

# The Edelweiss am Rio Grande Nachrichten



The newsletter of the  
 Edelweiss am Rio Grande  
 German American Club  
 4821 Menaul Blvd., NE  
 Albuquerque, NM 87110-3037  
 (505) 888-4833  
 (See last page for Business Address)



Website: [edelweissgac.org/](http://edelweissgac.org/)  
 Email: [edelweissgac@hotmail.com](mailto:edelweissgac@hotmail.com)  
 Facebook: Edelweiss German-American Club

## June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Irish Dance CANCELLED	4	5 Karaoke CANCELLED	6
7 Kaffeeklatsch CANCELLED	8	9	10 Irish Dance CANCELLED Essen und Sprechen CANCELLED	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Irish Dance CANCELLED	18	19 Karaoke CANCELLED	20 Strawberry Fest CANCELLED
21 Jazz Sunday CANCELLED	22	23	24 GAC BoD mtngl CANCELLED Irish Dance CANCELLED	25	26	27
28	29	30	Jul 1	Jul 2	Jul 3	Jul 4

**The GAC continues to remain closed due to the COVID-19 restrictions.  
 See the Notes & Reminders section on page 2 for further details.**

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I'm actually surprised we weren't able to open in May, but with restaurants and gyms able to open it can't be much longer. In the meantime donations have been coming in and thanks so much to everyone who has been able to help. Our largest number of membership renewals will be this month and please don't forget. With the money we've been able to save on utilities and such we shouldn't be any worse off than we were when we had close. When we do reopen we will likely have reduced hours, at least for a while. I'm thinking Monday has usually been a loss and opening at 2 instead of noon is likely, so it might be a good idea to call before you come. Hope everyone is well and to see you soon.

—Lance

## NEWS AND NOTES

### Kaffeeklatsch

The Kaffeeklatsch is **CANCELLED** for June 2020.  
For more information, please call Alexandra Mirabal at 505-480-0623  
or Kathe Mirabal at 505-836-6182.

## NOTES & REMINDERS

**WEBMASTER We have an URGENT need for a volunteer to take over maintaining our GAC Website. To discuss what this involves or to coordinate picking up the Webmaster duties, please call John Waldrop at (505) 298-5893.**

**GAC CLOSURE: Due to the COVID-19 situation all events and activities are cancelled until after the restrictions are lifted. We apologize for any inconvenience, but the health and safety of our members is paramount. When the current restrictions are lifted we will reassess when to re-open the bar. We'll send an email when that happens.**

**GAC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING POSTPONED DUE TO COVID-19: The GAC Quarterly Membership Meeting, originally scheduled for April 26th, is still postponed due to the COVID-19 situation and will be rescheduled after the COVID-19 situation is resolved. The current closure directive which is through June 30th, so we are not planning to have our General Membership Meeting this month. When closure restrictions are lifted we will send an email letting members know of any changes in our schedule.**

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING POLICY: Beginning with the April 2020 meeting (postponed due to the COVID-19 closures) the bar will NOT serve alcohol during the General Membership Meetings and members attending the meeting will be in the ballroom, not in the bar, in order to participate and vote.**

## Upcoming Activities

### Events in the GAC and of Interest to GAC Members Events and Dates are TENTATIVE and Subject to Change, depending on the COVID-19 Resolving

Fri, Jul 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5:30-7pm-Karaoke at the GAC  
Sat, Jul 4<sup>th</sup>, Private Party (Elizabeth Wheelock)  
Sun, Jul 5<sup>th</sup>, 3pm-Kaffeeklatsch  
Sat, Jul 11<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-GAC Anniversary Dance

**Music by: Swingshift**

**Meal by: Please volunteer to prepare the meal**

**Attire: Formal if you have it,  
otherwise Semi-Formal**

Fri, Jul 17<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7pm-Karaoke at the GAC  
Sun, Jul 19<sup>th</sup>, 2-5:30pm-Jazz Sunday  
Wed, Jul 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30pm-GAC Board Meeting  
Sat, Jul 25<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-Sock Hop

**Music by: TBD**

**Meal by: Please volunteer to prepare the meal**

**Attire: What you wore for 50's/60's Sock Hops,  
Sun, Jul 26<sup>th</sup>, 2pm-GAC General Membership Mtng**

Sun, Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3pm-Kaffeeklatsch  
Fri, Aug 7<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7pm-Karaoke at the GAC  
Sat, Aug 8<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-Luau Dance

