



# Germania Nachrichten

## Germania Singing and Sport Society

543 S. Front Street, Columbus, OH 43215

Since 1866, Preserving German Culture for 146 Years

Home of the Original Oktoberfest in Columbus



September-October, 2012

### President's Message

Dear Germania Member

As summer comes to an end and we're heading for "cooler" weather, let me point out that the "hot" summer gave us something new at the Germania. "Sommerfest" was a huge success, but also a lot of work for so many volunteers. Many hours and days were spent at the clubhouse. On behalf of your Board of Officers a huge amount of thanks and gratitude goes to all.

The next big event for us is our annual Oktoberfest. John Kneller and his committee have everything under control. I have no doubt that it will be a great weekend of singing, dancing and all-around fun for young and old. In addition to our October 5 Schnitzel Dinner and October 27 Halloween Dinner Dance (see calendar) we're holding our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on Friday, October 19 for all who have helped out in any way throughout the past year.

I hope to see you all soon and often at your Germania,

Thea Klabude, President

### Benevolence

We offer our heartfelt sympathy to the friends and families of Joan Merz and Judy Wolff who passed away in June. Our thoughts and prayers go out for Mike Klabunde, Gerhard Wolff, Lotte Koennemann and Rita Zarth. We are glad to see Mike Lochner, Isabella Rozanski, Ingrid Langer and Dolores Corbett are back in circulation.

### Damenchor

Begrüßungen from the Damenchor!

In the time since the last newsletter, we unfortunately lost one of our longtime members, Judy Wolff. Judy was a good friend of many of our singers. Due to illness, she had not been singing with us, and her dynamic presence was missed. Our heartfelt condolences go out to her dear husband, Gerhard.

The ladies and I hope you enjoyed the most recent Sommerfest. We all did our best to make it enjoyable. We had originally scheduled a Hawaiian Luau, but then turned it into the Sommerfest, which allowed us to open the occasion to the public. A hearty thanks goes out to all who helped, as putting on the Sommerfest was quite a task, and the Damenchor never could have done it without all who pitched in to help.

We recently sang at the Newark Ox Roast (08/11) both as a ladies chorus and with our wonderful men in a few mixed numbers. Our next singing engagement will be at our annual Oktoberfest where we look forward to greeting you with music that will delight you. Please feel free to join us in rehearsal every Thursday evening up in the music room at 7:30 PM.

Sincerely,  
Jane Ott, President

*Editor's Note: Kudos to Jane and to all members of the Damenchor who worked so untiringly to organize and execute the fifth Sommerfest of the season.*

### GERMANIA OFFICERS 2012

**President:**

*Thea Klabunde*

**Vice President:**

*Joe Motika*

**Financial Secretary:**

*Mike Klabunde*

**Treasurer:**

*Udo Klabunde*

**Recording Secretary:**

*Harry Paulino*

**Corres. Secretary:**

*John Kneller*

**Trustees:**

*John Kneller, Chm*

*Mike Bals*

*Kathi Cline*

*Stephen Schneider*

*Bob Traphagen*

**House Committee:**

*Dolores Kneller, Chm*

*Beth Bradley*

*Stan Bradley*

*Kathi Cline*

*John Kneller*

*Deb Korting*

*Mike Lochner*

*Vera Motika*

*Johanna Queck*

*Bob Traphagen*

**Next News  
Deadline  
October 15**

E-mail: [germaniacols@sbcglobal.net](mailto:germaniacols@sbcglobal.net)

Website: [www.germaniacolumbus.org](http://www.germaniacolumbus.org)

Dining Room/Reservations: 614/228-9055

Office/Society Information: 614/461-8095

Facility available for Private Parties not in conflict with Germania Events. Support your Society by attending as many functions as possible. Please send us your e-mail address for timely notification of schedule changes an event cancellations.

## Sommerfest!!

Last year the Trustees began discussing ways to make Germania's presence better known in the Brewery District. When one of our cooks proposed opening our garden to the public in the summer the discussion got serious.

