

Terre Haute German Oberlander Club



December 2023

FROM THE *President*

In the Articles of Incorporation submitted to the State of Indiana the second item after the name of the corporation is the purpose or purposes for which the Club was formed.

"To promote the religious, educational and charitable principles and to preserve and further the customs and the traditions of our forefathers, in their folk dances, ceremonial rites, dress, songs, music, theatre, folklore, and family ideals of Bavarian and Germanic culture, for the benefit of community and country."

December is perhaps the month when most of this comes to the forefront. Unfortunately, Americans don't observe December in the same way as our German forefathers. For Americans, December is all about shopping and gift buying. The month has a strong commercial aspect, kicked off with Black Friday when stores offer discounts on many items.

In traditional German culture December begins with Advent, a religious season which is often referred to as a mini-Lent. It is a season of sober reflection on why our Lord Jesus Christ became incarnate, that is, God in the flesh. See above as the first purpose for which this Klub was founded. There was a religious purpose in our customs. The "Adventskranz," or Advent wreath was sold at the Christkindlmarkts. Families decorated them according to their customs. There are four candles on the Adventskranz, three violet, symbolizing repentance, and one pink, which is lit on the Third Sunday in Advent known as Gaudete ["Rejoice!" for the Lord is near.]"

Some may remember this song:

**Advent, Advent,
ein Lichtlein brennt.
Erst ein, dann zwei,
dann drei, dann vier,
dann steht das Christkind vor der Tür.**

**Advent, Advent,
A little candle burns.
First one, then two,
then three, then four,
then stands the Christ Child at the door.**

In past years our Klub had an annual Advent celebration. There was the Advent wreath and a lighting of the Adventsbolle the delicious Glühwein, which Ron Dunbar would light with a lighter and the "jet fuel," as he called it, would burn off. Advent baked goods were also offered.

Mark Your Calendar

December

Thu, 12/07, 6:00 PM: Board of Directors Meeting
Sat, 12/09, 6:00 PM: Christmas Dinner
Wed, 12/13, 6:00 PM: Annual Membership Meeting
Happy Hour begins at 5:15 PM
Business Meeting 6:00 PM – Election of 2024 Board
Sun, 12/17, 4:00 PM: German Christmas Vespers, Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
Thu, 12/21, 6:00 PM, Bowling, Vigo Bowl

January


Thu, 01/04, 6:00 PM: Board of Directors Meeting
Sat, 01/13, 6:00 PM: Annual Soup Dinner
Wed, 01/24, 6:00 PM: Membership Meeting
Happy Hour begins at 5:15 PM
Business Meeting begins at 6:00 PM
Thu, 02/08, 6:00 PM Bowling, Vigo Bowl
Tue, 01/31: First installment of 2024 Dues are due.




Terre Haute German Oberlander Club

 **Frohe Weihnachten!** 

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

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One of the best-membered customs was Hilda Crisp portraying Knecht Ruprecht. He was an attendant of Sankt Nikolaus. According to tradition, Knecht Ruprecht asks children whether they can pray. If they can, they receive apples, nuts and [gingerbread](#). If they cannot, he hits the children with his bag of ashes. Sometimes he would hit them with a switch and give them a lump of coal. Sankt Nikolaus was the giver of good gifts. His saint day is December 6. On that day children would put their shoes out in hopes of finding a treat in them. Hilde always played Ruprecht with such convincing style that she was perhaps the favorite part of our celebration.



In Germany the Christmas markets are the big hit. Nürnberg is one of the best. In Tübingen there is a huge chocolate festival where more than 100 of the top chocolatiers come to sell chocolates. On the Second Sunday in Advent the people of Dresden celebrate Stollen, their favorite holiday bread product. It's a bread with fruit in it, much lighter than English fruitcake. Berlin hosts more than 80 Christmas markets.

Of course, Glühwein is the ultimate winter warmer. It is made of red or white wine with oranges, lemons, cloves, cinnamon, nutmeg, and sugar. Germans go to the Christmas markets to buy presents and to have Gemütlichkeit with family and friends. When the weather is dark, cold, and damp, what could be better than a mug of hot Glühwein to warm the stomach and the soul!

Of course, all of this is preliminary to the climax, Weihnachts, or Christmas Eve. Literally, Weihnachts means "the night of incense, when at the Divine Service [Mass] incense is in abundance, especially at the distribution of the body and blood of Christ.

On the shortest days of December, the sun doesn't rise until 8:30 AM and sets at 4:30 PM. Yet, that doesn't keep the Germans from going outside to the Christmas Markets and to gatherings with friends and family.

