



Rundschreiben

www.indianapolisgak.com

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

April is a Very Busy Month At the German-American Klub

Fashion Show & Champagne Brunch

Make your reservations now to attend the highlight of the spring season – the Ladies' Auxiliary Fashion Show and Champagne Brunch on Saturday, April 18th.

Doors open at 10:30 a.m. with the champagne brunch starting at 11 a.m. **The dressbarn** will feature the latest fashions from their spring and summer collections geared toward real women with real women's bodies. See fashions modeled by our own Klub members with the same clothing available just down the road in the Southport store.

Attendees can also participate in a silent auction with baskets filled with goodies for bidding. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased ahead of time or at the door. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (317) 445-3929.



Opening of German Park

The annual park opening will take place on Saturday, April 11 at 9:00 am with a rain date of Sunday, April 12 at 9:00 am. The Federation can use as many volunteers as possible in order to defray the costs of paying the maintenance workers to do some of the work. Please bring work gloves, rakes, etc. If you have a couple of hours to spare that morning, come out and rake a pile or two of leaves or pick up sticks.

Coffee and donuts will be provided.

*The German American Klub
Ladies Auxiliary
Presents Our Annual*



Fashion Show & Champagne Brunch

Featuring

Fashions by dressbarn

Saturday, April 18, 2015

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

(doors open at 10:30 am)

*The German American Klub
8602 S. Meridian Street, Indianapolis*

**Tickets
\$15.00**



**For tickets &
information
call**

317- 445-3929



TGAK Maintenance Fund



With an eye toward the future viability of The German American Klub, a maintenance fund was created in January of this year.

The purpose of this fund is to cover facility and equipment repairs and upgrades that are not part of our normal operating expenses.

Thanks to those who have made donations so far to the maintenance fund:

- Anonymous
- Ken Green
- Gerhard Klemm
- Anonymous

If you would like to make a donation, please make your check payable to "GAK Maintenance Fund" and mail or drop it off at the Klub.



Oktoberfest Update:

The first planning meeting for the 2015 Oktoberfest took place on Thursday, March 26. Much of the entertainment has been finalized. We are still waiting on the NFL to set the fall schedule to determine if we will have Oktoberfest on Sunday, September 13 and if so, the hours. The next meeting will take place on Thursday, April 23 at 7:00. Lou Mueller is already putting her list together of volunteers. If you want to be a part of this exciting event, come join us at the planning meetings or contact Lou (317-786-6341) to volunteer!

Did you know:

Members of the participating German societies logged in over 1,400 volunteer hours last year.

And that number does not include TGAK members!



Die Wiesn bei Nacht

Just what is a Volunteer?

By Lorra Schroeder

I asked Google "What is a volunteer?" There were 283 million results in 0.8 seconds. Whew! However they suggested a definition: "A person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task."

The phrase "take part in" stood out ... and reminded me of The GAK.

There are nine board members, all unpaid, that actively "take part in" tending to the monthly/daily operations of the Klub.

The bookkeeping, maintenance, grass mowing, newsletter, weekly blurbs, bill paying, repairs, special events, weed pulling, Tanzgruppe, flowers, and, of course, all fund raising events are done by those that "take part in" the Klub.

The Edelweiss has three full time employees that keep it perking, aided by the help of part time employees, a volunteer manager, and – yes – members that "take part in" when needed.

Recent promotional events include "Taste of the Southside" and "Taste of Perry". These were off site and involved transportation of food as well as staffing. All done by members that "take [a large] part in".

Working with other volunteers can build new friendships as you learn about the inner workings of the organization and, perhaps, give the Klub a different perspective on accomplishing the task. There is more enjoyment reaching a goal when it is shared.

Support your elected board and "take part in" the monthly meetings at 8:00 P.M. on the third Tuesday of each month.

The future of the Klub, and German Park, depends on you, the members.

Your Board of Directors

President.....	Ken Green
Vice President, Member Affairs.....	Merrill Simmerman
Vice President, Government Affairs.....	Vacant Seat
Treasurer.....	Patty Johns
Secretary.....	Susan Johnston
Grounds Maintenance.....	Ryan Powell
Finance Chairman.....	Paul Sahn
Business Affairs	Bill Maethner
Public Relations	Carla DeWitt

Non-Board Positions

Managing Member.....	Chuck Kemp
Tanzgruppe Director.....	Marie Lawlor
Ladies' Aux President.....	Patty Johns
Newsletter / Website Editor.....	Bill Burrell

Board News

A Message from the President

Guten Tag! This is the last column I am writing as your president. In less than a month at our annual meeting, we will hold elections that will bring in three new board members, replacing three members, including me, whose terms expire. I have had the privilege of serving as president for three years. It has been a roller-coaster ride, but I leave the position knowing that the Klub is in much better condition than before. I am encouraged by our financial condition and the performance of the Edelweiss restaurant, which is now operating at a break-even point. The new board coming in next month is loaded in talent in many areas and will strive to make further improvements. With your continued support, the Klub will enjoy better days.

