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.
Dear Members, Liebe Mitglieder

Hello Everyone!

Wow what a beautiful Oktoberfest weekend - now it can rain:) The Executive Board wants to thank everyone for all of their hard work to pull off a such a great Oktoberfest of 2014.

Everything from the beautiful scenic Donau Park, to the delicious food and drinks, to the wonderful dancing and music - all these things helped contribute to such a successful weekend.

The Park looked wonderful, thank you Garden Club, Ralph and all the Maintenance crew who help keep everything in tip top shape.

We thank the Fest Committee and helpers for the great food and hard work.

Thank you Hans & Bar committee for the great selection of beers, wine and other refreshments at the bar.

We have always taken pride in our dance groups that keep our traditional folk dances going. Every group from the Kindergruppe on up did a fantastic job this weekend. The new dance group has surpassed everyone’s expectations and blew away the crowd with their fun dances. All of you should be so proud!

Also, thank you to all of you that always work ‘behind the scenes’ - the chip sellers, ticket takers, the grillers/fryers, those who set up and tear down the tents, tables and chairs etc.

A very special thank you also goes out to:

The Deutschmeister Band, & the Spitzbuam for all the great music and Gemütlichkeit!

It takes many, many people to pull together and make events like this successful. Thanks to those who helped but who weren’t mentioned, there are so many of you who contributed.

Vielen, vielen Dank!

Terry, Moni and the Executive Board

Frohe Weihnachten!
This year’s Oktoberfest had the weather on our side! It was the perfect day for music, foods, drink and dancing.

Check our website for more pictures of the Jugend at http://www.germanstl.org/YGwebsite

Terry and the bartenders in a free moment.

Busy bees behind the food line.

Dancer & Omi.

The fishing pond was a new addition to the Oktoberfest this year run by ever-artistic, Pete.
German Cultural Society Oktoberfest continued . . .

Authentic lederhosen, authentic stein, authentic German! (First generation, anyway!)

First picture of our newest dance group!
Upcoming Events

See page 39 for the full Kalender

Sunday, December 14
Weihnachtsgottesdienst
German Christmas Worship Service
at
Peace Lutheran Church
see page 12

Sunday, December 21
Weihnachtsfeier
German Christmas Celebration
DKV Hall– see page 19

Wednesday, December 31
Silvesterfeier
German New Years Eve Celebration
DKV Hall– see page 35

Saturday, March 7, 2015
Rosenball
Jugendgruppe Dance – DKV Hall
see page 20

Listing of Groups

Bastelgruppe
Arts & Crafts Group
Coordinator: Käthe Tullmann ............. 314-842-6798
Ktullmann@charter.net
Please call for information and schedule.

Damenchor
Ladies’ Chorus
Coordinator: Käthe Tullmann ............. 314-842-6798
Music Director: Peggy Pancella
Choir Practice: Monday @ 7:30 p.m. at DKV Hall

Kindergarten
Co-Instructor: Janine Jordan .................
janine.solga@hotmail.com
See page 13 for more information
Classes: 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month
9:30-11:00 a.m. at DKV Hall

Lesekreis
Reading Circle (German Literature)
Coordinator: Käthe Tullmann ............. 314-842-6798
Meetings: Please call for the next scheduled meeting.

Seniorengruppe
Seniors’ Group
Coordinators:
Rose Lengenfelder ..................... 314-631-4364
Becky Haas .......................... 314-487-7852
Senioren Gathering Afternoon: 2nd Tuesday of each month weather permitting from 1 to 4 pm at DKV Hall.
Please call for information.
Performing Groups

Deutschmeister Blaskapelle

*Deutschmeister Brass Band*

President: Helmuth Glatt  
Vice-President: John Ampleman ..........636-532-0290  
johnampleman@att.net

Secretary/Treasurer: Mary Weber  
Members at Large: Becky Fischer, Terri Gudowicz

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

Tanzgruppen

*Dance Groups*

**Kindertanzgruppe**  
Children’s Dance Group (ages 3-9)  
Practice: generally 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month  
Call Birgit for practice and performance schedules

Practice: DKV Hall  
Coordinator: Birgit Sterzl McMullen ....... 618-654-1340

**Mittlere Tanzgruppe**  
Middle Dance Group (ages 10-14)  
Coordinator: Ruth VanderPluym .......... 618-538-9975

See website/call Ruth for practice schedule.

**Jugendgruppe**  
Youth Group  
Coordinator: Rosemarie Ficken ............ 314-487-3969

Instructors: Jessica Romvari, Jennifer Taylor  
See website/call Rosemarie for practice schedules.

Practice: DKV Hall

**Volkstanzgruppe**  
Coordinator: Monika Lorenz  
For practice & performance schedules contact:  
Monika Lorenz ......................................... 314-894-5561

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.*

---

**Utopia: Revisiting a German State in America**

November 22, 2014 - April 19, 2015

Five hundred people left their homeland together, in order to live together in their Utopia. They came from all over Germany, all led by that one idea. The Gießen Emigration Society crossed the Atlantic Ocean in 1834 to found a model democratic German State in the United States, what later became a State of Germans in Missouri. This exhibition tells the amazing story of these early immigrants, what they thought, the challenges they faced, and the nativism they endured. It shares the history of the Society founder, Friedrich Muench, and his work as a writer and as a statesman, to continue the Society’s original effort. It explores the impact that the Germans had on Missouri’s involvement in the Civil War and their anti-slavery movement. Visitors not only become involved in what these early emigrants faced, but in what it means to be an immigrant in the United States today.


---

**Spring Events**

**Osterkonzert im Donau-Park**

**Easter Egg Hunt & Band Concert**  
at our Donau-Park Facilities in Jefferson County

Saturday, April 4, 2015

starting at 1:30 p.m.

