



German American Club of the Carolinas

December 2015 Newsletter



From the President's Desk

We are coming to the end of another year, and I would like to thank all the GAC board members for their dedicated service. I would also like to thank all the club members and friends for all their participation and support. We have a great club, and we are looking forward to an enjoyable year in 2016. I wish you all a wonderful holiday season. Enjoy the time with your family and friends.

Dirk

Upcoming 2015/16 Events

December 24th

(Thursday, 3:00 p.m.)

Christmas Eve Service

@ St John's Lutheran Church 415 South Pine Street Spartanburg, SC 29302

3:00 pm social 4:00 pm church service

- * A **nursery** will be available during the service for ALL small children
- * Please bring some Christmas cookies to share

January 8th, 2016 (Friday, 6:00 p.m.)

Stammtisch

Bangkok 2

1398 Boiling Spring Rd, Suite J, Spartanburg, SC 29303

(864) 814-0418

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

NOTE: A board member from the Hub City Co-op will be present to talk about Co-op ownership.

January 22, 2016 (Friday, 7:00 p.m.)

Annual Business Dinner 40th Anniversary Celebration

The Piedmont Club

BY INVITATION ONLY

NEW MEMBERS!

Bodo Klecka

Monika & Ingo Sachtler

Welcome to the GAC! We all look forward to spending more time with you!

JOB OPPORTUNITY!

Production Manager
Daetwyler

(Swiss Manufacturing Company in NC)

Contact: Cornelia Chamley
Office Manager / Executive Assistant
CChamley@daetwyler.com

IF YOU KNOW OF GAC MEMBER NEWS . . .

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

EVENTS IN REVIEW

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Position	Name	EMAIL ADDRESS	
President Vice President Treasurer Member-at-Large Secretary	Dirk Schlingmann Kerstin Joslin Ulrike Schmidt Heike Tonhaeuser Marlies Welsch	schlingmanndirk@gmail.com kjoslin@cbcaine.com uli@gacsouth.com heike@tonhaeuser.us marlies.welsch@gmail.com	

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Position	Name	EMAIL ADDRESS
Board Member	llker Güner	ilker.guener@me.com
Board Member	Fred Mussel	fmussel@aol.com
Board Member	Gerhard Seyffer	gerhard.seyffer@ltg-inc.net
Membership	Susan Walters	breadbaker56@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor	William Gray	williamjosephgray@gmail.com

Adventskranz

An Adventskranz is an Advent wreath. This is a tabletop wreath that holds four candles - marking the four weeks before Christmas. In Germany, it is a Christian tradition to light a candle each Sunday before Christmas, starting with just one candle on the first Sunday, two on the second Sunday, etc. On the last Sunday before Christmas, all four candles are lit at the same time. Lighting the Adventskranz creates a countdown to Christmas.

Although many Christians have an Adventskranz in their homes, the concept originated in 16th century Germany. Protestant Pastor Johann Hinrich Wichern is credited for inventing the wreath. The pastor had founded a mission school (called Rauhes Haus) in Hamburg, and kids at the school would ask him daily how much longer until Christmas. In 1839, as a result of the children's questions', he built a large wooden ring with 20 red candles and four white candles. Each day in the weeks before Christmas, he would light a candle (white ones were lit on Sundays). And his invention stuck: churches across Germany began adopting the tradition, and the custom even spread to North America in the 1930s. The wooden ring evolved to become a wreath, and people typically use four candles instead of 24.

Travel to Germany during the holidays and we're sure you'll see Adventskränze all over the place, including grocery stores, Christmas markets and people's homes!

By Nicole Glass, Editor of The Week in Germany

Source: The Week in Germany. 11 December 2015 Web. 15 December 2015.

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Event in Review:

Nikolausfeier December 13th, 2015

Last Sunday, the Club held a fantastic Nikolausfeier celebration at the home of Doerte and Karsten Ingwersen! Club members and guests enjoyed the company of one another and the children enjoyed an extra special visit from Nikolaus. Many thanks to everyone who attended and helped make the event memorable, and the GAC wishes to extend an extra-special "thank you" to our wonderful host and hostess, Doerte and Karsten Ingwersen, for their generosity!

German - an attractive foreign language

German is one of around 15 Germanic languages, a branch of the Indo-Germanic family of languages. It is the most frequently spoken mother tongue in the European Union (EU) and one of the ten most widely spoken languages in the world: Around 120 million people speak German as their mother tongue. After English German comes second in terms of foreign languages in Europe. There are currently some 17 million people worldwide learning German as a foreign language at institutions and schools. The teaching of the German language abroad is promoted by the Federal Foreign Office and entrusted to organizations: The Goethe Institute offers German language courses in 127 cities in 80 countries. 440 German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) lecturers work on behalf of the DAAD at universities in 102 countries. The Zentralstelle für das Auslandsschulwesen (ZfA) manages 135 German schools outside the country, as well as some 1,900 German staff teaching abroad. "Schulen: Partner der Zukunft" (Schools: Partners for the Future), a Federal Foreign Office Initiative aims to establish German as a foreign language more strongly abroad. The goal is for a network of 1,500 partner schools.

Source:

http://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/en/culture-and-media/main-content-09/german-an-attractive-foreign-language.html

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

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

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