With the help of global design firm FITCH (our neighbor on Front Street) we added some marketing strategy, fun design, the details were worked out, and Sommerfest was born. The following objectives were also developed:

- To bring to the residents and those who work in the Brewery District an awareness of who Germania is;
- To attract people to join the Germania;
- To share with others our German cultural heritage; and
- To increase our income.

If you participated in Sommerfest you can probably guess that it was a success. We held five Sommerfest events with a total attendance of over 1,100 members and guests, and our total gross income was over \$10,000. So, we met our fourth objective.

But we also learned a lot as we greeted our guests and mingled with them. We learned that there really are many young folks living, working or playing in the Brewery District who are interested in the German culture...the language, the food, the music. Most of these young people had no idea what was be-

hind the stucco front wall of what may have been at one time a house. They were curious about the name "Germania." One guest even thought we were a funeral home! For at least 1,000 guests we met the first objective.

The key ingredient in Sommerfest is authenticity. Sommerfest has to be as German as we can make it in Columbus, Ohio. Someone once said, "We are the real deal," meaning that we really have the German culture. We have people who speak German, we cook German food, we have German beverages and we have German music. German is our product. We are careful in Sommerfest to not contaminate the event with American food and culture. And we need to be searching for more things German to add to these events. Our guests are looking for a German experience, and we want them to feel as they come through the garden gate that they have walked into Germany.

So, with a commitment from our Trustees and all of our members we hope that Sommerfest will continue and grow in 2013. Germania has a lot to offer the residents of and visitors to the Columbus Brewery District. And our 2012 Sommerfest events have proven that these folks enjoy what we have to offer.

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## Germania House Committee

I want to thank all the members of the House Committee who contributed so much of their time to Sommerfest as they cleaned, cooked, served, decorated, greeted and volunteered in many other ways to make Sommerfest enjoyable events for our members and our guests.

The house committee will be cleaning the garden and outside bar for Oktoberfest on Friday, September 14 at 9:30 am. All committee members and any additional volunteers will need to work hard to get this task accomplished, in a timely manner.

For the House Committee, Dolores Kneller, Chairman

## Oktoberfest!

Oktoberfest showcases Germania at its best! Invite all you friends and neighbors to join in the fun. And we need ALL members to volunteer to help. Here are the numbers to call:

Facilities Setup — Joe Motika — 614-491-6832  
 Kitchen — Bob Traphagen — 614-875-6840  
 Food Serving — Deb Korting — 614-457-7731  
 Greeting — John Korting — 614-457-7731  
 Strip Tickets — Kathi Cline — 614-506-5267  
 Boutique — Beth Bradley — 614-725-8035  
 Bussing — Mike Bals — 614-875-2118  
 Other — John Kneller, Chairman — 614-898-9022



### Oktoberfest Entertainment Schedule

Saturday, September 15 (non-members \$5.00)

4:00 Doors Open  
 5:00 Keg Tapping w/ Germania singers  
 5:30 – 8:00 **RAY GALLA BAND**  
 7:00 Volkstänzers\*  
 8:00 – 11:00 **HANK HALLER BAND**  
 \*Schuhplattlers at various times.

Sunday, September 16 (no cover charge)  
 (Volkstänzer and Schuhplattlers at various times)

12:00 German Auto Show in the parking lot  
 12:00 Germania Doors Open  
 1:00 Germania Choruses  
 1:30 Newark Maennerchor  
 2:00 Swiss Club Chorus  
 2:30 Mendelssohn Liedertafel  
 3:00 Kinderchor/Jugendchor  
 3:30 Columbus Maennerchor & Damenchor  
 4:00 Worthington Civic Band  
 6:00 – 8:30 **CRIS WEISS BAND**  
 8:30 Raffle Drawing

## Choruses & Volkstänzers

Dear Members,

The Singers have been rehearsing all summer for the Newark Ox Roast and the Germania's Oktoberfest. The performances will be offering slightly different music at each venue. After our Oktoberfest, the choruses will start working on the Christmas & Epiphany music for later this year. I'd like to thank all the singers who helped with our Sommerfests this summer. They were very successful and beneficial to the club. I hope that we were able to recruit some more singers.