Deutschmeister Brass Band  
Easter Egg Hunt

Admission is free.  
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Service Groups

Bar Committee
Bar Manager: Hans Lengenfelder .......... 314-631-4364
Bar Co-Manager: Frank Rohatsch ........ 314-843-5295

Bartenders -
Group 1: Denise Ballew, John Lasinski, Brian Schaffer
Group 2: John Haas, Lorenz Kaiser
Group 3: Hans Lengenfelder, Steve Meinberg,
         John Mueller, Matt Stark
Group 4: Matt Potje, Steve Potje, Joe Vaughan
Group 5: Steve Ballew, Susan Bauer, Marilyn Heidbrink,
         Christian Hoefke, Charles Tate, Liz Young
Group 6: James Provo, Rudi Sterzl
Reserves: Ralph Hoffarth, Monika Lorenz, Herbert Lorenz, Ian Romvari, Helga Thalheimer

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, Frank Rohatsch, George Ruppe,
         Rudi Sterzl, Willy Tullmann, Marvin Young

Donau Park Expansion Project Committee
Coordinator: Fred Goebel
Frank Irovic, Klemens Wolf, John Romvari, Ted Mayer

Gartenverein
Meets to plant and maintain flowers at both locations.
Coordinator: Becky Haas
Intermediary for Jugendgruppe: Rosemarie Ficken
Members: Denise Ballew, Terry Ficken, Rose Hoh,
         Rose Lengenfelder, Monika Lorenz, Karola & Ted Mayer,
         Mistti Ritter, Lucille Schweiss, Kathy & Matt Stark,
         Joe Wagoner, Julia Witeka

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314-842-5000 EXT. 46
**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 either in the preparation or the serving of food. We need your help!

To help the Festkomitee, please call the Hall.

**Hall Maintenance Organization**

- *The Thursday Group -*

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

*Members:* Henry Erk, Hans Fischer, Nick Glasz, John Haas, Mike Wendl, Frank Irovic, Hans Lengenfelder

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

**Newsletter Staff**

Co-Editor: Bill Wolz

Design, layout & Co-Editor: Elizabeth Young

Cover design: Mike Major

Editor Emeritus: Nick Messmer

Distribution: Bill Wolz

How to contact the Newsletter

Bill Wolz: wolz256@gmail.com, or Liz Young: fizlett@sbcglobal.net

Please send submissions by:

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

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**April 19, 2015**

**Wurstmarkt**

Sunday, April 19 at the DKV Hall

12 noon-5 pm

**Homemade Sausage Dinner & 5 lb. bags of fresh sausage for sale**

It really is good, folks, and the proceeds benefit our Youth Group!
Kirchweih  
Sunday, August 24, 2014
German Celebration of the Harvest & Church Consecration

This year at the Kirchweih, as we have for many years now, we celebrated the consecration of the church back home. The ribboned rosemary stalk was presented by the Jugendgruppe couple, auctioned to the young men, and given to the highest bidder ceremonially. We honor our Donauschwaben roots by dressing in traditional tracht or costume, and receive the help of those who remember the right way to tie the shawls! Thanks to all who put together the event starting with the Catholic mass mostly in German, and of course the dancing, and the hearty meal that followed!
Buwe, was ham’r Heit? Kirweih!

Boys, what do we have today? Kirchweih!
Deutscher Weihnachtsgottesdienst

at Peace Lutheran Church
The Damenchor of the German Cultural Society sing
and the children of Peace Lutheran School (grades 4-8) perform
at the German Christmas Worship Service

Ethnic refreshments follow the service

Sunday December 14, 2:30 pm

Peace Lutheran Church
737 Barracksvieu Road, St. Louis, MO 63125
(One mile west of Jefferson Barracks Bridge near Telegraph and I-255)

Entire service in German
with English help provided

For further information call:
The Rev. Dennis A. Kastens, Pastor, 314-892-5610
or Käthe Tullmann, 314-842-6798
Hello German Kindergarten families!!

Hard to believe that the summer and fall are already over!! I hope you all had a wonderful summer break and made some unforgettable memories!!

Now that school started, the start of our new German Kindergarten year is here, and we would love to see you all back!!

Attached is our schedule for the rest of this year - we changed it up a little bit, adding a few new things. I hope you all like it!

As I will be taking a break for new baby, the GCS is looking for help with the kindergarteners for the rest of the year. Please consider helping out.

Thanks, Janine Jordan
Instructor, German Kindergarten Group

Most 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 9:30 am
3652 South Jefferson Ave. St. Louis, 63118
Park & enter in rear of building

Contact for more information:
Janine Jordan, janine.solga@hotmail.com

2014-2015 Deutscher Kindergarten Schedule Subject to change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dezember - December</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12-13-14</td>
<td>Weihnachtsfeier - Wichteln</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-21-14</td>
<td>Deutsche Weihnachtsfeier!!</td>
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<th>Januar - January</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01-10-15</td>
<td>Jahreszeiten und Wetter!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01-24-15</td>
<td>Seasons and weather!</td>
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<tr>
<td>01-10-15</td>
<td>Verkehrsmitte - Transportation</td>
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<tr>
<th>Februar - February</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02-14-15</td>
<td>Valentines Party!</td>
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<tr>
<td>02-28-15</td>
<td>Karneval/Maerchen - Carneval and Fairy tales</td>
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<tr>
<th>Maerz - March</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>03-14-15</td>
<td>Sport - sport</td>
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<tr>
<td>03-28-15</td>
<td>Ostern</td>
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<th>April - April</th>
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<tr>
<td>04-11-15</td>
<td>Zirkus/Zoo - Circus/Zoo</td>
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<tr>
<td>04-25-15</td>
<td>Urlaub - Vacation</td>
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<th>Mai - May</th>
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<tr>
<td>05-09-15</td>
<td>11 am location TBA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Picknick - End of year picnic</td>
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The Kinder-Tanzgruppe

We start with the youngest Kind(er) at age three to the more "seasoned" Kind(er) at the age of nine. With the Kinder-Tanzgruppe (Children's dance group), the parents, relatives, friends and volunteers all play a vital role in providing a little German culture and tradition.

