



Das Rundschreiben

Das Rundschreiben Website: www.indianapolisgak.com

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8602 S. Meridian St. • Indianapolis, IN 46217 • (317) 888-6940

Spring has Sprung. The Grass has Riz! Where Last Year's Careless Drivers Is!

Maintenance Fund – Insulation Update!

Insulation helps keep us warm in the winter, cool in the summer and the utility bills down! During the installation of the new roof, we found out that the insulation in our attic is very poor and/or non-existent! Plus there are some ventilation issues. Estimates to make the repairs is approximately \$3,300 and we should be able to recoup this cost in reduced utility bills over a 2 year period. Help us make our Klub even more energy efficient with a donation to the insulation fund! Drop a check in the mail or at the Klub today!

German Park Opening – April 1

Hello Everyone,

It's that time again.....another year of events at German Park. We are really in need of volunteers to help with the clean-up of the park to prepare for rentals. Our first rental is May 6th. Clean-up will begin at 9 a.m. on April 1st, and donuts and beverages will be served. A luncheon of sandwiches from a meat tray will be available, along with deli potato salad, chips and a dessert beginning around 11 a.m..

Please bring your gloves, rakes, etc. and dress prepared for the weather. In the event of rain, the clean-up will begin at 9 a.m. on Sunday, April 2nd.

Thank you.

Lisa Brinker, German Park Chairman

Ladies Auxiliary Update:



The annual garage sales on March 4 was a great success. We raised a little over \$1,100.

The banquet room was packed full when we opened the doors at 8 am and by 3 pm

we had only a few items left! Many thanks to those who dropped off donations. We are already looking forward to next year's garage sale on March 3, 2018!

Would You Believe?

During 1923, Germany's worst inflationary period, postage stamps were printed up to and including 50 Billion Marks.

Children used bundles of banknotes as toys. Here we see boys and girls and their building blocks.



In 1914, the exchange rate of the German mark to the American dollar was about **4.2** to one. Nine years later, it was **4.2 TRILLION** to one.

But then Germany lost the war and ended up with massive debts and reparations to the Allies to be paid under the Treaty of Versailles.

Inflation crept up slowly at first, before accelerating rapidly in late 1922. The exchange rate ballooned from 2,000 marks per dollar to 20,000 to a million and beyond in just a few months, riding on a growing wave of economic panic and mistrust.

The price of a loaf of bread went from 250 marks in January 1923 to 200 trillion in November.

The fever of hyperinflation finally broke in late 1923 when the government began issuing the new **rentenmark**, a currency backed by mortgages on agricultural and industrial land, which was introduced with the old exchange rate of **one US dollar to 4.2 rentenmarks**. The new currency's foundation was shaky at best, but years of terrifying instability left the German people desperate enough to trust it.

This was literally when it took a wheelbarrow full of money to purchase a loaf of bread!

- Borrowed from Mashable.com

German Language Classes Still Going Strong

Thursday, March 30th will be the 8th German Language class this year. In years past, classes were shrinking week by week. Our first class, February 9th, brought in about 24 folks wanting to increase their German vocabulary. The headcount of our last class was still 15. That is a retention of 60% of our initial class size. Obviously, we are doing something right.

Janet Price, our instructor, strives to make the classes interesting, informative, and fun. She has many years teaching behind her and knows just how to keep us learning while still having a good time.

We've even discovered some new letters not present in the English alphabet. Those would be the vowels, A, O, and U; both upper and lower case with the addition of the umlaut (the two little dots above the letter). These are not included just to make them look fancy, but they actually change the sound, making a whole new letter. The sounds are not present in the English language. There is also the ess-tzet, which resembles a capital B. It makes the sound of a double S. It is frequently used to replace a double S, but does not change the sound.

So, are we having fun? You bet we are. We've made several new friends. The class is not limited to just us older folks as there are several elementary school kids also learning with us. We even have one lady who is visiting the US from Germany. She has been a tremendous help filling us in on the way language is changing today.

Why not put taking the German language class next year on your Bucket List? - Bill Burrell

Friday Night Music in the Edelweiss

Each Friday, we will bring a solo or combo act to play and sing popular music while diners eat, drink, and relax to the sounds in our beautiful Edelweiss Restaurant. or the Biergarten, weather permitting. It's the perfect opportunity to grab some friends or grab that special someone and head to the Klub to enjoy a great evening. It just doesn't get any better than this!

Our April featured performers are:

- April 7th: Luke Carol Project
- April 14th: Steve Bogard
- April 21st: The Wilsons
- April 28th: TBA

TGAK Annual Membership Meeting

Tuesday, April 18th, 8:00 P.M.

Mark your calendars to attend this very important meeting, We will vote on candidates to fill empty positions on the Executive Board. This is probably the most important meeting of the year.

President's Message

I believe that spring is finally here and the Biergarten will open soon. Isn't it great to enjoy some food and drink outside



on a nice evening after the day's work? We will be starting to provide various flowers and hanging pots to enhance the atmosphere outside. While you are shopping for your spring plants, consider picking up an extra flower or plant for the Klub's Biergarten. We'll soon have the window boxes planted, but we have room for hanging pots of flowers and ferns. Help us beautify our Klub.

