

The German American Societies

Of San Diego, Inc.

Spring Summer Newsletter 2013

See all pages in color: go to www.germanclubsandiego.org



SPRING –SUMMER SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

April 20

Intl. Heimatabend

May 05

Spring Coir Concert

May 11

Cal. German School
Outdoor Kinderfest

May 15

General Membership
Meeting & Election

June 08

47th Anniversary Ball

Summer Break

June 10 until August 30

August 24

Open House-Membership
Drive
Outdoor Event !!!

Oktoberfest !!!

Sept. 27-28-29

&

Oct. 4-5-6

Thank you, Prince Karl and Princess Christina, for a tremendous 2012-2013 Karneval Season ! We are very proud of what was accomplished, and we fondly will remember you and the fun we all had !



DIRECTORY

German American Societies of San Diego, Inc.

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2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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As a reminder I want to inform the readers of this newsletter that the Board of Directors, the Commissioners, all Volunteers and the Editor of this bulletin are not professionals. We are all members of this social club, helping by organizing and donating our time to the German American Societies, our home away from home. Thank you, Heidi Williams

CLUB HOUSE RULES

The following rules and regulations have been established to ensure that everyone using the club and property has the responsibility to preserve our beautiful facility now and for years to come.

ABC restriction: No alcohol will be allowed to be brought into the club at any event, hall rental or meetings. Also, alcohol served from our bar can only be consumed inside the club house. At no time (except Oktoberfest and Open House) can glasses with alcohol be carried outside into our beer garden and parking lot area.

Cigarettes must be extinguished outside in appropriate containers.

No gum chewing allowed in the building.

No shoe or foot powder allowed in the building. (Dance Floor)

Club staff members are not responsible for any personal belongings left unattended or left behind in the facility.

PUBLICATION POLICY

The publicity department of the G.A.S. is responsible for the bulletin's contents and reserves the right to edit or refuse all articles and advertisements submitted for publication.

If you move, PLEASE inform us of your new address! <—

If you change your email address, PLEASE let us know! <—

Advertisement : Nominal Type Setting and Artwork by Request

Business Card annually \$100.00

Half Page annually \$ 240.00

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Full Page annually \$ 340.00

PRESIDENT'S & EDITOR'S MESSAGE



Marianna Roberts
President

WOW! ...If you did not attend our New Year's party you don't know what you missed. Thanks to Heidi and her crew the place looked fabulous, the band was great and everyone loved it. We had the balcony totally full of the Polish Contingency and as the compliments showed, they enjoyed themselves immensely. Karneval was short and sweet this year with a great Prince and Princess and the addition of the adorable Kinder Tanzgruppe. I vote that we put on a St.Patrick's Day dance every year from now on as we all looked so good in green and it will give me a chance to have to shop around for another green dress – what fun! Once again the hall was beautifully decorated by our very talented Sharon who designed and supplied everything. Thank you, Sharon. Don't miss our International Evening on April 20th with dance performances from several countries. We hope to have a nice attendance for our Membership Meeting on May 15th and look forward to our Anniversary Ball on June 8th before taking a hiatus for the summer. Before that, though, Damenkreis is inviting all club members on a bus trip to the Reagan Library the middle of June. I don't have a date yet, so check out the bulletin for that adventure.

On a personal level, we have given up on Bill's lecture cruising for now, as he is still recuperating from several operations on his wrists. We are looking forward to spending some weeks this summer hiking and back packing out of Mammoth, one of our favorite past times for over 30 years. As most of you know, Mammoth is directly East of Yosemite and in the early summer absolutely stunning with the waterfalls gushing, the wild flowers at their most beautiful and the bear sightings always thrilling.

Wishing all of you a fabulous summer and looking forward to seeing you at the club.

Hugs, Marianna

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

The "Spotlight" story on the next page is such an important concept. In our club's experience, volunteers make all the difference in the success of this organization and, without their direction, planning and commitment, we would be drowning in mass confusion. In the leadership of an organization such as ours, filled with volunteers involved in great works of humanity, this important concept becomes even more profound since our only form of reward is "Thank You". So we agree to take the time in recognizing these unsung heroes in the following various positions:

We begin with our Housekeeper Rosa: (Rosa lives on the club grounds, watches over the property and cleans our hall and bathrooms after every event). Rosa is liked by all and always has a smile for everyone.

Willie's Work Crew: (Planning, repairing, building, painting, gardening and cleaning tirelessly twice weekly throughout the year). No-one can even imagine how much gets accomplished by them and therefore deserve the highest praise! !

Club Event Organizers: (Planning events, decorating the clubhouse, greeting guests at the entrance at club events, serving food etc.) I call these volunteers "the club's angels", so please thank them next time you see them!

Membership Committee: (Sorting, packing and shipping bulletins/flyers and keeping up all other correspondence with members for payments, mailing membership cards and providing other office duties.

Our Undergroups: Damenkreis, the harmonizing Choir and the exciting Karnival group. (They entertain club members and guests with their amazing programs and also represent our German American Societies organization at other clubs of surrounding areas. The Damenkreis offers fun Bus Trips to all club members and guests.

A special praise and "Thank You" to all our great Oktoberfest Volunteers and the Oktoberfest Committee (who plan and present our annual fun-filled, and very successful Oktoberfest; truly the main factor responsible in keeping our club alive!

Our Board Officers: (They have the responsibility to direct and oversee all activities at the club). Thanks for stepping forward year after year by donating countless hours and bringing their expertise in leading our club for the sake of our German culture.

Please appreciate all of the aforementioned, because it is they who stabilize our club and help us to realize a positive future.... Please, dear members, make every effort to attend and enjoy all the events as long as the opportunity is there. We can be so proud of our own beautiful club, so let's keep it going on the right track!

Please read next page >>>>



Heidi Williams
Editor



Who's Packing Your Parachute?

A couple years ago I interviewed Charlie Plumb, who was a U.S. Navy jet pilot in Vietnam. I learned a very valuable leadership lesson that I'd like to pass on to you here.

