



A Louisiana State Museum

German-American Cultural Center Newsletter

A publication of the Friends of the GACC
519 Huey P. Long Ave., Gretna, LA 70053

September
2018

Bist Du Fertig? The Gretna Heritage Festival Is Coming



New landscaping and greenery is in place around the GACC.

The Gretna Heritage Festival is still several weeks away (September 28, 29 and 30) but preparations are already taking place across the city, where 25 city blocks will be transformed into a music and food festival that draws tens of thousands of attendees.

Tents are going up along the riverfront and scaffolding is rising along the river for the stages where musical groups such as Foreigner, Village People and Lee Ann Womack will perform.

At the GACC, planning is well under way for the annual German Bier Garden. Staff members and vol-

unteer leaders are making lists of food and drink stocks to be ordered and making sure everything from forks to plates to napkins will be ready. They are organizing the lists of volunteers who are the key to a successful event – volunteers who help set up the area, grill the brats outdoors, pour the beer and wine, make and serve the sauerkraut and prepare the desserts and pretzels.

At the end of this newsletter is a form where you can sign up to volunteer. Please take a moment to fill out the form and join the volunteer group that runs the Bier Garden. Not only will it help out the GACC, it's also full of the spirit of gemutlichkeit! If you can't volunteer, plan to come by and visit us at the festival.

Thankfully, the long-delayed project to renovate the GACC parking lots is nearing completion. Both surface lots are finished and landscaping has added lush green grass and plantings that definitely improve the **(see next page)**



The new back parking lot will host the German Bier Garden at the Gretna Heritage Festival.

Gretna Heritage Festival, continued

look of our historic building. There are still several sidewalks and curbs to be poured, but expectations are that those items will be completed before the festival opens.

“We’ve been looking at trying to get this done for the past 10 years because the parking lots were so bad,” said GACC board president Barron Burmaster. “In 2015 we realized that if we contributed money it would move ahead.”

A cooperative endeavor agreement with Jefferson Parish, owner of the building, spurred along the project with financial contributions by both the GACC and the parish. Work got under way in November of 2017 with plans to complete all the work by March of this year. March came and went ... and so did the spring and summer, but now the work is drawing to a close.

“We are glad it’s ready and can be used for the Gretna Heritage Festival and Oktoberfest,” Burmaster said. “And the landscaping looks nice.”

After the total project is finished, there may be “things we need to tweak,” he added, but that will wait until the City of Gretna installs the four vintage streetlights down each side of the property in coming months. The lights will match the ones that illuminate Huey P. Long Avenue between Sixth and Ninth streets.



Gretna Heritage Festival preparations are under way across the city, with scaffolding going up for the stage along the river, left, and tents popping up along First Street, right.

Wilkommen in Gretna, Baron Von Steuben!

When the GACC holds its monthly membership meeting and dinner **on Saturday, September 8**, we will be welcoming a very special guest, Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben. The baron will take us back in history to the Revolutionary War and his exploits helping General George Washington to train the troops for battle with the British.

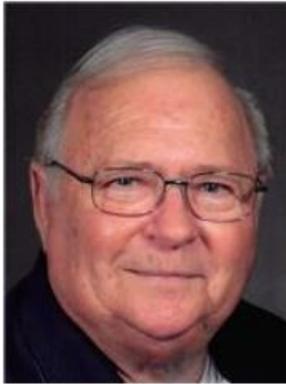
Born in Prussia and a veteran of the European Seven Years War serving under Frederick the Great, he served as Washington’s inspector general of the colonial forces. His field

tactics were so successful that he literally wrote the book on military training. The baron’s exploits are still celebrated today with the Steuben Parade in New York, Philadelphia and Chicago, often held in conjunction with Oktoberfest celebrations.

So for our special GACC “German Day” dinner, look for festive decorations and be sure to join us on Saturday, September 8. (Yes, the date is a week earlier than our normal schedule, but a major event in Gretna on September 15 caused us to move our meeting.)