Benefits of joining the Kinder-Tanzgruppe:
• Dancing helps develop coordination, confidence and team work
• Provides an opportunity to learn a little more about German culture and make new friends
You don't have to be German to Dance!
We look forward to seeing you!

For more information contact:
Birgit Sterzl McMullen,
Dance Instructor
618-654-1340 or
314-852-1340

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www.almosteurope.net
Report from the Deutschmeister Brass Band

Just one more German night at Bevo Mill and Weihnachtsfeier to go and the Deutschmeister Brass Band will have its 51st season complete. They say time flies when you’re having fun. Well, 2014 sure seems to have flown by.

After a long absence, we played at Grant’s Farm this year. We were booked by Edward Jones & Co. to play for their annual partners’ meeting. The organizer decided he wanted a German theme. We won the competition for the booking. Just so happened that they had a Clydesdale on display for their attendees. Just so happened that we had recently added the Budweiser song to our repertoire. Just so happened that yours truly was making a video of our performance at the right time. For those of you who are reading the electronic version of the newsletter click on this link and you will see that you really do get what you play for. Found on Youtube.  www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=8zgLTPiCMmU

Another unusual booking was for the annual fly-in for the Cessna 170 owners association. It was held at Creve Coeur airport. We played on the aircraft parking ramp. Another case of an organizer who had a wonderful idea for a banquet. Make it a German theme. (If this catches on we will have to register our name with the all the German food catering companies in town.)

We returned to the St. Charles Oktoberfest after a short absence and made our second appearance at the Urban Chestnut Brewery, which is also our first booking for 2015. One long time event we didn’t play for this year was the St. Louis Zoo Ottertoberfest. They down-sized to small combo’s this year. We also played for a Naked lady, the statue. www.realtimestl.com/23114

The winner of this edition of our continuing series of band member profiles is Mary Weber. If this profile were to have a title it would be something like, “Groupie Makes Good”. Mary and her husband David have been following the Deutschmeister as audience members for 45 years. Their first date was at our hall for a Deutschmeister performance. Thanks to encouragement from Moni Schiro, Mary joined the band in 2004. Her immediate dedication was noticed, and she was elected Secretary/Treasurer of the band in 2005, a post she has held continuously since then.

Mary started playing the clarinet in the 4th grade in Granite City. She continued playing at Collinsville High School and for two years at SIU. In addition to our band, she also has been playing with the Troy Community Band for seven years. She believes that you can’t beat beer and German music.

We are always looking for more members for the band. No audition required, just knowledge of which end of the horn to put in your mouth. (Getting a microphone is another matter.) For information on joining the band, or for booking information contact John Ampleman at 636-532-0290 or go to: www.germanband.com.

Reported by John Ampleman
Day of German Unity

The Day of German Unity (Tag der Deutschen Einheit) is the national holiday of Germany, celebrated on October 3rd as a public and legal holiday. It commemorates the fall of the Berlin Wall on the 9th of November in 1989, a date that marked the end of the Cold War and paved the way for German reunification barely a year later. The Unification Treaty, signed on the 20th of September in 1990, united the Federal Republic of Germany and the Democratic Republic of Germany to create one single, federal Germany on October 3, 1990.

Governmental buildings, post offices, banks and many businesses are closed. Each year a different city hosts the national celebrations (Einheitsfeier). In Berlin, the historical event is celebrated with a three-day festival around the Brandenburg Gate and the Straße des 17. Juni. Various stages host live bands and booths sell food and drinks.

Background

Following World War II, the area that was Germany was divided into four military sectors controlled by France, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the Soviet Union. In 1949, the sectors controlled by France, the United Kingdom, and the United States became the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany). The sector controlled by the Soviet Union became the German Democratic Republic (East Germany), which in Germany is referred to as the Deutsche Demokratische Republik (DDR).

In 1961, this split was manifested by the Berlin Wall, which didn’t just stretch through Berlin, as the name might suggest, but across the entire country, separating entire families for decades.

The two countries developed very different political and economic systems. The political tensions in post-war Europe resulted in very little contact between the inhabitants of the two Germanys. Life in the DDR was characterized by harsh political repression. Thousands of inhabitants were kept under surveillance by the infamous East German secret police, the Stasi (“Ministerium für Staatssicherheit” or “Ministry for State Security”). At least 137 people died trying to escape from the DDR.

On September 4, 1989, citizens of Leipzig protested peacefully against the DDR government. More so-called “Monday demonstrations” soon took place in other cities across the DDR. The protests called for political reform and to open the borders.

On November 9, 1989, the checkpoints between the two countries were opened and people were allowed to travel freely. This date marked the “fall” of the Berlin wall. These events lead to political change. Democratic elections paved the way for unity in the German Democratic Republic on March 18, 1990. The “Treaty of Unification” was signed by both countries’ leaders in August that year. Finally, Germany’s unification became official on October 3, 1990.

The reason for setting October 3rd as the possible Day of Unity was decided by the Volkskammer (GDR Congress) upon the impending economic and political collapse of the GDR. The Helsinki Conference was set for October 2nd, with elections in the GDR on October 14th, and a common election for the entire country on December 2nd.

The decision on the date was finally made August 22nd at a special session of the Volkskammer. After heated debate, the President of the Volkskammer, Sabine Bergmann-Pohl, announced the results at 2:30 am on 23 August:

“The Volkskammer decides on the accession of the GDR to the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Germany according to Article 23 of the Basic Laws effective as of 3 October 1990. In the matter Nr. 201 there have been 363 votes. There were no invalid votes. 294 deputies have voted ‘yes.’

