



# Mitteilungen

A publication of the  
Sacramento Turn Verein  
German-American Cultural Center - Library

Volume XX, No. I

January, February, March 2021

## What's behind that MASK?

by Susie Pelz

In 2020 the understanding of the word MASK underwent a change. In the past, we have associated masks with hiding or disguising some aspect of ourselves or an object, with the intent of masquerading or camouflaging. It could be for fun during Halloween or Karneval (Mardi Gras), or for something



more sinister and criminal, such as a robbery. And yes, surgeons and medical staff wear medical masks during operations to protect the patient

and themselves. We found it perhaps a bit curious that people in some parts of the world wore masks for protection against the bad air caused by high levels of carbon in the air. (Our air in the United States wasn't THAT bad!) Never in our wildest imaginations would we have thought a year ago--in January 2020--that people everywhere would don masks to hide their breathing in order to protect one another from little bubbles aspirated in the air that carried a highly contagious, sometimes deadly virus...called SARS 2V or Covid-19. This little virus escaped into the atmosphere at some point, probably in late 2019, and since then has been voracious in its appetite to infect humans. Newborn babies are greeted by human shapes with eyes, foreheads, ears, hair...and a big

blob of blue, white, black or multi-colored half faces. They don't see the huge smiles reserved for babies, but rather only the sparkle of eyes and the sound of soothing, cooing voices!

Let us review the world of masks familiar to us, in particular masks, or "Larven," worn for masquerading at this time of year to celebrate Karneval, Fasching, or "Mardi Gras" (Fat Tuesday). These masks are intended for frivolity, disguise, or for frightening evil spirits--and others. The usage of masks goes back thousands of years, but in German culture, it is comparatively recent, dating back to the Middle Ages. Although many customs have developed from ancient pagan



practices, the donning of masks during Karneval in the Rhine area, or Fasching, (aka as Fasnet, Fasnad, or Fasent) in southern Germany, Austria and Switzerland, emerged

mainly from Church practices set by the annual calendar. The use of masks to frighten off evil spirits initially became prevalent in the southern German

*continued on page 2*

The Sacramento Turn Verein's German-American Cultural Center is dedicated to preserving the same proud German heritage that was instrumental in the founding of the Sacramento Turn Verein in 1854.

The Sacramento Turn Verein, a member of the German-American Heritage Foundation in Washington, DC, meets in the old "Turner Hall," at 3349 J Street in Sacramento where its German-American library is housed. Visitors are welcome.

*What's behind that MASK?*, continued from page 1  
area, while the Rhine area generally used face paint to depict frivolity (especially clown faces).

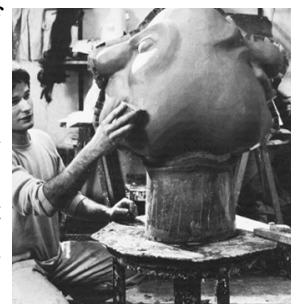
There is a difference in the beginning of the celebration of Karneval and Fasching. In the Rhine area, "Karneval" begins on St. Martin's Day, November 11 at 11 a.m.—before the pre-Christmas season of Advent begins, whereas in southern German areas, Austria and Switzerland, "Fasching" begins after January 6, the Epiphany, or the festival of the Three Kings (die Heiligen Drei Könige). The highlights of both celebrations are focused on the weeks before the beginning of the pre-Easter season of fasting called Lent. There are balls, parades (especially in the Rhine area), and many "Jecken" or "Narren" (fools) afoot. As the time of fasting approaches ("Lent" basically 40 days of fasting before Easter) people consume all perishable goods at home, thus there is excessive eating and drinking, accompanied by dances, plays and parades—with participants in appropriate dress. To get a sense of some differences between Karneval and Fasching, we will describe here some traditions that developed in the southern German areas of Baden-

