



German American Club of the Carolinas

January 2015 Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S DESK

From the President's Desk

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a relaxing holiday break. It was nice seeing many of you at the January Stammtisch. We had a big turn out at Compadres, and the room was again overflowing.

Please stay tuned for a couple of great events that we have in the works. You might want to reserve Thursday, February 12th, 8:00 p.m. for the Piano Battle event in USC Upstate's theater. Also at USC Upstate, please reserve Wednesday, February 25th, 6:00 p.m. for a talk by Dr. Joseph Joffe, main publisher-editor of the Die Zeit. More announcements on both of these events will follow.

I wish you all a happy, healthy, and successful 2015!

Dirk

FUTURE EVENTS

Upcoming 2015 Events

February 6th 2015
(Friday, 6:00 p.m.)

Stammtisch

**Brickhouse Fresh Pizzeria & Grill
+ the Upstairs Bar**
(103 S Daniel Morgan Ave, Spartanburg, SC 29306)

(864) 585-0555

*Come enjoy our monthly club
get-together and even practice
speaking German or English!*

February 12th, 2015
Thursday, 8:00 p.m.)

Piano Battle!

@ USC-Upstate Theater

GAC members may request free tickets
by contacting Marlies Welsch by Sunday,
February 8th
(email: marlies.welsch@gmail.com,
phone: 864.590.9230).

General admission for non-GAC-members
is \$8.00, and those tickets can be reserved
through USC Upstate's box office (email:
boxoffice@uscupstate.edu,
phone: 864.503.5695).

MEMBER NEWS

IF YOU KNOW OF GAC MEMBER NEWS . . .

Please contact us so we can announce it in our newsletter.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Gartenzwerg

If you’ve walked around Germany’s residential neighborhoods, you’ve probably seen them peeking at you from behind the bushes: garden gnomes. The German word for these creatures of the garden is Gartenzwerg, and you’ll find over 25 million of them in Germany.

The word Garten means “garden” and Zwerg means “dwarf.” In English, you’d refer to these “garden dwarfs” as “garden gnomes.” Although you might find them all over the world these days, Gartenzwerge originated in Germany and are still a common sight there. And if you see a garden gnome in your neighborhood in the US, there’s a good chance that the family living there is German!

A Gartenzwerg is a small human-like figurine usually wearing a pointy red hat and colorful clothing. These figurines are commonly found in gardens, flower beds and front porches. Although human-like figurines were placed in gardens all throughout Europe during the Renaissance, the garden gnomes we recognize today originated in 19th century Germany.

According to mythology, “garden dwarfs” were creatures who lived underground and had magical powers. If they encountered daylight, then they would be turned to stone by the sun - which explains the figurines in the gardens. Mythology also claims that the gnome statues come back to life at night, providing their help in the garden and making sure the plants grow.

The legend of the Gartenzwerg quickly became popular in Germany, which led Sculptor Phillip Griebel to mass-produce garden gnome statues in Thuringia in the mid-1800s. Today, Gartenzwerge are not only popular in Germany, but across the world; following the legend of the gnomes, gardening enthusiasts often place the dwarf-like creatures on their plots.

Source: The Week in Germany. 25 January 2015 Web. 16 January 2015.
<http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/__pr/GIC/TWIG__WoW/2015/02-Gartenzwerg.html>

Event in Review:
Nikolausfeier

This year, Nikolausfeier was held on December 7th at the home of Kambi and Ruth Ghowanlu. Thomas “Santa” Koenig made an appearance and entertained each and every child in attendance. There were tons of cookies, cakes, bratwurst, and glühwein for everyone to enjoy! Many thanks to Kambi and Ruth for their hospitality and thank you to the volunteers and board members who helped make sure the event was a success!

WEB ADDRESSES OF INTEREST:

- www.ard.de (click on “ARD mediathek” for archived German language shows)
- www.zdf.de (click on “ZDFmediathek” for archived German language shows)
- www.dw.de (click on <http://www.dw.de/media-center/live-tv/s-100825> to go to Deutsche Welle’s live TV)
- www.faz.de (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung)
- www.spiegel.de (Der Spiegel)

GERMAN-AMERICAN CLUB OF THE CAROLINAS
(P.O. BOX 1734, SPARTANBURG, S.C. 29304)
Membership Application Form

(Please Print)

Name: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle Initial)

Marital Status: Married _____ Single _____

Name of Spouse: _____
(First) (Middle Initial)

Names and Ages of Name Age
Dependent Children: _____

Citizenship: () Austrian () Swiss
() German () U.S. () Naturalized
() Other: _____

Email address: _____

Occupation or Profession: _____

(Spouse)

Addresses: Residence Business

Telephone _____ Telephone _____

Please list your special talents and/or hobbies:
Please list ideas: _____

Sponsor: (Recommended for Membership by)

Name: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle Initial)

Membership Fees: single \$25.00 / family \$40.00 per year
(Membership for given calendar year)

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