“62 deputies have voted ‘no’, and 7 people abstained. This is a historic event. Ladies and Gentlemen, I believe that we have not made an easy decision, but today we have acted within our responsibilities of the voting rights of the citizens of the GDR. I thank everybody that this result was made possible by a consensus across party lines.”

But not all Germans celebrate their national holiday. The Einheitsfeier is an annual reminder to check how unified the country really is. Economically, the federal states belonging to the former East Germany are lagging behind by about a third. Workers in Brandenburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Saxony, and Thuringia earn significantly less on average, while 80 percent of western Germans have never been to the east. Unity looks a little incomplete.

There are a few things to keep in mind, though: pensions in the west are much lower than those in the east, even though living costs are significantly higher. The discrepancies haven’t disappeared, but they are evenly distributed. Incomes are lower in eastern Germany, but prices are also lower, so the standard of living for most citizens is comparable. The infrastructure on both sides is run down, women earn less than men everywhere in Germany. Eastern and western Germans both believe each other to be totally different, but they agree on what matters most to them: wages, family, friends, and relationships. The freedom considered to be most important by both is freedom of expression.
Totengedenkfeier

A memorial tribute at the Donauschwaben Memorial at Sunset Burial Park was held Sunday, November 2, 2014. Thanks to all for weathering the cold to honor our deceased peoples.

Ribbons were presented by President and Vice President at the Totengedenkfeier to those who were expelled from their homes in attendance. The following was said by the President:

"Heute treffen wir uns in der Hoffnung dass diese Stätte ein Mahnmal, ein Treffpunkt, sowie eine Brücke zur Vergangenheit bleibt, die auch unsere Kinder und die zukünftige Generationen in Ehren gehalten wird. Therefore we present this ribbon to acknowledge the surviving expellees who are still with us and to help us remember those who now rest in eternal peace."

Hilde Frank
Roland Thalheimer
Katherine Freiling
Rudy Sterzl
Maria Irovic
Eva Goepfert
Johanna Kleiber
Franciska Kaiser
Anna Kump
Richard Fischer
Joseph Messmer
Caroline Messmer
Anna Pappert
Anna Ruppe

Rose Lengerfelder
Katie Scheffel
Anna Goetz
Mathias Fett
Katherina Heitzman
Michael Welker
Theresa Welker
Margaret Maus (Nick †)
Margaret Maus (Mathias †)
Michael Wendl
Anna Achs
Eva Fischer
Leni Glassl

Katherine Martin
Katherine Wolz
Katherine Tullmann
Erika Kaiser
Aline Thalheimer
Therese Neulinger
Maria Thalheimer
Henry Erk
Resi Opelz
Susi Pelech
Frank Hummel
Leni Hummel
Katherine Harnacher

Please speak up, and let us know if you are a member of the German Cultural Society who had been expelled from eastern Europe during and after WWII. We would greatly appreciate the opportunity to recognize you on this anniversary of 60 years!
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The German Cultural Society & the German School Association

German Christmas Celebration

2013 Weihnachtsfeier

Sunday, December 21, 2014

Doors open at 1:00 p.m.
Hear the Deutschmeister Brass Band
perform carols starting at 2:00 p.m.
at the German Cultural Society Hall

Performing are: Students of the German School Association,
The German Cultural Society Kindergarten
and The Damenchor

SANTA will visit at the end of the program with presents for all children

Coffee, Soda, and Christmas cookies will be provided for all.
Traditional Glühwein & Schmalzbrot will be available for purchase.

A small donation per person is requested at the door • Proceeds benefit the German School Association
The Jugendgruppe of the German Cultural Society Cordially invites you to their Annual

ROSENBALL

Saturday, March 7, 2015, 8:00 p.m.

Kitchen opens at 6:00 p.m.

at the German Cultural Society Hall
3652 South Jefferson Avenue

Admission $15.00
Children 10 and under are free

Traditional German Food & Drink
Music by Die Spitzbuam
Correction to the Naked Truth Statue location:
The location of the statue is GPS LATITUDE: 38 degrees, 36’22” NORTH

ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT STATUE

© MJWendt September 9th, 2014

LOCATION: South St. Louis/Tower Grove Park
Center of E/W Main Drive near Lily Pond

ADDRESS: TOWER GROVE PARK
4256 Magnolia Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63110

DIRECTIONS: Enter TG Park from either Grand (E), Arsenal
(S) Magnolia (N) or Kingshighway (W) and
proceed toward Lily Pond area inside Park.

PARKING: Free parking on Street next to Statue

INTERNET: Website: http://exhibits.sipl.org/
germanamericana/data/SiteDetail240012778.asp

GPS LATITUDE: 38°36‘22”NORTH
GPS LONGITUDE: 90°15‘15”WEST

© MJWendt September 9th, 2014

The statue commemorates Alexander Von Humboldt (September 14, 1769 – May 6, 1859). Born in Berlin, Germany, Humboldt had close ties to America. He knew and corresponded with Thomas Jefferson, Albert Gallatin, John Fremont, James Madison, and others, and was himself a noted scientist. The monument, an important symbol of pride for the large German community in St. Louis, was erected by Henry Shaw, the St. Louis businessman and philanthropist who established Tower Grove Park and the Missouri Botanical Garden. The statue and relief were designed and cast by Ferdinand von Miller (1842-1929) at the Royal Bronze Factory in Munich. George Barnett designed the statue base. The statue was unveiled by Mayor Overstolz, the first German Mayor of St. Louis on November 24, 1878.

