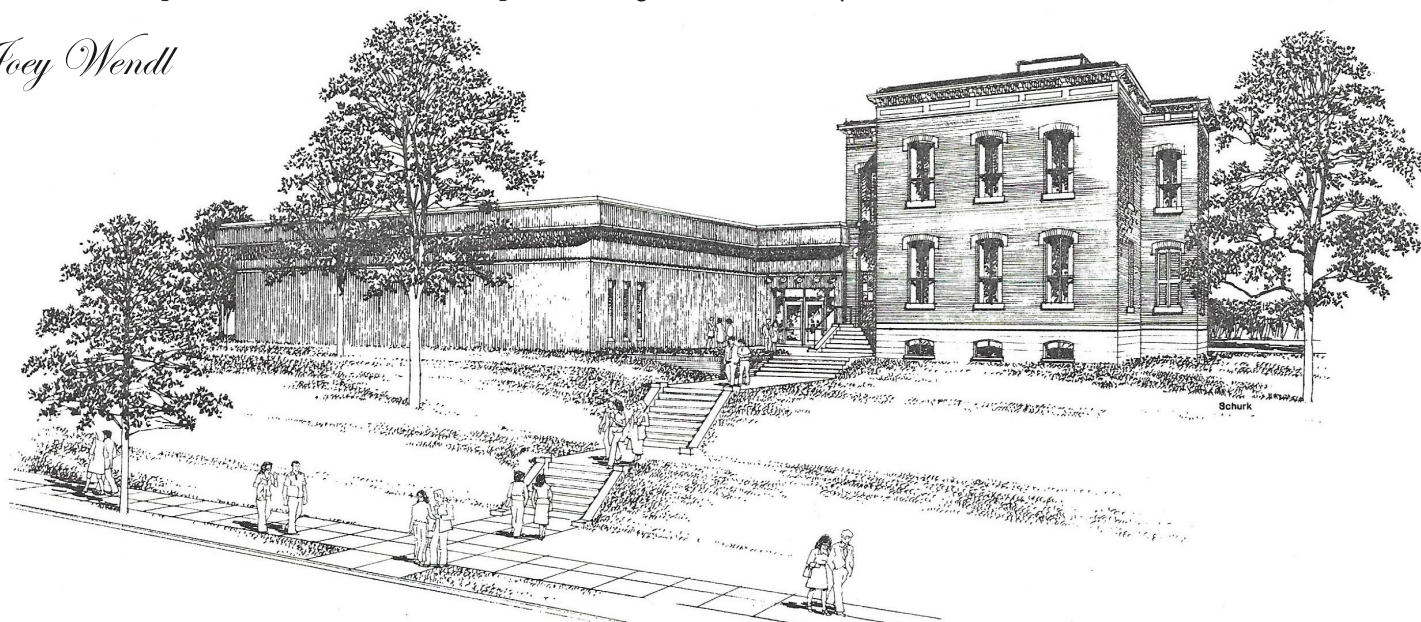


# DKV Hall Anniversary

On Sunday, December 4th, 2022, we celebrated 40 years of our hall on South Jefferson! Back in 1974, our Society purchased an old residence at 3652 South Jefferson as our organization's new home. In 1980, a building planning committee was established to create plans for a new hall on this property. In 1981, the plans for the new hall were approved. In June of 1982, the cornerstone for the new hall was laid. Later that year, the new hall was completed, and the Grand Opening was held on December 4th, 1982. Pictured are a collection of items that relate to the Grand Opening including a rendering of the new hall and old residence, an invitation to the event, a ticket and ribbon from the event, as well as excerpts from the event program booklet. Also, included is a picture of the Building Planning Committee, as well as a picture of when the cornerstone was placed at the Gartenfest. Also pictured is the interior of the hall at Rosenball 1983, which was one of the first dances in the new hall. If anyone has pictures of the Grand Opening event, please contact me at [germanstl.fb@gmail.com](mailto:germanstl.fb@gmail.com). Thank you to everyone who has helped maintain our hall and kept it running over the last 40 years. Here's to the next 40!



