



GERMAN CLUB OF FOUNTAIN HILLS

DIETER HERMANS , PRESIDENT
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Fastnacht/Carnival

On Saturday, February 20, 2010, we will have our Carnival event at the Presbyterian Church of Fountain Hills in the Fellowship Center. The doors will open at **5:30 p.m.** and the official ceremony will start at **6 p.m.** There will be a \$ 5. - charge per person.

The highlight of this night will be the appearance of I.L. Princess Brigitte and S.T. Prince Richard with cap and gown. We also expect the President of GAKS and most of the Elferrat in their uniforms, accompanied by other members of GAKS, to participate. Regarding costumes please note that the Prince and the Princess will choose the best costume of that night and award a prize.

Thanks to the generosity of Princess Brigitte and Prince Richard we will serve a hot sandwich and appetizers, prepared by Theresa and Klaus. Soda, Wine and Beer will be available for a donation.

We would appreciate if members could bring desserts.

Guests are always welcome!

In order to have food and drinks for everybody we need to know the number of participants. Please let Irene Urban (☎ 480 837 2908, iburban@cox.net) know by Feb.12. if you will participate.



Prince Richard and Princess Brigitte

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\$ 25. - per Family, make check payable to "German Club of Fountain Hills" and submit your Membership fee to John Force 4911 E Roy Rogers Road, Cave Creek, AZ 85331



Fastnacht / Carnival



Germans call the pre-Lenten Carnival season die närrische Saison ("the foolish season") or die fünfte Jahreszeit ("the fifth season"). Except for Munich's Oktoberfest, it is the one time of year when many normally staid Germans (and Austrians and Swiss) loosen up and go a little crazy. Fastnacht or Karneval is a "movable feast" (ein beweglicher Festtag) that depends on the date of Easter (Ostern). In 2008 Fastnacht falls on February 5 (Faschingsdienstag). The official start of the Fasching season is either January 7 (the day after Epiphany, Dreikönige) or the 11th day of the 11th month (Elfte im Elfte, Nov. 11), depending on the region. That gives the Carnival guilds (Zünfte) three to four months to organize each year's events (Carnival balls, parades, royalty, etc.) leading up to the big bash in the week before Ash Wednesday (Aschermittwoch), when the Lenten season (die Fastenzeit) begins.

Masken sind beim Karneval sehr wichtig.

Carnival in Rio is probably the world's most famous. In the U.S., New Orleans is well known for Mardi Gras. While that former French possession is one of the few cities in the United States with a major Carnival celebration, almost all of the Catholic regions and cities across the German-speaking world (and the rest of Europe) celebrate Mardi Gras in a big way. Only a few Protestant areas in northern and eastern Germany also observe Karneval. Some of Germany's best known celebrations are held in Cologne (Köln), Mainz, Munich (München) and Rottweil. But Cologne's Karneval is not really the same as Munich's Fasching. Germanic Carnival celebrations vary from region to region, sometimes even taking place at different times! (The Fastnacht event in Basel, Switzerland happens a week after most other Carnivals.) The main event of Karneval in Köln is the parade on Rosenmontag (Rose Monday). Further south in Bavaria and Austria, the culmination of Fasching takes place on Shrove Tuesday (Faschingsdienstag), like Mardi Gras in New Orleans. These and other differences reflect the long history and local traditions of the celebration during the pre-Lenten season. Today there are elaborate parades (Umzüge) in all the large and small communities where Fasching is celebrated. Floats and marchers displaying large caricature heads often lampoon regional and national politicians. Another part of the celebration involves Carnival royalty (princes, princesses) and a sort of "counter-government" during the season. The Rhineland Rosenmontagumzug is an event broadcast each year on German television, similar to the Macy's Thanksgiving parade in New York. It features colorful floats with caricatured figures mocking local and national politicians and other personalities or events.

Karneval-Lexikon

Fastnacht is related to the Germanic word "fasten" (to fast, abstain from eating). Karneval is related to the Latin "carnem levare" (to remove meat).

Carnival or Mardi Gras goes by many names in German, depending on the region and dialect: Karneval (Rhineland, former Roman settlements), Fasching (Austria, Bavaria, Berlin), Fastnacht (Baden, Switzerland), Fosnat (Franconia) or Fasnet (Swabia). Whether it's Fasching or Karneval, it is a time to let off steam and live it up before the Lenten period that once called for fasting (die Fastenzeit). It is this fasting tradition that gave the celebration its Fastnacht name ("night before fasting"). In the 15th and 16th centuries, amusing plays known as Fastnachtspiele were performed.

I.L. stands for „Ihre Lieblichkeit“, S.T. stands for „Seine Tollität“

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY



Edith Cifelli

February Ladies Day February Ladies Day

We will meet on the third Wednesday which is February 17. This time we will go for lunch at Benihana House of Tokyo. It is located between Scottsdale Rd. and the Promenade Shopping Ctr. Detailed information will be sent to you by Hilde and she also would appreciate it if you would **RSVP** to her if you will attend or not.

Impressions of our Bowling event 2010

Approximately 25 members and guests showed up for the bowling night, 16 of which competed for the championship under supervision of Judge Judy.

The first prize went once again to Kevin Force.

