

# Das Rundschreiben

Website: [www.indianapolisgak.com](http://www.indianapolisgak.com)

8602 S. Meridian St. • Indianapolis, IN 46217 • (317) 888-6940

## Happy Thanksgiving

During the holidays don't forget the Edelweiss and the Ballroom when planning family and or work gatherings. Bring your friends and family to the Edelweiss Restaurant for a wonderful meal (that you don't have to cook or clean up). When you get sick of turkey and Thanksgiving leftovers come by and get your fill of German comfort food.

The Ballroom is a great facility for your holiday parties and family get togethers. To rent the ballroom please contact Lisa Tompa at **(317) 888-6940** (during restaurant hours 5-9, Tuesday thru Saturday)

### Presidents Message

I saw many of you at our GAK's 1st Halloween Party, thanks for your support of this event. If you didn't make it you missed a great family fun event. The adults enjoyed food, drink, music with dancing to Pokamotion, while the children also enjoyed icing Halloween cookies and face painting. I think everyone enjoyed dressing up, enjoying life with family and friends helps us all stay young and to appreciate even more all our klub has to offer. We hope to see even more of you next year. This event was in part planned to raise needed additional funds that we missed as a result of the rain during our Annual Oktoberfest. When you renew your membership this year I want to encourage you, only if you can afford to do so, to consider a small amount of additional support. The GAK Board is working hard to offer several inexpensive events during the year for you and your family to enjoy. Some events are free while others are almost at cost to cover only the expense of that event. The lack of funds collected at our Oktoberfest this year (we can't control mother nature) is a burden, but I'm sure we will survive. Let the GAK Board know if you have an idea for a fund raiser that will assist in our efforts. The two best things you each can do is to encourage membership with your family and friends and to patronage the Edelweiss Restaurant as often as possible.

We plan to have a casual event, a bon fire and wiener roast, to remember our Veterans. Please see additional message in this newsletter for information. I hope you all will be able to enjoy the month of November and time with family and friends during our season of Thanksgiving. -Merrill

## From the GAK Cultural Committee:

Travis J. Jerde

The 2018-2019 Cultural Events calendar is now underway following our first ever Halloween event, the "Zombie Oktoberfest". Many long-time members and some new members and guests had a great time with our German Buffet, Polkamotion, and dancing. The crowd loved Marie Lawlor's leading us in the "Witches Dance" modeled after the dance of witches done by the Wolfshäger Hexenbrut of Germany.

Upcoming events will include our popular annual Cookie Dance on December 8th. We'll be reinvigorating Jägerfest on January 26th, a great German dinner based on wild game and rustic foraged vegetables and sides. On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will party like they do in Köln with our first ever Karneval, a party popular along the Rhine valley in Germany ahead of the sacrifices of Lent, featuring the delicious brewing styles of that region of Germany including the popular Kölsch style. At the end of April, we'll have our second Mai-baumaufstellen to kick-off the Biergarten season, following up on the fun and successful debut of 2018.

Finally, we're scheduling our monthly culture nights for Tuesdays, beginning in January. Events include German brewing, a baking night, a lecture on the history of German immigration to the Midwest, a discussion of German meats and cheeses, and a discussion of the customs and culture of our Sister City of Köln. Stay tuned to our website, Twitter feed, and Facebook pages, and keep reading our newsletter for more details as these events get closer. We want to see everyone having a great time, celebrating our magnificent German culture!

### A great and easy way to help the GAK

Many of us shop at Gordon Food Service (GFS) when we need large quantities of paper products/snacks/food/candy/etc.

The GAK can benefit from your purchases at GFS. When you check out, tell the cashier that you are with the German American Klub. The GAK will receive the points for your purchase. The points will be applied to purchases made by the GAK or Edelweiss Restaurant and save the GAK money! Remember...**Gordon GO! for GAK!**



### News from GAK Ladies' Auxiliary

The Ladies' Auxiliary took a break in October but will be back in full swing in November. Mark your calendars for **these upcoming events:**

**Saturday, November 24** Hanging of the Greens at the Klub House

**Sunday, December 2nd at 1 p.m.**

Annual Children's Christmas Party. Watch the news-letter for more information on these events, especial-ly the Children's Christmas Party.

### **TGAK Christmas Buffet & Cookie Dance.**

**Saturday, December 8th at 7 p.m.**

Admission only six cookies per person. Christmas music and dancing by Jay Fox. Christmas buffet in the Edelweiss at 5:00 P.M. Reservations recommended for parties of 5 or more.

