



German Family Society of Akron, Inc.

Deutscher Familien Verein, Akron e.V.

www.germanfamilysociety.com

Facebook: Akron German Family Society

Twitter: @AkronGfs • blog: www.germanfamilysocietyblog.com

3871 Ranfield Road, Brimfield Township/Kent, Ohio 44240 • 330-678-8229 • Email: rstagl@germanfamilysociety.com



A GFS Christmas Story

We've watched generation after generation celebrate Christmas: Kindergruppe and our Jr. Youth Group children performing for moms and dads. Grandparents enjoying little dressed up angels, and families smiling at our young ones, huddled around a makeshift Bethlehem manger. You can see the excitement in the children's eyes as they know Santa will soon be on his way to the Club.

Another tradition is of the lighting of the Blue Candle at Christmas, celebrated by many Donauschwaben families worldwide. This tradition is maintained in memory of all our families that were forced out of their homeland, later establishing roots in many other countries. We all celebrate together and recognize our heritage with so many others during Christmas time with the lighting of the candle.

For 60 years, our Club has kept these traditions strong. Much has changed, but the commitment we make to our young people remains the same. In the early years, our Youth Group would travel to many of their Omas' and Opas' homes around Akron, singing Christmas Carols in both English and German. Hot chocolate, tea and often cookies were brought out to warm the hearts and give a little reprieve from the cold temperatures. As with many youth groups of those past times,

a few word changes were added to timeless sing-a-longs. Among our favorites, "We wish you a Merry Griekst Niks" (sounds like Krix Nix), a Schwob term, translated was "Merry Get Nothing".

The early years were simple times. Many moms remained at home and had their hands full with children but still found time to bake Kuchen and cookies and offered their help dressing up our Christmas program tables. Today, many of our baked goods are still homemade and made with love. There's no question times have changed. Our families today are balancing many activities. It is nice to see that we continue to have so much support for our club and continue our Traditions. Merry Christmas to All





A Message from our President

As this year quickly comes to a close and as we begin to welcome 2016 in a few short weeks, I'd like to reflect back on how the year went for our GFS. In 2015 we reached a milestone for our club celebrating 60 years. Many of us have had the privilege of being a part of this family for most, if not all, of those years. How fortunate we have been to continue to grow in membership and our groups are as large as they've ever been.

There continues to be a level of optimism within our members and we look forward to a bright future for our organization. Our current, new, and young members will continue to experience lifelong friendships and heritage while watching their kids and their future grandkids grow up at our Club. My earliest memories as a child included our time with family and friends, dances, Kinder and Youth groups and German school - first at our German-American Club then moving to Brimfield. Today my kids are young adults but they also have enjoyed the same lifelong experiences that I had. The club has provided the special possibility that one day I might be that Opa bringing my own Grandkids to GFS dance practice! We believe we can continue these traditions and extend friendship and love to our current young families. Spending family time together here at our Club, along with so many other family and friends for years to come, is one of the things that make our club so special.

This year, our two festivals, Olde European/ Kirchweih Fest and Oktoberfest, both experienced rain. We cannot think of a year so unlucky with almost two washout festivals,

but surprisingly the food, beer, and laughter flowed. We've come to realize, as one festival guest commented, "This only happens once a year and we're determined to be here, rain or shine, for the food and entertainment." It seems nowadays that we have a following. Even in steady rain, the cars keep coming in. Thank you all very much to all those that gave time to help. We could not continue these wonderful events if it were not for all of you.

Our Annual Membership Meeting and Elections were held in November and many Board members took their positions once again for 2016. We extend a heartfelt "Thank You" to those that held and worked their positions for 2015. I've said many times how proud I am to be a part of this board. We work together and get things done. We look forward to our upcoming challenges in 2016.

Our annual meeting also saw changes to the organization of our membership statuses and active members voted on those changes. We will be moving to family memberships in January and soon one active or passive membership will cover the entire family. Please be patient with us as with this change we also are adopting new cards and working with a new membership database. Please keep an eye out for letters along with membership forms coming to your mailbox shortly. We will, of course, always keep data internal and never sell or share your information. More information appears in this newsletter.

Lastly I wish to thank all of our members. Every one of us plays a role in our Club's success and we can be proud that we are as strong and popular as we've ever been. Thank You All!

Rudy

Upcoming Events

Christmas Program



Sunday
December 6, 2015
2:00 pm



Easching

Feb 13th, 2016
Doors Open 5:30 pm
Dinner 6:00 pm
Music: Edelweiss Combo (K&C)

NEW YEARS EVE

Dec 31st, 2015
Doors Open 6:00 pm
Dinner 6:30 pm
Music: Eintracht Band



50's 60's Night

with

"Phil N the Blanks"

March 5th 2016
Doors Open 5:30 pm
Dinner 6:00 pm



Vienna Night



Junior Youth Perform
Jan 30th, 2016
Doors Open 5:30 pm
Dinner 6:00 pm

Music: Fred Ziwich Band



Fish Fry

Feb 19th and Feb 26th, 2016
Doors Open 5:30 pm

Benefiting our Youth Programs.

