



GERMAN CLUB OF FOUNTAIN HILLS

DIETER HERMANS , PRESIDENT
E-MAIL :DIETER@HERMANS.BZ

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OUR NEXT EVENT

November: Our Annual Meeting will be on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2009, at 5:30 PM at the Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church, 13001 Fountain Hills Blvd at the Adult Center. The 2 year term of our Board will expire by the end of the year, and we will elect a new Board in December. The election committee Joe Cifelli, Lotti Wagner and Regina Slojkowski will inform you of the status. You are encouraged to join the Board and you can announce your candidacy during the November meeting.

The Treasurer will present the financial report. Additionally we request your suggestions for activities or events in 2010. Let us also have some feedback regarding our activities in 2009. What did you like and what not? Let's have a fruitful discussion.

Afterwards we will serve sandwiches, coffee and cake. We would appreciate if members bring desserts. Please let Irene (☎ (480) 837 2908, iburban@cox.net) know by Nov. 9 whether you will participate in the meeting so that we have sufficient food available.

Theresa's Husband Klaus Wagner will undergo Triple Bypass Surgery on Monday November 26. Our thoughts and good wishes will be with him and we hope after his operation he will have a speedy recovery.



**Happy November Birthday to:
Renate Weidenfeld**

One of our club member would like to share with you impressions of her unforgettable visit to Dresden/Sachsen to see the most impressive monument, the

Semper Opera House Sächsische Staatsoper

The Semper Opera House or Semperoper in Dresden is home to the Sächsische Staatsoper, one of the city's most important cultural institutions. The opera house is also one of Dresden's most impressive monuments.



The First Semper Opera House

Already in 1678 an opera house was built on the current site of the Semperoper, near the Theaterplatz. Between 1838 and 1841 Gottfried Semper, who was heavily influenced by ancient Roman architecture, built a new theater in early Renaissance style. The magnificent building saw many premieres of works by Richard Wagner, who arrived in Dresden one year after Semper's Opera House was completed.

A New Semper Opera House

In 1869 a fire destroyed the building. Even though Gottfried Semper was in exile after he took part in a failed democratic uprising.

His son Manfred constructed the building in High Renaissance style between 1871 and 1878 after his father's plans.

Postwar Reconstruction

The Semper Opera House was destroyed again in February 1945 during the heavy allied bombardments and subsequent fires which laid the whole city in ruins. The building was reconstructed forty years later. It reopened in February 1985 with a performance of Weber's

Der Freischutz, the opera last played before the bombardment in 1945.

Statues

The oval shaped building features a large central portal topped by a panther-drawn quadriga with Dionysos, Greek god of the art and Ariadne. On each side of the portal are statues of Goethe and Schiller, famous German writers. In niches at the sides of the building are the original statues of King John Statue Shakespeare, Sophocles, Molière and Euripides; they were saved from the old Semper Opera House.

Theaterplatz

The building has a prime location at the Theaterplatz, a large square near the Elbe river. At the center of this square in front of the Opera house stands an equestrian statue of the Saxon King John, added in 1889.

This statue and the one on top of the Opera House were both built by the same sculptor, Johann Schilling.

Mark your Calendar:

Our Christmas Party has been scheduled for Dec 12, 6 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church in the Fellowship Center. We'd like to ask the members to bring some dessert and a raffle gift.

The Arizona Center for Germanic Cultures will present its second annual Christkindlmarkt Saturday December 5, 2009 in downtown Mesa on the first block of N. Macdonald Street

German American Karneval Society
Prinzenkrönung 2009

Richard and Brigitte, who will be crowned as Prince and Princess would like us all to join them in their coronation festivities. The Prinzen Kroenungsball will be in The Vista, Westbrook Village in Peoria, AZ. The date is Saturday, November 21, 2009, at 8 PM. Advance tickets \$8.00, at the door \$10.00. Please contact Mike or Rosie Lemonidis (☎ (480) 837 3140) for details.

Impressions of our trip to Wickenburg on Oct. 16, 2009

Lotti and Theresa checking out the goodies at the General Store of the 1920's at the Desert Caballeros Museum

Everyone enjoyed the Lunch at the Country Club



The historic Vulture Mine

Desert Caballeros Museum