**Music by: TBD**

**Meal by: Please volunteer to prepare the meal**

**Attire: Hawaiian or Smart Casual**

Sun, Aug 16<sup>th</sup>, 2-5:30pm-Jazz Sunday  
Fri, Aug 21<sup>st</sup>, 5:30-7pm-Karaoke at the GAC  
Sat, Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>, 5:30-Blues Night Dance

**Music by: TBD**

**Meal by: Please volunteer to prepare the meal**

**Attire: Semi Formal or Smart Casual**

Sun, Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1pm, Hungarian St. Stephen's Day Celebration  
Wed, Aug 26<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm-GAC Board Meeting

Fri, Sep 4<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7pm-Karaoke at the GAC  
Sat, Sep 5<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-Weinfest Dance

**Music by: TBD**

**Meal by: Please volunteer to prepare the meal**

**Attire: Smart Casual or  
Tracht (Dirndl, Lederhosen, etc.)**

Sun, Sep 6<sup>th</sup>, 3pm-Kaffeeklatsch  
TBD - GAC Picnic

Fri, Sep 18<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7pm-Karaoke at the GAC  
Sun, Sep 20<sup>th</sup>, 2-5:30pm-Jazz Sunday  
Wed, Sep 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30pm-GAC Board Meeting

**Sat, Sep 19<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup>, All Day, GAC Oktoberfest Celebration - ???**

**Or, Sat, Sep 26<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-GAC Oktoberfest Dance**

**Music by: TBD**

**Meal by: Please volunteer to prepare the meal**

**Attire: Smart Casual or  
Tracht (Dirndl, Lederhosen, etc.)**



Rosenstraße

**Next German Movie Day  
Sunday, July 26st, after the  
Gen Membership Mtng**

**Feature for May 2020:  
Rosenstraße (2003)**

-PG-13, 136min, Drama, War

Movie and popcorn are free!  
Come out and enjoy a German  
language movie

**Storyline:** When Ruth's husband dies in New York, in 2000, she imposes strict Jewish mourning, which puzzles her children. A stranger comes to the house - Ruth's cousin - with a picture of Ruth, age 8, in Berlin, with a woman the cousin says helped Ruth escape. Hannah, Ruth's daughter engaged to a gentile, goes to Berlin to find the woman, Lena Fisher, now 90. Posing as a journalist investigating intermarriage, Hannah interviews Lena who tells the story of a week in 1943 when the Jewish husbands of Aryan women were detained in a building on Rosenstrasse. The women gather daily for word of their husbands. The film goes back and forth to tell Ruth and Lena's story. How will it affect Hannah? *Written by* [<jhailey@hotmail.com>](mailto:jhailey@hotmail.com)

## Essen und Sprechen CANCELLED

The monthly *Essen und Sprechen Treffen* (gathering) to practice your German and socialize over dinner in German (with some English) is normally at **6:30pm** on the **2nd Wednesday**, of each month. However, due to the COVID-19 situation the Essen und Sprechen Treffen for June 2020 has been **CANCELLED**

We decide at each month's dinner where to go the following month.

**PLEASE**, contact Jay Vandersloot by email to [<JayVandersloot@yahoo.com>](mailto:JayVandersloot@yahoo.com) or by texting or calling Jay, afternoon or evening, at 505-362-1733 if you have any questions.

*(The Essen und Sprechen monthly dinner group is not affiliated with the GAC; but rather is a separate, autonomous group. The Essen und Sprechen Dinner is open to everyone and this notice is provided for the convenience of anyone who may wish to attend).*

## Please join the GAC web group

so you can get notifications and reminders of upcoming events, and be provided last minute notifications, such as updates or cancellations and notifications of the death of members and when and where services for them will be held

To join, send an email to: GAC-ABQ-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Or, email Jay Vandersloot at

[<JayVandersloot@yahoo.com>](mailto:JayVandersloot@yahoo.com)

and ask him to have an invite email sent to you (then simply follow directions in the invite email)

The below future scheduled events are **TENTATIVE**, depending on the **COVID-19** closure restrictions being lifted in time