*Joey Wendt*







## DER DEUTSCHE KULTURVEREIN VON ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

*Ladet Sie zur Gala Eröffnungsfeier der  
Neuen Halle höflichst ein.*

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mit uns begehen würden.*

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Inclusive:  
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1982



## BUILDING COMMITTEE

The completion of building construction in November 1982 represents a year of intense activity for the Building Committee. All members of this committee gave of themselves unselfishly during this period.

The success of the overall project will not be weighed by the size of the building or the dollars spent, but rather by the manner in which the cultural activities of our organization are supported and enhanced. This represents the challenge of the future.

Our Building Committee has left the German Cultural Society with a tasteful, functional facility. The building will remain a reflection on our organization and its positive attitude for years to come. It has been our humble honor to have served in a meaningful capacity in this ambitious endeavor.

Respectfully,  
Alfred C. Goebel, A.I.A.

## ZUR EINWEIHUNG!

HEUTE WOLLEN WIR MIT GLÜCK UND SEGEN  
DIE NEUE HALLE IHREM ZWECK ÜBERGEBEN  
UND SIE IM SINNE SO VERWALTEN,  
DAß ES HILFT, UNSER DEUTSCHTUM WEITER ZU  
ERHALTEN.

HERZLICH WOLLEN WIR ALLEN DANKEN  
WELCHE OHNE AN IHREM ZIEL ZU WANKEN,  
IDEALISTISCH IN IHRER FREIEN ZEIT,  
ZU ARBEITEN WAREN STETS BEREIT.

NUR SO KONNTEN WIR ERREICHEN,  
DURCH DEN ZUSAMMENHALT VON GLEICHEN,  
MIT ARBEIT, MUT AND VIEL VERTRAUEN,  
DIESE NEUE HALLE ZU BAUEN.

MÖGE SIE NOCH IN UNSEREM LEBEN,  
DEM DEUTSCHTUM NEUEN AUFTRIEB GEBEN.  
GESANG, MUSIK, GEBRÄUCHE UND SITTEN,  
WEITER ERHALTEN IN UNSERER MITTE.

DAS IST DES KULTURVEREINS HÖCHSTES STREBEN,  
ERHALTEN DAS VOLKSTUM UND FREUDE GEBEN.  
WENN WIR VON DIESEM ZIEL NICHT WEICHEN,  
DANN WIRD DIESER BAU SEINEN ZWECK ERREICHEN !

Roland Thalheimer  
November, 1982

## Gestaltung des Abends

**Leitung: Joe Unterreiner**

- 6:00 p.m. Offizielles Öffnen der Tore!  
("Ribbon Cutting")
- 6:00 p.m. Deutschmeister Blaskapelle spielen unter der  
8:00 p.m. Leitung von Karl Glassl
- 6:30 p.m. Abendessen
- 8:00 p.m. Festreden:  
Herr Peter Schuster, Präsident  
und weitere Komitee Mitglieder
- 8:30 p.m. Damenchor, unter Leitung von  
Marylee Wolf  
singen:  
1. Schwabenlied, von J. Stierwalt  
2. Rosen Erblühten, von Gerhard Winkler  
3. Kufsteiner Lied, von Karl Ganzer  
4. In mir klingt ein Lied, von Fredric Chopin
- 8:45 p.m. Jugendgruppe tanzt unter Leitung von  
John Unterreiner
- 9:00 p.m. Es spielen die "Blue Stars" zu Ihrer  
1:00 a.m. Unterhaltung und zum Tanz.