For nearly 30 years Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church has offered a Weihnachts Vesper service in German. All is done in German, but an English translation is provided. Yours truly has officiated at this Vespers for all of those years. The invitation to join us still stands. Afterwards there are German baked goods and German Kaffee. There is no cost to attend.

Wishing all of you a Fröhliche Weihnachten!

Philip Meyer, President

Christmas Dinner
Saturday, 12/09/23, 6:00 PM

Come join us as we prepare to celebrate the Christmas season.



Dinner Menu

Salad
 Appetizers
 Rolls/Bread
 Roast Turkey Breast
 Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
 Dessert



Adults - \$17.00 Children <13 \$8.50
 Cash Bar

Please bring canned goods to donate to those in need this holiday season.

Ugly Sweater Contest so break out your finest!!
 Door Prizes and other fun activities.

Please RSVP by contacting Spring Wilson (812-201-4568) or Rosie Weber (812-236-2326).
 This event is open to the public and guests.

2024 Board Election

The election of members to serve on the board of directors for CY 2024 will take place during the **Annual Membership Meeting**, to be held at the Club, on **Wednesday, 12/13/23 at 6:00 PM**. All active members of the Club who attend this important meeting are eligible to vote in the election and on other matters.

The board is made up of five to 9 members who have been active members of the Club for at least 2 years. As prescribed in the Club's bylaws, the newly elected board will elect officers (president, vice president, secretary and treasurer) for 2024 at its organizational meeting, immediately following the annual membership meeting.

The current slate of candidates for election or re-election to the board include:

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|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Jessica Buttiglieri | 5. Philip Meyer |
| 2. Jay Copra | 6. Tom Nascimbene |
| 3. Brad Cress | 7. Spring Wilson |
| 4. Ron Hinsenkamp | |

Nomination(s) of other qualified candidates will be accepted from the floor prior to the board election.





Danke!

Thanks to Phil Meyer, Brad Cress, Rosie & Ray Weber, Jay Copra, Annelie & Tom Nascimbene, Tricia Pierce, and Ron Hinsenkamp for their

hard work during Fall Clean-up Day on Saturday, 11/04/23. This small group did a lot of cleaning and completed some important maintenance work that needed to be done before the temperatures dip and the snow flies.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Founders' & Veterans' Day Dinner/Dance on Saturday, 11/11/23. A special thanks to Annelie & Tom Nascimbene, Kelly & Brian Roberts, Phil Meyer, and Susan & Ron Hinsenkamp who hosted this event. The food was great, and everyone enjoyed the live music by Hoot Band.

Thanks to Annelie Nascimbene and everyone who helped tidy up before the health department's semi-annual inspection last month. Once again, the Klub had no violations! 😊

Finally, thanks to Spring Wilson, Rosie & Ray Weber, and Michelle Lutz, for helping make the Klub's 3rd Annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, 11/18/23, a success. Next year's bazaar will likely take place on Saturday, 11/16/24.



2024 Membership Dues

Invoices for 2024 dues will be mailed to all members in late December. At least 50%

of your 2024 dues must be paid by January 31st and any remaining balance must be paid by July 31st.

Everyone who pays 100% of their 2024 dues by the January 31st deadline will automatically be entered into a drawing for a gift card.

Membership dues are one of the Klub's principal streams of revenue. Therefore, PLEASE help keep the Klub financially solvent by promptly paying your dues when you receive your invoice.

New Members Needed



Do you know someone who might have a genuine interest in helping preserve, promote, and celebrate the Wabash Valley's strong German American history, culture, and traditions? If so, invite them to an event and talk with them about joining the Club. Members have been and continue to be our best recruiters!

New Arrival



Congratulations to Stacy and Scot Mullins on the arrival of their 4th grandchild! Phillip Gerhardt was born on Saturday, November 25th. He was 21" long and weighed 8 pounds 5 oz. Mom and baby are doing fine. 😊

We shall be celebrating

Weihnachtsgottesdienst

German Christmas Service
(English translation provided)

17 December 2023
4:00 p.m.

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
645 Poplar Street, Terre Haute, IN
812/232-4972

Pastor Emeritus Philip G. Meyer
Liturgist & Preacher

Coffee & Pastries served afterward.

Bowling



Join us at the Vigo Bowl on the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM for a little exercise and lots of fun. Teams are formed each night based on who shows up and you don't have to be a good bowler to join us. For more information