Württemberg, Schwaben and in Switzerland, particularly in the Basel region, focusing on the use of masks and the art of mask-making that emerged. Sometime between January 6 and February 2 (forty days after Christmas on "Lichtmess"), accompanied by the fanfare of ringing hand bells and reciting funny poems, official members of fools (Narren) and witches (Hexen) associations announce in pubs, inns and on the streets, that it's time to clean your house, dust off and repair costumes and masks from the previous year(s). One may want to use a special outfit from the past, or to create a new masquerade. At this time, the official Narren (members of organizations) also publicly announce the plan for Fasching celebrations in the next weeks and describe the previous year's episodes in poetic and humorous form. Early masks were made of wood, wax, clay, plaster of Paris, but gradually lighter materials such as paper maché or heavier paper came into use. One may take classes in making masks from simple materials, but there are also creative art studios that specialize in mask making. In Basel, Switzerland, mask-making developed into a recognized art form created by experienced artists. One Basel company annually

## The Mask Making Process



1. Forming a Shape



2. Smoothing the medium



3. Pouring the plaster



4. Painting



5. Adding hair, etc.

### Mitteilungen

Quarterly newsletter of the Sacramento Turn Verein's  
German-American Cultural Center - Library  
3349 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95816

#### German-American Cultural Center - Library OFFICERS:

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Ingeborg Carpenter  
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used to change from toy production into a “witches’ cauldron” between December and the Basel Fastnacht. Two sculptors, five paint artists, seamstresses, decorators and many other assistants worked day and night to create masks and costumes. There were 700 basic categories to choose from, and secrecy regarding customers’ choice of mask and costume was highly guarded. In this procedure, the artist first chooses the desired form and creates a mould, usually of clay, and pours a 3-4 cm. layer of plaster of Paris over it. (Paper Maché may be used.) Eventually the form dries, the mask is covered with white chalk and then



Painted. Shellack may be applied. To finish the mask, hair, hat and other decorations are added. The resulting artwork culminates in new face—a “Larve” (and a costume) worn

throughout the festive days of Fasching. Recognizing your best friend was truly a challenge! However, many such masks are considered family treasures and are passed through generations.

Unfortunately, there are no celebrations or Karneval or Fasching or Mardi Gras in 2021... Perhaps if we all created masks as intricate, comical, or as frightening as those used in Fasching, we would ward off this intrusive virus forever!



Credits for “Masks” article:

Information:

Wikipedia: [www.wikipedia.de](http://www.wikipedia.de): Schwäbisch-alemannische Fastnacht

Swiss National Tourist Office, ed. Schweiz, Suisse, Svizzera, Switzerland (Magazine): Schweizer Kunsthandwerke: Swiss Arts & Crafts. Zürich: Schweizerischer Verkehrszentrale, April 1985, p. 58-64

Photos in the order they appear above.

Das Fenster (Magazine), February 2015, p. 22 (Rosenmontag Clowns)

1. Schweiz (Magazine), #66, p. 61 (Forming a shape)
2. Schweiz (Magazine), #63, p. 59 (Smoothing the medium)
3. Schweiz (Magazine), #64, p. 59 (Pouring the Plaster)
4. Schweiz (Magazine), #67, p. 62 (Painting)
5. Schweiz (Magazine), #68, p. 63 (Adding hair, etc.)
6. Schweiz (Magazine), #62, p. 58 (Basel “Masked Musketeers”)
7. Schweiz (Magazine), #69, p. 64. (The “Narren” are afoot!)



# Side-by-Side Story

## Das Recht des Stärkeren

Einmal gingen ein Fuchs, ein Esel und ein Löwe zusammen auf die Jagd. Gerade weil sie verschiedene Jagdmethoden hatten, machten sie fette Beute.

Da sprach der Löwe zum Esel: "Teile du die Beute für uns auf." Der Esel war sehr genau und teilte alles in drei gleiche Teile. Das gefiel dem Löwen nicht. Er brüllte und riss den Esel in Stücke. Dann schaute er den Fuchs an und sprach: "Teile du!" Der Fuchs zerrte den Esel und die ganze Beute zum Löwen und sagte: "Es gehört alles dir, aber vielleicht überlässt du mir ja ein bisschen weil ich geteilt habe?"

Der Löwe brummte zufrieden und sprach: "Wer hat dir beigebracht so weise zu teilen?" "Der Esel!" sagte der Fuchs.

Wegen dieser Fabel sagt man noch heute, wenn jemand die grösste Menge bekommt: "Er hat den Löwenanteil bekommen!" IC

## The Right of the Strongest

Once a fox, a donkey and a lion went hunting together. Precisely because they had different hunting methods, they made fat prey.