Kindermaskenball

Sunday
Feb 7th, 2016
2:00 pm



Spring Cleaning

March 12th, 2016
9:00 am



Reservations: Eva Lehner (330) 335-8985 OR Renate Moellmann (330)633-3949

If you had not picked up one of our calendars with event dates,
please contact us for one, while supplies last.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

As we had mentioned, a proposal was submitted to the Annual Membership meeting Active members on November 8th to amend the Constitution of our German Family Society with regard to membership.

Upon near unanimous approval we are moving to a Family membership, that this membership covers the entire family. This membership will be adjusted for both active and passive members.

The other amendment change was to upon recommendation of a board member a passive member could be voted on and moved to active status based on their shown dedication and commitment to our club.

Although this was required as a amendment change, the details of costs and adjustments that need to be made are still being determined as that is a Board decision. We dont expect any drastic changes.

We will have letters out to all along with new membership cards that we'll ask to be completed as best as possible. We especially ask if you have an email address to be sure to include. This had become ever important to keep our members updated on current news.

Thank You for your patience with our membership cards and renewals.

Rudy Stagl, President

ARTICLE VI

Membership: The membership shall consist of ACTIVE and PASSIVE members.

a) Active members are the founding members for the years 1973, 1974 & 1975. Founding members are those, who, through their voluntary donations of one hundred dollars or more (\$100.00), made the creation of our new society and the purchase of our real estate possible and real. All active members will have to contribute an annual membership fee to support the society, the amount of which will be decided at the annual meeting.

b) Every active member has a voting right. A married couple will count as two (2) voting members for one (1) membership fee.

c) Rights and Duties: All active members have a voting right at membership meetings and the annual meeting, also, all members may present motions at these meetings. To become an active member, the 18th year of age must be reached.

Newly accepted members will have a voting right after the first three months of membership. An intensive assistance and cooperation in all society affairs is expected from all members.

AMENDMENTS

Concerning Article VI A and B: Every active member must contribute an initial sum of \$100.00 in order to achieve the right to vote at the annual meeting. Married couples have the right to a single vote if they contribute \$100.00; with an initial fee of \$200.00 they shall have the right to two votes.

This proposal to a constitutional change was made by Mr. Paul Hehn, submitted to the board of directors on December 12, 1973, voted on by the active membership at its annual meeting in January 1974, and accepted.

Originally set in 1973 – Active member counted as one vote, Married couples had two votes under one membership.

Amendment Change in 1974 approved one membership one vote. Married couples needed 2 memberships for two votes



Kultur Ecke

Culture Corner

Hello friends,

As the culture adviser of our German club I would like to work foremost with our younger generation. I want to encourage the kids not to forget our origin.

I know that some of the older members work very hard to keep our heritage alive and I also recognize that we have others who need some help keeping our club ancestry an ongoing task.

Please never forget how our ancestors transferred, with hard work, marshland into the breadbasket of Europe. They built new villages, or even cities, called themselves

Donauschwaben and never gave up on their promising future. The foundations was there and we have this foundation at our club as well. Let's ask our younger generation to keep up our ancestors heritage, so we all can be proud of them.

Happy are this people who have their origin deep in their heart.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Sincerely

Anna Koenig

Culture adviser

Hallo liebe Freunde!

Ich möchte mich hauptsächlich mit der jüngeren Generation beschäftigen, da ich sie ermutigen möchte niemals ihre Herkunft zu verlieren.

Ich weiß das einige ältere Mitglieder sehr gute Arbeit leisten, aber ich sehe auch das wir ein

paar anderen unter die Arme greifen müssen, damit unsere Herkunft nicht in Vergessenheit gerät.

Bitte vergesst niemals wie unsere Urahnen damals, durch harte Arbeit, eine Sumpflandschaft in die Kornkammer Europas verwandelt haben. Sie haben neue Dörfer entstehen lassen, oder sogar Städte, haben sich selber.

Donauschwaben genannt und haben nie die Hoffnung auf eine neue, unbekannte Zukunft aufgegeben. Der Grundstock war damals da und wir haben dieses Fundament auch heute noch im Club. Lasst uns unsere jüngere Generation bitten den Stolz unserer Vorfahren hochzuhalten, damit wir alle gemeinsam stolz auf sie sein können.

