

# 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

## January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>May The New Year NOT Make You Wish For The Old</b> (a paraphrase of an old Turkish saying)					<b>1</b> Karaoke CANCELLED	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> Kaffeeklatsch CANCELLED	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Irish Dance CANCELLED	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Officers Ball CANCELLED
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Irish Dance CANCELLED Essen und Sprechen CANCELLED	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Karaoke CANCELLED	<b>16</b>
<b>GAMGA 2021 CANCELLED</b>						
<b>17</b> Jazz Sunday CANCELLED	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Irish Dance CANCELLED	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Verrücktenball (Krazy Ball) CANCELLED
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 6:30 GAC BoD mtng   & Irish Dance CANCELLED	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> GAC Gen. Member Mtng CANCELLED	<b>The GAC continues to remain closed due to COVID-19 restrictions.</b> <b>See the Notes &amp; Reminders section on page 2 for further details.</b>					

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Well, 2021 is finally here! Let's all hope it can only be better. Work continues at the club. Thanks to Miguel Mata for fixing the loose and broken tile in the kitchen. If we want to look for a silver lining, a number of competing venues for events like receptions, graduations and Quinceaneras have closed for good.

When this all began I anticipated shortages and price increases and stocked up on meat and toilet paper, and started collecting food donations. If a member or friend or neighbor could use some help we make deliveries or even prepare pots of chili, goulash or pasta and deliver free meals. If not we are ready to start up Taco Tuesday or Spaghetti Wednesday, etc. At any rate the club is here to do what we can for each other in difficult times.

—Lance

## NEWS AND NOTES

### Kaffeeklatsch

The Kaffeeklatsch is **CANCELLED** for January 3, 2020 & February 7, 2021 - Tentative for Mar 7th  
For more information, please call Alexandra Mirabal at 505-480-0623  
or Kathe Mirabal at 505-836-6182.

## NOTES & REMINDERS

**WEBMASTER We still have an URGENT need for a volunteer to take over maintaining our GAC Website. If interested, please call Jay Vandersloot, afternoon or evening, at (505) 362-1733.**

**GAC CLOSURE:** The restriction in the Public Health Order (PHO) continue to require the GAC to remain closed. They classify us as a bar, which means we have to be closed. Even if we did not open the bar and just wanted to open the club for a dance social that is also prohibited, first because the PHO specifically states that dance clubs must also remain closed and secondly because currently mass gatherings of more than 5 people are forbidden. That included a social, as we would have more than 5 people present. So, for now, we continue to remain closed for other than cleaning, repairs, and the person doing the accounting to keep the bills paid. So, due to the PHO restrictions all events and activities continue to be cancelled until after the restrictions are lifted. The current NM Executive Order, currently effective through January 8th and Public Health Order (PHO), continue restrictions which prevent us from being open and from having any dances. We do not know what the restrictions will be after January 8th or whether the restrictions will change after that, but even if they are lifted it would not give us enough time to make arrangements for and set up a dance in the last part of January, so dances continue to be cancelled for now. We apologize for any inconvenience, but we have no choice but to comply with the PHO. The health and safety of our members is paramount. When the current restrictions are lifted we will reassess when to re-open and will send an email when that happens.

**We wish each and every one of you  
a Happy and Prosperous New Year!**

## Upcoming Activities

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

### **Events Tentatively Being Planned in 2021** **Most dates are still yet to be scheduled**

#### **January:**

Officers Ball—**CANCELLED**

Verrücktenball (Krazy Ball)—**CANCELLED**

GAMGA 2021 (in Las Vegas, NV)—**CANCELLED**

**Sun, Jan 31<sup>st</sup>-GAC Gen. Mbr Mtng—CANCELLED**

#### **February:**

Maskenball (Masquerade Ball)

Damenball (Sweethearts Ball)

Tues, Feb 16<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm, Kehraus

#### **March:**

Sun, Mar 14<sup>th</sup>, 1pm, Hungarian 1848 Revolution Remembrance

GAC St. Patrick's Dance

#### **April:**

Vienna Ball

Walpurgisnacht Dance

**Sun, Apr 25<sup>th</sup>, 2pm-GAC General Membership Mtng**

#### **May:**

Maifest Dance

Cinco de Mayo Dance

Denim or Diamonds Dance

#### **June:**

Roaring 20s Dance

Strawberry Fest Dance

Sock Hop

#### **July:**

GAC Anniversary Dance

**Sun, Jul 26<sup>th</sup>, 2pm-GAC General Membership Mtng**

#### **August:**

Luau Dance

Blues Night Dance

Sun, Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1pm, Hungarian St. Stephen's Day

#### **September:**

Weinfest Dance

GAC Picnic

All Day, GAC Oktoberfest Celebration - ???