Then the lion said to the donkey, "Divide the spoil for us." The donkey was very accurate and divided everything into three equal parts. The lion didn't like that. He roared and tore the donkey to pieces. Then he looked at the fox and said, "You divide the spoils for us!" The fox dragged the donkey and all the prey to the lion and said, "It's all yours, but maybe you leave me a little bit because I did the dividing?"

The lion purred contentedly and said, "Who taught you to share so wisely?" "The donkey!" said the fox.

Because of this fable, it is still said today, when someone gets the largest amount: "He got the lion's share!" IC

## German Publications of Interest

by Susie Pelz

You might be interested in subscribing to a German cultural magazine published in America that would provide additional insight into "things German." Two are listed below to which the GACC-L subscribes.

*Das Fenster Magazine (The Window)* aims to bring a piece of home to the German-American community through its articles of culture, traditions, history, customs, cooking and travel. They also have a puzzle contest every month. A special 15% discount code, **TURN**, has been created for readers of *Mitteilungen*, and it can be entered at checkout online, or if you call the magazine directly: [www.dasfenster.com](http://www.dasfenster.com); phone: (706) 548-4382. *Das Fenster* also has discounted books for sale.

*German Life* is another informative magazine which has a focus similar to *Das Fenster*, but with completely different articles: [www.germanlife.com](http://www.germanlife.com). The magazines are published six times annually. For easy access to both publications, enter each address separately, or simply go to Amazon and enter the titles.

## Calling all Lovers of German Culture!

We want to establish a *Mitteilungen* Editors Committee in order to create a truly vibrant newsletter. We feel that a dedicated committee would guarantee the continuation of a worthy quarterly publication that everyone looks forward to receiving. Be daring, stretch your imagination, your curiosity... and your writing skills! Please respond to [gacclibrarystv@gmail.com](mailto:gacclibrarystv@gmail.com).



## Weisheiten

**Verbringe die Zeit nicht mit  
der Suche nach einem Hindernis.  
Vielleicht ist keines da.**

Don't spend time looking for an obstacle.  
Maybe there is none.

Franz Kafka (1883-1924), German Novelist



# Book Review

## How German Ingenuity Inspired America: More Fun, More Beauty, More Freedom

by Lynne Breen

### German Ingenuity in America

by Susie Pelz

As you are receiving this publication, we assume that you have a sincere interest in German-Americana. With that in mind, we would like to alert you to a new publication by the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA in Washington, D.C., *How German Ingenuity Inspired America: More Fun, More Beauty, More Freedom*, by Lynne Breen. The book focuses on German-Americans who have contributed to life in America in the last 400 years, be it in the fields of entertainment, beauty or freedom. Hundreds of vibrant photographs and illustrations accompany fascinating, informative and well-researched prose in 250 pages, including seven bibliography pages and twenty-five index pages.

Perhaps reading part of the foreword by GAHF Executive Director, Katja Sipple, will convince you that you must read this book—or order it for \$46.99 including shipping from the GAHF Museum's Gift Shop at [www.gahmusa.org](http://www.gahmusa.org).

"Why a book about German-Americans, you may wonder? German-Americans are still the largest ethnic group in the United States, yet they are often almost invisible. So invisible and assimilated, in fact, that many people are entirely unaware of the extent of their contributions and influence. When we step on a plane for business or pleasure, few of us will think of Germany's "Flying Man" Otto Lilienthal whose glider experiments paved the way for other pioneers like the famous Wright Brothers whose maternal grandfather was a German immigrant—and first generation American Wilhelm Eduard Böing

who founded The Boeing Company... Lynne Breen has woven a beautiful and entertaining tapestry that effortlessly takes the reader on a journey through time, and intelligently joins the threads representing the book's three parts of fun, beauty, and freedom. Beginning with the motor car... she deftly moves on to conquering the skies, the novel German idea of making ocean crossings pleasant... the German roots of Hollywood, and the importance of Germany's toy industry for early American consumers... the concept of Kindergarten... In part two, the reader gets to explore German contributions that make life more beautiful—be it books and paintings, the notion of Gemütlichkeit or famous illustrators... the Teutonic influence has certainly left a mark that goes far beyond the famous Dirndl and Lederhosen...and annual Oktoberfest celebrations... In the final part, the overarching theme is freedom... from pain and disease through science... and the role of German revolutionaries and forward

thinking men and women in the birth of the U.S. as an independent country and eventually the abolition of slavery... this book is a wonderful starting point for a serious student of history, but it is also an insightful read for those who simply want to acquire a good overview of the wealth of ingenuity and knowledge German-born and German-American men and women have contributed to the United States."