Humboldt explored the coast of Venezuela, the Amazon and Orinoco Rivers, and much of Peru, Ecuador, Colombia and Mexico. Humboldt discovered what is now called the Humboldt Current off the west coast of South America. He was the first European to recognize the need to preserve the cinchona plant (its bark contains quinine, which is used to cure malaria). His last work was his multi-volume book, Kosmos, which tried to unify all of science. Humboldt died at age 90 and is buried in Tege, Germany. Many landmarks in the Americas, including a river, a mountain range, a reservoir, a salt marsh, parks, many counties and towns are named for Humboldt. On the moon, the Mare Humboldtianum (Humboldt’s Sea) was named for Humboldt.
The Jugendgruppe of the German Cultural Society (GCS) thanks the Stiftung and was proud to have the opportunity to represent the German-Americans of St. Louis in our travels to Europe. We are also thankful to the partnership with the Landesverband whom without, this program would not be possible. The GCS mission is to foster and practice our culture, customs and folklore in all its forms...meaning language, music, song, dance, crafts, sports and good fellowship—Gemuetlichkeit. The group of 26 Jugend and chaperones started in Zsambék, Ungarn with a program that was themed based on a return to the homeland from descendants of the new home in St. Louis, MO USA and ended with the new traditions/dances which will both keep the connections to our heritage and continue into the future.

Dances of the first part of the program were presented as a preservation of the past traditions and culture from the Germanic Homelands (from Welttreffen Zukunft gestalten, Tradition bewahren, Weltweit Zuhause) through the emigration to America building a new home and initiating new/modern dance traditions to continue into the future. This section of the program also included poem; Heimweh nach Heimat and songs including Wo Die Donau Fliesst nach Sueden, remembering the areas through which the Danube flows to the south through Germany into Hungary. The new German program consisted of a potpourri of schottische, polka, waltz, tango and new folk dances most of which were choreographed by the leadership and members of the St Louis Jugendgruppe. A medley of songs were sung and the poem Neue Traume neue Plaene emphasized the current homeland.

The American section of the program continued with new traditions and was themed in celebration of the 250th anniversary of St. Louis. A review of St. Louis music and dances starting with the Ragtime (St. Louis Rag from 1895) dancing through the years to the present. Ragtime 1895-1918 started with St. Louis Rag composed by Thomas Turpin considered the Father of St. Louis Ragtime” was the owner of the famous “Rose Bud Café” where Joplin played the piano. The STL Ragtime was published 1903, Joplin is considered the King of Ragtime and tied to Germany since Joplin first traveled to St Louis in 1885 and met German-born music teacher Julius Weiss who trained him to read music and exposed him to polkas, old-world folk, and classical music. Ragtime is music played in “ragged” or off-the beat time. STL was the center for Ragtime music which preceded Jazz & Blues 1910-1950 “The Father of the Blues” W. C. Handy. Swing/Jitterbug 1935-1946, Rap 2000’s section started with a focus on the song “Country Grammar” by St. Louis-based rapper Nelly - who debuted with the monster hit “Country Grammar” proves that hip-hop has moved farther away from bi-coastal domination. A couple of Bluegrass songs sung as a duet lead into the final sections of the program: Blue Grass 1930s to mid-1940s which the topical and narrative themes of many bluegrass songs are highly reminiscent of folk music. In fact, many songs that are widely considered to be bluegrass are in reality older works legitimately classified as folk or old-time music that are performed in the bluegrass style and these songs are often played at shows, festivals and jams. The finale was of course, Country and ended with a salute to the new homeland: It’s America!

We express our utmost thanks for all of the support for the Jugendgruppe throughout this trip including all of the wonderful hosts in the cities we visited: Zsambék and Szár - Ungarn, Wien and Salzburg – Oesterreich, and Ulm, Reutlingen, and Sindelfingen – Deutschland.

A special thanks to those who helped in the planning of this trip and event. There are many individuals of all ages who continue to assure that we continue our culture and the preservation and growth of our heritage.
07-02-14 Wednesday – Arrival 8:55am in Budapest, Hungary. Destination via tour bus to our first town Zsámbék, (in German: Schambeck).

11:30am–Arrival in Zsámbék accommodations at the Schloßschule (school), everyone stayed together in the school gymnasium with surprisingly comfortable foam mattresses & pillows, with plenty of showers and restrooms at our disposal.

12:00pm–Lunch/dinner was family style at the Schwaben restaurant in Zsámbék (Schambek).

4:00pm–Guided tour in English of the world famous Ruinenkirche—church ruins from the war, which was the backdrop for our performance.

6:30pm–Toured the Hungarian-German Heimatmuseum which was 300 years old with antique painted furniture, Tracht and other significant items.

07-03-14 Thursday – Zsámbék (Schambeck)

8:00am–Breakfast; received packed “lunchboxes” to take with us for the day.

9:30am–Destination: Perbál, a neighboring village, 4 km from Zsámbék. It so happens that Perbál was also the birthplace of Maria Sterzl, mother of Rosemarie and Birgit! They were even able to meet their mother’s cousin and found relative’s names in the church record books. After touring the Parish house, the historical church and cemetery, we returned to the church garden for beverages and to eat some delicious Pogatschen - slightly sweet bread cakes with fruit and some with salt and seeds on top.

11:30am–Destination: Esztergom

An English guide took us through the Cathedral of Esztergom. We walked many steps (over 300) up to the top of the historical church and cemetery, we returned to the church garden for beverages and to eat some delicious Pogatschen - slightly sweet bread cakes with fruit and some with salt and seeds on top.
dome in a small spiral single step staircase. Once on top we could actually walk single file around the fenced in outside of the dome and here we had a wonderful view of the city and the Danube Bend.

7:00pm–Dinner: Kettle Bean Goulash dinner (Kesselbohnengulasch) in the Barrel Basement Restaurant in the neighboring town of Tök. After dinner with the accompaniment of an accordion player, we were taught an old Donaustädter song by Saundra Fuchs, leader of the Lochberg Tanzgruppe.

