

Terre Haute German Oberlander Club



December 2020

From the Board

Thank you to the 22 members who participated in the Club's first ever Zoom membership meeting on November 18th. Participant feedback about the meeting and this format was very positive. Obviously, we'd all prefer to meet in-person, but during these crazy times it seems like Zoom may be a good tool to help keep members engaged and informed about what's happening at the Club.

We will likely conduct the December 16th annual membership meeting via Zoom at 6:00 PM unless the COVID surge here in the Wabash Valley subsides. The board will make a final decision (in-person or Zoom) about this important meeting at their meeting on December 9th. We'll get the word out about the board's decision via email, posts on our Facebook Page and website, and with phone calls to members who haven't provided us an email address.

In anticipation of an on-line meeting decision, we've already scheduled a Zoom meeting so we can include a link in this newsletter for members who do not have an e-mail address on file with Club. To join this Zoom meeting type the following link into the browser on your computer, table or cell phone and follow the prompts to join the meeting. If prompted to use your device's audio and video, click "Ok" or "Yes". You should not have to install the Zoom application as long as you enter this link.

Mark Your Calendar

Wed, 12/09, 6:00 PM: Board of Directors Meeting

Wed, 12/16, 6:00 PM: Annual Membership Meeting

Sat, 01/09, 6:00 PM: Soup Dinner at Club

Wed, 01/13, 6:00 PM: Board of Directors Meeting

Wed, 01/27, 6:00 PM: Membership Meeting

- Happy Hour begins at 5:00 PM

- Business Meeting begins at 6:00 PM

Sun, 01/31: First installment of 2021 Dues are due.

This link will not be available in the newsletter posted on the Club website since membership meetings are not open to public. Members with an e-mail address on file will receive an e-mail invitation to join this meeting 3 to 5 days prior to the meeting.

Finally, we (the board) would like to wish you and your family a safe, peace filled, and joyful holiday season. *Frohe Weihnachten und ein glückliches Neues Jahr!*

2021 Board Election

Election of the 2021 board of directors will occur during the December membership meeting. The newly elected board will elect officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) for the new year at their organizational meeting, which will occur after the membership meeting.

The board is made up of five to 9 members of the Club. Candidates nominated for election to the board must have been a member of the Club for at least 2-years. If you would be willing to serve on the board please contact Spring Wilson (812-201-4568 or Spring1976@msn.com) by December 7th. PLEASE consider getting more involved in the Club by serving on the board.

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1616 Lafayette Ave, Terre Haute, IN 47804



<http://www.terrehautegermanclub.org>



[German Oberlander Club of Terre Haute](#)

Club Dinners

The dinner scheduled for December 12th has been cancelled. This decision was made at the last membership meeting when participants decided it wouldn't be wise to move forward with plans for the dinner because of the surge in COVID cases.

The following dates have tentatively been established for dinners during 2021. However, some dinners may have to be cancelled if COVID restrictions are in-place that limit the size of group gatherings.

Jan 09 - Soup Dinner*	Feb 13	Mar 13
Apr 10	May 08	Jun 12
Jul 10	Aug 14 - Picnic*	Sep - No Dinner**
Oct 09	Nov 13 - Founders Dinner*	Dec 11

*Hosted by the Board of Directors

Oktoberfest tentatively scheduled for Sep 17 & 18

It isn't reasonable to expect the board to host every dinner, so if you have a great recipe and a fun idea for a dinner please pull together a group of friends to help you and host a dinner in 2021. Contact Jim Burgess (812-241-2341 or burgessjames35@gmail.com) to reserve your dinner date today.

2021 Dues

Our new accounting software package gives us the capability to generate and manage invoices, so invoices for 2021 dues will be generated and mailed out in late December. Payment for at least the first 6-months of dues (\$30 or \$60 depending on whether you're single or married) is due by January 31st. Any remaining dues balance, which will be invoiced in June, will be due by July 31st.

Newsletter Distribution

As previously announced, last month we started distributing this newsletter by e-mail to members who have provided the Club an e-mail address. We estimate this change in delivery method will reduce our printing and mailing costs by about \$75.00 to \$100 a month. The newsletter is also available now on our website (<http://terrehautegermanclub.org>).