The extraordinary quality of the book prompted Librarian Uli Pelz of the GACC—Library to donate a copy to be kept in the STV/GACC—Library for everyone's enjoyment. If you have questions about the book, or the GAHF, please contact Uli at [uspelz@yahoo.com](mailto:uspelz@yahoo.com).

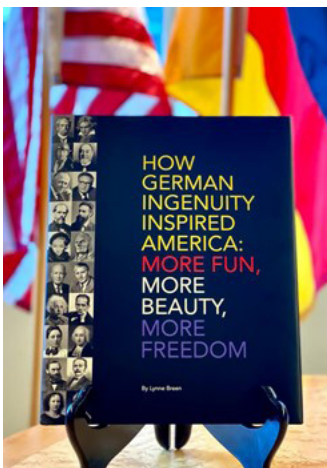


Photo: German-American  
Heritage Foundation

# The Sections of the Sacramento Turn Verein

## - A Historical Perspective -

When were they formed? Why were they formed? What role do they play?

*The Sacramento Turn Verein was founded in 1854 as one of 74 in the United States at that time, with the mission of educating the young to become physically, mentally, and morally sound adults. The main vehicles for accomplishing this was through gymnastics training, language education and singing. Over the century, the STV started to sprout "Sections."*

*The Mitteilungen is dedicating several issues to featuring the various Sections of the STV.*

### STV Soccer Club

by Ingeborg Carpenter

By the early 1950, quite a few Germans had arrived in Sacramento. They had left a war-ravaged Germany, looking for work, opportunities, and a better life for their families. One of these newcomers was 19 year old Freddie Grosklos, who had arrived with his family in 1953. Freddie had loved to play soccer in his native Holtenau, Germany, but was lacking that opportunity in Sacramento. So Freddie did what many Germans do emboldened by the Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's quote "Was nicht ist kann ja noch werden", loosely translating to "if it isn't yet, it can still become", so don't be discouraged.

Consequently, in 1957 he and friends formulated a plan to create a club, and put that plan into action. Initial steps were taken in a meeting held in Fred's bedroom at his parent's home. Because the Central California Soccer League (CCSL) 1957-58 season was already in progress the club played "friendly" games for the remainder of the season. It formally entered league play in 1958-59 season as the First Soccer Club of Sacramento.



During the early days Freddie Grosklos and Leo Drescher managed the affairs of the club and "headquarters" was usually Scheidel's on Fulton Avenue with Gus Scheidel an avid booster. Players included Herb Hoffman, Werner Kroenke, Leo Drescher, Fred Glosklos, Franz Edelmayer, Horst Gumnor, Jack Fimple, Franz Rexhausen, Al Geiger, Vasily Lokteff, and Mario DaRosa.

Soon thereafter the club formed a second team and with a growing membership it was looking for a permanent home. Using the Turn Verein gymnasium for practice, it was a natural progression to join



that organization. With Ferdinand Morant and Otto Grosklos doing the negotiating, the First Soccer Club was made the third section of the Sacramento Turn Verein, joining the Active gymnasts, the Harmonie Choral Group, and the Handball players. On January 6, 1960, 21 members of the soccer club were admitted into membership of the Sacramento Turn Verein.

The officers of the Turn Verein Soccer Club were Ferdinand Morant, President; Willi Gumnor, Vice President; Leo Drescher, Treasurer; Franz Edelmayer, Coach; and Fred Grosklos, Manager.

Also in 1960 the new club joined the California



Soccer Association North (CSAN). The first championship came to the club in March 1962, when the Turn Verein A team beat rivals Jalisco 2-0 in the Final of the City Cup. The two goals were scored by center forward Vasily Lokteff in a game played in freezing temperatures at Southside Park. The team included Juergen Hilmer, Leo Drescher, Mario DaRosa, Norbert Duester, Vic Warmerdam, George Lotkoeff, Erich Krieger, John DeGroot, Mike Zupan and Frank Dale.

