

# Terre Haute German Oberlander Club



February 2024

## FROM THE *President*

As you might have noticed in my monthly columns about Germany and things German, much follows the Christian liturgical calendar. Many festivals reflect this even though the festivals have become rather secular in nature. This month is no exception - **Karneval**. Actually, it isn't always the month of February because the observance of Easter [Oster] is determined by the lunar calendar. The day of Oster is always the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox. The full moon may happen on any date between 21 March and 18 April. This year Oster is 31 March. This means the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday [Ashermittwoch] takes place in February this year. In German, Lent is called **Passionszeit**, that is Passion Time. Ashermittwoch is 40 days before Oster. Sundays are *in* Passionszeit but not *of* Passionszeit if you are counting.

With those preliminary remarks out of the way we'll come back to this February. Since Passionszeit begins on 14 April, Germans will celebrate Karneval on the days before Ash Wednesday. Karneval is German for the Latin words *carne vale*, literally, "farewell to meat." It's the German equivalent to Mardi Gras [literally, "Fat Tuesday"] when people indulge themselves in meat because traditional Lenten custom forbids the eating of meat during these days. Days in Passionszeit are given to prayer and bodily discipline. Much of that has been relaxed in many places. But of Karneval, one writer said that it's a time of festivities, "rule breaking," and [over] indulgence in the things given up in Lent.

**Fasching** is pretty much like Mardi Gras. People dress up in costumes. In many big cities there are elaborate balls for adults. Our Klub used to hold an annual Fasching celebration. It would be wonderful if we could do that again! We attended many of these! Some of the costumes were quite elaborate. Many photos still exist of our members dressed up for the celebrations. In fact, yours truly and another friend won first prize for our depiction of Jake and Elwood Blues from the movie "The Blues Brothers." I have the photo of us standing at the bar in our black suits, white shirts and black ties, fedoras, and sunglasses.

In some of the large German cities Karneval lasts almost an entire week. Köln has one of the largest celebrations. Karneval in Braunschweig, dates back to the 1200s. It has a huge parade. Mainz and Munich also have large festivals every year.

Let's talk meats! Since Karneval is "farewell to meat," it seems appropriate to have as much as possible since it will be 40 days until one may eat it again! Here are some examples.

## Mark Your Calendar

### February

Thu, 02/01:  
5:15 PM: Board of Directors Meeting  
6:00 PM: Oktoberfest Planning Committee Meeting  
Sat, 02/10, 6:00 PM: Valentine's Day Dinner & Dance (Streamliners)  
Wed, 02/14:  
Valentine's Day & Ash Wednesday  
Thu, 02/15, 6:00 PM, Bowling, Vigo Bowl  
Wed, 02/28, 6:00 PM: Membership Meeting  
Happy Hour begins at 5:15 PM  
Business Meeting 6:00 PM


### March


Thu, 03/07, 6:00 PM: Board of Directors Meeting  
Sat, 03/09, 6:00 PM: Membership Dinner – German Fare  
Thu, 03/21, 6:00 PM: Bowling, Vigo Bowl  
Wed, 03/27, 6:00 PM: Membership Meeting  
Happy Hour begins at 5:15 PM  
Business Meeting 6:00 PM  
Fri, 03/29: Good Friday  
Sun, 03/31: Easter



Terre Haute German Oberlander Club

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

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**Krapfen** — Sometimes called *ein Berliner*. It's a jelly donut. Yes, and President John F. Kennedy, standing at the Berlin Wall did say, "Ich bin bin Berliner." [Literally, "I am a jelly donut."] This was a hilarious, and perhaps an embarrassing, moment in history. His speech writers did not know German. He wanted to say that he was from Berlin, much like one would say, "I'm a New Yorker." He should have said [in proper German idiom, "Ich komme aus Berlin," literally, "I'm from Berlin. And so, we have this rather funny thing coming out of a politician's mouth! In Franconia these donuts are called

**"Fastnachtsküchle."** [Literally, the "night before fasting."] You can sometimes find the Polish version called [*Pączki* (Polish: [*'pɒntʃkʲi*])] in the bakery at Meijer in Terre Haute.

**Frikadellen** — German meatballs. It's like a meat cake with caramelized onions on top and, of course, German mustard [any variety!]. Stick it between a crispy bread roll and you have a treat.

**Flönz** — This is a Blutwurst, or blood sausage popular in the Rheinland.

**Halve Hahn** — A rotisserie chicken cut in half, but the Halve is really *Halver*, a rye bread roll with lots of butter and topped with Gouda cheese, pickles, and mustard [of

yes, *more* mustard!] Sprinkle on some onions and paprika and wash down with Bier!

**Potato Pancakes** — also know as Reibekuchen or Kartoffelpuffer. In Köln these can be called Rievkooche. Shredded and seasoned with butter, garlic, and onion, fried until crispy. Need I say more?

**Schweine Haxen** — This one is a favorite among some of our club members! It's really a large pork knuckle roasted to perfection. The Rathskeller in Indianapolis has it. Club members used to travel to Chicago [Lincoln Avenue] to get this treat.

**Gluhwein** — It's not just for Christmas! Remember that it's still winter in February! Hot German spiced wine is great on a cold winter evening.

**Kölsch Bier** — A style of Bier brewed only in Köln and within 30km of the city. It's really kind like a hybrid between an ale and lager. You can enjoy one of these great Biers at our bar! We have what some of us considered the best of all the Kölsch Biers, **Früh**. It comes in a .5 liter can. Yes, we have it! [Shameless sales pitch!]

Philip G. Meyer, President

## Annual Soup Dinner

Thank you to everyone who attended the Annual Soup Dinner on Saturday, 01/13/24, and a special thanks to the following folks who shared their favorite soups.

Jessica Buttiglieri	Ulla & JD Kessler
Kara & Brad Cress	Michelle Lutz
Susan & Ron Hinsenkamp	Rosie Weber
Chylene Johnston	Spring Wilson

The competition to earn bragging rights for the best soup was tough, but the winner of this year's dinner was Michelle Lutz with her *Cheesy Potato Soup*. Congratulations Michelle!

## Annual Dues

If you haven't paid at least 50% of your 2024 dues, please do so today. Checks should be mailed to: *Terre Haute German Oberlander Club, PO Box 5214, Terre Haute, IN 47805*. Annual dues are \$75.00 per person. If you pay 100% of you dues and mail it by 01/31/23 you'll automatically be entered into a gift card drawing.

**Valentine's Day Dinner & Dance**

**Saturday, Feb 10th**  
**5:30 – Doors Open**  
**6:00 PM – Dinner Served**  
**6:30 – 9:30 PM: Music & Dancing**  
**Cost: \$20.00 Per Person & Cash Bar**

<u>Dinner Menu</u>	<u>Music</u>
<b>Tossed Salad</b> <b>Baked Potato</b> <b>Creamy Swiss Chicken</b> <b>Bake</b> <b>Corn Casserole</b> <b>Dessert</b>	 <b>Streamliners Band</b>

**Make Your Reservations Today**  
**812-201-4568 After 5:00 PM**  
**Deadline is Tuesday, 02/06/2024**

**This Event is Open to the Public**