Or, GAC Oktoberfest Dance - ???

#### **October:**

German Day of Unity Dance - ???

Sun, Oct 24<sup>th</sup>, 1pm-Hungarian 1956 Revolution Remembrance

Halloween Dance

**Sun, Oct 31<sup>st</sup>, 2pm-GAC General Membership Mtng & Elections**

#### **November:**

Thu, Nov 11<sup>th</sup>, 11am-Fasching Opening Ceremonies (door opens at 10am) (Potluck)

Fasching Opening Ball

#### **December:**

Fasching Royal Ball

Sun, Dec 12th, 1pm-Hungarian Holiday Season Party

GAC Christmas Dance

Fri, Dec 31st, 7pm ('til 1am) GAC New Year's Eve Ball



### *Next German Movie Day*

**TENTATIVELY  
SCHEDULED FOR  
Sunday, February 28st**

**Feature for Feb 2021:  
Die Gustloff (2008)  
-Drama, History, War**

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

**Storyline:** The tragic events surrounding the sinking of the Wilhelm Gustloff, a German passenger ship, at the end of World War II. On 30 January 1945, Captain Hellmuth Kehding was in charge of the ship, evacuating wounded soldiers and civilians trapped by the Red Army. Soon after leaving the harbor of Danzig, it was hit by three torpedoes from the Soviet submarine and sank in less than an hour...  
Written by fippi2000



### **Essen und Sprechen**

Unfortunately, the Public Health Order (PHO) has become more restrictive and currently does not allow indoor dining at restaurants. Even though the PHO does allow outside, patio dining at 25% capacity of the restaurants, it's too cold for outside dining. Even those restaurants that have installed heating on their patios have the problem of being too cold when the wind, or even much of a breeze picks up. Consequently, the January *Essen und Sprechen Treffen* (gathering) has been **CANCELLED**.

We'll see what the PHO permits for the second Wednesday of February.

*(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).*

**The GAC Yahoo web group,  
along with all other Yahoo Groups,  
was permanently closed on  
December 15, 2020 and is  
no longer available for use.**

**All future notices to our GAC  
members will be sent out using  
our GAC membership list**

## *Our Verrücktenball 2021 is Cancelled, but Just What is the Verrücktenball (Krazy Ball)*

We've tried to research the history of the *Verrücktenball* (Krazy Ball), but all we have been able to find is that it is like the *Lumpenball*, but the *Lumpenball* occurs AFTER the end of the Fasching season, so the following is information on the *Lumpenball* to give you an idea of what the *Verrücktenball* (Krazy Ball) would traditionally look like.

### **What is a *Lumpenball*?**

In German, Lumpen is translated as “rags” or “Ragamuffin”.... and a Ball is a Ball (think Cinderella and dancing, not soccer). **A *Lumpenball* can be thought of as a Ragamuffin ball or a Hobo ball.** The idea is, to hold these balls *AFTER* Fasching, because you spent all your money on costumes, drinking and partying, so all you have left is just enough cash to dress like a bum. Or in some cases, just your worn out and torn costume.



Decorations tend to be modest, or downright tacky; balloons and toilet paper streamers are loads of fun.

Another fun twist to the Tradition, at a regular Karneval / Fasching Ball, the Karneval Prinz and Prinzessin will throw flowers and candy to the crowd. At the *Lumpenball* the outgoing Prinz and Prinzessin throw weeds and Peanuts.

### **History of the *Lumpenball***

The *Lumpenball* tradition is quite common during Karneval/Fasching season in Germany. The first *Lumpenball* in the Rhine-Necker region was hosted by Karl Schewnder in 1872 at the Colosseum at raunhirschengrun in the Rudolfsheim-Fünfhaus district. Despite being a way out of town, and off the beaten path for the polite society, it became quite popular. Herr Schwender even organized a shuttle service to bring his guests to the Ball. And many people showed up to see the spectacle.