Following the initial success in the City Cup, the Turn Verein repeated as champions in 1963, and again in 1964. However, 1963-64 brought double success as the Turn Verein won its first CCSL League Championship to go with its cup triumph.

The Turn Verein Soccer Club had built its reputation as a "Cup Team", and for the rest of the 1960s collected an impressive series of wins.



During the 1970's the club struggled for success on the field. During a period of rapid expansion by CCSL, the Turn Verein found itself playing the lower divisions of the league despite being one of the soundest organizations in the Sacramento area. Starting in 1971 the club has fielded an "Old Timers Team" which have participated in tournaments



statewide.

Such were the early beginnings of the soccer club. Today the club fields 12 teams in several age groups, and until recently even had two ladies teams. But as any of the STV soccer players will tell you, what makes the club special are not only the two hours playing on a Sunday morning, but rather it is the



family atmosphere, the camaraderie on and off the field, and the pride that the Sacramento Turn Verein Soccer Club has existed for over 60 years.

**Gut Heil!**

*Members of the STV Soccer Club*



## Remember when...?



Do you remember when and where this was?  
Do you recognize any of the men in the photo?  
Reach out to us via email at [gacclibrarystv@gmail.com](mailto:gacclibrarystv@gmail.com).



### Did you remember?

The photo on the right is from an article in *The Sacramento Bee*, September 14, 1983, about the three-day celebration held at the Sacramento Turn Verein on September 16-18, 1983 in remembrance of the 300th anniversary of the arrival of the first German immigrants in America on October 6, 1683, in Philadelphia. The public was invited to attend the Coffee House and Tea Dance on Sept. 18 to taste the delicious homemade cakes and other pastries made

by many women of the Turn Verein.

Ingrid Zacharias, daughter of Erwin and Veronica Zacharias, and sister of Walt Zacharias, is pictured here with some of the delectable Kuchen offered. Ingrid made the Obsttorte, front center in the photo.



The Sacramento Bee article featured several recipes, including this one for the ever popular Apfelkuchen mit Streusel (Apple Cake with Butter Crumbs) as provided by a beloved late STV member, Tess Holt.

1 cup flour  
1 tsp. baking powder  
1/3 cup sugar  
1 tsp. vanilla  
1 egg  
¼ cup (1/2 cube) unsalted butter  
2-3 apples  
1 cup flour  
½ cup sugar  
1 tsp. vanilla  
7 T. unsalted butter

Sift together 1 c. flour and the baking powder.  
Add 1/3 c. sugar, 1 tsp. vanilla and the egg.  
Cut ¼ c. butter into small pieces.  
Add to first mixture and knead quickly into a smooth dough.  
Pat on bottom of an 11-inch round removable-bottom cake pan. Prick dough with a fork a few times.  
Bake at 350-375 degrees for 10-15 minutes (not quite done.) Remove from oven.  
While dough is baking, pare apples, slice into narrow wedges.  
Make streusel by combining 1 c. flour, ½ sugar, 1 tsp. vanilla and 7 T. butter.  
Arrange apple slices decoratively on partly baked crust and top with streusel.  
Bake 20-25 minutes longer.



# Sacramento Turn Verein German Language School (GLS)

We continue to extoll our GLS teachers and students, who have ably adapted to the use of Zoom for instruction during the past year! *To those of you who live far away:* Now you may take virtual classes taught by our teachers without driving to Sacramento!

*Our information under normal circumstances:*

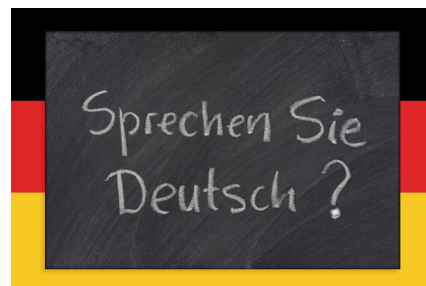
Membership Meeting: First Thursday, 19:30 (Library)

Executive Board Meeting: Third Thursday, 19:30 (Library)

President: Emily Via; GLS Director: Jeanette Treiber

Contact: Website: [www.stv-germanlanguageschool.org](http://www.stv-germanlanguageschool.org);

Director: [gls.stv.jeanette@gmail.com](mailto:gls.stv.jeanette@gmail.com)



## New Session Dates for 2021

All adult classes are usually 8 weeks long, with the exception of holidays. Specialized classes, such as Holiday Traditions, German for Travelers, or German Cooking have a different schedule. Please check the class pages for adults and children on the website, [www.stv-germanlanguageschool.org](http://www.stv-germanlanguageschool.org), where you will find detailed information for classes, registration, cost, teachers, books required—and e-mail possibilities for the director and for GLS officers.