07-04-14 Friday–Zsámbék

10:30-12:00pm–Dance practice together with the Lochberg Tanzgruppe, they taught us one of their dances and we taught them one of our friendship dances.

1:00pm–Destination Budapest a visit to the Castle District and free time to tour the city.

5:00pm–Dinner

7:00pm Galaprogramm in Zsámbék–Program opened by Zsolt Csenger-Zalán, Mayor of Zsámbék and Member of Parliament. Speeches were made and we presented the mayor a letter from our Mayor in St Louis along with gifts to our wonderful hosts, the Lochberg Tanzgruppe. Our full performance was outdoors on a stage with the Ruinenkirche as the backdrop. The Lochberg Tanzgruppe amazed us with an extremely wonderful professional performance in between our dance sets.

07-05-14 Saturday–Farewell breakfast with our Zsámbék hosts

9:00am–Destination: Saar, Hungary. Met host families

Spent afternoon at the beach of a nearby lake; a packed lunch was provided by our host families.

Evening: Outdoor–18th Birthday party celebration with the Saar dance group for one of their young men. Lots of food, drinks and dancing! Below is a picture of a banner made in honor of the two groups celebrating the 18th Birthday!

7-6-14 Sunday–Morning: history walking tour of Saar

Afternoon/Evening Bierfest–performance of Donaustädter and American program.

The evening continued with dancing under the tent with live music from the Mondshein Kapella. We had lots of fun dancing and singing with everyone.

07-07-14 Monday–8:00am–Destination: Vienna, Austria

Arrival at the Schwaben club where we were offered a light lunch and beverages. As we prepared for our program (Donaustädter & American) the guests began arriving their very small hall, dinner for all was included in this event with the specialty of Spanferkel–Roasted suckling pig!

Overnight accommodations: Jugendgästehaus (youth hostel) Wien-Brigittenau

07/08/14 Thursday–8:00 am–Sightseeing in Vienna

We had a guided tour from Rikki, one of the ladies from the Schwaben club who spoke perfect English.

We visited the Heldenplatz in the inner city of Vienna and even saw some of the famous Lipizzaner horses.

We visited the famous Hofzuckerbackerei Demel well known for the finest pastries and deserts of all Austria.

1:30pm–Lunch was at the Wienerwald Restaurant courtesy of the City of Vienna.

Toured the beautiful Schloss Schönbrun castle with an English spoken tour guide heard on individual headsets.

Dinner at Mayer am Pfarrplatz–We had a wonderful dinner outside in the wine garden, and even sang our German medley of songs until it rained and we then loaded the bus for the youth hostel. The house that surrounded the wine garden was the house where Beethoven lived in the year 1817, renovated in 1990.

Upon returning to the youth hostel, we watched the Brazil/Deutschland Soccer game in the lobby-Deutschland Won!!!
07-09-14 Wednesday–7:00am–Destination Salzburg, Austria (The following things on this day were not on our original itinerary but were planned unknown to us. This should have been our free day off.)

Arrived at hotel, had lunch and met our guide. We were filmed on camera throughout our ‘sightseeing tour’ in the city of Salzburg. They were making a documentary type-film to be shown online and possibly on TV. (Not able to view as of yet.) We had a very cold, wet, damp day to tour through the city. Along the way, during the city tour we took a small shopping stop for dirndls & lederhosen.

We had a Donauschwaben only performance for some members of a very small club. They were very gracious hosts with food and drink and among them were friends and relations of Matt Young and Tricia Heddell.

Overnight stay at our hotel.

07-10-14 Thursday–8:00am Destination: Neuschwanstein Castle Sightseeing, lunch and shopping in Neuschwanstein.

3:55pm–Neuschwanstein Castle tour in English

Destination: Ulm–5:00pm arrival in Ulm at the Donauschwaben Central Museum (DZM). Met our host families and then walked to the Donaufest grounds. Dinner hosted by the Ulm group at the Donaufest.

07-11-14 Friday–Ulm–11:00am toured the DZM museum and learned a lot of Donauschwaben history.

1:00pm–Performance -Neustadt Ulm side of the Donau.

3:00 pm – performance: Donauschwaben & American Program at the Weindorf stage at the Donaufest.

Becky Warren and Reiner & Christoph Lorenz all had relatives in the audience that were from Augsburg and Bobingen. Lunch, dinner and drink tickets were given to all of us and the rest of the day and evening was spent having fun at the Donaufest.

Vienna Castle Schoenbrunn

07-12-14 Saturday–8:00am–Meet at the DZM, farewells to our hosts

10:00am–Destination: Reutlingen–Arrival at the Kemmlerhalle-Betzingen, had lunch, met up with our friends from the Banater Trachtengruppe (who had visited and performed at the DKV last fall) and met our host families.

2:00pm–Kirchweihgottesdienst–Kirchweih church service in Mauritius Church in Betzingen in full Tracht attire.

3:00pm–Following the full church service all of the Kirchweih guests (consisting of 10 Trachtengruppen) were led by a brass band in a parade through Betzingen back to the Kemmlerhalle for Kirchweih festivities.

Welcome speeches and thank yous came from Christine Neu, director of the Donauschwaben Circle Organization in Reutlingen to all honored guests that were in attendance.

The Banater Kirchweih festivities were celebrated in Neu-panater Art style, and every Trachtengruppe performed at least three dances to debut each group. We highlighted all of the dancing by performing the friendship dance, Dra Di, with our friends in the Banater Trachtengruppe.

7:00pm–Performance of our American program.

8:00pm–Evening Ball in the Kemmlerhalle with a popular upbeat German band that entertained everyone for their dancing pleasure until 2:00 in the morning!