The Volkstänzers have been busy rehearsing for this autumn's activities. We danced at Newark's Ox Roast on August 11<sup>th</sup> and had a great time with the debut of some new dances; they were very well received. We will also debut two additional dances at our Oktoberfest on September 15<sup>th</sup> at the 7:00 p.m. performance. We'll also be dancing at the Columbus Oktoberfest on September 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the north building and 8:00 p.m. in the south building. Please come up and support us with your applause. The dancers will also be sponsoring the Halloween dance on October 27<sup>th</sup>. We hope to see you there! As always, anyone is welcome to come and join the dance group. We have a lot of fun and its good exercise.

Have a wonderful autumn.

Mark Pinnick, Director and Dance Leader

## Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary will again host a Bake Sale and Boutique during Germania's Oktoberfest September 15 & 16. Dolores Kneller is in charge of the bake sale. Desserts generally consist of cakes, cookies, pies and cream puffs. Auxiliary members should contact Dolores at 614-898-9022 concerning volunteering and donations. Beth Bradley is in charge of the Boutique area and is seeking German clothing and items to sell. The Auxiliary will split the profit 50/50 if members so desire. If you have items to donate or to sell please contact Beth at 614-725-8033. Beth will accept items on Thursday Sept 13th 5:00 – 7:00 pm, Friday Sept 14th from noon to 2:00 pm, and Saturday Sept 15th 9:00 – 11:00 am. Beth is willing to pick-up your items; just call to make arrangements.

Beth is preparing information to post to the Ladies Auxiliary page of the Germania Website. If you have photos of prior activities please contact Beth at 614-725-8033. Beth will arrange to collect, scan and return your photo or you can email them to her at [beth\\_kkb@yahoo.com](mailto:beth_kkb@yahoo.com).

For the Ladies Auxiliary,  
 Beth Bradley, President

\*\*\*\*\* CALENDAR OF EVENTS \*\*\*\*\*

Reservations are required where noted, and must be made on or before the dates given. Call 614-228-9055 for reservations and for more information (menu, price...etc.) concerning specific events. Unless otherwise noted, all dinners are served from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and the bands play for dancing from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Friday, October 5

SCHNITZEL DINNER

Serving 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Bill Antoniak Band for Dancing at 7:00

Members \$12.00, Guests \$15.00

Call for reservations by Oct. 2 — No Walk-ins

Hosted by the House Committee

Saturday, October 19

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

Serving 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 27

HALLOWEEN DINNER DANCE

Ray Galla Band for Dancing at 7:00

Call by Oct. 23 for menu and reservations

Hosted by the Volkstäger

On Being Tolerant

We are getting newer volunteers, which is great. And we also have a lot of older volunteers. In some cases we are having a clash of individuals on HOW WE DO THIS . The newer volunteers have to listen to the OLD TIMERS because they've been there and done the work many times. But the old timers should also listen to what the newer volunteers have to say, because the NEWER volunteers also have ideas on HOW WE DO THIS, and maybe a better way. The people who take on the roles of leadership have a great responsibility . They will have to work the entire time of the FEST. They make sure that people sign up to work, show up at the designated time, get items ready, designate work areas, and numerous items that always seem to crop up to keep everything running smoothly. Being a leader has its ups and downs. You must be a decision maker but also tolerant. So if you disagree, talk it out. Be tolerant of each other and come to the best decision. We can all work together and make the FEST successful.

Joe Motika, Vice President  
Germania Gesang- und Sport Verein

Address  
Label Here

Place  
Stamp  
Here

Singing and Sport Society  
543 S. Front Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