### Winter Session for Adults

January 4 – February 25

No Holidays

### Youth Winter Session

January 6 – February 27

No Holidays

### Spring Session for Adults

March 8 – May 4

(No classes the week of April 4 for Easter week)

### Youth Spring Session

March 10 – May 8

(No classes on April 5, if Bockbierfest is held)

(No classes on April 11 for Easter)

### Summer Session for Adults

June 7 – June 30

No Holidays

### Youth Summer Session

June 7 – June 23

No Holidays

### Early Fall Session for Adults

October 18, 19, 20 – December 6, 7, 8

(Possibly no classes for Thanksgiving week;

Please check the website in September.)

### Youth Early Fall Session

October 20 – December 11

(Possibly no classes for Thanksgiving week and Christkindlmarkt. Please check the website in September.)



# What's Going On at the Turn Verein?

Unfortunately, COVID-19 is still preventing the STV from opening for activities. Please check the website in March to see if there will be any spring activities other than the online classes offered by the GLS.

Below is a list of the regularly scheduled monthly meetings per Section when there are no COVID-19 restrictions. Please contact a section for more specific information if you need it.

We have listed e-mail addresses as provided by each Section, and for general information you may also refer to the STV website at [www.sacramentoturnverein.com](http://www.sacramentoturnverein.com). A last resort would be to call the STV office (916) 442-7360 for information. (Please do not expect an immediate answer if you leave a message.)

## Sacramento Turn Verein (Main Club)

Meetings in the Ruhstaller Room

Membership Meeting:

September-May: First and Third Wednesdays, 20:00;

June-August: First Wednesday only

STV Executive Board & Trustee Meetings:

Fourth Wednesday: 19:00

President: Freddie Diringer; Trustees: Ingeborg Carpenter,  
Gary Frankenstein, Walt Zacharias

Contact: [www.sacramentoturnverein.com](http://www.sacramentoturnverein.com)

## STV Actives

Membership Meeting: Fourth Thursday, 20:00 (in the  
Schule)

President: Ed Broneske; Contact: [edbroneske@mac.com](mailto:edbroneske@mac.com)

## STV Alpentänzer Schuhplattler

Membership Meetings: dates vary; check the website

Dance Practices: Thursdays, 19:00 (seasonally)

Band Practices: seasonally; dates vary

President: Markus Geissler;

Contact: [president@alpentanzer.com](mailto:president@alpentanzer.com)

## STV German-American Cultural Center- Library

Membership Meeting: Second Thursday, 19:30

Special Event: Third Friday, 19:30

Open Hours: Tuesdays 11:00-14:00, Saturdays 9:00-  
13:00

President: Olaavi Solander;

Contact: [gacclibrarystv@gmail.com](mailto:gacclibrarystv@gmail.com)

## STV Handball-Racquetball

Court Games: Monday through Friday: 16:00

Membership Meeting: Second Thursday, 18:00 (in the  
Holzkiste)

President: Dan Hagan, Contact:

<https://sites.google.com/site/turnvereinhandball>

## STV Harmonie

Rehearsal: Mondays, 19:30 (Banquet Hall)

Board Meeting: First Monday, 18:30

President: Lorna Martens;

Contact: [stharmonie@gmail.com](mailto:stharmonie@gmail.com)

## STV Soccer

Membership Meeting: Second Wednesday, 18:00  
(Trophy Room)

President: David Telfer;

Contact: [presidentstvsoccer@gmail.com](mailto:presidentstvsoccer@gmail.com)

## STV German Language School

Membership Meeting: First Thursday, 7:30 PM  
(Library)

Executive Board Meeting: Third Thursday, 7:30 PM  
(Library)

President: Emily Via; GLS Director: Jeanette Treiber

Contact: [www.stv-germanlanguageschool.org](http://www.stv-germanlanguageschool.org)