## *Strawberry Fest Dance*

**CANCELLED  
DUE TO CLOSURE RULES  
BEING IN EFFECT  
THRU JUNE 30, 2020**

**Was scheduled for  
Saturday, June 20th**

## *Sock Hop*

**Saturday, Jul 25th  
Door Fee \$10.00**

**GAC & Associate  
Members & Guests Welcome**

**Music by: *TBD*  
From 6:30 'til 10:30**

**Meal Served from 5:30PM to 6:30PM  
Prepared by: *TBD (Please volunteer)***

**Menu To Be Determined**

**\$10.00 per person for the Meal  
Make checks payable to the GAC**

**Please make meal reservations  
by Jul 23rd**

**By calling 505-888-4833 between 4pm and 7pm**

*Attire: What you wore for 50's/60's  
Sock Hops, otherwise Smart Casual*

## *GAC Anniversary Dance*

**Saturday, July 11th  
Door Fee \$10.00**

**GAC & Associate  
Members & Guests Welcome**

**Music by: *Swingshift*  
From 6:30 'til 10:30**

**Meal Served from:  
5:30PM to 6:30PM  
Prepared by: *TBD (Please volunteer)***

### **Menu**

**To Be Determined**

**\$10.00 per person for the Meal  
Make checks payable to the GAC**

**Please make meal reservations  
by July 9th**

**By calling 505-888-4833  
between 4pm and 7pm**

***Attire:* Formal if you have it,  
otherwise Semi-Formal**

# German Culture Corner

**The below article was submitted by our late GAC German Culture Chair, Brigitta Walker, and was previously published in the June 2008 GAC newsletter**

## ST. JOHN'S DAY

The saint's day of St. John the Baptist (Johannestag) is celebrated on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June. Many of the costumes associated with St. John's Day would seem to have their roots in the pre-Christian summer solstice festival and the fire cult connected with it. As on other auspicious days, it was customary to gather herbs early on St. John's Day. Water drawn on this day was credited with special powers. Possibly with this, or even with thoughts of baptism in mind, a May Pole and one of the dancers used to be thrown into the water at Reichenbach in Saxony on St. John's Day, and when the dancer had been rescued he was christened Johannes. Various forms of fire play an important part in St. John's Day celebrations. St. John's bonfires used to be lit, lighted empty tar barrels swung around and flaming wheels rolled down hillsides. It was considered both lucky and good for the crops if people jumped over the fire and one could even seal a would-be amorous relationship by persuading the couple concerned to jump over the fire together. If cattle were later driven over the ashes from these fires, they would thereby be kept safe from disease and accident. But no fire was allowed to burn either in the kitchen or at the village blacksmith's forge whilst the St. John's fires were burning.

Now looking back, I remember, in my village where I grew up, we would be looking forward for that night in June. Everybody small and grown up would walk out to the grassland, sort of like a prairie, where huge stacks of wood etc would be set on fire. It was dust—no exceptionsy and dirty and smoky, but what a sight! I believe, in my childhood village we celebrated everything.

This day is also of special significance to the German gourmet. According to the St. John's saying "Cherry red, asparagus dead" (Kirschen rot, Asparagus tot) it not only marks the beginning of the season which yields all manner of dishes from cherry-soup to the world famous Black Forest Cherry Cake (Schwarzwälder Kirschentorte) but also sadly heralds the end of the fifty-day long asparagus season. Some people in the Eger land made a point of frying and eating elderberry blossoms (Hulastraeubla) on St. John's Day, since this fruit has become associated with St. John. This again, I still keep up, as I have an elderberry bush in my backyard and I gather the blossoms dip them in dough and fry them golden brown with Staubzucker on top, and is it yummy for a dessert. I even share it with my neighbors. Guess some traditions never die! The red currant also bears St. John's name (Johannesbeere) because it normally ripens around St. John's Day. On the 24<sup>th</sup> of June the fountains in Wundsiedel are decorated with flowers.

"Couchin" (Gautschen) is a custom in the printing world which traditionally took place on Midsummer's Day, since this day was dedicated to Gutenberg, the inventor of the printing press. On this day apprentices would be initiated by being subjected to a process intended to simulate that of paper making, and in practice involving a lot of horse play with barrels of water and wet sponges. The apprentice would then treat his superiors to drinks and would be awarded a document testifying that he had been duly "couched." This document was actually regarded as being part qualification for further employment.

## Members' Birthdays and Anniversaries

(Of those whose dues are paid up and current)

### Geburtstage - Herren (Men's Birthdays)

Peter Blemel  
Joseph Chavez  
Fritz Eberhardt  
David Evans  
William Fischbach  
Gerald King  
David Smith  
Rainer Wohrle

### Geburtstage - Damen (Ladies' Birthdays)

Hannelore Hendricks  
Juanita Rohde  
Rosalie Volz

### Jubiläen (Anniversaries)

Robert & Nancy Balthaser  
Larry & Marianne Jones  
Steve & Kari Laverty  
James & Carol Rehbein  
Gerald & Ellen Wymer

### Membership As Of May 31, 2020

<b>Total</b>	<b>199</b>
<b>Males</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>Females</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>Couples</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Singles</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>Life Members</b>	<b>9</b>

### **Club Hours (after COVID-19 resolves)**

Sunday 12-6 pm

Mon, Tue, Wed 4-8 pm

Thurs, Fri, Sat Noon-8 pm

**Open later when an event is scheduled**

**Happy Hour 4-7 pm**

**On Thurs-Friday-Saturday**

The club may be closed on some holidays.