Just call **317-888-6940**.

From the GAK German Cultural Committee,

## **Songs, Sweets and Lanterns: the celebration of St. Martin**

Travis J. Jerde, PhD

The ghouls, ghosts, and zombies of Halloween and Samhain in the UK and North America may not be characters typically associated with German folklore, however that does not mean that Germany does not have many rich autumn customs to celebrate. Erntedankfests (Harvest festivals of thanksgiving) are common across the country, as they are in all of Europe. Like their American Thanksgiving counterparts, the centerpieces of such festivals include a lot of food, family time, and prayers of thanks. These Erntedankfests are typically celebrated in mid-Oktober, fitting in between the end of the Oktoberfest season and All Saints Day. Sitting notably on the German cultural calendar between All Saints Day (1 November) and the beginning of Advent sits the Feast day of St. Martin, known as Sankt Martinstag (St. Martin's Day): the 11<sup>th</sup> of November. The customs of this holiday seem to be an almost poetic fusing of traditional western Halloween customs with those of Advent and Weihnachten customs. Bonfires are lit and children go door-to-door for sweet treats, but these sweets are a mock "reward" for their singing songs in an almost "caroling" type of way. In some cities, a parade of lanterns marches down the city's main streets following the singing procession, or as a continuation thereof. Typically, these lanterns have been made from frames and paper, by the children. After the parades and bonfires are finished, the traditional evening meal is cornerstoned by a delicious roasted goose.

In one famous legend, Martin--who had been jailed for failing to complete his military term--negotiated a peace settlement between warring Roman factions, and was therefore granted release. From here, Martin's exile resulted in his becoming one of the earliest "monks" in solitude, but he gained a reputation for serving the sick and the poor from this post. He was commissioned to serve as Bishop of Tours in 371 AD, but had refused the appointment. Legend has it that Martin hid in a barn of geese to avoid detection. The geese, disturbed by Martin's presence among them, ratted him out by their honking, exposing him to the Church authorities. Martin served as bishop, focusing positively toward administering to the sick and poor of the region, but also negatively by his destruction of pagan temples.

### **die Fledermäuschen Tanzgruppe**

die Fledermaeuschen Tanzgruppe is getting ready for our final performance of the year, the Christkindlmarkt in Carmel on Wednesday, December 5th from 7:30 to 8:00 - come up and see us. This is a wonderful event - very festive indeed! We have several new members but are always hoping for more to join us. We practice on Wednesdays - except the second Wednesday in the ballroom of the GAK from 7:30 to 9:00. (Obviously we won't have practice Dec. 5th since we'll be in Carmel!)

The Kindertanzgruppe will be performing with us, too. We would really like to encourage more kids to join us when we resume practicing in February. We'll have one practice a month on Sundays from 1:00 to 2:00 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, on the corner of 52nd and Central in Indianapolis, beginning on February 17th. The goal is to have enough dances for the kids to have their own performance instead of just having to share time with die Fledermaeuschen. Our youngest dancers are 5 and the oldest are 10. If we have older children join, I will work with them as well. Back in the day our age range was from 4 to high school age! Please contact me if you need more information. Marie: [mlawlor63@yahoo.com](mailto:mlawlor63@yahoo.com)

### **Veteran's Day Bon Fire**

We plan to have a Bon Fire and wiener roast at the GAK again this year on Sunday, November 11th starting at 5:00. Please bring your lawn chairs, roasting sticks, and a cooler of whatever you wish to drink. If you desire you might also bring some chips or other item to share with the group. The hot dogs, buns, condiments, and plates will all be provided. We will gather around the bon fire to tell stories and share our experiences with veterans in our lives remembering all who have served and are serving currently. If it snows, rains, or if the temperature is below 45 degrees the event will be cancelled, but we hope you will still take some time to remember those who serve and protect or nation.

The German-American Klub of Indianapolis, Inc.  
8602 South Meridian Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46217

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**Mark Your Calendars**

See newsletter for the Friday night live music schedule

GAK Cultural Committee Meeting: November 13th from 6-7 at the Edelweiss

GAK Membership/Ladies Axillary/Board meeting November 20th

Veterans Bon Fire November 11st beginning at 5 pm

Upcoming Holiday Events:

**Saturday, November 24**

Hanging of the Greens at the Klub House

**Sunday, December 2:**

Children's Christmas Party

**Saturday, December 8:**

TGAK Christmas Buffet & Cookie Dance