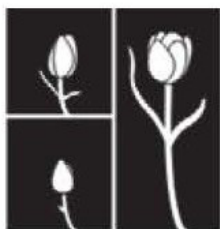
# Inaugural Match at CITYPARK

What a once-in-a-lifetime experience! The Deutschmeister Brass Band, Die Heimatgruppe, and Volkstanzgruppe were able to participate in the pregame festivities at the inaugural game at the new St. Louis CITY SC soccer stadium. The game was between City2 and Bayer 04 Leverkusen. We did a combo performance between all three subgroups. This included a combination of the dance groups performing to recorded music, the Deutschmeister playing polkas and waltzes, and the dance groups performing to live music by the Deutschmeister. We were then all able to participate in the holding of the German flag on the field during the singing of the national anthems. The German anthem was even sung by one of our members, Nancy. We were then able to stay to watch the first match in the stadium! It may have been cold but it was a lot of fun!

*Becky Wendt*





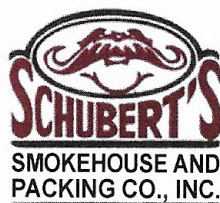


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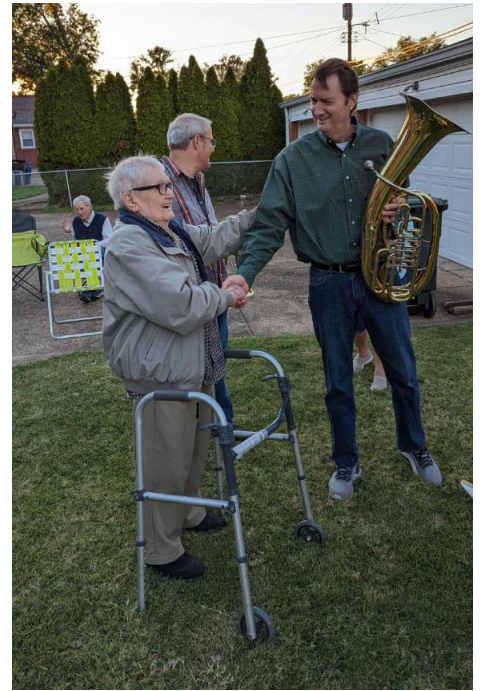


# Member Announcements

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 Becky Wendt, who received an Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award!*



*Congratulations to Mr. Welker on his 101st birthday!*

## New Members in 2022!

We would like to welcome our new members:

Elizabeth Czichos

Jeannette Puetz

Gerald Puetz

Tom Fitzgerald

Jim Randazzo

Edward Herhold

Linda Schmitz

Jared Ide

Linda Kurz

Tim Hoffman

Mark Flush

Audra Reidner

Roland and Pam Lenzenhuber

David Diehl & Alex Shklyar

Eric, Chloe and Luke Schmitz

Robert Timm & Gabriella Schmidt-Grimminger

Chelsey & Bailey Clark and Alexis Rusbarsky

Danielle, Emilia & Ava Stowers and Nora Niedringhaus

Holgar and Mary Michelsen

Richard & Marla Jauer

Charlotte Muench

David Binaei



*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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[www.germanschoolstl.org](http://www.germanschoolstl.org)**



## **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. As a part of that trip we visited 15 Donauschwaben villages. On our second day in Romania, we visited Johannissfeld, which is where Joey's Oma's (Kathy Achs Heitzmann) family is from. We first went inside and visited the church when we arrived to the village. It was so sad that it was in such bad condition. There are only two Catholic families left in the village and the priest says Mass in their homes instead of at the Church. The best moment of this visit was receiving a Crucifix from the Church. It was a crucifix that has been hanging by the alter for many decades, and we were lucky enough to receive it for its sentimental value. Most of the other bigger statues are most likely going to be removed from the Church and taken to a small village museum for preservation, since the Church is falling apart. The sweetest part of this gift was successfully getting this fragile cross home to St. Louis and giving it to Joey's Oma, in remembrance of her childhood church.