For Info call 505-888-4833 Monday thru Saturday between 4pm and 7pm

**NOTE: The Club may close an hour early when there are no patrons left in the Club**

## Albuquerque Honorary German Consul Office Closure

The Honorary German Consul office in Albuquerque has closed.

When you need German Consulate assistance, you will need to contact the German Consulate in Houston, Texas. Their contact information is the following.

Phone: 713-627-7770

Email: [info@houston.diplo.de](mailto:info@houston.diplo.de)

The phone number for the German Embassy in Washington, DC is 202-298-4000

EDELWEISS AM RIO GRANDE  
GERMAN AMERICAN CLUB  
Abbreviated PROFIT AND LOSS  
April 2020

Financial Data for the Month of April 2020

Donations	1,110
Hall Rental.	48
Gross Inc.	1,158
Utilities.	658
Insurance.	579
QuickBooks.	349
Online Setup	
Club Security.	28
Other.	15
Net Loss	(471)

As of June 4th,  
\$1,698 in checking and  
\$6,939 in savings account.

\$835 more donations in April not shown  
above and May had some more donations.

Basically, it costs about \$1,800 a month  
(property taxes, utilities, insurance, security)  
to keep viable.

**GAC Member and Vice-Chair**  
**Ken Blemel fell on Wednesday, May 27th, while working in his yard, and broke his neck, I believe it was between the 2nd and 3rd vertebrae. I spoke with him on Sunday, May 31st and he was improving, with his only complaint being difficulty with using his fingers. He's working on recovering and can be reached at his cell phone, 505 991 1209.**

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING!**

We appreciate all the donations many members have made during this time of grave financial strain caused by the COVID-19 closure restrictions (as most donors want to remain anonymous, we are not mentioning names).

Please support your Club by attending and enjoying all our upcoming events and activities once restrictions are lifted.

**Resources related to the**  
**Coronavirus Stay at Home**  
**Order**

**(In case you may need them):**

**\*\* Coronavirus Health Hotline:  
1-855-600-3453**

**\*\* Coronavirus Info Hotline:  
1-833-551-0518**

**\*\* Senior & Disabled Adults  
Food Access Hotline:  
1-800-432-2080**

## The 2020 Officers and Board

Chairman	Jay Vandersloot	505-362-1733
Vice-Chairman	Kenneth Blemel	505-293-5620
President	Lance Klafeta	505-480-2344
Vice-President	Dieter Fox	
Executive Secretary	Carolyn Gonzales	505 249-4669
Actng Financial Director	Jeffrey Hagemann	505-720-4926
Director-at-Large	Albert Arizmendi	505-582-4518
Director-at-Large	Gloria Casale	505 514-7185
Director-at-Large	Rosalie Pfeiffer	505-299-3951

## Committee Chairs and Coordinators

German Culture Chair	Gloria Casale	505 286-8567
Webmaster	John Waldrop	505-298-5893
Media Coordinator	Amanda Shaffer	
Facebook Coordinator	Lance Klafeta	505-480-2344
Private Parties Coord.	Lance Klafeta	505-480-2344
Functions/Events Coord	Jay Vandersloot	505-362-1733
Entertainment Coordinator	Carol Stevens	505-280-6350
Membership Chair	Jay Vandersloot	505-362-1733
Membership Questions:	<a href="mailto:JayVandersloot@yahoo.com">&lt;JayVandersloot@yahoo.com&gt;</a>	
Newsletter Editor	Jay Vandersloot	505-362-1733
Newsletter Input:	<a href="mailto:JayVandersloot@yahoo.com">&lt;JayVandersloot@yahoo.com&gt;</a>	