Charlie flew 74 consecutive successful combat missions. However on his 75th mission his F4 Phantom fighter plane was shot down by a surface-to-air missile. The plane exploded with some 12,000 pounds of jet fuel, flipping the plane topsy-turvy, end-over-end, down toward a rice paddy below. Charlie was forced to eject. The only thing between him and imminent death was his parachute that he prayed would open...

Then finally he felt the opening shock of the parachute. During the 90 seconds of descent he was being shot at. "The audacity of this enemy," Charlie said, "they just knocked down my multimillion-dollar airplane and now they're trying to kill the pilot!" Charlie made it down to the ground alive, but was then captured and spent 2,103 brutal days as a prisoner of war in a communist Vietnamese prison camp.

Many years after being repatriated, Charlie, his wife and another couple were sitting in a little restaurant in Kansas City together before going to a theater show that night. Two tables over was this guy who kept looking at him. Charlie would look back but didn't recognize him, but he kept catching this guy staring at him. Finally the guy stood up and walked over to Charlie's table and pointed at him with a sort of a stern look on his face and he said, "You're Captain Plumb." Charlie looked up at him and said, "Yes, I am Captain Plumb." The guy said, "You're that guy. You flew jet fighters in Vietnam. You're a fighter pilot, part of that 'Top Gun' outfit. You launched from the aircraft carrier *Kitty Hawk*, you parachuted into enemy territory and you spent six years as a prisoner of war." Somewhat dumbfounded Charlie looked up at the guy and asked, "How in the world did you know all that?" The man chuckled, smiled and said, "Because I packed your parachute." Charlie was speechless. The man grabbed Charlie's hand and pumped his arm and said, "I guess it worked" and walked off.

Charlie laid awake that night thinking about all the times he had walked through the long narrow room, below sea level on the aircraft carrier, with the tables where the men packed the parachutes. How many times he must have walked past this man without even saying "hi," "good morning" or "good job" or "I appreciate what you do." "How many times did I pass the man whose job would eventually save my life... because I was a jet jockey, a Top Gun racing around the sky at twice the speed of sound? Because I was a fighter pilot and he was just a sailor."

Think about this for yourself. How many times in life do you pass the people who help you out the most? The people who come out of the far corners of your life just when you need them the most and pack your parachutes for you? The people who go the extra mile, the people who don't look for the kudos or the accolades or the achievement medal or even the bonus check—the folks who are just out there packing parachutes? So here's what I want to challenge you to do. Look around your organization for the people who might not be the 'Top Guns' of your organization, the loud and brazen leaders, but the ones who support the system that enables the Top Guns to fly. And if something goes wrong it will be because they did their job that no one gets hurt or a customer doesn't go neglected.

This week, find 5 parachute packers in your organization and tell them how much you appreciate them and how important are the things they do for the organization. Because, in the end, it might just be them who save your life or your business, or at least save the day.

A Club Volunteer's View of 2013. Tell me, isn't the above a wonderful story one we can all learn from? Often members take things at our club for granted and we hear some say: "Oh, I also have done a lot at the club in my younger years." This is true and we respect that, but we too have aged in the meantime and are forced to make do without new replacement to fill the need. Work is getting harder for us "oldies" every day. So, enjoy what you have now because criticism only serves in taking the wind out of everyone's sail, which leaves what? After all, we all want to celebrate many more Anniversaries at our club, right? Just come with a smile to our next event and appreciate that the doors of our German American Societies are still open. It is a place where you can feel at home, relax and have fun. Please, take advantage of it!



in the

Spotlight

Letter from the German Saturday School

Dear Heidi, we wish to express our deep felt appreciation to you and the German American Club of San Diego.

The support we receive from you year after year is very helpful and beneficial to the success of our School. We have been invited to join in at several sponsored events including the Christmas Celebrations and our "End-of-Year-Summer & our Christmas—Parties". In addition, last year we were given eight portable CD players for each of our classes. We look forward to our continued relationship and support from the German American Club of San Diego.



Liebe Grüße, Anke Byrne

Director - Principal
German School San Diego



Cub Scout Pack 362 annual Blue and Gold Dinner at the German American Societies!

On behalf of Cub Scout Pack 362, I'd like to thank the German American Societies for the use of their clubhouse for our annual Blue and Gold Dinner. This event, which took place the afternoon of Sunday, February 24, is a celebration of "bridging," wherein our Weblogs Cub Scouts cross over into the world of Boy Scouts. Cub Scouts and families took part in this ceremonial dinner event, and were impressed once again with the way the clubhouse was set up and decorated, the ample parking, and hospitality of Heidi Williams and the club in general. We had over 150 in attendance, enjoying the ceremony, dinner, and desserts. It's always bittersweet, as some of our longtime scouts leave the Pack to go further in Boy Scouting, and this year our popular Scoutmaster, Mike Fraire and his assistant and wife Barbara, also left us, along with their son, to join a Boy Scout troop.

Pack 362 is a local Cub Scout Pack, with most members coming from the El Cajon, La Mesa, and Rancho San Diego areas and schools. Many of our members are regular attendees at Oktoberfest, and several are members, too, of G.A.S. - with more sure to come!

Once again, the entire Pack appreciates the generous hospitality of the German American Societies!

Thank you

Donald Hofstee
Pack 362
Committee
Chair



SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

We would like to provide members of the G.A.S. with warm and sincere wishes at times of illness and grief by sending a greeting card. This can only function if club members and friends notify us. Please don't hesitate to leave a message at the club office (619)442-6637 or get in touch with our Sunshine Lady.

Tillie O'Haver

(619)596-7745



We would like to welcome more Sunshine Ladies to assist Tillie, visiting needy members, putting happy moments into their lives and seeing that smile! A knock on the door announcing a visit, just a little flower bouquet, a trip to the store, an outing to the park, holding hands or just a few words over a cup of coffeeall that can mean the world to someone lonely!

For this "out-in-the-field-service" we can give you addresses and directions, also reimburse you for expenses. Please call the club office and leave a message.