DISCLAIMER: The German-American Cultural Center is a non-profit organization. The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the GACC, its members or its officers. The GACC does not verify for accuracy the articles in this newsletter and leaves verification of accuracy to its readers.

Rest In Peace, Earl



The GACC, its Board of Directors and all members are mourning the loss of our beloved executive director, Earl F. Sundmaker, Jr., who passed away on August 2, 2018.

Earl joined the GACC in 2014. He established a genealogy research room at the center and enjoyed helping others learn about their family history.

Born in New Orleans on October 11, 1936, he was a graduate of De La Salle High School and Tulane University, and served in the U.S. Navy. Earl had a successful 38- year career with Exxon Corporation, retiring at the age of 58.

Earl compiled an extensive collection of church ceremonial records that will continue to help others in their genealogical research. He also spent countless hours tracing, documenting and preserving his family's history. His family and other genealogists will benefit from his work for many years.

He previously served several times as an elder at John Calvin Presbyterian Church and enjoyed Bible study. Earl was a wonderful husband and family man. He and Betty were devoted to each other for 52 years. In addition to Betty, Earl is survived by his daughter, Kim Sundmaker Gassie, two sons, Earl (Trey) F. Sundmaker, III (Staci) and Robb L. Sundmaker (Jennifer), seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren and his sister, Pamela Peters (Donald). He is predeceased by his parents Earl F. Sundmaker, Sr. and Helen Coye Sundmaker, sister Joan Carite (Kenneth) and a grandchild.

Mark Your Calendar for Gretna's Oktoberfest!

Are you ready to celebrate Oktoberfest in Gretna? Mark your calendar for **Saturday, October 13**, because that's when the GACC will be grilling brats and serving up sauerkrauts and German beer and wine, as well as delicious desserts. The events will go from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., accompanied by live German music, of course.

Our Oktoberfest celebration is held in conjunction with the Gretna Farmer's Market and the Gretna Citywide Yard Sale Event.

Volunteers to help with the event would be appreciated, so fill out the application later in this newsletter, or call Cecelia Hopkins at 504-363-4202 to reserve your volunteer spot. We couldn't think of celebrating without the support of our wonderful volunteers!

It would be difficult to list all of the Oktoberfest celebrations in the U.S., simply because of the sheer volume of these events. But some of the largest of these festivals take place in cities where German ancestry is particularly noteworthy, such as Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Cincinnati, Ohio; and Fredericksburg, Texas.





Meet Your New Director

The GACC Board of Directors has named Gretna resident Carol J. Schlueter as the center's new director. She started work on July 21.

Carol is the former executive director of the publications office at Tulane University who retired in 2016 after a 24-year career at the university. A native of Houston, Texas, she has lived in the New Orleans area since 1980. In her career, Carol has worked as a newspaper reporter, an advertising agency executive, and a marketing and corporate communications officer. She has an MBA degree from Tulane.

Carol says she is proud of her German heritage and very pleased to be part of the GACC.

Ceremony Honors Former German Seamen's Mission Leader Pastor Neumann

By Sevilla Finley

It was a heartwarming experience on Sunday, September 2, when the German Church Service at St. Matthew United Church of Christ honored Pastor Emeritus Heinz Neumann. It was Heinz's first time back to New Orleans since he moved to Centennial, Colorado, several months ago.

As many of you know, Pastor Neumann operated the German Seamen's Mission in New Orleans for more than 30 years that was the heart of German culture in the city. It was a place where German speakers gathered to socialize, sing, recite poetry, watch movies, eat delicious pastry, and more. Pastor Neumann, who retired sometime after Hurricane Katrina, continued to conduct German Church Services once a month for quite a while. A few months ago he moved to Colorado to be near his son, Gunar.

