



# Deutscher Club of Clark Inc.

787 FEATHERBED LANE • CLARK, NEW JERSEY 07066

732-574-8600 • FAX: 732-382-4177 • EMAIL: [correspondence@deutscherclub.us](mailto:correspondence@deutscherclub.us)

WEB: [deutscherclub.us](http://deutscherclub.us)



## VEREINSNACHRICHTEN / CLUB NEWS – DEZEMBER / DECEMBER 2020

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members, I hope this message finds you and your families staying healthy and safe during this holiday season. The club will take on a different kind of look this year as some of our staples of the Christmas season have been canceled. We are trying to keep a few of the club's traditions alive this year. We held a highly successful Christmas Market this year under the alias, "Winterfest." A big thank-you to Buzz and Colleen Sawyer, Brian Daly and their many helpers who planned this event. A record number of vendors participated along with local musicians and singers giving the event a wonderful kick-off to the Christmas season. A tree lighting on December 11th will take the place of the Children's Christmas party with Santa making an appearance from the Club's rooftop. We hope you will make plans to join us. At this time 75 is and remains the number of people we can have in the clubhouse at one time. With that being said, we are planning on having two Christmas parties this year. One on Saturday evening, December 12th and another on Sunday afternoon, December 13th. Hopefully, this will give many of our members a chance to enjoy the company of one another during the days leading up to Christmas. Details can be found in this month's bulletin. We are also planning on having our annual Weihnachtsfrühstücken on Christmas morning. At this point, with the current COVID-19 restrictions that are in place, it is very unlikely that we will be ringing in the New Year at the club this year. Of course, all these planned events are at the mercy of Governor Murphy's COVID-19 mandates. We will keep you updated as we get closer to the events as things will most likely change. 2020 certainly has been a year to remember or as many of us might feel, one to forget. As bad as it has been, I am so thankful for you our members. You have contributed in so many ways in keeping this club alive and well during these unprecedented times. You have shown so much support and understanding towards the Executive Board and it has not gone unnoticed by each and every one of us. On behalf of the Board and Trustees, I wish you and your families a very enjoyable Christmas season.

Liebe Mitglieder, Ich hoffe meine Nachricht findet Sie und Ihre Familien gesund und wohlauf. Sie werden den Club dieses Jahr irgendwie anders empfinden, da einige unseren gewohnten Veranstaltungen abgesagt wurden. Trotzdem versuchen wir einige der Clubtraditionen in 2020 am Leben zu erhalten. Dieses Jahr hatten wir wieder einen sehr erfolgreichen Weihnachtsmarkt, der unter dem Pseudonym „Winterfest“ lief. Ein großes Dankeschön an Buzz und Colleen Sawyer, Brian Daly und ihre vielen Helfer, die diese Veranstaltung geplant und organisiert haben. Eine Rekordzahl von Verkäufern nahm zusammen mit lokalen Musikern und Sängern teil und gab der Veranstaltung einen wunderbaren Auftakt für die Weihnachtszeit. Eine Christbaumbeleuchtung am 11. Dezember wird an die Stelle der Kinderweihnachtsfeier stattfinden, mit einem Überraschungsbesuch des Weihnachtsmannes, der alle Besucher vom Dach des Clubs begrüßen wird. Wir hoffen, dass Sie vorhaben an diesen Abend sich uns anzuschließen. Zu diesem Zeitpunkt bleibt 75 die Anzahl der Personen, die wir gleichzeitig im Clubhaus haben können. Davon abgesehen planen wir dieses Jahr zwei Weihnachtsfeiern. Eine am Samstagabend, den 12. Dezember und eine am Sonntagnachmittag, den 13. Dezember. Hoffentlich gibt dies unsere Mitglieder die Möglichkeit, in den Tagen vor Weihnachten, die Gesellschaft des anderen zu genießen. Details finden Sie in diesem Monatsblatt. Wir planen auch unser jährlichen Weihnachtsfrühstücken am Weihnachtsmorgen. Zu diesem Zeitpunkt ist es angesichts der geltenden Covid-19-Beschränkungen sehr unwahrscheinlich, dass wir dieses Jahr das neue Jahr im Club einläuten. Natürlich sind all diese geplanten Veranstaltungen den COVID-19-Mandaten von Gouverneur Murphy ausgeliefert. Wir werden Sie auf dem Laufenden halten, wenn wir uns den Ereignissen nähern, da sich die Dinge höchstwahrscheinlich ändern werden. 2020 war sicherlich ein unvergessliches Jahr, oder wie viele von uns vielleicht glauben, eines, das man vergessen sollte. So schlimm es auch war, ich bin Ihnen, unseren Mitgliedern, so dankbar. Sie haben auf so viele Arten dazu beigetragen, diesen Club in diesen außergewöhnlichen Zeiten am Leben zu erhalten. Sie haben dem Vorstand so viel Unterstützung und Verständnis entgegengebracht, dass es nicht von jedem von uns unbemerkt geblieben ist. Im Namen des Vorstands und der Treuhänder wünsche ich Ihnen und Ihren Familien eine sehr schöne Weihnachtszeit.