I will contact you, Heidi Williams



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Editors addition : Diana is the daughter of Rosa who lives in the little house on the club property and takes such good care of our clubhouse. Diana is thankful that her mother is in good hands with us. To say 'thank you' she is decorating our clubhouse hall with flowers for all Anniversary Balls for free! We enjoy her gift and are very appreciative !

Please consider her business when you have an order

DEUTSCHER GOTTESDIENST *First Lutheran Church San Diego*

Third & Ash Street

15:00 Uhr

letzter Sonntag im Monat

Für Nähere Informationen 858-452-9797



In a recent conversation I shared that I am the pastor of St John's Lutheran Church in El Cajon.

"Yes, I heard that you've left the German Church."

No, I have NOT! Yes, I am under call of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, helping congregations through a discernment progress, finding new life and direction for mission and ministry.

And yes, my current assignment as a so called intentional interim pastor is to St John's. It is a part-time call, which allows me to spend time on behalf of the German community and church of San Diego! - and the German Church is growing! Come and see!



The team:

**Brigitte,
Elsbeth,
Gabi,
Pastor Karin**

Please notify Pastor Karin (760) 798-7130 when:

- You, or someone you know, is in the hospital
- You, or someone you know, want to plan a (bi-lingual) baptism, wedding, or celebration
- A club or church member, family member, or someone you know dies
- You, or someone you know, is ill or grieving

If possible, we want to include you in our prayers, arrange for pastoral visits, and announce information to the congregation, when appropriate.

**Karin Boye,
Pastorin**



Sausage & More a Bavarian delight, wrote the S.D. Union a few weeks ago in their weekend newspaper.

Christel Pfeifer is a member of the German American Societies and for many years she cooks her delicious dinners at our events during the year. She also at our traditional, annual Oktoberfest, the most original in this area.

Christel & Jack

She also worked for about 10 years at the famous Sausage King Butcher shop in Mission Hills. Last year the owner passed away and Sausage King closed after a 48-year run. Now Christel and her brother Jack Bransford have opened a delightful little deli called Sausage & More in Lakeside. This inviting deli restaurant serves handcrafted sandwiches, sides, cakes and pastry from 10 a.m.—6 p.m. On Fridays, Christel makes German home-made entrees served with potato salad, red cabbage or sauerkraut.

Planning a party and looking for catering with a European touch? You come to the right place and Christel will fulfill your wishes and expectations..... Your party will be well remembered by your guests!

Sausage & More
12241 Woodside Ave.
Lakeside, Ca. 92040
Telephone 619-390-1514
Owner: Christel Pfeifer