I would like to recognize all the hard work that our Treasurer, Patty Johns, has been doing over the past several years. She makes sure that all of the checks are available for signatures and that all bills are regularly fully paid and up to date (no late charges) while maintaining contact with the rest of the Board Members when financial concerns do arise. Besides all of the work she does with the Ladies' Auxiliary she manages to keep our accounts current to include our monthly Sales and Food and Beverage Tax requirements. We struggle from time to time to make ends meet, but through Patty's help we are able to continue our efforts to provide service and programs to our members. Patty also is our backup for the newsletter and a primary communicator for the membership with updates on facebook and emails. The next time you visit the Klub, please let Patty know we are all grateful for her dedication and the work she performs for all of us.

Merrill Simmerman - TGAK President

Your Board of Directors for 2017

- President.....Merrill Simmerman
- Vice President, Member Affairs.....Carla DeWitt
- Vice President, Government Affairs.....Paul Sahm
- Treasurer.....Patty Johns
- Secretary.....Gary Hildenbrand
- Grounds Maintenance.....Butch Rhorer
- Finance Chairman.....Paul Sahm
- Business AffairsBill Maethner
- 9th Seat.....Vacant Seat

Non-Board Positions

- Edelweiss Managing Member.....Chuck Kemp
- Fledermäuschen Tanzgruppe Director.....Marie Lawlor
- Ladies' Aux President.....Patty Johns
- Newsletter / Website Editor.....Bill Burrell



The German-American Klub of Indianapolis, Inc.
 8602 South Meridian St. Indianapolis, IN 46217
 (317) 888-6940

2017 Membership Application (Expires Dec. 31, 2017)

New Membership Membership Renewal

Date: _____

To the Vice President - Member Affairs:

I hereby apply for membership in the German-American Klub of Indianapolis, Inc., as designated below, and promise to observe the rules and regulations of the club. I understand that membership entitles me to certain privileges as well as the assessment of dues which are payable at the beginning of each calendar year. (Lifetime membership is exempt from annual dues.)

Full Name: _____ DOB: (mm/dd) _____

Spouse's Name: _____ DOB: (mm/dd) _____

Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____

Email Address: (Please print clearly) _____

Send Newsletter by: E-Mail US Postal Service

Please indicate membership class applied for:

Class	Initiation	Dues	Restrictions
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime (Individual or Family)	\$600.00	- 0-	Age 21 or older.
<input type="checkbox"/> Active (Individual or Family)	- 0 -	\$60.00	Age 21 or older.
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (Individual or Family)	- 0 -	\$30.00	Age 65 or older. Spouse 60 or older.
<input type="checkbox"/> Student/Youth (Individual only)	- 0 -	\$ 6.00	Age 21 or less. No voting rights and cannot hold office.
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Donation \$ _____			

Please use this additional donation for the following purpose:

- Facility maintenance (eg. new roof) Edelweiss (eg. new kitchen equipment) Other _____
- To be used at the discretion of the Board of Directors

Signed: _____

To pay by credit card, please provide the following:

Card type: ___ Visa ___ Mastercard ___ American Express ___ Discover

Account Number: _____ Expiration _____ / _____ CVV _____

Signature of cardholder: _____

I (we) would like to volunteer to help in the following areas:

- Oktoberfest or other events Facility Maintenance Grounds Maintenance
- Other _____

Comments: _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Application Received:	Received by:	Amount Received:	Paid by: Cash I Ck I Charge I Other Ck # _____
Mailing Records Updated: By: _____	Date: _____	Membership cards <input type="checkbox"/> delivered <input type="checkbox"/> mailed Date: _____ By: _____	

The German-American Klub of Indianapolis, Inc.
8602 South Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN
46217

Forwarding Service Requested

Important April Dates to Remember

Wed., April 5th.....Die Fledermäuschen Tanzgruppe practice - 7:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
 Thur., April 6th.....German Language Class in Edelweiss, 7:00 P.M.
 Fri., April 7th.....Music in the Edelweiss by Luke Carol Project, 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
 Wed., April 12th.....Die Fledermäuschen Tanzgruppe - No practice
 Thur., April 13th.....German Language Class in Edelweiss cancelled due to Easter Sunday
 Fri., April 14th.....Music in the Edelweiss by Steve Bogard , 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
 Sun., April 16th.....Easter Sunday



Tues., April 18th.....TGAK Ladies' Auxiliary Meeting; 6:30 P.M.
Tues., April 18th.....Executive Board Meeting; 7:30 P.M.
Tues., April 18th.....TGAK Membership Meeting; 8:00 P.M.
 Wed., April 19th.....Die Fledermäuschen Tanzgruppe - 7:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
 Thur., April 20th.....German Language Class in Edelweiss, 7:00 P.M.
 Fri., April 21st.....Music in the Edelweiss by The Wilsons, 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
 Wed., April 26th.....Die Fledermäuschen Tanzgruppe practice - 7:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
 Thur., April 27th.....German Language Class in Edelweiss, 7:00 P.M.
 Fri., April 28th.....Music in the Edelweiss by TBA, 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.