After visiting the Church, we visited some of the houses of Joey's ancestors and we were even joined by a surprise guest, a goat that followed us around. After that, we went to the cemetery to look for two family graves and we were successful in finding both!! We found the Heidenfelder family grave, where 5 of Joey's direct ancestors were buried. Then, by a small miracle from God, after feeling completely frustrated and ready to give up the search, Joey was able to find the Achs family grave that was completely covered and overgrown by ivy. He was drawn to look at this grave because his Achs Oma loved ivy. I think it was a Godwink.

We were also able to see the Otelec Cultural Center, where the Johannissfeld church statues are going to be relocated for preservation.

Up next, we will be featuring our visit to the village of Saar, Hungary, where Joey's Opa (Frank Heitzmann) was from.

*Becky and Joey Wendt*



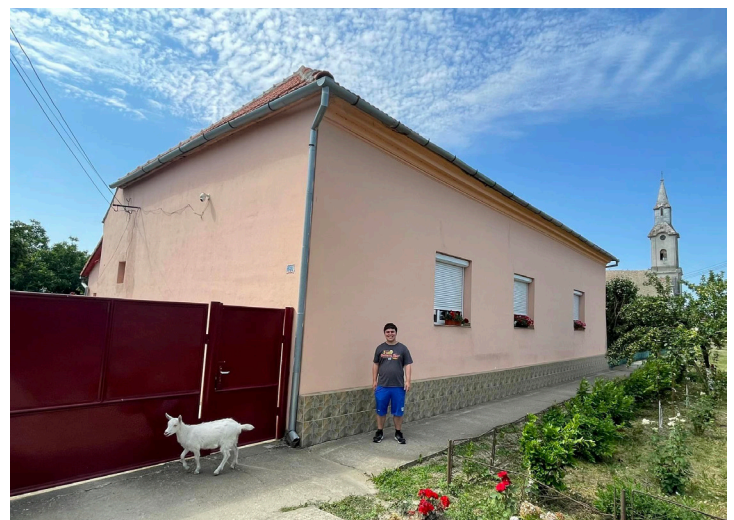
**The Johannissfeld Church  
(Heiliger Johannes der Täufer)**



**Inside the Johannissfeld Church with the  
Priest and the Church's caretaker**



**Ionel entrance sign (Johannissfeld in German)**







Grave of Michael and Johanna Heidenfelder (Joey's great-great-grandparents, Barbara Berberich (Joey's great-great-great-grandmother), and Jakob and Barbara Martin (Joey's great-great-great-great-grandparents))



Becky, holding the tree branches back so Joey can see the tombstone better. (This was typical in many of the cemeteries we visited.)



Rubble from the falling roof of the Johannisfeld Church. Unfortunately, the church is in very bad condition.



Achs Family Grave: Grave of Franz and Anna Achs (Joey's great-great-grandparents) and their daughter, Rosalia Achs



The Achs Family grave, still partially covered in ivy, after a little work of removing the ivy from the fully covered grave



Once we got back from our trip, we gave Joey's Oma the Crucifix from the Johannisfeld Church. What a sentimental gift it was!

To the left: Joey and a very friendly goat at House Number 187: House of Michael Berberich (Joey's great-great-great-great-grandfather), Michael and Anna Berberich (Joey's great-great-great-great-grandparents), Johann and Barbara Berberich (Joey's great-great-great-grandparents), Michael and Johanna Heidenfelder (Joey's great-great-grandparents) and Anna Heidenfelder Achs (Joey's great-grandmother)





### Jugendgruppe

#### Youth Folk Dance & Culture

for ages 13 to 26 Years of age

Cal/text Liz @ 314 583 3053

## German Cultural Society Jugendgruppe



### *Our youth group at the German Cultural Society of St. Louis practices folk dancing.*

We enjoy a relaxed atmosphere learning dances from different regions of Europe with the roots of our society based in German dances and many eastern European German traditions.

**We perform** locally at festivals like Maifest, Oktoberfests and private events when we can. In addition, we have the option to attend the Donauschwaben Landestreffen (a 'meeting of the lands') each Labor Day weekend!