Our business hours are:
Monday through Saturday 10 am - 6 pm
www.sausageandmore.com/

~~~~~  
Christel's European Delicatessen and Bistro has stocked its refrigerated display cases with the best and largest collection of German sausages, cheeses and delicatessen, and loaded the shelves with a variety of authentic European groceries and breads!



**OKTOBERFEST MESSAGE**

Time is flying by...didn't we just celebrate a terrific Oktoberfest at the German American Societies? We are well into the year 2013 now and in March, Mike Anderson has already called the Oktoberfest Committee to the first meeting to begin planning for this year's Oktoberfest. The dates are:  
**Last week in Sept. 28-29-30 & First week in Oct. 4-5-6**



**CLUB MESSAGE**

The membership dues letters have been sent out one month ago and, to date, not even half of our members have paid their dues for the year 2013-2014. The membership time frame always starts April 1st to April of the next year. A 'thank you' to members who have already done so. Last day to pay membership dues is May 15th at our General Membership Meeting.

Also, April 1st was the cut-off-date to send in the Application form to run for the earlier announced Board positions. As of April 1st, no application has been received at our club office.

P.S. The club is in need of a gas stove for our rental house. Maybe someone has one in good condition to donate? We also would appreciate a dishwasher for our club kitchen. Is anyone replacing their dishwasher and would like to donate it? Thank you.



**Monika Parme, the club's Ambassador,**

assists Heidi Williams, Business Manager, with all of her many assignments at the club, office and field service. If you have questions and need help, please email:

Heidi Williams : [Heidiwgermanclub@cox.net](mailto:Heidiwgermanclub@cox.net) or

Monika Parme : [monarry@aol.com](mailto:monarry@aol.com)



**Our long-time club member, Irmgard (Irmchen) Blausler,**

can be found at all club functions like Galas, Club Dinner Dances, Karneval events, Oktoberfest and Open House/Membership-Drive. She takes photos of the activities, members and guests. We thank Irmchen very much for her talent and dedication.

If you want to order YOUR pictures,  
please call her at 619-466-0229 or 619 - 248 - 3392





Here's to a great year!

**Mike Anderson**

Keller Williams Realty

619-390-9793

CA DRE #00850095

[realtyinsd@aol.com](mailto:realtyinsd@aol.com)

Active in G.A.S.  
since 1993

Oktoberfest

Chairman

Karneval member

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**Happy Mother's & Happy Father's Day !**



It was written by an 8-year-old named Danny , who lives in Chula Vista, CA. He wrote it for his third grade homework assignment, to 'explain God.' I wonder if any of us could have done as well?

**EXPLANATION OF GOD**

'One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.'

'God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.'

'God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.'

'Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista . At least there aren't any who come to our church.'

'Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K.'

'His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important.'

'You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.'

'You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God!'

Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.'

'If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.'

'But...you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases. And...that's why I believe in God.'

## The story about Erwin and Rosa Struss / Erwin was one of the founders of the G.A.S.



**STRUSS, ERWIN** January 8, 1929 to Sept. 9, 2011 Erwin was born to Paul and Erna Struss in Sagast, Germany. He was the younger of two sons. Even as a child, he showed a keen interest in all technical fields, especially electricity. In 1946, after the Allied Forces split Germany, Erwin's family had their business and property confiscated by a Russian Military Tribunal. A year later a similar tribunal sentenced him for political disobedience. Erwin served prison time in three different concentration camps that had been captured by the Russians and were being used for political prisoners. The survival rate was very low, with most prisoners dying from malnutrition, physical beatings and diseases such as tuberculosis. Erwin was lucky to survive and was released in October 1950. Shortly after his release, a close friend informed him that new charges were being fabricated against him. Not risking serving another sentence in a camp, Erwin made his escape through Berlin and was granted asylum by West Germany in 1951. Between 1951 and 1954, Erwin worked as an electrician in Switzerland. This is where he met his wife, Rosa. Shortly after receiving his Electrical Master Degree, the political unrest in Hungary and his lingering memories of the experience in the camps persuaded Erwin to move to America. In 1959 he relocated his family to San Diego with the help of a sponsor he had befriended during his imprisonment. His first job as an outside electrical journeyman only lasted a few months. He then secured employment with National Steel and Shipbuilding where he devoted 32 years of his life following his passion. His rare ability to excel on both a technical and managerial level helped him to advance from journeyman to General Director over the course of his career. During his working years Erwin also helped found the German American Societies of San Diego. He served as the second president of the club, an office he held for many years. The club, with its clubhouse in El Cajon, was founded to preserve German culture for the many Germans living in the San Diego area. In the 60s and 70s, being a club member also entitled you to use the low fare charter flight services to Germany. This service was greatly appreciated by first generation Germans eager to visit friends and relatives. Erwin's retirement years started in 1991 and were filled with travel, hobbies and visiting friends. These activities started to decline with the onset of neuropathy and dementia. His last days were spent in a peaceful coma. His unique ability to relate to others, his kindness and wisdom will be greatly missed by his family and friends.



**STRUSS, ROSA** passed away peacefully at home on February 13, 2013. Born in Switzerland in 1929 to an Austrian mother and German father, she was the youngest of ten siblings. Rosa started working at the age of 13 as a waitress to help support her family. It was while waitressing in her early 20s that Rosa met her husband. After a brief stay in Germany they immigrated together with their two sons to San Diego in 1959. During her first five years in San Diego, Rosa was busy raising her sons and managing the household. She was an excellent cook and baker. In the mid 1960's Rosa started selling charter flights out of her garage for members of the German American Societies. This enabled her to still run the household between customers. As the charter flight era was winding down in the mid 1970's, Rosa along with her friend and partner, Margaret Cook, started Fletridge Travel in Point Loma and they ran the agency for over twenty five years until their retirement. Her kindness and caring personality will forever find a place in the hearts of her friends and loved ones. Rosa was preceded in death by her husband, Erwin, and is survived by her two sons, Franz and Wolfgang, her daughter-in-law, Elisabeth, and her three grandsons, Thomas, Brian, and Peter.



**Rosa Struss and Connie Mc Grath /** The friendship that would last for 53 years.

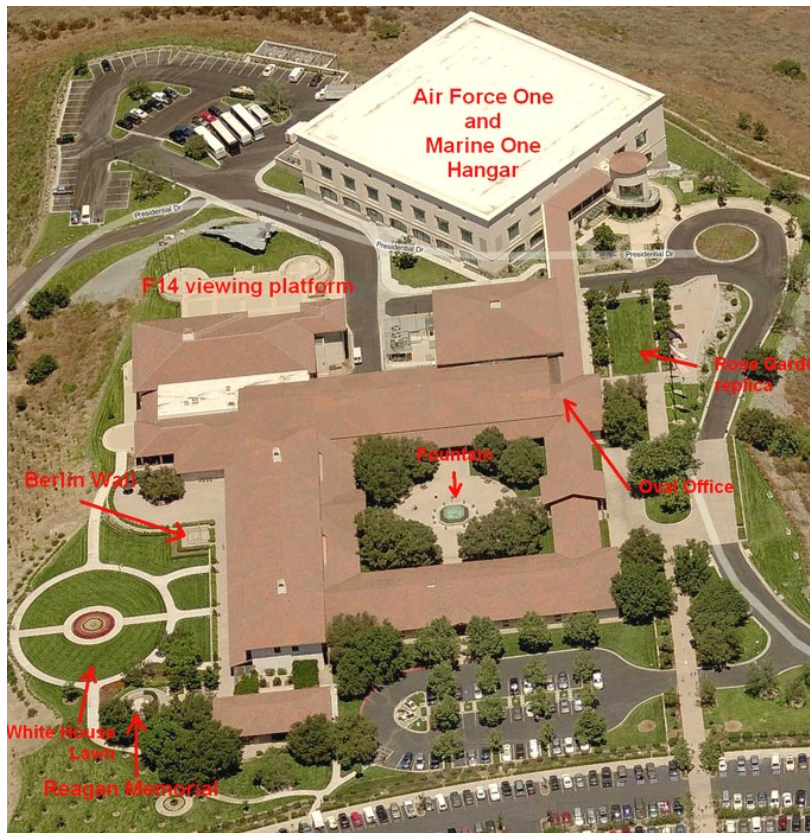
