

# Terre Haute German Oberlander Club



January 2024

## FROM THE *President*

While many have already packed away their Christmas decorations [some even on 26 December], the celebration of Christ's birth continues until 06 January, the twelfth day of Christmas, or as it is on the liturgical calendar, Epiphany. A traditional Epiphany is celebrated in the German states of Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, and Saxony-Anhalt, where it is a public holiday. [Editor's note: *holiday* is a shortened form of holy day, a religious observance. Few people make the connection. Vacations are said to be "on holiday."]

The word Epiphany comes from the Greek. It means to "show forth" or manifest. The Savior is manifested to Gentiles. In the above name German states, it is called *Dreikönigsfest*, or "The Three Kings," who are seen as the Magi, or Wise Men, who come to visit the infant Jesus. Children often dress as the three kings and act as Sternsingers [Star Singers] going door to door caroling and collecting money for charity. It was customary for homes and stables to burn incense as a sign of cleansing [from sin]. Homes which did this were marked with a chalk "C+M+B" for the traditional names of the Magi [Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar], and the date were be written on the house, for example, 2024: 20\*C+M+B\*24.

On the day before, 05 January, families and friends gathered and toasted the New Year by tapping a keg of *Bockbier*, which is a strong Bier. In these states the celebration would conclude with a Gottesdienst [Mass] with a very prominent *Krippe* [crib] with the children acting out the Christmas account.

At the cathedral in Köln [if you've never visited this magnificent sanctuary you absolutely must!], it is said that they have the relics [bones] of the three kings. So, this place has a certain place of honor for the three kings. It took over 600 years to complete and is constantly being renovated. My wife and I attended an organ concert in this cathedral and the reverberation was a full 10 seconds! During WW II everything around the cathedral was obliterated but this structure was the only one to survive, a testimony to the precision of American bombers who used it as a navigation point. Another interesting fact: There are eight bells, including the St. Peters Bell which is the largest freely swinging church bell in the world at 24,000 kg. I have it ringing on a CD I bought. Oh yes, and it is 509 steps to reach the top of the South tower! Been there. Done that!



## Mark Your Calendar

### January

Thu, 01/11, 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, 01/18, 6:00 PM Bowling, Vigo Bowl  
Tue, 01/31: Deadline for payment of at least first installment (50%) of 2024 Dues


### February


Thu, 02/08, 6:00 PM: Board of Directors Meeting  
Sat, 02/10, 6:00 PM: Valentine's Day Dinner & Dance (Streamliners)  
Thu, 02/15, 6:00 PM, Bowling, Vigo Bowl  
Wed, 02/28, 6:00 PM: Membership Meeting  
Happy Hour begins at 5:15 PM



Terre Haute German Oberlander Club

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

 1616 Lafayette Ave, Terre Haute, IN 47804

PO Box 5214, Terre Haute, IN 47805 

(Continued from Page 1)

In the United States everything is done way ahead of time. The old way from Germany draws out the celebration without a hurry to pack it away. That stands in sharp contrast to our way of life—always on the go, no time to stop and reflect.

At other venues in January winter sports take center stage. There is a New Year's Ski Jump at Garmisch-Partenkirchen in the Alps. Preliminary jumps take place on 31 December and the finals take place on 01 January. Of course, skiing and other Alpine events are very popular and we often see these on TV.

In Berlin you can't ski or toboggan, but you can run in the *Berliner Neujahrslauf* (New Years Run). It's a mere 4 kilometers [2.5] miles. It starts at the Brandenburg Gate and goes past many famous sites in Berlin. If that isn't your thing you can go to Leipzig for the *Motorad Messe*, one of the largest motorcycle fairs in the world. Be warned! BMW makes some of the world's finest motorcycles. These are called *Beemers*, in distinction from the automobiles from the same manufacturer, which are called *Bimmers*.

A toast from me to all of you in this New Year! Prost!

Philip G. Meyer, President



## Danke!

Thank you to everyone who attended the Christmas Dinner on Saturday, 12/09/23. A special thanks to Rosie & Ray Weber who hosted the dinner and to Tricia and Mark Pierce who tended bar. The food was great and who attended had a good time.

## Annual Soup Dinner

Our annual soup dinner will be held at the clubhouse on **Saturday, 01/13/24, at 6:00 PM**. Bring your favorite soup to share with Club members and their guests and earn bragging rights for a year! Attendees will choose their favorite soup and select this year's winner.



**Menu:** A wide variety of favorite soups from our members and their families. Soups should be brought to the Club in a crock pot, so they're ready to go. Bowls, spoons, etc., will be provided.

**Cost:** Free admission if you bring your favorite soup to share or \$5.00 at the door.

**RSVP:** Spring Wilson (812-201-4568) no later than **Jan 10th** and let her know if you'll be attending and bringing a soup.



## Annual Valentine's Day Dinner & Dance

Mark your calendar now for this year's Annual Valentines Day Dinner & Dance on **Saturday, 02/10/24**. Doors will open at 5:30 PM and dinner will be served at 6:00 PM. Back by popular demand will be *The Streamliners*. More information about this event will be included the next newsletter. This dinner and dance are open to the public. 2024 Membership Dues

## Annual Dues

Invoices for 2024 dues were mailed to all members on December 31<sup>st</sup>. At least 50% of your 2024 dues must be paid by January 31<sup>st</sup> and any remaining balance must be paid by July 31<sup>st</sup>. Everyone who pays 100% of their 2024 dues by the January 31<sup>st</sup> deadline will automatically be entered into a drawing for a gift card.



## Another New Arrival

Congratulations to Kelly and Brian Roberts on the arrival of their first grandchild! Weston Thomas was born on Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, at 7:01 PM. He was 20.5" long and weighed 6 pounds 14 oz. Weston's great grandparents, Susan and Ron Hinsenkamp, are pretty excited about their first great grandchild too. Mom, Dad and baby are all doing fine. 😊