As a parting request, I would ask members to get involved in the affairs and activities of the Klub. To be viable in the future, we need to get more involvement of many more members. I've seen too few dedicated members doing too much work. Why don't you consider how you can help? One good way to help is to volunteer for one of our festivals. We have a new festival just around the corner which would be an ideal event to help out. On May 30, we will have the inaugural Südsfest, which will highlight several south-side craft breweries. I am hopeful that this event will generate much needed income and be a good way to attract potential new members. If you are interested in helping, please contact me or any board member and we will get you connected with an activity leader.

Following the annual meeting, I will set my sights on Florida where my wife Sally and I have purchased a condo. We expect to enjoy our retirement there for several months each year. Even so, we will return home from time to time and drop in to the Klub to enjoy some good German food, a beer, and see old friends. Hopefully we can see you there! I wish all of you the best of health and success! Until we meet again,

Auf wiedersehen!



Facility Report

The restaurant's ice machine decided that it was going to make its last cube of ice. Also, due to gravity, an overzealous hand washer, shoddy dry wall screws, or a combination of all the above, the paper towel dispenser in the men's upstairs' restroom had come dislodged from the wall.

On a good note, the Klub now has the Maintenance Fund checking account up and running, and we have received \$250 in donations thanks to the generosity from some of our members. I have already put some of the funds to good use, by buying the material to repair the paper towel dispenser (Joel Melcher can be thanked for the handy work of reinstalling) and having the water heater serviced.

Here is a quick list of a few projects that I will be focusing on over the next couple months:

- Purchasing a water softening system for the facility.
- Purchasing a new ice machine.
- Repairing/replacing the broken toilet in the downstairs men's restroom.
- Purchasing new floor mats for the outside and middle entrance to the building.
- Mowing, mowing, more mowing, and maybe a little landscaping.
- Purchasing a suitable lawn mower to accomplish all of the mowing.

If any members have any skills or time they would like to give to the Klub, please contact me at 317-508-2594. Thanks to all of those who have donated their time and money in the past. This Klub would not survive without your generous donations.

Ryan Powell

Die Fledermäuschen Tanzgruppe - Theft Victim

Practice for Die Fledermäuschen Tanzgruppe has been interrupted by inclement weather a couple times this season already. Now we have run into another snag. I have always stored our sound equipment locked in the trunk of my car. I found last month this was not quite as secure as I thought it was. Yes, an "Einbrecher" found his way into my trunk and relieved me of about \$1,000 in sound equipment. I do have insurance, but it is of the \$500 deductible type. After depreciation the stolen items would be less than \$500. However, it will take about \$1,000 to replace the items we need.

If you would like to help us out, we would greatly appreciate any donations to get us solidly back on our feet. Unfortunately we do not have 501(c)(3) status so donations would not give you a tax deduction. Any donations should be ear-marked "Fledermäuschen Relief". Again, thank you in advance for your help.

Bill Burrell, President, die Fledermäuschen Tanzgruppe

Please Support the Business Members Who Support our Klub



Remember, for \$50.00 per year - You could be advertising in TGAK Newsletter also!

Membership

We believe that almost all regular annual membership applications have been received now. There are still just a few stragglers that we were not able to contact so we'll publish the Membership Application one last time in this newsletter. As membership chairman I apologize for any delay in getting your membership card to you, but you should have your card available at the klub or in the mail by the time you receive this newsletter. Don't forget to visit the Edelweiss during the month of your Birthday and let us help celebrate with you with a free dessert or appetizer just for you. We welcome your family and friends too and there is no problem if you would want to bring your own Birthday cake.

Our Cultural Presentation on Tuesday, April 7th starting at 7:00, should be concerning gardening as we head into spring, though we don't know the name of the speaker as of this printing. Plan to attend and I'm sure there will be plenty to review and interesting items to discuss. What better place to discuss gardening tips and ideas than at the German American Klub. Did you know that there was a plaque honoring our German gardeners here on the south side? This plaque is located at the corner of Bluff Rd. and Hanna.

Merrill Simmerman



A Most Important Meeting

Are you aware of our most important membership meeting of the year is almost upon us? Yes !! It is once again time to cast your ballot for next year's Board of Directors. We need to fill three vacated seats. You do have a choice in who the leaders of our Klub will be.

