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# Calendar

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FIRST CLASS

## THIS MONTH:

**December 3**

**Majors and Reserves**

**Amateur Cup**

**Semi Finals**

**December 8**

**Ugly Sweater Party**

**December 15**

**VE Alumni**

**Christmas Get-Together**

**December 17**

**Sunday Brunch**

**December 24/25**

**Club Closed for**

**Christmas**

**December 31**

**Club Closed for**

**New Years Eve**

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**January 1**

**Club Closed for**

**New Years Day**

**January 13**

**Feuerzangenbowle Night**

**January 28**

**Membership Meeting**

**and Election**

## President's Message – December 2023

Dear Members of VE,

As 2023 ends, I look back at all the achievements of the year and take pride in those accomplishments. We had an outstanding year, with ongoing events, an outstanding Oktoberfest, a successful soccer program, and strong membership participation. A special thank you to all of our members who volunteer their time and effort, to ensure that our Club remains the premier German American Club in our area. I also want to thank the Executive Board, Trustees, and Directors who continue to lead the Club and manage our finances and govern the Society.

I wish to extend my thanks to all our members, friends, and employees, for your continued support and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year.

Frohe Weihnachten und ein Guten Rutsch ins Neuen Jahr!

Philip Gabel / President

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### DANKE SCHÖN

The Board of Directors want to thank everyone who visited the Club and enjoyed November's Bourbon and Cigar Night, Schlachtfest, Brunch, and Christkindlmarkt, as well as the many other events we hosted. An extra special thank you to our staff and many volunteers who made these affairs happen.

Our Christmas elves were back at work decorating the clubhouse and grounds for the Holidays. Thanks for the nice work and we will make sure that those people are on Santa's Nice List!

\*\*\*\*\*

### BOARD NOMINATIONS FOR 2024

Any Active member in good standing willing to run for a Board position should contact our Nominating Chairman Mark Toroniewski at [marktoro10@verizon.net](mailto:marktoro10@verizon.net). Willing candidates must be nominated no later than the January 2024 Board of Directors meeting.

Our next scheduled Quarterly Membership Meeting shall be on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 2:00pm. This meeting is open to all Active members and the election of officers shall take place. Please attend.

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### DID YOU KNOW?

The term *Weihnachtsmann* is a very generic German term for Father Christmas, St. Nicholas, or Santa Claus. The German *Weihnachtsmann* is a fairly recent Christmas tradition having little if any religious or folkloric background. In fact, the secular *Weihnachtsmann* only dates back to around the mid-19th century. As early as 1835, Heinrich Hoffmann von Fallersleben wrote the words to "*Morgen kommt der Weihnachtsmann*" — still a popular German Christmas carol. The first image depicting a bearded *Weihnachtsmann* in a hooded, fur mantle was a woodcut by the Austrian painter Moritz von Schwind (1804-1871). Von Schwind's first 1825 drawing was entitled "*Herr Winter*." A second woodcut series in 1847 bore the title "*Weihnachtsmann*" and even showed him carrying a Christmas tree, but still had little resemblance to the modern *Weihnachtsmann*. Over the years, the *Weihnachtsmann* became a rough mixture of St. Nicholas and *Knecht Ruprecht* (one of St. Nicholas' companions). A 1932 survey found that German children were split about evenly along regional lines between believing in either the *Weihnachtsmann* or the *Christkind*. But today a similar survey would show the *Weihnachtsmann* winning out in almost all of Germany — except for most Catholic areas.

V.E. Members Ralph & Denise

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## WEEKLY UPDATES

If you are not getting the weekly update email, please let the Club office know. This is the best way to keep you up to date about any last-minute updates to VE including Club news, events, soccer games, dinner specials, and job opportunities.

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## 2023/2024 BRUNCH SCHEDULE

**Sunday – December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – 10am - 2pm**

Our fabulous Sunday brunches are back! For Brunch on December 17<sup>th</sup>, please get your reservations in by Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. We are only taking a maximum number of reservations and cannot take last-minute reservations or walk-ins. There is also a 2-hour time limit for Brunch so we can accommodate all guests interested in joining us. Please call the Club office Monday through Friday 10:00am to 4:00pm to make your reservations at (215) 675-5380.

