



German-American Cultural Center Newsletter

A Louisiana State Museum

A publication of the Friends of the GACC

519 Huey P. Long Ave., Gretna, LA 70053

July/August
2011

Installation dinner of the new GACC Board



The members of the Board of the Friends of the GACC, together with a few family members and friends, held their annual installation dinner on June 24th at Café Etienne in Gretna.

Dear members of the GACC,

I would like to say "Auf Wiedersehen!" to you in this newsletter and thank you for your continued support of the GACC and the work we do. I will be leaving the GACC in mid-July, one eye laughing and one eye crying. It has been a wonderful time working here ever since I started late last summer. There've been many highlights, such as our beer garden at the Gretna Heritage Festival, the very interesting and inspiring lectures here at the museum, great and very friendly visitors from all over the country and out of the country, our seasonal gardens and so much more. It has been a special pleasure, too, to write and edit the GACC newsletter.

Not least, it's been truly fulfilling to interact with you, the members of the GACC, receive your suggestions and input, and get to know you. While I am moving on to a new and very exciting job opportunity, I hope to see you again on one of the many cultural occasions in and around the center.

Thanks again,
Brigitte Keiser

Have you paid your membership fee for 2011? If you have any questions feel free to call us here at 504—363—4202. We appreciate your support.

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Great lecture by Daniel Hammer

On May 21st, we had the pleasure of welcoming Daniel Hammer from the Historic New Orleans Collection at the GACC. Mr. Hammer talked about the Bavarian musician and teacher Hanno Deiler, who was considered one of the most influential people in the German-American community around the 1900s.

Mr. Hammer's speech was very well perceived, and he had to answer numerous follow-up questions afterwards. The speech was followed by a little reception with snacks and drinks. We would like to thank him once again for a very delightful evening.

The lecture was recorded by a very pleasant film team from the Columbia College Chicago, made up of associate professor Ted Hardin and two German film students. They visited us earlier that day in the course of their project "Veins in the Gulf".



Daniel Hammer during his speech

We are looking forward to cooperating with the HNOC again in October, when Mrs. Irene DiMaio will come to New Orleans and hold lectures both at the HNOC and the German-American Cultural Center. Please see our "Upcoming events" section for more information

Here's an exciting offer for you to brush up your German: The West Bank Club offers a German Conversation class in the upcoming semester, on Wednesdays from 1 – 2 p.m.

For more information, look at their website: <http://www.peopleprogram.org>

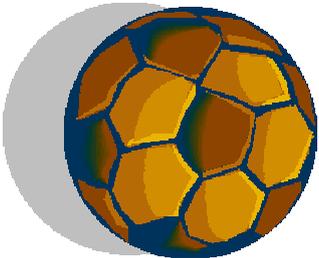
Congratulations

To Frank J. Ehret, Jr., a co-founder and board member of the GACC. Frank will turn 94 on August 6th. Mr. Ehret, whose grandfather was the first mayor of Gretna, is also well known as the father of Louisiana's Jean Lafitte National Park. Congratulations to you, Frank!

Join in and have fun!

IMPRESSIVE!

that's what the under-14 girls soccer team "Louisiana Fire 97 G Blue Strike" is. The team was selected as the United States' representative at the One Nation Cup in Germany at the end of May after undergoing a screening process. The girls are from New Orleans, Metairie and the West Bank, among them Gabrielle Burmaster of Gretna, our president's niece. Not only was the Strike Squad the one team to be chosen out of all the US girls teams, but they also won the tournament, playing against teams from 15 other countries! What a great team effort - congratulations on that amazing achievement!



Our member Roy Rogge was once again so nice to submit an article on his ancestry and genealogy. Enjoy reading, and who knows, maybe you'll feel inspired, too, to dig down into your past and find out where your family came from? Thank you so much, Roy!

Our German-American Ancestors

My great grandfather, Sidonius Goette, Sr. was born in Rotzenei-Baden, Germany April 19, 1827. At the age of twenty-two he immigrated to America and settled in Donaldsonville, Louisiana, where he pursued his occupation as a manufacturer and retailer of shoes and boots. He married Magdaline Yaeger, also of Germany, in New Orleans in 1856. In 1905 the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Goette married Josephine Sobral whose father owned a sugar plantation in neighboring St. James Parish known as Oak Alley. The following article describing that marriage appeared in the Donaldsonville newspaper the Daily Times.

At 1 o'clock this afternoon at the beautiful and hospitable residence of Mr. M.A. Sobral, in the parish of St. James, Mr. Sidonius Goette, president of the Donaldsonville Ice Co., and member of the Police Jury from the Third Ward and a successful young business man, was joined in matrimony to Miss Josephine Sobral, the fascinating and accomplished daughter of Mr. M.A. Sobral, a prominent sugar planter of the adjoining parish. The ceremony was performed in the presence of a few relatives and friends of the contracting parties, after which an informal reception was held refreshments were served and many toasts were drunk to the future, good health, happiness and prosperity of the bride and groom. Mr. and Mrs. Goette left on the 3 o'clock train for New Orleans from which place they will go to St. Louis, where they will remain for about two months. The Times joins the many friends of Mr. Goette in this town and parish in wishing him and his fair bride all happiness with which a union of hearts as well as a union of hands can possibly be crowned.

Roy Rogge



Our president and vice-president in front of the party pirogue and the volunteers

The G A C C Mayfest

Our traditional Mayfest took place on May 14th outside the GACC, in combination with the Gretna Art Walk. The weather god was definitely on our side, and in addition to bratwurst, sauerkraut and strudel, we offered our guests an array of German beers, beautifully presented in a party pirogue made by Jimmy Lemoine. We sure hope that our next beer garden – and that will be the big one at the Gretna Heritage festival (Oct. 7-9) – will be as much fun.

As always, we are looking for volunteers for this upcoming great event – please call us soon if you would like to pour beer, serve food or help otherwise. (504 363 4202).

The Board of the Friends of the GACC for the 2011 term:

GACC Officers:

Barron Burmaster (President)
Michael Schaferkotter (Vice-President)
Robert Kallies (Treasurer)

Board of Directors:

Frank J. Ehret Jr.
Gisela Galjour
Delia Hernandez
Wilma Thompson
Barbara Van Calsem
Chris Ziifle

Our position of Secretary is still open. We would be very happy if YOU wanted to get involved on the Board of the GACC and support us in keeping the museum a great place to go.

If you are interested please give us a call at 504—363—4202 or send us an e-mail at germanamerican@bellsouth.net.

Thank you!

Upcoming events:

- Mrs. Irene di Maio is going to present her book "Gerstäcker's Louisiana" at the GACC on October 15th at 7 p.m. - reception afterwards.
- We are also looking forward to welcoming the historian and artist Mary DeBoisblanc to the GACC in autumn. She has been painting for about 20 years and doing genealogy research for a long time, too.

Exact dates and times for all events will be published in the next newsletter..

Friends of the German-American Cultural Center

519 Huey P. Long Ave.
Gretna, LA 70053

Telephone: 504—363—4202
E-Mail: germanamerican@bellsouth.net

Museum Hours:
Wed.-Sat. 10 a.m.—3 p.m.