*Mit freundlichen Grüßen, Eric Zabel*

E-Mail: [president@deutscherclub.us](mailto:president@deutscherclub.us)

*The Deutscher Club provides the following e-mails for your convenience:*

**[president@deutscherclub.us](mailto:president@deutscherclub.us)** • Messages to President, Eric Zabel

**[events@deutscherclub.us](mailto:events@deutscherclub.us)** • Inquiries: Open events/bands/Club events,  
Keith Rhyner/Brian Daly, (1st & 2nd VP)

**[manager@deutscherclub.us](mailto:manager@deutscherclub.us)** • Booking parties or meetings •  
Ewald Hollinger, Manager

**[correspondence@deutscherclub.us](mailto:correspondence@deutscherclub.us)** • General Correspondence

**[membership@deutscherclub.us](mailto:membership@deutscherclub.us)** • Inquiries: Membership, Dues •  
Buzz Sawyer, Membership Secretary,

**[scholarship@deutscherclub.us](mailto:scholarship@deutscherclub.us)** • Inquiries: Scholarship - Sigrid Pagano,  
Chairperson

**[trustees@deutscherclub.us](mailto:trustees@deutscherclub.us)** • Contact Trustees

**[webmaster@deutscherclub.us](mailto:webmaster@deutscherclub.us)** • Website Concerns

# PROGRAMM FÜR DEZEMBER / DECEMBER PROGRAM 2020

**Clubhouse is Open with occupancy at 25% Capacity. Table Service Only (No Spaces at the Bar).**

<b>Wed 02</b>	<b>Indoor Bar</b> • Table Service Only • Bar Food available	<b>3:00 – 10:00 PM</b>
<b>Thu 03</b>	<b>Dinner – Indoor Dining</b> • Menu on the DC Website	<b>5:30 – 8:00 PM</b>
<b>Thu 03</b>	<b>Entertainment Committee Meeting</b> • Details on Page 5	<b>6:30 PM</b>
<b>Fri 04</b>	<b>Dinner – Indoor Dining</b> • Menu on the DC Website	<b>5:30 – 9:00 PM</b>
<b>Sat 05</b>	<b>Dinner – Indoor Dining</b> • Menu on the DC Website	<b>5:30 – 9:00 PM</b>
<b>Sun 06</b>	<b>Frühschoppen</b> • Table Service Only	<b>11:00 AM – 5:00 PM</b>
<b>Wed 09</b>	<b>Indoor Bar</b> • Table Service Only • Bar Food available	<b>3:00 – 10:00 PM</b>
<b>Wed 09</b>	<b>Monthly Membership Meeting</b> • Introducing the Slate of Candidates for the Elections!	<b>7:00 PM</b>
<b>Thu 10</b>	<b>Dinner – Indoor Dining</b> • Menu on the DC Website	<b>5:30 – 8:00 PM</b>
<b>Fri 11</b>	<b>Dinner – Indoor Dining</b> • Menu on the DC Website	<b>5:30 – 9:00 PM</b>
<b>Fri 11</b>	<b>DC Tree Lighting</b> • An Outdoor Holiday Event for the Family! • Details on Page 5	<b>7:00 PM</b>
<b>Fri 11</b>	<b>Deutscher Stammtisch</b> • No Meeting in December	
<b>Sat 12</b>	<b>Christmas Gala</b> • Music by The Adlers • Details on Page 5	<b>5:30 – 10:00 PM</b>
<b>Sun 13</b>	<b>Christmas Gala</b> • Music by Tom Groeber • Details on Page 5	<b>1:00 – 6:00 PM</b>
<b>Wed 16</b>	<b>Indoor Bar</b> • Table Service Only • Bar Food available	<b>3:00 – 10:00 PM</b>
<b>Wed 16</b>	<b>Ladies' Division Meeting</b> • No Meeting in December	
<b>Thu 17</b>	<b>Dinner – Indoor Dining</b> • Menu on the DC Website	<b>5:30 – 8:00 PM</b>
<b>Thu 17</b>	<b>Railroaders Dinner &amp; Video</b> • All Members are Welcome!	<b>5:30 PM</b>
<b>Fri 18</b>	<b>Dinner – Indoor Dining</b> • Menu on the DC Website	<b>5:30 – 9:00 PM</b>
<b>Sat 19</b>	<b>Dinner – Indoor Dining</b> • Menu on the DC Website	<b>5:30 – 9:00 PM</b>
<b>Sun 20</b>	<b>Frühschoppen</b> • Table Service Only	<b>11:00 AM – 5:00 PM</b>
<b>Wed 23</b>	<b>Indoor Bar</b> • Table Service Only • Bar Food available	<b>3:00 – 10:00 PM</b>
<b>Thu 24</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> • CLUB WILL BE CLOSED	
<b>Fri 25</b>	<b>Christmas Frühschoppen</b> • Table Service Only	<b>10:00 AM – 1:00 PM</b>
<b>Sat 26</b>	<b>Dinner – Indoor Dining</b> • Menu on the DC Website	<b>5:30 – 9:00 PM</b>
<b>Sun 27</b>	<b>Frühschoppen</b> • Table Service Only	<b>11:00 AM – 5:00 PM</b>
<b>Wed 30</b>	<b>Indoor Bar</b> • Table Service Only • Bar Food available	<b>3:00 – 10:00 PM</b>
<b>Thu 31</b>	<b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b> • CLUB WILL BE CLOSED	