This is so important your membership card will be checked against our membership list to ensure only active Klub members with paid in full dues will be voting. So be sure to bring your membership card with you. It's as simple as that. No current membership card... no ballot.

We ask you to please do your duty to help us to prosper. Our current Board has done a great job getting The German-American Klub back on its feet. Let's all exercise our right to choose our leaders for the upcoming year. Please answer this call for future success.

Ladies! Are you getting your money's worth from your Klub dues? Have you ever considered joining the GAK Ladies' Auxiliary? Many events described in this newsletter, along with several others, are all sponsored and planned by the Ladies' Auxiliary. They also plan and organize the Pie Auction each Autumn and one of the Picnics in the Park in the early summer. Meetings are held each 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 just before the monthly membership meeting. And their dues are only \$5.00 per year. They have a tremendous time working on these projects and would love for you to join them. Just contact their President, Patty Johns at <pjohns@ibj.com>



The German-American Klub of Indianapolis, Inc.

8602 South Meridian St. . Indianapolis, IN 46217

(317) 888-6940

2015 Membership Application (Expires 12/31/15)

To the Membership Chairperson:

Date: _____ 20 _____

I hereby apply for membership in The German-American Klub of Indianapolis, Inc. as designated below and promise to observe the rules and regulations of the Klub.

Full Name: _____ DOB: (mm/dd) _____
 (Please Print Clearly)

Spouse's Name: _____ DOB: (mm/dd) _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State ____ Zip: _____

Children under 21 at Home: # Boys, Ages: _____ # Girls, Ages: _____

Your occupation: _____ Spouse's Occupation: _____

E-mail Address(es): _____
 (Please Print Clearly)

Send Newsletter by E-Mail US Postal Service

I understand membership entitles me to certain privileges as well as the assessment of dues which are payable at the beginning of each calendar year. (Lifetime Membership is exempt from annual dues.)

Please indicate the desired membership class:

Class	Initiation	Annual Dues	Restrictions
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime (Individual or Family)	\$500.00	-0-	None
<input type="checkbox"/> Active (Individual or Family)	-0-	\$50.00	None
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (Individual or Family)	-0-	\$25.00	Age 65 or older Spouse's age 60 or older
<input type="checkbox"/> Student (individual only)	-0-	\$5.00	Age 21 or less and currently enrolled in an accredited learning institution. No voting rights and cannot hold elected office
<input type="checkbox"/> Social	-0-	\$15.00	Age 21 or older. Social member may purchase alcohol but does not receive any other membership benefits.

Signed: _____

Additional Comments: _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Rec'd:	Rec'd by:	Amount Rec'd	Pd by:
			Cash Ck M.O. Charge GROUPON
Records updated		Membership cards mailed	

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

Forwarding Service Requested

Important April Dates to Remember

- Wed., Apr. 1st.....Fledermäuschen Tanzgruppe Practice, 7:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.***
- Thurs., Apr. 2nd.....Ballroom Dance Lessons; 7:00 P.M***
- Tues. Apr. 7th.....Culture Night Presentation, 7:00 P.M.***
- Wed., Apr. 8th.....Fledermäuschen Tanzgruppe - No Practice - 2nd Wednesday***
- Thurs., Apr. 9th.....Ballroom Dance Lessons; 7:00 P.M.***
- Sat., Apr. 11th..... Opening of German Park, 9:00 A.M.***
- Tues., Apr. 14thExecutive Board Meeting; 7:00 P.M***
- Wed., Apr. 15th.....Fledermäuschen Tanzgruppe Practice, 7:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.***
- Thurs., Apr. 16th.....Ballroom Dance Lessons; 7:00 P.M.***
- Sat., Apr. 18th.....Ladies' Aux Fashion Show & Champagne Brunch, 10:30 A.M.***
- Tues., Apr. 21st.....TGAK Ladies' Auxiliary Meeting; 7:00 P.M***
- Tues., Apr. 21stTGAK Membership Meeting; 8:00 P.M , (Board Election)***
- Wed., Apr. 22nd.....Fledermäuschen Tanzgruppe Practice, 7:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.***
- Thurs., Apr. 23rd.....Oktoberfest Planning Meeting, 7:00 P.M.***
- Thurs., Apr. 23rd.....Ballroom Dance Lessons; 7:00 P.M.***
- Wed., Apr. 29th.....Fledermäuschen Tanzgruppe Practice, 7:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.***
- Thurs., Apr. 30th.....Ballroom Dance Lessons; 7:00 P.M.***