If you haven't provided us your e-mail address, but you would like to help us continue to reduce the cost of producing and distributing this monthly newsletter, please provide your e-mail address to Spring Wilson (Spring1976@msn.com).

Having a Party? Rent the Club.

Are you looking for a place to hold a birthday or anniversary party, shower, business luncheon or meeting, or maybe a party for your family? If so, the Club may be the ideal place. Especially, since members receive a deep discount on Club rental. For more information or to check availability, contact Spring Wilson at (812) 201-4568 or Spring1976@msn.com.

We Send Cards!

Do you know of a Club member who should receive a card (i.e. get well, sympathy, congratulations, etc.) or needs a word of encouragement? If so, please let us know by contacting Spring Wilson at (812) 201-4568 or Spring1976@msn.com.

New Members

We're excited to announce our newest members Chuck and Isabella Lindner. Chuck and Isabella live here in Terre Haute. Herzlich willkommen!

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Share a Recipe

Do you have a favorite recipe you'd like to share with your friends at the German Club? If so, please provide it to Ron Hinsenkamp (RonH1802@aol.com) and we'll try to include it in a future edition of this newsletter.

Chocolate Spice Bars – German Christmas Cookies

Ingredients:

- 1 stick butter 4 ounces or 1/2 cup
- 2 eggs plus 1 egg white
- 3/4 cup dark brown sugar
- 2-1/2 squares semi-sweet chocolate 1-ounce each
- 1-2/3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon rum
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 3/4 cup coarsely chopped unpeeled almonds
- 1 cup superfine sugar

Instructions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Beat the butter with the whole eggs and the sugar until foamy. Grate the chocolate very finely and add it with the flour, baking powder, cinnamon,

rum, and cloves. Fold in the almonds. You might want to use a very sturdy wooden spoon, as the dough gets very thick.

3. Spread the dough about 1/4-inch thick on a greased baking sheet. Dipping the blade in water helps spread it evenly. Beat the egg white and brush it over the dough.
4. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes, or until a toothpick comes out clean. Carefully move the entire uncut block to a large cake rack. When it is slightly cool, return it to the baking sheet.
5. Mix the superfine sugar with 3 tablespoons water in a small saucepan. Simmer until the sugar is completely dissolved. Spread the frosting on the uncut block while still warm and immediately cut it into 1 1/2-inch x 3-inch bars. Leave the bars together until entirely cool and the frosting is set. Store in an airtight container with parchment paper between each layer. They keep for up to 4 weeks.

Recipe courtesy of Nadia Hasani, Spoonfuls of Germany and German Foods North America (<https://germanfoods.org>)

German Christmas Traditions

Advent calendar (Adventskalender): The Advent calendar is an important countdown to Christmas for German children. Everyday for four weeks preceding Christmas, a window in the advent calendar is opened to reveal a poem, parts of a story, candy or a small gift. Advent calendars flood shops across Germany during this season, while many parents prefer to make their own.

Advent wreath (Adventskranz): The tradition of Advent wreaths was started by German Lutherans in the 16th century, and today the wreath is still an icon of Christmas in Germany. The wreath consists of four candles in a bed of pine cones, berries, dried flowers and Christmas ornaments. Different families have different traditions when it comes to Adventskranz. Some will bring it out during the first week of December and burn one candle every Sunday in the lead up to Christmas. Others will display the advent wreath on the last Sunday before Christmas and have the entire family

sit around it, munching on Christmas delicacies, singing Christmas songs and watching Christmas movies.

Christmas angels (Weihnachtsengel): Christmas angels are some of the most loved Christmas ornaments in Germany. They are put up on Christmas trees and all around the house at Christmas time. The Christmas angels are most commonly made of wood, and are often seen playing their musical instruments. Expect to see thousands of these in any Christmas market in Germany.

Mulled wine (Glühwein): Christmas season in Germany is not complete without mugs of steaming hot Glühwein. This quintessential Christmas beverage is sold in ceramic mugs in all Christmas markets in Germany and is considered vital in beating the winter chill and spreading festive cheer.

Source: <https://theculturetrip.com/europe/germany/articles/15-christmas-traditions-only-germans-will-understand/>

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