A large crowd turned out Sunday to thank and pay homage to Pastor Neumann at the German Church Service conducted by The Very Rev. Richard B. Easterling. GACC Board members who attended were Delia Hernandez, Gisela Galjour and Wilma Thompson. Among

present and past members attending were Dr. Kate Zimmerman, Eva Sadlier, Barbara Van Calsem, Ellen Hall, Walter Schleh, Marietta Herr, Brigetta Malm, Ria and Adolph Hilken, Cornelia Schiber, retired Consul W. Paul Andersson, and many, many others.

The German Seamen's Choir sang hymns with chorleiter James Oakes on piano and Janet McLellan on organ. Speakers included Raymond Calvert, GCS president, who acknowledged the German-American Cultural Center in his speech; Meredith Harnish, longtime choir member; Philip Vandercoo, executive director of Global Maritime Ministries; Frank Beier, Deutches Haus vice president; and the Rev. Jack Boudreaux.

The Rev. Neumann and his son Gunar summarized the seamen's mission history and beautifully sang "Kein Schoener Land." The food and pastries were wonderfully delicious, and it was inspiring to see so many old friends again. Services are the first Sunday of every month at 2 p.m. and everyone is invited. *The German Seamen's Choir performed at our very first Oktoberfest held at David Crockett Firehouse in 1988.*

Welcome to the New German Ambassador

We have a new ambassador at the German Embassy in Washington! Emily Haber is the first woman to serve as the German Ambassador to the U.S. She joined the German Foreign Office in 1982 and has had an impressive career that included postings in the former Soviet Union, Russia and Turkey. Prior to her assignment in Washington, President Donald Trump presented her credentials to Ambassador Haber in a ceremony at the White House.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

OKTOBERFEST SATURDAY OCTOBER 13, 2018

GACC's Beer Garden

Name _____

Phone# _____

Email _____

Text/Cell _____

Day and Hours: Friday: 10am-4pm Setup Only

Saturday: 8am-4:30pm

(Circle Day and Job that you are Willing to perform)

- ◆ Set up
- ◆ Food Server
- ◆ Cashier
- ◆ Beer/Drink Server

- ◆ Griller
- ◆ Kitchen
- ◆ Floater/General
- ◆ Break-down

Call Carol, Cecelia or Ira at **504-363-4202**, or deliver this form to the GACC, Text/Call Cecelia 504-710-8505 or Email germanamerican@bellsouth.net



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

GRETNA HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2018

GACC's Beer Garden at the **Gretna Heritage Festival**

Friday, Sept, 28th, Saturday, Sept. 29th and Sunday, Sept. 30st

Name _____

Phone# _____

Email _____

Text/Cell _____

Day and Hours: Friday: 10am-3pm (Set-up)
2pm-7pm
7pm-11pm(servers&shutdown)

Saturday: 10am-1pm (Set-up)
12pm-4pm 4pm-7pm
7pm-11pm (servers & shut down)

(Circle Shift and Job that you are Willing to perform)

Sunday: 9am-11am (Set-up)
12am-4pm 4pm -7pm
7pm-9pm (serves & breakdown)

Job or Jobs to perform:

- Cashier
- Food Server
- Griller

- Beer/Drink Server
- Floater/General
- Kitchen

- Set-up
- Break-down

Call Carol, Cecelia or Ira at **504-363-4202**, or deliver this form to the GACC, Text/Call Cecelia 504-710-8505 or Email gretnagirl70053@gmail.com

Pretzels return for August 18 membership meeting!



Pam Boudreaux gets ready to serve hot pretzels (left); Delia Hernandez and the Rev. Gary Copping enjoy the meeting; and speaker Helen Williams is ready to portray Gretna historic resident Emma Whiteside.



The Board of the Friends of the GACC:
GACC Officers:
Barron Burmaster (President)
Michael Schaferkotter (Vice-President)
Chris Ziifle (Treasurer)
Val Coles (Secretary)

Board of Directors:
Gisela Galjour
Delia Hernandez
Robert Kallies
Irvin Schwarz
Wilma Thompson

Membership dues are \$15.00 for each individual.

Friends of the German-American Cultural Center
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Telephone: 504-363-4202
E-Mail: germanamerican@bellsouth.net

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