### **What to Wear to a *Lumpenball***

Making a costume for the *Lumpenball* is EASY! and does not have to cost much money at all. You can, for starters, simply wear worn old clothes... the more “ruined” the better. This is not the time to pull on a designer look! Ruined and patched jeans, frayed hats and torn shirts are perfect.



# EPIPHANY

## Drei Koenige

(reprinted from our January 2011 GAC Newsletter)

AFTER THE RELICS of the Three Wise Kings were brought to Cologne from Milan in the twelfth century there were many miracle plays about Gaspar, Melchior and Balthasar and their journey to Bethlehem; in churches first and then, with great splendor, in the open. The dark-skinned Gaspar generally had the comic lines, and in the course of centuries the name Kaspar became Kasperle, the hero of the German Punch and Judy show.

The Reformation killed plays about the Three Kings, but “Star Singers”, Sternsinger, wearing golden crowns and carrying a star on a long staff, still walk the streets. In Saxony the children carried a little house inside the star, with Herod looking out of it, and in the Harz, children from the poor mountain villages had a traditional right to be Sterngucker, “star seekers”, and to expect presents.

This was the time to take salt, especially rock-salt for cattle, and chalk to be blessed in church. Put the salt into the mangers and the cattle will thrive. When you get home, write the initials of the Three Wise Kings ( K for Kaspar, M for Melchior, B for Balthasar) on your door with chalk, add crosses and the date, and you will stay lucky the whole year through. When I was a little girl I, I saw these writings over the doors to the Bauernhoefe , but I had no idea what it represented, except it was done every year and everyone in the village had it.

Water-diviners would cut their hazel rods on 6<sup>th</sup> of January and dedicate them to Kaspar for seeking gold, to Melchior for water, and to Balthasar for silver.

Submitted by the late Brigitta Walker,  
Former GAC German Culture Chair  
for the GAC January 2011 Newsletter

## Members' Birthdays and Anniversaries

(Of those whose dues are paid up and current)

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

Steve Borbas  
Doug Carter  
Larry Compton  
Dieter Fox  
Jeffrey Hagemann  
Lance Klafeta  
Jason Lane  
James Payne

### Geburtstage - Damen (Ladies' Birthdays)

Kay Blemel  
Christine Messersmith  
Jana Ringhiser  
Vera Scherer

### Jubiläen (Anniversaries)

Jim & Eva McCabe  
Thomas & Cathy Miles

### Membership As Of December 31, 2020

<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>Males</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Females</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Couples</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Singles</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Life Members</b>	<b>9</b>

104 have not yet  
renewed

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

Sunday	12-6 pm
Monday	Closed
Tues thru, Sat	4-8 pm

**(Addn'l hours when event is scheduled)**

**Happy Hour**                      **4-7 pm**  
**(On Thursday,-Friday, &-Saturday Only)**

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  
November 2020

**Income:**

Donations	\$1,230.00
Memberships	250.00
Office Rent	<u>500.00</u>
Total Income	\$1,980.00

**Expenses:**

Insurance	\$579.00
Utilities	650.00
Sec. & Dues	<u>31.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$1,269.00

**Net Income** **\$711.00**

**Financial Director's Comments:**

- We have \$4,460 in checking and \$11,095 in Savings account as of December 29, 2020
- We owe a total of \$1,550 in city and state licenses to pay when we pay the liquor licenses and when we open for business.
- Defer 2020 property taxes of about \$6,000.

Jeff

**Tolling of the Ball**

GAC member **Heidi Meisen** passed away on Dec 13, 2020.

We're told it was from liver cancer, but we do not have any details available to pass on to you.

We've checked the obituaries, but find nothing listed.

If any of you have any information, let Jay Vandersloot know at <JayVandersloot@yahoo.com> or call or text, afternoon or evening, at 505-362-1733 and we will pass it on to the other GAC members.

**GAC Members' Health Issues**

GAC member, "Dancing" Doug Carter, has written on Facebook that his Oncologist said he has Stage IV Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer. We're told there is a drug that attacks this type of Cancer effectively, so chemotherapy will be oral and should slow or stop its growth. Our thoughts and prayers are with Doug and Betty Jo..

**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 2021 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	Eva McCabe	505-410-6214
Director-at-Large	Rosalie Pfeiffer	505-299-3951

## Committee Chairs and Coordinators

German Culture Chair	Vacant	
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 still 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
- **German Culture Chair**
- **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
- **Newsletter Editor** (to compile, prepare, publish & distribute)
- **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.







# 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