## Vorschau Januar / Preview January 2021

SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE & EMAILS FOR UPDATES

**Fri 01** New Year's Day • HAPPY NEW YEAR! • CLUB WILL BE CLOSED

**Sat 02** Dinner

**Thu 07** Entertainment Committee Meeting

**Fri 08** Stammtisch • No Meeting until Further Notice

**Sat 09** Dinner

**Sun 10** General Membership Meeting & Annual Elections

**Sat 16** Dinner

**Wed 20** Ladies' Division Meeting • No Meeting in January

**Thu 21** Railroaders Dinner & Video • All Members Welcome!

**Sat 23** Dinner

**Sat 30** Dinner

**TBD** Amateur Astronomers • Members and their Families Welcome!

**Please Remember** – When in the Club - CAPS OFF - and...



## DC GIFT CARDS

Give the gift of Cheer in the form of a DC Gift Card. Cards are available for purchase at the Bar.



# KLUBNACHRICHTEN • CLUB NEWS

*Our thoughts and prayers for strength and recuperation go out to our members, Bill Adams, Brian Burkert, Gavin Kasperski, Marisa Pagano, Rosemarie Riesinger, and Renate and Ronald Stopford.*

*We mourn the passing of our members, William "Bill" Madden Jr. and extend our heartfelt sympathy to his family.*

*We extend our deepest condolences to the family of Lieselotte Kugis, mother of member Renate Jelmert, to the family of Mary V. Franov, mother-in-law of member Tina Mohrmann, to the family of Stephanie (Ryder) Reyes, daughter of member Walter and Elizabeth Ryder, and to the family of Werner Goebel, "der Huettenmusikant," who performed at the Club providing its membership with many enjoyable hours of dance music over the years.*

**In case of illness or death of a member, please email [correspondence@deutscherclub.us](mailto:correspondence@deutscherclub.us)**

## IN THE NEWS

Photo courtesy of the Morreale Family Go Fund Me



### The Crowning of the Honorary Miss Deutscher Club 2020



Last month, our Trustee Suzanna Polhamus representing the Deutscher Club of Clark, presented Clark resident Julia Morreale with the Miss Deutscher Club crown and sash for 2020 including a donation of over \$2,800 from the Club's membership to help Julia and her family with her medical costs. In response, Julia's mother forwarded a heartfelt letter of gratitude to the Club's membership.

## NEW CLUBHOUSE HOURS

Wednesday: 3:00 – 10:00 PM

Saturday: 3:00 – 10:00 PM

Thursday: 3:00 – 10:00 PM

Sunday: 10:30 – 5:00 PM

Friday: 3:00 – 10:00 PM

## FOR YOUR SAFETY

With the reopening comes some restrictions and procedures. They are as follows:

Food and beverage establishments must:

- Limit the number of patrons in indoor areas to 25 percent of the food or beverage establishment's indoor capacity, excluding the food or beverage establishment's employees;
- Limit seating to a maximum of eight (8) customers per table (unless they are from a family from the same household) and arrange seating to achieve a minimum distance of six feet (6 ft) between parties;
- Require customers to only consume food or beverages while seated;
- Require patrons to wear face coverings while inside the indoor



premises of the food or beverage establishment, except when eating or drinking at their table;

- For food or beverage establishments with table service, require that customers be seated in order to place orders;
- For food or beverage establishments with table service, require that wait staff bring food or beverages to seated customers
- Keep doors and windows open where possible and utilize fans to improve ventilation.
- Members sign in when entering the dining/bar area in order for tracking if necessary.
- An ATM will be located outside for your convenience.

At this time there will be no seating at the bar. When there is no waitress on duty you may order a drink from the bartenders. Please then return to your seat. Please keep the wait line for drinks to no more than three people at a time.

We will not require reservations at this time unless we see a high trend in numbers for dining nights.