Director: [gls.stv.jeanette@gmail.com](mailto:gls.stv.jeanette@gmail.com)





## Rheinischer Karneval

by Markus Geissler

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic most events related to Karneval, an annual cultural tradition which has been recognized as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage and which is celebrated primarily in the western (Catholic) regions of Germany as one last hurrah before the start of Lent, had to be cancelled this year. Therefore our annual February trip to join in the Karneval celebrations in my hometown of Brühl, a suburb of Köln (Cologne), met the same fate. But the rheinische Karneval (Rhineland Karneval) season starts well before February. In Köln the *Jecken* (revelers) get together every November 11th (*der Elfte im Elften*) at 11:11 AM on the *Altermarkt* (Old Market Square) and most local pubs and entertainment venues to begin a season of celebration, laughter, dancing, *Schunkeln* (swaying back and forth with other Jecken near you), and regular enjoyment of *Kölsch*, the local style of beer. After a pause for Advent and Christmas the Karneval season resumes in the new year with the Lord Mayor's proclamation of the *Dreigestirn*—a triumvirate of Prince, Farmer, and Maiden (traditionally also played by a man) representing royalty, strength, and beauty, respectively—which rules over the Jecken during the Karneval season. Jecken dressed in often very creative costumes assemble for *Sitzungen* (gatherings) to be entertained by bands representing Cologne's rich local music scene, dance troupes dressed in traditional uniforms similar to those worn by Cologne's city soldiers during the 18th century, and *Bünnenredner* (stand-up comedians) who speak *Kölsch Platt*, the local dialect. Each year about 200,000 people enjoy partying with the Dreigestirn and some of the most popular bands, such as the Bläck Fööss (Bare Feet), Höhner (Chickens), Kasalla, and Querbeat, at the *Lachende Kölnarena* events at the city's main entertainment venue. The *Straßenkarneval* (street Karneval) begins on *Weiberfastnacht* (Women's Karneval, the Thursday before Mardi Gras when men who are wearing a tie will most certainly have it cut off), and it climaxes on *Rosenmontag* (Shrove Monday) when around one million people attend the *Rosenmontagszug* parade by which creatively costumed Karneval club

members wind through the inner city on foot and on floats, and shower the crowds with *Kamelle* (candy), *Strüßjer* (small flower bouquets), and other goodies. The season concludes on *Veilchendienstag* (Shrove Tuesday or Mardi Gras) when the Dreigestirn is stripped of their costumes and their symbols of power (scepter, flail, and mirror, respectively) in a beautiful and often moving ceremony. In certain regions an effigy called the *Nubbel* is ceremonially cremated after a mock funeral (Yes, the Rhineland humor can be crude at times.) to release all Jecken in attendance of the burden of the sins which they may have committed during Karneval. A traditional fish dinner on *Aschermittwoch* (Ash Wednesday) marks the beginning of Lent, and by then all traces of Karneval must have disappeared... only to be revived on the following November 11th.

Similar events and traditions take place in the other major Karneval cities of Mainz, Bonn, and that city to the north which shall not be mentioned by this native son of Cologne (Düsseldorf), as well as in many other towns and villages throughout the Rhineland.

The best way to learn more about Karneval is to experience it yourself. Flights are usually cheap in February, and most find themselves warming up quickly to the silly goings-on... especially when they are willing to put on a costume and join in the fun.

Find more information at [www.koelner-karneval.org](http://www.koelner-karneval.org).

### Nachruf

Lydia Lünemann,  
born January 1, 1944, in Oberwesel, Germany,  
left this world on August 8, 2020.  
She and her husband, Ulli Lünemann, moved  
to Canada and then to the United States,  
eventually becoming American citizens.  
Lydia loved the German culture, supported the  
Hermann Sons, the GACC–Library, and all  
STV events. She is missed by many friends and  
by patients and colleagues at Sutter Hospital,  
where she worked as Radiology Technician for  
many years.  
May she rest in peace.

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**Check back here for upcoming events at the Turner Hall  
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Calling all readers who enjoy German culture, researching and writing:

The *Mitteilungen* Team welcomes your input!

Please contact Ingeborg or Susie at [gacclibrarystv@gmail.com](mailto:gacclibrarystv@gmail.com)

if you would like to become a part of this team effort.

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