07-13-14 Sunday–7:30am–Met at Kemmlerhalle and said our farewell to hosts

Destination: Sindelfingen, Stuttgart (Germany) (not originally on our itinerary)

Haus der Donauschwaben—the central ‘home’ of all Donauschwaben. We were greeted by our hostess Frau Mojem (Hanni), who gave us a tour of this building which housed a full library of Donauschwaben history, had museum like
rooms that had hand painted original furniture and other items of the era. The conference/dining room also had a large display (glass enclosed) of many different Tracht of the Donauschwaben men, women and even babies.)

After our tour we were treated to a delicious lunch.

2:00pm–Performance: we performed (Donauschwaben & American program) in the theatre hall, on stage in front of approximately 150 or more invited guests. Stefan Ihas the president of the Weltdachverband made an extra trip to Sindelfingen to attend the performance. Our friends from Saar were also there to perform their dances. Coffee and cake followed the performances.

Here, in the Haus der Donauschwaben, we made history as this was the first time that there were two Donauschwaben groups, from 2 different countries under the same roof performing in the same place—all with the same intentions of keeping our Donauschwaben heritage alive.

6:00pm—We said our goodbyes and left with sweet gifts from Hanni.

Destination: Munich  Overnight hotel stay in Munich

Watched the Weltmeisterschaft Soccer Games and saw Deutschland win!!

07/14/14 Monday – 9:30am flight leaving Munich

Destination: home…St Louis, Missouri USA

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Look for the continuation of the adventure in Europe in the next edition, including the Donaufest in Reutlingen!

For more information about joining the Jugendgruppe, please contact Rosemarie Ficken 314-487-3969.
Dedication of Knapstein Place sign

The dedication of a sign giving Providence Place the honorary designation of Knapstein Place was held November 15th on Providence Place and Michigan Avenue, just east of the historic German St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church.

The one-block street was named Knapstein Place before the St. Louis Board of Aldermen renamed it in 1918. It was one of six streets with German-sounding names in St. Louis that were renamed that year during the anti-German hysteria of World War I.

Knapstein Place was named for Frank Knapstein, a German immigrant and South Side building contractor who put up homes on the street. About 30 to 35 of his descendants attended the dedication, some from out of town. Public officials, people from the community and representatives of local German-American organizations attended.

The street will remain Providence Place. But signs at Providence and Michigan and Providence and Minnesota Avenue will remain. The designation will serve as a reminder of its history.

St. Louis Alderman Craig Schmid, D-20th Ward, introduced legislation calling for the honorary designation at the request of St. Louis author Jim Merkel and the German-American Heritage Society of Saint Louis. Merkel and the society plan to seek the honorary street designation or a marker for the other five streets whose names were changed during World War I.
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Tom Auffenberg
President

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2014 Labor Day Trip  
Tag der Donauschwaben  
Landestreffen in Milwaukee

The American dance program from the Jugendgruppe Europa tour, as well as the traditional dances were performed at the Tag der Donauschwaben.
A new friend from California was made.
Sock Hop 2014 (Our very first!)

The German Cultural Society had a Rockin’ good time Sunday, Nov. 16 as the Mittere Tanzgruppe sponsored their first Sock Hop! We were well attended by family and friends even though the weather decided to send us a little early snowfall.

What is a sock hop? The sock hop was a dance event in the 1940 and 50’s typically held in a highschool gym. The term “sock hop” came about because dancers were required to remove their hard soled shoes to protect the varnished floor of the gymnasium. The widespread popularity of sneakers and other types of indoor shoes such as “saddle shoes” ended the practice of removing the shoes at the dances. But, the name “sock hop” stuck around.

The music was typically played by a disk jockey and we had TKO DJ’s play top 50’s hits for us after the group performed. I asked any of the youthgroup that did not go to Europe to join in for this first event and 6 kids helped out. Ella Eder, Morgan Allen, Katarina Meinberg, Max Meinberg, Veronica Vander Pluym and Emily Vander Pluym. They were a great help, great mentors and a lot of fun! They helped bridge the way for our kids who are moving up to the youthgroup this January. Sydney Ballew, Rebecca Bauer, Alex Hoffman and Kirsten Hardt. This was their final dance with Middle Group and we stepped it up a notch for the final dance number “Rock Around the Clock”. They really did great and I believe had a great time as well!

All the kids performed several dances to different styles from the 50’s. We started with the Stroll and a basic jitterbug. We also did a dance with hand-jive and Charleston moves. We couldn’t leave out the twist and finally the lindy hop, jitterswing moves.

To create a 50’s look in the hall, we decorated the ceiling by hanging vinyl records and fuzzy dice. The tables were decorated with cola glasses that looked like floats. Speaking of floats, we sold rootbeer, cola and orange cream floats. We had burgers and hot dogs, popcorn and other fun snacks. The hall looked great and everyone had a great time. Last but not least, we had success in raising a large sum for hall maintenance repairs.

I cannot thank enough all those who participated, donated time, talent and food! Our kids are fantastic and I am so proud of all of them! I cannot wait to see what 2015 brings. We will hold another sock hop next November and hope that if you missed it this year, you will come have fun with us next year!

Ruthie,
Mittlere Tanzgruppe Instructor
NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION
(SYLVESTER FEIER)

Sponsored by The German Cultural Society

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(Parking is on the Top of the Hill Behind our Building)
Gardening Club

7.14.14–Summer–Hello vacationing gardeners!
If you’re vacationing that just means your garden is running amok or drying up as the case may be. The upper section at the hall is weeding up something fierce. Donau-Park is faring much better.