## 2024 Brunch Dates:

January 14<sup>th</sup>, February 11<sup>th</sup>, April 14<sup>th</sup>, and May 12<sup>th</sup> (Mother's Day)

Easter Sunday Buffet – March 31<sup>st</sup>

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## BUNGALOW COMMITTEE

Bungalows are closed for the Season and shall reopen on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Have a great winter!

Peter Hansen / Bungalow Chairperson

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## KITCHEN OFFERINGS

- **Thursday Night Dinners:** We are offering Thursday Night dinners on the third Thursday of the month. Please gather your friends and meet at the Club on Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. 5:00 - 7:00pm. Self-service in the Large Dining Room.

### Menu:

	Member Price	Non-Member Price
Bacon corn chowder	\$3 member	\$5 non-member
Kassler Rippchen w/ 2 sides	\$15 member	\$18 non-member
Chicken Parmesan w/ 2 sides	\$13 member	\$16 non-member
Baked Ziti w/ garden salad	\$12 member	\$15 non-member
Chicken Fingers and Fries	\$9 member	\$12 non-member

- **Friday Night Dinners:** In addition to traditional bar food, we will be offering a dinner special every Friday. Below are the December dinner specials. Food served in the Ratskeller. All entrees are priced at \$13.00.

12/01	Pork schnitzel with Spätzle and broccoli
12/08	Fried Shrimp basket with French fries and Cole slaw
12/15	Rigatoni with vodka sauce and homemade meatballs, garden salad and garlic bread
12/22	Chicken pot pie with garden salad
12/29	Chicken Marsala with mashed potatoes and vegetable

- **Wing Night Wednesday's:** Come out and enjoy a Pizza, Wings, and a cold beer or two. Pizza and Wings served in the Ratskeller from 5:30pm - 8:00pm.

Choices are:

12" pizza – Plain, Sausage, Pepperoni, Mushroom, Margarita, or White with Crispy Chicken and Broccoli. Prices range from \$10.00-\$15.00.

8-piece Jumbo Wings \$9.00. Choose from: Buffalo, Honey BBQ, Garlic Parmesan, Teriyaki or BBQ Dry Rub. Served with celery and blue cheese.

Parties and events are booked out into 2024 already. Please consider holding your events with us!

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## ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

In addition to a lot of Club-wide events, the Entertainment Committee is actively organizing events on a frequent basis. Please stop by the Club and enjoy the company of friends and family and have some fun. These events are set for December and food is available at each event.

**December 8 Ugly Sweater Party (5:00pm)** Please join us in the Ratskeller and show off your ugly sweater! Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Prizes awarded for Ugliest Sweater. Bring an ornament for an ornament exchange.

**December 15 VE Alumni Christmas Get-Together (6:00pm)** This evening is open to all friends of VE Soccer. It's a great way to catch up with former players, coaches, and supporters of our program. This is a free event, and everyone is welcome!

Be on the lookout for a collection box in the Ratskeller for non-perishable food for local food banks. It's a great way of helping our community during the Holiday season.

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## DAMENCHOR CONCERT

Thank you for attending our Autumn concert last month. It is always a thrill to entertain and sing such wonderful songs. A special thank you to all the people who made this possible. Looking forward to many more.

Janice Murset, President

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## VE LADIES AUXILIARY

There is no Card Party in December, however our next Card and Bingo party will be on Wednesday, January 31, 2024. (Weather permitting) If schools are closed, we do not have our party. The cost is \$7 per person which includes coffee or tea and a pastry and one bingo card. Doors open at 11:00am. Sandwiches are available for purchase at our self-service window. Come early to enjoy lunch and chat with friends and meet new friends. The fun begins at 12:30pm. Please come out and support the Ladies Auxiliary (men are welcome too!). Any questions call Janet at (267) 408-4439.

We wish all our members and friends a very Merry Christmas and a healthy blessed 2024 New Year.

Janet Welsch Lynch, President.

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## VE SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

The VE Memorial Scholarship Committee is pleased to offer scholarships this year to high school seniors who will continue their education at a college, university, or technical school. Parents or legal guardians of the applicant must be current members. Requests for the scholarship application should be emailed to [veclub@verizon.net](mailto:veclub@verizon.net). The deadline for submitting completed applications is March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Scholarships will be awarded at the April Quarterly Membership meeting.

