

Terre Haute German Oberlander Club



April 2023

FROM THE Board

It's April and blooms are starting to abound. We're happy to get outdoors and enjoy warmer weather and fragrant breezes. Normally we'd be finalizing plans for our first major fundraiser of the year, Strassenfest. However, with the unanimous approval of the members present at the Membership Meeting on March 22nd, the board made the difficult decision to cancel this year's Strassenfest. Many factors led to this decision. Among them are rising food costs, the volunteer effort required to put together and execute a successful fest, and the relatively small projected net profit generated by an on-site fest at the Klub. This doesn't mean the Klub won't have a Strassenfest next year, it simply means the board and the membership will need to reevaluate the feasibility of doing a 2024 Strassenfest.

Does this mean the Klub isn't going to do Oktoberfest too? No, plans for our 50th Annual Oktoberfest at the Wabash Valley Fairgrounds on September 15th and 16th are moving forward. While the board is still concerned about rising costs and the effort it takes to put on a successful fest, we're confident our able-bodied members and volunteers will step up, and the community will continue to support Oktoberfest as it has for the past 50 years.

Going forward, the board and the planning committee will be working on development of some new, less-labor intensive events and ways to increase the Klub's revenue stream. If you have any ideas or would like to be involved in these efforts, please contact any member of the board.

THGOC Board of Directors

Cocktails & Fingernails



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The Klub and Felicia Stewart will be hosting Cocktails & Fingernails on **Friday, 04/21/23**, from **6:00 – 8:00 PM**. This cash only event is \$20.00, which includes one set of *Color Street Nails* and snacks. There will be a cash bar and pizza will be available for purchase.

Bring your mom, your sister, your daughter, your cousin, your aunt, your neighbor, all your friends for an evening of fun. Just **RSVP to Spring at 812-201-4568 by April 16th**.

This event is open to the public, but reservations are required.

Mark Your Calendar

April

Sat, 04/01, 6:00 PM: German Dinner & Music Trivia
Fri, 04/07: Good Friday
Deadline for Francis Sanders Scholarship Applications
Sun, 04/09: Easter
Thu, 04/13, 6:00 PM: Board of Directors Meeting
Fri, 04/21, 6:00 – 8:00 PM: Cocktails & Fingernails
Sat, 04/22, 9:00 AM - ????: Klub Cleanup Day
Wed, 04/26, 6:00 PM: Membership Meeting

- Happy Hour - 5:00 PM
- Business Meeting - 6:00 PM

May

Fri, 05/05, Cinco de Mayo
Thu, 05/12, 6:00 PM: Board of Directors Meeting
Thu, 05/13, 6:00 PM: Membership Dinner
Fri, 05/14: Mother's Day
Wed, 05/24, 6:00 PM: Membership Meeting

- Happy Hour - 5:00 PM
- Business Meeting - 6:00 PM

Mon, 05/29: Memorial Day



For more information about the Klub scan the QR Code or visit us at <http://terrehautegermanKlub.org>.

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2023 Scholarship Program

The application period for the *2023 Francis Sanders Memorial Scholarship* ends April 7th. The scholarship was established in 1974 in honor of Francis Sanders who was a founding member of the Klub and served as our first president. Francis was deeply committed to teaching the German language to young people.

For more information about this scholarship [click here](#) or contact Jessica Buttiglieri at (812) 462-4252 or emailed her at jmb6@vigoschools.org.



Danke!

Thank you to Annelie & Tom Nascimbene, Jim Burgess, Kelly Roberts, Patrick & Cheryl Voll, Rosey Weber, Mike Hopper, and Ron & Susan Hinsenkamp who helped put on the *Terre Haute Rotary Club Luncheon* on 03/07/23. Also, a special thanks to Phil Meyer who made a presentation to the group about Terre Haute German's Heritage and the Klub.

Thanks to everyone who attended the *St. Patrick's Day Dinner* on 03/13/22 and to Jim Burgess, Trisha & Mark Pierce, Stacy & Scot Mullins, Annelie Nascimbene, Jessica Buttiglieri and Phil Meyer who hosted this event.

We also want to thank Barbara Loyd who donated \$100 to purchase an electric roaster in memory of her best friend's mother, Gerta Baker. Gerta joined the Klub on 11/28/90 and passed into her eternal reward 12/16/10.

Finally, we'd like to recognize and thank the following members who spontaneously donated funds to purchase a Philips 55" 4K UHD Roku Smart LED TV for the Klub. Annelie & Tom Nascimbene, Jessica Buttiglieri, Brad Cress, Nancy Walbring in memory of David, Jay Copra and Susan & Ron Hinsenkamp. Also, to Brad, Tom, Ron and Scott Mullins for installing the television.

Holy Week in Germany

The Old High German word *kara*, meaning "care," forms the core of Holy Week. *Karwoche* is the proper name for the week which begins on Palm Sunday and reaches its apex on Easter [Oster] Sunday when the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is celebrated.

Palm branches are distributed on Palm Sunday and worshipers are encouraged to take them home and place them behind a crucifix or painting of Christ. This custom has continued in most Lutheran Churches as well as Roman Catholic Churches. Many congregations have a Palm Sunday processional which begins outside and ends when the congregation enters the sanctuary.

The Mass [Gottesdienst for Lutherans, although many Lutherans also use the term "Mass"] is celebrated on Thursday. This day is called *Gründonnerstag*, that is, "Green Thursday." It remembers Christ's institution of the Lord's Supper and the new commandment to love one another by serving others in humble ways.

Germans have two names for Good Friday. The Old High German word *kara*, meaning "care," forms the basis of the name *Karfreitag*, Care Friday or Friday of Mourning. *Stiller Freitag*, another name for the day, means Quiet Friday. Many Germans observe this solemn holiday as a day of fasting.

Good Friday has also long been associated with the performance of German Passion plays, dramatizing the

events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion. Though few survived into the late twentieth century, the famous Passion play at Oberammergau in Bavaria still takes place every ten years. If you have never attended the Passion Play in Oberammergau you should add it to your bucket list. It is performed outdoors, rain or shine. Attendees, however, sit under a covered area.

German customs associated with Good Friday include the belief that it is a good day to plant flowers. I am sure that this depends upon the date of Easter because some years Easter occurs as early as March 21 [lunar calendar]. In some parts of Germany the drinking of alcohol was forbidden to remind the people that Jesus hung on the cross from 12-3 P.M. Other customs include blacksmiths' refusal to touch hammer and nails on *Karfreitag* because Jesus was nailed to the cross on that day.

The highlight is, of course, Easter morning when Christians celebrate the resurrection of Christ from the dead. The custom of Easter eggs comes from Germany, perhaps a throwback to earlier pagan customs. It was customary in German speaking Lutheran congregations in America to hold Gottesdienst from Sunday through Wednesday. That is, worship services were conducted for another three days. In Germany at least Easter Monday was also a national holiday.

Philip Meyer, President