In 1961 my family and I returned from living in Germany and set out to start a new life in San Diego. We knew very few people here and were still in the process of adjusting from our military life to civilian life. Our first home was an apartment in Clairemont, while we decided where in San Diego to settle. One day while my four year old daughter was outside playing, dressed in a cute dirndl dress, a neighbor spotted her and assuming the child must have European roots, followed her home. The lady introduced herself as Rosa Struss, a newly arrived immigrant from Switzerland by way of Germany. This was the beginning of a friendship that would last for 53 years. A year later we found a house that we liked and a month later the Struss' followed and moved in across the street. Later, Rosa's husband, Erwin, would become one of the founders of the German American Societies.

Rosa, Lilo McCowan and I worked out of Rosa's garage selling charter flights to Germany. Around that time the Struss family made their yearly trip to Europe and while there visited my parents. The two families became very fond of each other and my father commented that had I had a sister she could not be closer or better to me than Rosa. She became a Tante to my daughter Maureen. When my husband Mac came down with cancer and we could see that he wouldn't live much longer, the Struss' cancelled their vacation with their son Wolfgang in Seattle to stay with me during my difficult time. All my life and wherever I lived, I had the good fortune to have many wonderful friends. But the friendship I had with Rosa was a very special one. After Mac's funeral it was Rosa and Erwin that held the wake in their home, hosting over 50 people. I was blessed to have them in my life and will miss both of them very much. Somewhere up in the heavens I hope Rosa is reading this and knows how truly special she was to me.

Meiner besten Freundin Rosa einen "Letzten Gruß." (A last greeting to my best friend Rosa)..... Connie McGrath.....



## Club Bus trip to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library on June 19, 2013



### Would you like to come with us?????????

The Damenkreis is planning another bus trip and wants to invite all members of the German American Societies to come along! Please leave a message by May 15th Club phone number 619-442-6637 so we can schedule your attendance and have time to reserve the bus and the museum. The bus trip itself is always a lot of fun and if there is enough time we can stop at Alpine Village/Torrance to do some shopping.

For more info call:

Heidi Williams 619-445-2549

Elsbeth Erler 858-452-9797

The Reagan Library is located in [Simi Valley, California](#), about 40 miles (64 km) northwest of [Downtown Los Angeles](#) and is the largest of the twelve federally operated presidential libraries. The museum features continually changing temporary exhibits and a permanent exhibit covering President Reagan's life. This exhibit begins during Reagan's childhood in [Dixon, Illinois](#) and follows his life through his film career and military service, marriage to Nancy Davis Reagan, and political career. The hilltop grounds provide expansive views of the area, a re-creation of a portion of the [White House](#) Lawn, and, like many presidential libraries, a piece of the [Berlin Wall](#). The [Air Force One](#) and an [F-14 Tomcat](#) is also located on the grounds.

### **ARRIVING & TOURING THE MUSEUM:**

The Museum is designed for self guided activities. Please allow 2 ½ to 3 hours to view all the galleries and exhibits. The Museum and grounds are wheelchair accessible except for the interior of Air Force One. For those of our visitors who are unable to walk through the aircraft, a wheelchair lift is provided to access the entry of the plane to view the flight deck and communication center. Additionally, elevator access is available at the rear entrance and a special photo album located next to the airplane is available for viewing. Complimentary wheelchairs are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

### **DINING OPTIONS:**

[Reagan's Country Cafe](#) features a variety of home-made sandwiches, hamburgers/fries, salads, soups, side dishes, daily specials and desserts. The view overlooking the valley out to the Pacific Ocean is quite spectacular. The cafe is accessible to the general public without having to enter the Museum.

Hours of Operation: 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily

[The Ronald Reagan Pub](#) is located in the Air Force One Pavilion on the first floor. Museum admission is required to visit the pub, which sells beverages and pre-packaged sandwiches, salads and desserts.

Hours of Operation: 11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. seven days a week.





## Most Question asked: "What do you offer at your German Club in El Cajon?"

*The German American Societies mission is to unite Germans, and other nationalities interested in our culture, through various activities and dinner dances. These are announced in the German American Societies newsletter.*

**You can join the following ACTIVITY GROUPS. They meet on a regular basis. (Except summer break)**

**DAMENKREIS (Women's Circle)** - Meets the first Wednesday of the month at 12:00 noon, sometimes in the evening. This monthly gathering is a social group that has a lot of fun with many interesting programs and sometimes enjoys guest speakers and movies. Meetings are held in German.

They are also doing bus trips throughout the year and are inviting not only the Damenkreis but ALL club members to these fun outings.

Many of us don't want to travel longer distance with our own car anymore, but like to explore places on organized bus trips among friends .

**GERMANIA CHOIR** — Every Tuesday night at 7:45 pm- our choir meets for a fun-filled evening of music and song. Our Choir not only harmonizes at the Clubhouse, but also performs publicly, especially during the Holiday season. Songs are sung in German. Sing with us and make new friends!



**KARNEVAL-SEASON** — The group meets the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm and weekly during the Karneval season. We celebrate the Fasching in the German tradition. Called Karneval in Rio, and Mardi Gras in the United States, all you need is a love for life and willingness for fun and frolic in the spirit of Karneval. We also have a very cute children's Karneval group.



**What is Karneval ? ? ? ?**

Since the middle ages Karneval (or Mardi Gras) began in Rome and spread to other European Countries. Our German tradition dates back to medieval times. Many countries existed under harsh rulers in the Rhineland and kings, princes and even smaller potentates each maintained their own courts, competing with each other as to pomp and splendor, at the expense of their populations.