This year the plant sale was held during the Wurstmarkt in the hall. It wasn’t nearly as much fun as when it’s held at the Maifest outdoors. The garden club members appreciate all who attended and looked and thank those who bought some worthy plants to give them a loving home. Last year’s “take” was so good we were able to donate the money from this year’s “take”. Half went to the choir for the upcoming 50th Anniversary concert this fall, the other half went to the dance group toward their European tour which is as of this writing only a distant [fond/hectic] memory.

A few more perennials have been added at the hall and at the Donaupark. It looks so good when established and [the part I particularly like] they require much less maintenance. Mother Nature waters and provides lots of lovely WARM [ha, I should say HOT HOT HOT] sunshine. Surprisingly most of the perennials seem to thrive in that heat. [But I sure don’t. Then there’s the muggy weather..... Ah never mind. Everyone knows good ol’ St Louis weather and has been coping with it for years. We do what we “gotta”]

~~~~~~~~

11.5.14–Autumn
The Oktoberfest was welcomed with the 250 year birthday cake. A bit of minor garden tending was involved before that event. Very little else has been done since. Maybe we'll get a chance to do a bit of "pruning" and Autumn cleanup then the garden will gently be lulled to sleep for the winter. Thanks to everyone for the help and complements throughout the year. Here’s to great coming holidays.

Becky Haas, Garden Club coordinator
Two German WWII POWs are officially remembered at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery

On a cold and snowy November afternoon, two soldiers were officially remembered at one of the oldest national military cemeteries in the US. The only difference between their graves and the more than 178,000 others surrounding them, is that they bear the names of two German WWII Prisoners of War.

This 2014 Volkstrauertag (National Day of Mourning) ceremony was particularly honored with the official presence of Luftwaffe Lt Col (General Staff) Michael von Maltzahn, from the German Embassy, as well as Missouri’s German Honorary Consul, Lansing Hecker, and the leaders from the St. Louis German Cultural Society (GCS), German-American Committee (GAC), and St. Louis-Stuttgart Sister Cities (SLSSC). A ceremonial wreath was placed between the headstones marking the graves of German Army Sgt. Max Suemnick and Cpl. Gustave Pfarrer, who died in June and October of 1944. The German National Hymn was also played in their honor at the ceremony.

The two German soldiers’ final resting places are immaculately maintained on the rolling, green grass hills of the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. During WWII, Missouri was a temporary home for 540 wounded POWs at Jefferson Barracks’ military hospital, south of St. Louis. The cemetery was created in 1826, when Jefferson Barracks was established as the US Army’s first permanent military post west of the Mississippi River. The military personnel buried in the cemetery fought for their country during wars from the American Revolution to current conflicts.

Left to right: Monika Lorenz (GCS), Harrison Billy (GAC), Roy Leimberg (SLSSC) and Luftwaffe Lt Col Michael von Maltzahn
Want to become a member of the German Cultural Society?
Please call us at 314-771-8368 to request a membership application.

**Membership Dues**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Each member</th>
<th>Annual Dues</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senior (62 and over)</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Group Dancers</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle Group Dancers</td>
<td>$  5.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kinder Group Dancers</td>
<td>$  5.00</td>
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At least one parent must be a member for children in the dance groups.

Dues may be paid in person or by check made out to “German Cultural Society” and mailed to:

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

Thank you for your support which is needed & appreciated.

Kathy Stark, Membership

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**Hall & Office**

Deutscher Kulturverein

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www.germanstl.org

**Directions:**

**From I-44:** Take I-44 to the Jefferson Exit. Head south on Jefferson, Go over Gravois Rd. About 2 miles past Gravois it will be on your left hand side. It is a block before where Jefferson, Broadway, and Chippewa come together.

**From I-55:** Take I-55 northbound to the 4500 Broadway exit. Turn left. Proceed on Broadway to S. Jefferson. It will be a block up on the right, once on Jefferson.

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**Donau-Park Facilities in Jefferson County**  
5020 West Four Ridge Road, House Springs, MO 63051

**Directions:**

From I-270, take Highway 21 south past Highway 141 to the 2nd exit, marked “Old Route 21 - Shady Valley”. Go south (left) on Old Rte 21 to West Four Ridge Road. Turn right. The entrance to Donau-Park is the first driveway at the right.
Vereinskalendar  Event Calendar

2014
Sun  DEC  14  Weihnachtsgottesdienst
Peace Lutheran Church German Service
Sun  DEC  21  Weihnachtsfeier
German Christmas Celebration
Wed DEC  31  Silvesterfeier  *  New Years Eve

2015
Sun  JAN  18  Generalversammlung
General Annual Meeting
Sat  JAN  24  Einführung der Vereinsvertreter
Installation of Officers & Group
Sat  MAR  7  Rosenball  *  By the Jugendgruppe
Sat  MAR  21  Trivia Night
at the Jefferson Ave. Hall
Sat  APR  4  Ostereiersuchen - Donau Park
Easter Egg Hunt & Concert
Sun  APR  19  Wurstmarkt
Sat MAY 16, Sun MAY 17  Maifest
Mon JUN 15- Fri JUN 19  Kinder Sommer Verein

Membership Meetings
The Membership Meetings will change times, and will be announced at the Generalversammlung, the General meeting.

Executive Board Meetings
The Executive Board meets on even numbered months (FEB, APR, JUN, AUG, OCT, DEC) on the first Thursday of that month at 7:30 p.m. at our Hall on Jefferson Ave.

* Tickets
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or call 314.771.8368

ALL GERMAN LANGUAGE newsletter submissions are highly appreciated.

Please consider submitting your story or a found story in German!
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German Cultural Society
3652 South Jefferson Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63118

Addressee or current occupant

Newsletter
Published by the German Cultural Society of St. Louis three times each year, and delivered to our members in the first week of April, in the weeks of Independence Day and Thanksgiving.

The Jugendgruppe dancers give a sample of their Europa tour American program for the audience in Milwaukee, WI.