Glücklich sind die Leute wenn sie ihre Herkunft tief im Herzen haben.

Frohe Weihnacht und ein wundervolles neues Jahr

Gruß

Anna König

Kulturberaterin

Family Fun Facts

Elections were held for both the Ladies Group and our Board of Directors. We'd like to introduce you to a few of our leaders and share how they came to be part of our club. Many came to America as children! We had an opportunity to interview Ladies' President Helga Hippich, and our Ladies' Vice Presidents Theresa Koberlein and Anna Rickert.

Our Ladies President **Helga Hippich** was born in Isny, Germany. At the age of 5 months, and with her four year old brother Frank, their parents Theresai and Joe Guld decided to move the family to America. From Ellis Island they continued on and joined relatives living in the Akron area. Helga recalled her most memorable time was when she joined the Youth Group at age 13. The age had just been adjusted down a year and she had so looked forward to it.



Her father, carpenter by trade, moved the family to Grant St. in Akron and with the help of friends from the club, they remodeled their home. Then came along a new sister, Theresa, and with the expansion of the family and ongoing urban renewal in the area, they decided to build a new home in Northampton. Shortly after, Joe started his own business, Joe

Guld Custom Kitchens, and they all helped out with the business.

She went to St. Bernard's Elementary School until the 5th grade and then transferred to Woodridge Schools. She attended Akron University and graduated with a degree in Elementary Education. Helga met her husband Gregg during her time in the Youth Group. They married in 1971 and brought two children into the world. Bryan, their son, now works as an IBM Service Rep and Kristen, their daughter, is a RN at the Columbus Riverside Hospital in the NICU department. Today, they also have six wonderful grandchildren: Emily, Katelyn, Kylee, Madalyn, Gianna and Alex.

Helga has been on the Frauengruppe Board for 22 years and has served as President for the last 16 years. We asked her what the Club means to her. She had to say: "The Club is an extended family to me. My nearest and dearest friends have been people I have met through the club before and during my youth group days. I have enjoyed watching kids transition from the Kinder Group through the Youth Group and grow into wonderful young adults who have become committed members of our German Family Society."

Theresa Koberlein was born in Bavaria Germany in 1948. Her parents made the move to America in 1952 with Theresa and her two brothers, one being Chris Spreitzer, a lifelong member and our current Bar Treasurer!

Theresa joined the Youth Group when she was 13 and quickly made numerous friends at the German American club in Akron. She grew up in Cuyahoga Falls and attended Immaculate Heart Grade School and later St Vincent's High School. Following that, Theresa earned a degree in Primary Education at Kent State.



Her favorite memory of our Club is when her sister Carol married in 1980, it was her first time at the Club. Anna wanted to know more about our organization and later attended our Club Christmas party where she met her husband Rudy. They were married in October of 1981. She said what made her proud was watching her father-in-law, Joe Rickert, accept so many awards for all that he did in promoting our heritage.

She met her husband Greg during her time in the Youth Group and they married in 1968 with a large wedding at the German American Club -most of their bridal party were also from the Youth Group. Today, they have three grown children: Diana, who is a RN, Kathy, a Dental Hygienist and Craig, is a Chemical Engineer.

They have eight grandchildren, Teddy, Katelyn, Jacob, Krista, Nathan, Paige, Kurt, and Brooke, six of them are involved with the Dance Groups. Greg and Theresa enjoy their days babysitting the grandkids during the week.

Theresa commented: "The Club is our home away from home. We have made so many lifelong friendships here, new and old. I enjoy taking a break from my kitchen duties to watch my Grandchildren and all of the other Children perform."

Anna Rickert was born in Jamaica, Queens, New York in 1953. She grew up on Long Island, went to Catholic Schools all the way up to the Nazareth College in Rochester NY and received her B.S and M.A. in Classroom Teaching of Music as well as Piano Performance.



She has been a classroom music teacher and a private piano teacher, and performer at a variety of musical events. Anna and Rudy have three daughters, Katy, an English Teacher, who currently is at home with her own four kids, Krista, Director at Rubber City Prints and also a Nutritional Advisor and Kara, an Oncology Nurse at Children's Hospital in Denver Colorado. They have four grandchildren, Josh, Lily, Hannah, and Jacob. Anna has been on the Ladies Board for 35 years. In her spare time Anna likes to cook, bake, and loves canning and also enjoys reading and crafting.

We asked as to what the club had meant to her and she added: "The club has been very important to me to attempt to carry on the cultural traditions which are so important to my in-laws as they have devoted their entire life to the Club. I have enjoyed carrying this on within my own family".

We extend our condolences to
the families of:

Filipp Polz
Katharina Meindl
Tony Nüss



STOUFFER REALTY

Whether buying or selling, finding the right home is one of the most important decisions you can make and I would like to be the real estate agent that helps you through the process.