At "Karneval Time" the common people chose a mock government represented by the Elferrat and selected a Prince and Princess (das Prinzenpaar) to rule the country. Current political features and their sovereigns were the subject of ridicule. That holds true still today, current politicians are free game! Parades, dancing in the streets, masquerade balls and comical skits.

**Karneval season begins on November 11th and ends Ash Wednesday each year.**

**SKAT PLAYERS** — meet most every Thursday at 7:00pm

This German card game dates back prior to 1818. The first American Skat League was founded in St. Louis, Missouri in 1898.



**OKTOBERFEST** — Every year the German American Societies of San Diego, Inc., hosts its traditional Oktoberfest on the last weekend of September and the first weekend of October. (Friday-Saturday and Sunday) Authentic German food, such as bratwurst, ox-on-the-spit, potato salad, potato pancakes, sauerkraut, red cabbage and a variety of German pastries will be served. Soft drinks & adult beverages will be available, including a fantastic selection of German beers and liquors.



Most every year, our band comes straight from Germany. These talented, fine MUSICIANS dress in traditional clothing, and play a variety of German music, just as you would hear in the beer gardens in Germany. Folk dancing performances will be featured, along with games & contests, vendor & craft booths, and a kids' zone. Bring your family to El Cajon and experience a real German Oktoberfest!



# Spring-Summer Newsletter 2013— Karneval Report



To most of you, Karneval starts on November 11 and lasts until Ash Wednesday. To our devoted members of the Karneval's group however, the camaraderie within the group and the planning for the next season is a whole year's endeavor and a yearlong process. Our "off-time" is spent planning next season's events and raising some funds in order to pay for all that fun. If you attended the Ashwednesday festivities you witnessed the fall of a Prinz to a pauper. The Karneval members had prepared a delicious potluck dinner. After dinner Prinz Karl, with his lovely Prinzessin Tina, thanked the group for their work and loyalty. Presents were given to all and everybody thanked the Royal couple for their generosity and their great sense of humor, which added to this Karneval Season an extra amount of fun and laughter. Numerous "Thanks" then followed by the individual members. The planning for next year's season has already begun.

For now we are going to cook and serve dinner at the General Membership Meeting May 15 and we need to thank all of you for eating dinner that evening.

You need to know that once again we will have a camping weekend in June 15-16. Everybody is welcome. You can come and visit us for just an afternoon, or you can join us around the campfire in your tent. We can even find a sleeping bag and a tent if you want to stay!

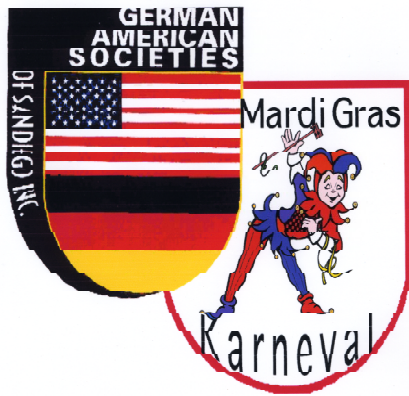
The weekend (June 1 & 2 ) is our famous garage sale. Without your contributions to this momentous occasion we would not be able to decorate the hall, have costumes sewn or dress all those munchkins in Kinderkarneval. Thank you for your generosity and please keep things coming.

Just call : Claudia or Mark Jensen (619) 443-7001 / gsrkool@cox.net Claudia



PICTURES OF THE GREAT KARNEVAL SEASON 2012-2013





**From the G.A.S. Board of Directors  
to the G.A.S. Karneval Gesellschaft**

**Congratulations ! Another wonderful Karneval Season started  
Nov. 17. 2012 and ended on Ash Wednesday, February 2013!**

Our 47th season Opening event was a great success and enjoyed by club members and guests! All Karneval events were organized and performed by our talented Karneval Under-Group. We want to thank each and everyone for their endless effort and dedication to make the 2012-2013 Karneval season as memorable as possible. The crowned impressive Prinzenpaar was introduced to a full house at the German American Societies and was welcomed with great applause.

What a beautiful Prinzenpaar with such a happy personality!



Also, an enormous THANK YOU has to go to the Karneval group for providing us with everything Kinderkarneval has to offer and their appearance was absolutely out of this world and so cute! Also, a great big THANK YOU goes to the parents and grandparents that faithfully bring the kids to practices. A final THANK YOU to all of you for your support of the Karnevalsgesellschaft, as well as for your support of "our" club. We can all be proud of what all is accomplished, and it is our hope, that we will continue our traditions for many years to come!



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# KINDER DANCING INFORMATION



## German American Societies Kindertanzgruppe

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For more information please contact:  
Tanja Sawicki

[G.A.S.Kindertanzgruppe@gmail.com](mailto:G.A.S.Kindertanzgruppe@gmail.com)



# ADULT DANCING INFORMATION

## Dancing Makes You Smarter...Join Us!

The following are excerpts from an article written by Richard Powers entitled "Use It or Lose It: Dancing Makes Your Smarter."

"For centuries, dance manuals and other writings have lauded the health benefits of dancing, usually as physical exercise." More recently, other health benefits such as stress reduction and an increased serotonin level (sense of well-being) have been determined. Most recently, it has been uncovered that frequent dancing makes us smarter.

"A major study added to the growing evidence that stimulating one's mind can ward off Alzheimer's disease and other dementia, much as physical exercise can keep the body fit. Dancing also increase cognitive acuity at all ages."

In fact, in a 21-year study of senior citizens funded by the National Institute on Aging, it was determined that the only physical activity to offer protection against dementia was frequent dancing.



tia

### Here are the statistics:

- Bicycling/Swimming: 0% reduced risk
- Playing Golf: 0% reduced risk
- Reading: 35% reduced risk
- Crossword Puzzles: 47% reduced risk
- Frequent Dancing: 76% reduced risk

**Well, we already knew that the German Club of San Diego was fun; now we know that it is good for us too!**

**Membership is a smart decision that you can share with your family and friends! Let them know how much you care about their health and well-being and invite them to become a part of our club.**

**Contact: Heidi Williams, German American Societies Membership,**

**heidwgermanclub@cox.net, call the club: 619-442-6637 OR home office: 619-445-2549 today!**

>~>~>~>~>~>~>~>~>~