Anyone wishing to donate to the scholarship fund honoring someone special, a special occasion or in memory of a loved one is asked to note that the donation is for the "VE Scholarship Fund" and the name of the person honored when sent to the Club office. Donations will ensure the future of the program for many years.

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## IN MEMORIAM



The Board of Directors extends our deepest sympathy to the families of the following members who have left us:

**Manfred Bast**, who passed away on November 4, 2023, joined VE in 1973, a 50-year member.

**Alfred Danz**, who passed away on November 24, 2023, joined VE in 1969, a 54-year member.

**Ruhe in Frieden**



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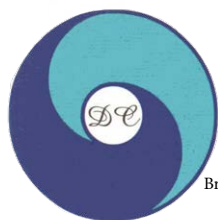


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## HERZLICH WILIKOMMEN ZU UNSEREM KLUB

### Welcome to Our Club!

Welcome to our new members who joined our Club in November 2023. We hope you will enjoy our facilities and have many happy and memorable hours at VE.

**Passive:** Lauren Leary, Curt Lind, Daniel Loney, Michael Thomas, Marc Turco, and Pirooska (Piri) Weidemann.

We are always looking to increase our VE Club membership. Please refer friends and family to join our Club.

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### SOCCER NEWS

Last month was a month to cherish as a VE Soccer fan. We had several youth teams capture league titles (ICSL champions: U10 Boys D1 Bucks, U11 Girls D2 Falken, U9 Boys D1-82 Green, U17 Girls Elite Rage, and U12 Girls D5 Snipers), teams win trophies at various weekend tournaments, and most importantly, our Men's Majors team qualified for the 2024 Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup.

To put this in perspective, Evan Vare first put on a Vereinigung Erzgebirge shirt as a 4-year-old playing in the Club's Mighty Mites program. On Sunday, Vare converted a decisive penalty kick surround by hundreds of Club members and fans to send the VE Majors team into the 2024 Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup.

With the penalty kick victory over New Jersey Alliance FC, Vare and company became one of 11 amateur teams from across the country to qualify for the tournament through four rounds of local qualifying. The Majors last qualified in 2019 but never got a chance to play in the competition since it was postponed in both 2020 and 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"It's an experience that I want to give my players," said Rob Oldfield, head coach of the Majors team. "We want to see VE get drawn with a big club. It gives my Club members something to get excited about. It gives the players on our youth teams something to dream about. They all want to be Majors someday. Those kids have role models they can watch every week. Players that started at the Club, went on to have successful college careers before coming back to play for the Majors."

Vare was just starting out his soccer career when the Majors last competed in the U.S. Open Cup in 2002. He went on to play at Lehigh Valley United, where he was a state and regional champion and national runner-up and with the Olympic Development Program before playing collegiately at Lafayette and Villanova.

On Sunday, Vare was the hero holding out his arms near the penalty spot as his teammates and dozens of VE youth soccer players ran onto the field to celebrate. Kevin Smolyn and Sean Peckham, who both played in Sunday's decisive Round Four game, played the better part of their youth careers at the Club before joining FC Delco and Christian Williams and Johnny Ciarlante also started as young kids. Other players on the team have come through their summer U-23 program or via other local youth soccer clubs and college programs.

Additionally, both our Majors and Reserves are alive in the USASA Amateur Cup. Those semifinal games will be played at Bryn Athyn College on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and the Majors play in the next round of the USASA Open Cup.

It's an exciting time to be a VE Soccer fan.

Steve Feuchter / VE Soccer Chairman

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### OPPORTUNITIES

**Volunteer Hours Needed:** The Club is run mostly by member volunteers and every hour counts. If you are interested in being added to our contact list for volunteer opportunities the Volunteer Committee is looking to know what you can help with and when. Please email [veclubevents@gmail.com](mailto:veclubevents@gmail.com) to be added to our email/phone contact list. Thank you in advance.

**Hiring Staff:** The VE Club is looking for a full-time office worker who has Quickbooks experience as well as an event shift leader. We also need a daytime dishwasher and daytime availability server with experience.

The House Committee asks that parents monitor their children while visiting the kid's playroom in the Ratskeller and would appreciate it if the room was cleaned up and free of trash after being used. *Thank you.*

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