



German American Club of the Carolinas



See You @
Nikolausfeier & Christmas Eve

NEWSLETTER

www.gacsouth.com

**GERMAN-AMERICAN CLUB
OF THE CAROLINAS
P.O. Box 1734
Spartanburg, S.C. 29304**



From the President's Desk

As we are celebrating the first day of Advent, let us reflect and give thanks to a wonderful year full of good deeds and surprises. Our Club is doing well, we continuously gain new members, and we have replaced three board members at our business dinner last month. Two positions are still open - Vice-President and general Board Member - please consider to step up and serve on the board. We need you, the Club needs you!

I want to thank all of you who have worked hard and volunteered for the Club at one or more of the events we participated in during the year. Also, thank you to all the board members for a job well done. I hope all of you will have a wonderful holiday season.

Beate Pirchmoser

Current Executive Committee:

| | | <u>Tel. No.</u> | <u>email address:</u> |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|--|
| President | Beate Pirchmoser | 576-2826 | – beate@gacsouth.com |
| Vice President | Robert McKenna | 439-6453 | – rob@gacsouth.com |
| Treasurer | Ulrike Schmidt | 579-9329 | – uli@gacsouth.com |
| Member-at-Large | Kristin S. Gray | 590-8389 | – kristin@gacsouth.com |
| Secretary | Marlies Welsch | 587-2037 | – marlies@gacsouth.com |

Current Board of Directors:

| | | <u>Tel. No.</u> | <u>email address:</u> |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---|
| Board Member | Vacant | | |
| Board Member | Gerhard Seyffer | 595-5102 | -- gerhard.seyffer@ltg-inc.net |
| Board Member | Fred Mussel | 592-1573 | – fred@gacsouth.com |
| Membership | Neita Frank | 576-6908 | – neita@gacsouth.com |
| Newsletter Editor | William J. Gray | 585-5678 | – william@gacsouth.com |

Did you know...

"No one is in control of your happiness but you; therefore, you have the power to change anything about yourself or your life that you want to change."

Barbara DeAngelis, Author

Word of the Day: **sobriquet (noun)**

Meaning: an assumed name, a nickname or a shortened version of one's full name

While his formal name was Charles Gordon Windsor III, everyone who had ever met him called him by his sobriquet, Sparky.

The French word "soubriquet" translates to "chuck under the chin." That phrase means an affront, which easily transfers to a nickname or false name.

**EVENTS IN REVIEW:**

November 14 – GAC Business Dinner Meeting: The new venue at Brasserie Ecosse was fun for our side of the restaurants. Thank you Bill Joslin for setting up a great variety in our meal choices and we only heard hmmm good from all the eaters. We had Gerhard Seyffer step forward as a Board Member. Thank you. Also our newest board members are twice lucky winners: William Gray is your new newsletters editor, and Kristin is our new member-at-large. Kristin and William won the BMW's sponsored weekend ride and drive in either an X5 or X6. Do you know how many people wanted to squeeze into that car? Keep counting. Our own Annemarie Cronin won beer, weights, table linens etc. Then Gabi won all the rest of the prizes. Tee Hee. Yes there were other winners, you know who you are. Congratulations to Thomas Koenig for his wonderful picture memory of GAC at work, fun and serious through 2009.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

December 6th – Nikolausfeier: **Santa's visit to the children [of all ages]. Time: 2 pm until 6 pm. At the guesthouse of Roland and Amy Zimmer.**

Directions: Take exit #10 off of I-26 West (Hwy 292), take a right at the exit, take the next left, go about ½ mile, at the stop sign take a right onto Edwards Road. Go about 1 mile and take a left into first road on the left to Waterline Road. At the fork, bear to the left and the guesthouse is on your left.

Remember: please bring a present for each child with legible nametag attached.

Moms - please bring home-baked Christmas cookies to share. Dress warmly - the event is held outdoors. As always, the Club will provide beverages, Glühwein, chili and something hot off the grill.

December 24th – Christmas Eve Service at St. John Lutheran Church on Pine Street.

As usual, we will begin with a social gathering in the fellowship hall at 3:00 pm, followed by the service at 4:00 pm. Pastor Koch agreed to limit his sermon to 15 min. German / 10 min. English. Ulrike Schmidt will be in charge of the reception this year. Rehearsal of the Men's Choir is in full swing, thanks to Jochem Schoellkopf. Klaus Groeger will schedule the ushers, and Jacqueline Linder is working on the Readers and Acolyte. We are still waiting on confirmation regarding the Ave Maria singer this year. Put that date on your calendar and have a wonderful reminiscence of Germany.

Other Business:**Stammtisch:**

Come on down to Bronco's. Please join us next Friday, December 11. Location: Bronco's, 352 East Blackstock Road, Spartanburg, SC – Tel. 576-7250. Our next dates will be: Jan. 8, Feb 5.....

GAC MEMBERS ABOUT TOWN:

CHEERS, LET'S HEAR THOSE CHEERS Jacqueline McKenna will be dancing as a Cherub in the Nutcracker Suite on December 11, 12 and 13. Then the entire Rob McKenna family will be flying to Germany on December 15 to visit Birgit's folks for the Christmas holidays.

Martin Aigner is participating in the Nutcracker Suite as well. Let's all go and cheer them on.

GAC has discounted tickets to these performances, provided we get enough people to sign up.



SMILES:

Welcome our new members:

Linda and Gottfried Gschnitzer
(Gottfried is from BMW – Linda owns a Pretzel Factory)

Congratulations to Ingrid and Klaus Groeger on their new grandson

Lorenzo Matthias Gracia – son of Ulrike and Lorenzo Gracia
Born November 12, 2009

SPARTANBURG CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

For more information (details, times, locations, etc.) go to the official website for the City of Spartanburg and click on “Community Calendar”.