"Working together to find the right key!"
Sue Riemenschneider
REALTOR®

Call or text me today at 330-808-3215

www.SueSellsPortage.com

Email: sue.riemenschneider@yahoo.com

Office: 4030 St. Rte. 43 | Suite 203 | Brimfield



Don't Forget to Make Reservations for ALL Club Events

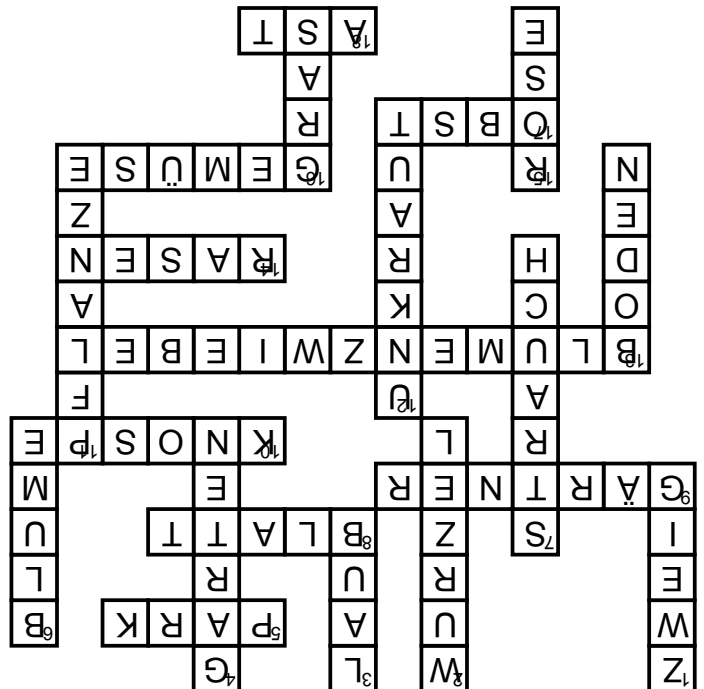
Please Note: We require reservations for our events but if you cannot attend, please, please call and cancel. Our last event, Traubenfest was a sell out and numerous family members turned away.

We had 35 No-Shows which caused many not able to attend and a loss of hundreds of dollars in lost food.

Please be considerate for future events.
Thank You, Rudy

Reservations:

Mrs. Moellmann: 330-633-3949
Mrs. Lehner: 330-335-8985



Answers from page 10

2016 Board of Trustees

President.....	Rudy Stagl
1st Vice President	Michael Rodesheim
2nd Vice President	Frank Ganz
Honorary President.....	Maria Rickert
	Anna Koenig
House Manager	Mike Petzker
Treasurer	Amy Stagl
Assistant Treasurer	Awald Langenfeld
Bar Treasurer	Christian Spreitzer
Ticket Treasurer	Rudy Germeister
Kitchen Treasurer	Betty Leipold
Membership Secretary	Allison Burdeshaw
Recording Secretary	Hilda Rasnick
Corresponding Secretary	Hermine Frischherz
Ladies Group President	Helga Hippich
Bar Trustees	Frank Guld
	John Schwarzinger
	Tony Leipold
	Walt Flach
Park Manager.....	Tom Clark
Park Committee	Fred Leipold
Kulturberater	Anna Koenig
Youth Group Leader	Carri & Steve Sensius
Jr. Youth Group Leaders.....	Carolyn Langenfeld
	Lisa Blaser
Children's Group Leaders	Liz Miller
	Katrina Marmaduke
Tanzgruppe Leaders	Aaron Engelhart
	Steve Sensius
Sports Director	Marty Misbrener
Assistant Sports Director.....	Laurent Majerus
Reservations.....	Renate Moellmann
	Eva Lehner
Decorations	Betty Leipold
Media Goup News.....	Rich Reikowski
Web	Chris Pilz
Photo	David Hall
Public Relations	Sandy Clark
Wurstmeister.....	Fred Misbrener
Beautification Committee	Konrad & Sadie Pilz



German Family Society of Akron
3871 Ranfield Road
Kent, OH 44240

In The Garden!

Across

- 5. Park
- 8. Leaf
- 9. Gardener
- 10. Bud
- 13. Flower bulb
- 14. Lawn
- 16. Vegetable
- 17. Fruit
- 18. Arm of a tree?

Down

- 1. Twig
- 2. Underground part of a plant
- 3. Foliage
- 4. Flowers and vegetables grow here
- 6. Flower
- 7. Shrub or bush
- 11. Plant
- 12. Weed
- 13. Soil
- 15. A kind of fragrant flower
- 16. A lawn is made of this