### **Dancing keeps body and brain limber. By Mario Garrett**

As we age, we experience an increase in body fat, reduced muscle mass, strength and endurance, and diminished balance and aerobic capacity. Normally these deficits result in slowly diminished levels of our functional ability. The resulting loss of functional ability can result in susceptibility to falls, inactivity and depression. This in turn can exacerbate existing conditions or contribute to new, chronic diseases such as diabetes, cardiac infarction or cancer.

The advice we hear usually involves "exercise and diet." But there might be more to this than meets the eye.

The benefits of dancing, for example, exceed mere physical exercise. One can easily see the primary benefits include improved balance and a reduced risk of falls. Dance also has been shown to have considerable physical benefits for older adults with arthritis, osteoporosis and neurological conditions.

As early as the 1980's, Robert Katzman, a leader in Alzheimer's disease research at UCSD, and Joe Verghese from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine (who published his results in 2004) were researching other benefits from dancing.

In a 21-year study of adults 75 years and older, they examined the extent to which physical or mental recreational activities influenced brain health. They studied mental activities such as reading books, writing for pleasure, doing crossword puzzles, playing cards and playing musical instruments. And they studied physical activities like playing tennis or golf, swimming, bicycling, dancing, walking for exercise and doing housework. One of the surprises of the study was almost none of the physical activities appeared to offer any protection against dementia with one important exception: frequent dancing.

Mental activities that offered similar protective benefits included playing an instrument and playing board games.

Music and dancing are becoming central features of healthy longevity. Perhaps dancers and musicians are resistant to dementia as a result of having greater cognitive reserve. They have more ways of thinking. We have a word for this---neurogenesis---where our brain constantly rewires its neural pathways through dancing and playing music.

Gerontologists still argue why dancing shows such benefits and playing tennis, for example, does not. Research using computer exercises show that engaging in unique events stimulates the brain to react and develop. Unstructured dancing, which requires instant reaction to your partner's movements, stimulates the connectivity of your brain. Unique and even frustrating classes have better results, as they create a greater need for new neural pathways. Dancing also makes your gait look better.

Dancing simultaneously involves movement, social engagement, musical appreciation and emotional expression, Repeating the poet Edwin Denby, "There is a bit of insanity in dancing that does everybody a great deal of good."



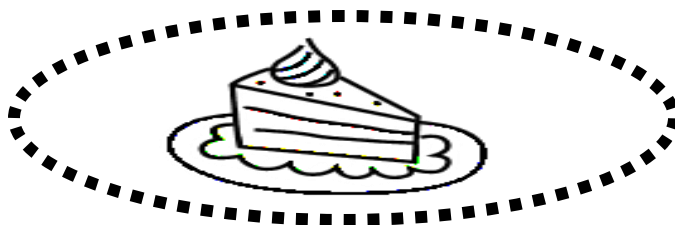


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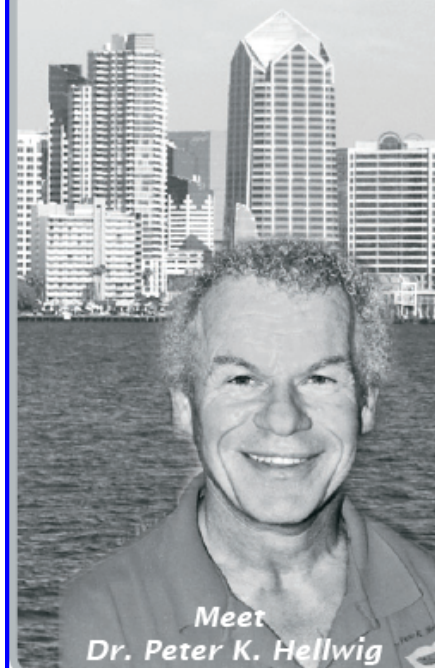
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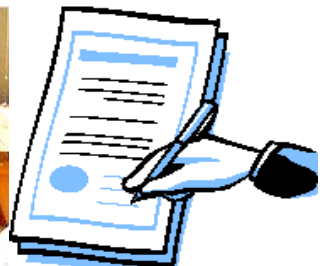
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Some of our club members have known Dr. Ruiz and his wife Susie, who is also a dentist, for more than 20 years.

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email: [akranz@german-consulate.org](mailto:akranz@german-consulate.org)  
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[Office of the Honorary Consul in San Diego](#)

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! NEW PHONE NUMBER [619-321-0606](tel:619-321-0606)

**Please notice:** Passport and Visa are only handled by the General Consulate in Los Angeles. For further information and scheduling an appointment please go to: [www.Germany.info/LosAngeles](http://www.Germany.info/LosAngeles)

[Deutschland Portal \[deutschland.de\]\(http://deutschland.de\)](#)

A new portal on all things German - [deutschland.de](http://deutschland.de) - was launched at the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin. It provides information on Germany in seven languages and specifically targets users abroad. **General information:** [German Life in San Diego](#)



## First Round Table Discussion on German Culture in San Diego

On March 13<sup>th</sup> 2013 a Round Table discussion on German Culture was sponsored by Duane Morris LLP and organized by the Honorary Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany in San Diego, Dr. Stephen Hollmann. As special guests Consul Stefan Biedermann and Vice Consul Julia Neblich were also present. The agenda covered the following points:

- ~ The Growing German Community in San Diego County
- ~ German Language and Culture in the United States Today
- ~ Introduction of Local Organizations
- ~ Opportunities for Financial Support for Cultural Activities in San Diego

Dr. Stephen Hollmann welcomed the audience of about 50 participants. The meeting room was provided by the law firm of Duane Morris and was located in the 29<sup>th</sup> floor of the Symphony Building downtown. The view over the city was breathtaking. Walls were beautifully decorated with original art work and gave the perfect setting for a discussion on cultural activities. Dr. Hollmann mentioned that there are approximately 90 000 Germans living in San Diego and vicinity. Rhetorically he asked why San Diego did not have a German town; he then explained that the German community is very well assimilated. He certainly has hopes that some of the culture and traditions will be carried on. Consul Stefan Biedermann spoke about the Goethe Institute in Los Angeles and about the Central Agency for Schools Abroad. Both institutions provide help with language and cultural programs. The program's highlight was a presentation of music from Johann Sebastian Bach performed by baroque cellist Dr. Paul Dwyer.

After the musical interlude, local organizations were given a chance to introduce themselves. Most of the attending organizations offered language programs locally: there were representatives from the Albert Einstein School, the German School of San Diego and SDSUs German language program. There were also other organizations introduced like the German Currents (German Film Festival) and pastor Karin Boye introduced the German church services at the First Lutheran Church. At the end there was a short discussion and it was realized that funds for language programs have been cut. There is especially a need for an effective program for students of the middle school age group.

At the end of the program Vice Consul Julia Neblich spoke about opportunities for Financial Support for Cultural Activities in San Diego; she handed out application forms which detail the application process. The next meeting of the San Diego Round Table on German Culture is planned for middle of September.