For those living in Greenville, please go to the website of the ICU (International Center of the Upstate) at www.icugvlsc.com or to the official website for the City of Greenville at www.cityofgreenville.org and look for “current events”.

Don't miss "Dickens of a Christmas" on Tuesday, December 1, 2009, 6:00 - 9:00 pm.

“It’s A Home-Grown Christmas with the SPO”

The Spartanburg Philharmonic Orchestra Performs Messiah and Christmas Classics with local artists. Concert Sponsors: Linda & Gary McHam, Budweiser of Spartanburg

Guest Performances by Soprano Leigh Pace, Bass/Baritone Stafford Turner, Performer Daryle Ryce, Spartanburg Methodist Choir, Pure N’ Heart Children’s Choir, Ballet Spartanburg and St. Nick!

Hey Kids!!! There will be a special appearance from Santa and he’s giving away special treats! Don’t miss Santa Claus!

The evening is hosted by Pam Stone, Ramona Holloway and Sharon Decker from the radio show of “The Satisfied Life.” Listen to the show to win FREE tickets. For show information, <http://www.1079thelink.com/page.cfm?ID=187>.

Saturday, December 5, 2009, 7 PM at Twichell Auditorium, Tickets Prices \$15 & \$25
Order tickets online at www.converse.edu/twichell, Call 864.596.9725 for more information.

CHRISTMAS IS ON OUR DOORSTEP AND HERE ARE STORIES OF GIVING:

Author and lecturer Leo Buscaglia once talked about a contest he was asked to judge. The purpose of the contest was to find the most caring child. The winners were:

A four-year-old child, whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman, who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's' yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his mother asked him what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy just said, 'Nothing, I just helped him cry.'

Teacher Debbie Moon's first graders were discussing a picture of a family. One little boy in the picture had a different hair color than the other members. One of her students suggested that he was adopted. A little girl said, 'I know all about adoption, I was adopted.'

'What does it mean to be adopted?', asked another child.
'It means', said the girl, 'that you grew in your mommy's heart instead of her tummy!'

Whenever I'm disappointed with my spot in life, I stop and think about little Jamie Scott. Jamie was trying out for a part in the school play. His mother told me that he'd set his heart on being in it, though she feared he would not be chosen. On the day the parts were awarded, I went with her to collect him after school. Jamie rushed up to her, eyes shining with pride and excitement. 'Guess what, Mom,' he shouted, and then said those words that will remain a lesson to me....'I've been chosen to clap and cheer.'



An eye witness account from New York City, on a cold day in December, some years ago:

A little boy, about 10-years-old, was standing before a shoe store on the roadway, barefooted, peering through the window, and shivering with cold.

A lady approached the young boy and said, 'My, but you're in such deep thought staring in that window!'

'I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes,' was the boy's reply.

The lady took him by the hand, went into the store, and asked the clerk to get half a dozen pairs of socks for the boy. She then asked if he could give her a basin of water and a towel. He quickly brought them to her.

She took the little fellow to the back part of the store and, removing her gloves, knelt down, washed his little feet, and dried them with the towel.

By this time, the clerk had returned with the socks. Placing a pair upon the boy's feet, she purchased him a pair of shoes. She tied up the remaining pairs of socks and gave them to him. She patted him on the head and said, 'No doubt, you will be more comfortable now.'

As she turned to go, the astonished kid caught her by the hand, and looking up into her face, with tears in his eyes, asked her.

'Are you God's wife?'

As the pen/computer program is passed to William Gray, I wish to thank you all for allowing me to be your newsletter editor these five years. William will bring new ideas and creative opportunities for you to have more good old fashioned and down home news, humor and joys of life. Thank you. I have fully enjoyed being your newsletter editor and will stay connected to you wonderful people.

2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 6 Nikolausfeier

December 24 Christmas Eve Service @ St. John's Lutheran Church

**Merry Christmas
May your continued Generosity be Given Away so
You get more of it to give away.**



2010 - TENTATIVE - CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| January | Ski trip to Beech Mountain in North Carolina |
| February 13 | Fasching for adults with the Swiss Club |
| March 20 | 10th Annual International Soccer Tournament at USC-U |
| April 10 | Twitshell: "German Night" - GAC will sponsor the reception |
| May 29 | Frankfest (Memorial Day Weekend) |
| July | Music/Drama (tba) |
| September 18 | Hike |
| September | Pig Roast – Swiss Club at Carolina Country Club |
| October 2 | International Festival Barnet Park, Spartanburg |
| November 12/13 | Annual GAC Business Dinner |
| December 5 | Nikolausfeier |
| December 24 | Christmas Eve Service @ St. John's Lutheran Church |



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FAX: (864) 578-7708
CELL: (864) 590-9115

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE !!!



Erna Reni Blome

General Agent
License # 276003409

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Bus: 843/390-4010 ext. Office location: 1507 Highway 9E
Cell: 843/458-4806 Longs, SC 29568
Fax: 843/399-5094

email: ernablome@aol.com

This book was written by Annemarie Korchek, a GAC member. It is the story of her life, from growing up in East Berlin and surviving the War, to escaping to the West.

Want to know more? You may purchase this book directly from Annemarie for \$16.00. Office location:

Call her at (864) 579-3812 or send an email to lovemutti@bellsouth.net



Reni Blome

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and LTC

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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 Dependent Children:

| | <u>Name</u> | <u>Age</u> |
|-------|-------------|------------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

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

Occupation or Profession: _____

(Spouse)

Addresses: Residence _____ Business _____

Telephone _____ Telephone _____

Email Address: _____ Email Address: _____

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)