***Come see how much fun it is to be a part of our group!  
Sunday afternoon practices are scheduled.***

***Contact leader, Liz @ 314 583 3053 or email  
[stljugend@gmail.com](mailto:stljugend@gmail.com), and visit [germanstl.org](http://germanstl.org)  
for more information.***





# Jugendgruppe Report

Our youth of the GCS Jugendgruppe continue to thrive with the help of our continuing youth and often other Society groups and members for a good show at performances.

We welcome all new faces, ages 13 to 26, to enjoy some energetic old and new-style German dancing!

After the Kirchweih & Porta Westfalica celebration this year, we slid into the autumn Oktoberfest season with a performance at the Donau Park facility. The Jugend did performances on their own, and were later joined by other groups for a colorfully dirndl-ed (& Leder-ed) combined show.

Later, we enjoyed 5 performance times at the St. Charles Oktoberfest, as a combined group. It was a great time and a beautiful day! We look forward to performing at the December 4, 2022 Millstadt Weihnachtsfest.

Tell your youthful friends and neighbors, we are always looking for fresh faces—no prior skills needed!

*Liz Young*

Jugendgruppe Leiterin

# Kindertanzgruppe Report

Congratulations to the 10-12 members of the Kindertanzgruppe that have been to practices this year and to those who performed at the DKV Oktoberfest.

Look for news about more frequent practices next year - twice per month so we can do some more dancing at Maifest!

*Moni Lorenz*



# Volkstanzgruppe Report

Volkstanzgruppe has continued to perform throughout the year and also learn new dances with the Jugendgruppe and Heimatgruppe in support of combination performances. We had a fun year. Happy Holidays to everyone from the Volkstanzgruppe!

*Moni Lorenz*



# Deutschmeister Brass Band Report

Oktoberfest season finally felt like the “good old days” for the Deutschmeister in 2022. After two years of either cancelled or reduced capacity events, the tents were once again full of cheerful patrons, the Bier was fresh, and the Musik created an ambiance of almost constant Gemütlichkeit week after week this fall. We returned to play at a number of our favorite venues and festivals including Das Bevo, Stubborn German, Soulard Oktoberfest, and Recess Brewing. A couple of new performances were tacked onto this year’s calendar including the Belleville Oktoberfest along with St. Charles Oktoberfest, an event we were glad to once again play after a few years’ hiatus. Thanks to the commitment and dedication of a core group of musicians, we continue to carry on the legacy of our forefathers and share our beloved Blasmusik with friends from across the St. Louis region and beyond.

*Adam Glassl*



# Garden Club Report

## Jefferson Ave. Hall in St. Louis City

The lawn care company who cuts grass at the Hall on Jefferson Ave. was flooded during the heavy rains in late July, 2022.

Helmuth Glatt cut the grass on the property several times, so the grounds would look nice for Kirchweih! THANK YOU Helmuth.

Grass cutting has resumed by the lawn care company. Also, thank you Helmuth for trimming the bushes along the drive up to the parking lot.

Mike Wendl contacted St. Louis City about removing dead trees on the street in front of the Hall. Stump removal is scheduled for the future.

Sons, Steve and Mike Wendl assisted Mike Wendl Sr. in trimming a tree by the fence along the top of the driveway to our parking lot. Branches hanging over the fence were low, so that high profile vehicles would brush them when passing by. These branches were cut and removed. Thank you Steve, Mike and Mike.

Thanks to: Terry Ficken, Matt Stark, Mike Wendl Sr. and Kathy Stark for weed wacking along the sidewalk on Jefferson Ave. and to Mike Wendl and Terry Ficken for trimming the bushes in the beds in front of the building.

A gate was installed along the fence line of the parking lot, at the side of the building, at the corner of Jefferson Ave. and Winnebago. This is a locked gate, but can be unlocked to allow access to mulch from the parking lot to the beds in front of the building. Thank you Mike Wendl Sr.