## German School at the club

Come and learn German with us here at the German-American Societies Club House at 1017 South Mollison Ave. in El Cajon. I am Erna Duby and I am teaching the class. I have been a German instructor for a long time.

Many years ago, I even used to substitute in Charlotte Evans' German class here at the club whenever she traveled to Germany. Currently, I am still teaching German at Grossmont College.

Many of you already know my face, because I have been coming to the club since it opened its doors. I have danced in the "Prinzen Garde" during Kameval for fifteen years.

So come and join us every Tuesday from 5-7 p.m. and have fun learning German. I am looking forward to seeing you at the club.

You can call me directly at 619-447-0302



*Erna Duby, German Teacher*

The German American Societies Club Ph. 619-442-6637 for messages





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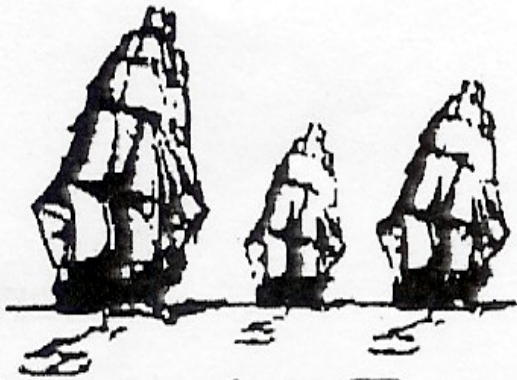
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## ANNOUNCEMENTS OF GERMAN SPEAKING CLUBS & SCHOOLS

### Contact Information of German Schools and Colleges

- ◆ Calif. Samstags Schule ◆ Ms. Anke Byrne [sdsaturdayschoolprincipal@yahoo.com](mailto:sdsaturdayschoolprincipal@yahoo.com)
- ◆ House of Germany, Balboa Park , 'Kinder Workshop, Ms. Gisela Mueller Tel 619-234-1530
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- ◆ Preschool' Rasselbande' [www.dierasselbande.com](http://www.dierasselbande.com), Ms. Tel 619-465-4420
- ◆ Grossmont College, Prof. Johannes Bruestle, [Johannes.bruestle@gcccd.edu](mailto:Johannes.bruestle@gcccd.edu)
- ◆ Adult German Classes, German American Societies, Ms. Erna Duby Tel 619-447-0302
- ◆ AATG S. D. Chapter, [www.aatgsandiego.org](http://www.aatgsandiego.org) [[aatgsandiegopresident@gmail.com](mailto:aatgsandiegopresident@gmail.com)]



### (3rd notice) NEWS FROM THE GERMAN SATURDAY SCHOOL:

**A new school location for the German Saturday School was decided on and the lease contract has been signed.**

The new home of the German Saturday School started for the school year 2012/13 (and hopefully many more to come) is located at the **Clairemont Lutheran Church, 4271 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, San Diego.**

The first day of school will be September 15th and we are now open for new enrollment. The enrollment form and the emergency form can be found on our website <http://www.sdgermanschool.com/> Please fill out one emergency form for each child. I am very happy to announce that the tuition for 2013/14 has not changed. Students four years to 18 years old will pay the following for the entire school year (30 Saturdays 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM):

**1st child \$465 / 2nd child \$335 / 3rd child \$300 / 4th child \$300**

I also hope that this school year will have a "Mommy, Daddy and Me" class (minimum 5 parent/infant combinations) Tuition see above for infants from 0-3 years with a parent. We would also like to continue the Adult Class. The tuition will depend on the number of enrolled students (approximately \$ 500). Please use same enrollment forms attached. Checks should be issued to GASA (German American School Association), Credit cards also are accepted. Both will not be charged before September 15, so please fill out the registration form and one emergency form per child and email it to my attention as soon as possible for better planning : [sdsaturdayschoolprincipal@yahoo.com](mailto:sdsaturdayschoolprincipal@yahoo.com) or email me for the postal address.

Hopefully you all are as excited as I am about the great news.

Please enjoy the sommer2013 !

Anke Byrne

Director- Principal German School San Diego



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### THE HOUSE OF AUSTRIA

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President: Frank Dürr

**Note: Our members can meet monthly what is called "The Stammtisch"**



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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR, *PLEASE!***  
**\*\*\*FUTURE EVENTS 2013\*\*\***

- Apr 20 Sa Spring Dinner Dance, Red Baron Band, "International Heimat Abend", Entertainment
- May 05 So Spring Choir Concert,
- May 15 We General Membership Meeting and Election
- Jun 08 Sa 48th Anniversary Ball, Dinner, Champaign Toast, the Bluebirds Band., Entertainment
- Aug 24 Sa "Open House"- Beer Garden Atmosphere, BBQ, Membership Drive, Entert., Dancing, Fun
- Sep 27 28 29 Oktoberfest 1st Weekend, Don't miss it!
- Oct 04 05 06 Oktoberfest 2nd Weekend, Don't miss it!
- Nov 16 Sa Karneval Opening , Dinner Dance, Performance, Band to be announced
- Dec 14 Sa Christmas Snow Dance , Dinner Dance, Performance, Express Band, Christmas Decoration
- Dec 15 So Member & Children Christmas Afternoon, Germ. School Children Choir & Poems, St. Claus
- Dec 31 Tue New Years Gala, Las Vegas Autobahn Band, Highlight of the Year!

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**Club Events**  
**Please note:**

**Entrance Members: \$10.00 (MUST SHOW MEMBERSHIP CARD) Guests \$ 12.00**  
**Doors open 6:00 p.m. ♦ Buffet Dinner 6:30 p.m. ♦ Dances 7:30 p.m.—11:30 p.m.**  
**Home Style Buffet Dinners are served at each event for only \$12.**  
**Ordering the dinner in advance by phone or email will provide you with reserved seating for the entire evening**



*FIND "THROUGHOUT THE YEAR ACTIVITIES" ON YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD"*

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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2013 – 2014**

From April 1. 2013 to March 31. 2014



|                    |    |       |     |                                                                        |
|--------------------|----|-------|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Student Membership | \$ | 25.00 | ( ) | ( Student membership valid up to age 25 years )                        |
| Single Membership  | \$ | 40.00 | ( ) |                                                                        |
| Family Membership  | \$ | 60.00 | ( ) | NEW MEMBERSHIP INITIATION FEE & REINSTATED if not paid on time \$25.00 |

FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTH DATE & YR. \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTH DATE & yr \_\_\_\_\_ -

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PH. # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ BUS. PH.#(\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_- \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PH.# (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_- \_\_\_\_\_ **e-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

*THIS FORM IS VALID UNTIL MARCH 31. 2013*

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**www.germanclubsandiego.org**

**German American Societies of San Diego, Inc. 1017 South Mollison Ave., El Cajon, Ca 92020**



2012~2013 New Years Gala at the German American Societies



2013 St. Patricks Dance For the First Time at the German American Societies