**NOTE: Deadline for Newsletter Input: 20th of each Month**

## Other Positions and Associate Groups

Past President	Miguel Mata	505-620-3666
Elferrat Chair	Jim Payne	505-553-8715
Dinner Ticket Sales-GAC	Norita Callahan	505-298-2708
Greeting Cards	Rosalie Pfeiffer	505-299-3951
Decorating Coordinator	Open Position	Pls Volunteer
Volksdance Teacher	Open Position	Pls Volunteer
Youth Activities Coord.	Open Position	Pls Volunteer
Kaffeeklatsch	Alexandra Mirabal	505-480-0623
Front Door Coordinator	Kathe Mirabal	505-836-6182
Duke City Creative	Chessa Leithmann	505-804-2963
Hungarian Club Rep	Steve Borbas	505-265-7088
Irish American Society Pres.	Ellen Dowling	505-307-1700
Jazz Society Coordinator	Casey Den Hollander	505-266-3148

## Volunteers STILL Needed

It is thanks to our many volunteers that we are able to continue the many activities we have at the GAC (see the box on the left for a partial list of some of our many volunteers) There is always a need for volunteers and we still need a few more. Whether you're looking for a short-term or a long-term commitment, please take a look at the below list of needs and consider volunteering for any that fit your talents. If you think of anything you are interested in that is not on the list, please let us know. We always appreciate everyone who helps out.

If you would like to volunteer, **or just have questions about any of the positions**, please contact GAC Board Chair Jay Vandersloot, either at email [<JayVandersloot@yahoo.com>](mailto:JayVandersloot@yahoo.com) or call him afternoon or evening at 505-362-1733. We look forward to hearing from you.

### Current Volunteer Needs:

- **WEBMASTER** We have an **URGENT** need for a volunteer to take over the Webmaster duties (see pg 2)
- **Meal Preparation** for dances (see left column on page 3 for list of upcoming events). This is a good short-term commitment, whether for just one time, or for a number of dances
- **Functions/Events Coordinator** for planning and scheduling events and reservations for renting the GAC
- **Decorations Coordinator** and other volunteers to help decorate
- **Librarian** to help further organize our lending library and recommend what should be kept or disposed of
- **Operations Committee Members** to assist the President
- **Finance Committee Members** to assist the Financial Director
- **Dance Instructor** Volksdance, Waltz, Polka, etc., (any or all)
- **Youth Activities Coordinator** for teens & young adults activities
- **Membership Chair**

## We Send Cards!

Please notify **Rosalie Pfeiffer**, at **505-299-3951** if you know of any Club Member who should receive a greeting card, i.e., get well, sympathy, congratulations, etc.



# The Edelweiss am Rio Grande German American Club New Membership or Renewal Form

**Dues are:** Single Membership ----- \$45                      New Membership

Couples Membership ----- \$80

Life Member Annual Fee (per NM Statute)- \$5                      Renewal

Please complete this form and mail it with your check for dues to the German American Club, 2609 Quincy St., NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110 Attn: Membership. If you pay your dues at the bar, please keep your receipt. **(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Partner \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Primary: Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Partner: Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like your e-mail address added to the GAC Group Web Site for automatic notifications so you can get notifications and reminders of upcoming events, and be provided last minute notifications, such as updates or cancellations and notifications of the death of members and when and where services for them will be held?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Your birth month \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Partner birth month \_\_\_\_\_ Anniversary month \_\_\_\_\_

Your GAC depends on your participation to keep the club running smoothly. Please mark the task or tasks where you would be willing to help:

<b>Recruiting</b> _____	<b>Decorating</b> _____	<b>Door Greeter</b> _____	<b>Kitchen</b> _____
<b>Clean Up</b> _____	<b>Event Planner</b> _____	<b>Contacting Members</b> _____	<b>Media Coord</b> _____
<b>Serve on Board of Directors</b> _____		<b>Serve on a Committee or as a Coordinator</b> _____	

Thank you for your support,  
JAY VANDERSLOOT  
Membership Chair

**For Office Use Only:** Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Receipt # \_\_\_\_\_

Check# \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Initial \_\_\_\_\_



# Having a Party? Rent the Club!



Mon. thru Thur. Night	\$450
Friday Day	\$450
Friday Night	\$500
Saturday Day	\$500
Saturday Night.	\$600
Sunday Day Only	\$500

**Call Lance Klafeta  
at 505-480-2344  
for more information  
and to reserve the Club  
facility for your parties**

- ◆ Security \$135 extra per guard
- ◆ Use of Kitchen \$100 extra
- ◆ Use of Linen Table Cloths (incl cleaning them) \$100 extra
- ◆ Cleaning \$100 extra

**Please note that you must be a dues paying  
GAC member to rent the club.**

If you have been a GAC member for more than 3 years you may rent the club for your functions, depending on availability, at a discounted rate (weddings excluded).

Business Address:  
The Edelweiss am Rio Grande  
German American Club  
2609 Quincy St. NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Phone (505) 888-4833