## Donau Park in Jefferson County

Thanks to Ralph Hoffarth for cutting grass at Donau Park. Frank and Ralph also work together on weed wacking. Over the summer Frank Breitenstein, Becky Haas, Klemens and Gabi Wolf did most of the watering, care for the Knock out roses (brown spots) and weeding. In early November, Frank Breitenstein planted some False Indigo and some trees donated by Forest Relief.

The Gardens look great in the Summer when everything is in Bloom!

If you would like to join the Garden Club, email Kathy Stark at [germanSTLnews@gmail.com](mailto:germanSTLnews@gmail.com)

*Kathy Stark*





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# MAIFEST



*Come Celebrate the Birth of Spring...*

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**MAY 19, 20, & 21, 2023**

Friday: 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Saturday: 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Sunday: 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM



**DONAU PARK**

5020 West Four Ridge Rd.  
House Springs, MO 63051



*Enjoy delicious German food & drink!*

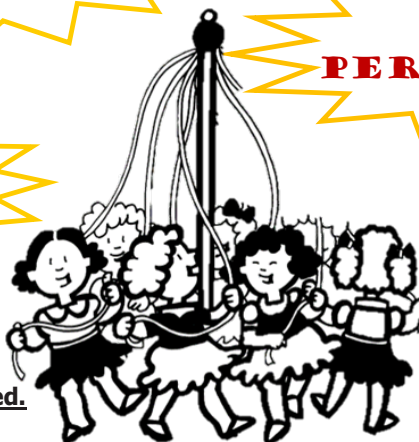
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No coolers or dogs  
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**German Cultural Society  
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(314) 771-8368

[www.germanstl.org](http://www.germanstl.org) or on Facebook



## Vereinskalender 2023 Event Calendar

15 Jan.	<b>General Meeting</b> <i>at the DKV Hall</i>	Jan. 15
4 März	<b>Rosenball*</b> <i>at the DKV Hall</i>	Mar. 4
8 Apr.	<b>Ostereiersuchen</b> <i>at the Donau Park</i>	Apr. 8
23 Apr.	<b>Wurstmarkt</b> <i>at the Donau Park</i>	Apr. 23
19, 20, & 21 Mai	<b>Maifest</b> <i>at the Donau Park</i>	May 19, 20, & 21
Juli	<b>Ferienlager</b> <i>at the Donau Park</i>	July
16 Juli	<b>Wiener n' Schnitzel Dinner</b> <i>at the Donau Park</i>	July 16
20 Aug.	<b>Kirchweihfest</b> <i>at the DKV Hall</i>	Aug. 20
8, 9, & 10 Sept.	<b>Oktoberfest</b> <i>at the Donau Park</i>	Sept. 8, 9, & 10
Okt.	<b>German American Day</b> <i>at the DKV Hall</i>	Oct.
22 Okt.	<b>Musikalischer Nachmittag*</b> <i>at the DKV Hall</i>	Oct. 22
5 Nov.	<b>Totengedenkfeier</b> <i>at Sunset Memorial Park</i>	Nov. 5
11 Nov.	<b>Winzerfest*</b> <i>at the DKV Hall</i>	Nov. 11
9 Dez.	<b>Weihnachtsfeier</b> <i>at the DKV Hall</i>	Dec. 9
10 Dez.	<b>Weihnachtsgottesdienst</b> <i>at Peace Lutheran Church</i>	Dec. 10
17 Dez.	<b>Tag des Deutschen Kulturvereins</b> <i>at the DKV Hall</i>	Dec. 17

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

**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 15th \*\*\* March 12th \*\*\* June 4th

August 6th \*\*\* October 29th

**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



Addressee or current occupant

# GCS Members hold the German Flag at the inaugural CITYPARK Soccer Match!

*Members of our Heimatgruppe, Volkstanzgruppe, and Deutschmeister Brass Band performed at the inaugural soccer match at CITYPARK! Read more about our participation at the City2 vs Bayer 04 Leverkusen match on pages 36-37!*