Please be mindful of your fellow members. In the case there are members waiting to enter the dining/bar area for dinner or drinks please keep in mind the amount of time that you have spent in the clubhouse in order to let everyone enjoy the clubhouse.

At this time, there are no restrictions placed on guests that you bring into the clubhouse. When signing them in, please have them add their phone number in case tracking is necessary.

## A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ON MEMBERSHIP CARDS

The Deutscher Club Executive Board kindly asks that all our members have their membership cards on them at all times when visiting the club for member or public events.



If asked by an employee or staff member to show your membership card, we request that you politely do so. This is not meant as a slight toward you personally, we are a large club with a rotating staff and Board, and not everyone always knows each other.

**It is very important for members to have their membership card on their person as it is required by law and keeps us in compliance with the New Jersey Alcoholic Beverage Commission. Not doing so risks penalties for our club and possible loss of our liquor license.**

If you do not have your membership card or need a replacement, please contact [Membership@deutscherclub.us](mailto:Membership@deutscherclub.us).

*With appreciation, your Vorstand.*





**Sunday January 10, 2021  
at 2:00 PM**

**In-person Voting:** 2:00-5:00 PM,  
Sunday, January 10, 2021 (be sure to have  
your current/valid membership card)

**Mail-in Voting\*:** Must be received by end  
of business on Saturday, January 9, 2021

**Drop-off Voting\*:** Must be received by  
5:00 PM on Sunday, January 10, 2021

(\*Current/Valid Membership card must  
be included when mailing or dropping off  
your ballot)

At our November 11th Membership Meeting the Nominating Committee Members were introduced to the membership and the Committee Chairman provided an overview of the 2021 election process and key dates. All the incumbent officers and the 2 Trustees running for election, John Carroll and Steve Hicks, were asked if they are committed to running again in 2021 for their same positions and all replied in the affirmative. The Nominating Committee Chairman then declared that we have a full slate of candidates for all officer and Trustee positions.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Nominating Committee Chairman asked if any member wishes to nominate another member for any position on the board and this is the last opportunity for nominations from the floor. There were no nominations made, therefore, the final slate for 2021 will be the incumbent board members as follows: President Eric Zabel, First VP Keith Rhyner, Second VP Brian Daly, Recording Secretary Michelle Kasperski, Club Secretary Birgit Maier, Treasurer Cathrin Maier-Tajkowski, Finance Secretary Mike Saake, Membership Secretary Buzz Sawyer, Trustee John Carroll, Trustee Steve Hicks.

Due to the Pandemic the Nominating Committee determined that a ballot form will be emailed to all eligible members on email and a hard copy ballot will be mailed to those eligible members who receive their newsletters by regular mail.

Members receiving their ballot by email will print a copy of the ballot form. All members will complete the ballot and return it to the

club by regular mail or deposit it in a special "return ballots drop box" at the club. In-person voting will also be permitted from 2 to 5 pm on Sunday January 10. The member's 2020 or 2021 Membership Card must be returned with the completed ballot in the return envelope for the ballot to be accepted. The Nominating Committee members will be at the December 9th Membership Meeting to answer any questions or you can call them as follows:

John Marquardt, Chairman: 908-477-9395

Chris Wagner: 551-427-8117

Chrissy Daly: 908-327-0376

Cheryl Grimes: 732-754-0587

Joan Rhyner: 908-418-8566

John Chupko: 908-644-8348

*John Marquardt*

## Die Damenabteilung The Ladies' Division

### Newly Elected Officers for 2021

President	Sigrid Pagano
Vice President	Linda Hildebrandt
Secretary	Madeline Szeles
Treasurer	Michele Anderson

There will be no meeting of the Ladies' Division in December.



(Photo: From the 2017 Steuben Parade)

## MAY WE TAKE YOUR ORDER?

### Deutscher Club now has Take-out!

Open to the Public!

Call in your order:

(732) 574-8600

Thursday, Friday,

Saturday

Call in orders as of 3:00 PM (Saturdays as  
of 2:30 PM) Pick-up orders 4:00 – 7:00 PM

Check the Website at [www.deutscherclub.us](http://www.deutscherclub.us)  
for the Menu



## FOR SALE DC 85<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PINS \$5

See any Vorstand  
member if you are  
interested in purchasing.



## Handmade-Reusable Face Masks, DC-Wear & More



Homemade Face Masks: \$5

DC Wood Ornaments: \$5

DC Embroidered Black Ball Caps: \$20

DC Tees (Small): \$22

DC Embroidered Polos (2-XL): \$35

DC Auto Decals: \$2

## MEMBERSHIP

Members please  
submit payment  
for 2021 Dues.



Your membership dues greatly support the club in all aspects of its financial operations. Please pay your dues today.

Delinquent members for 2020, send your dues plus \$10 late fee along with their 2021 Dues.

You will need your 2020 and or 2021 Membership Card when visiting the Club. Please remember to practice social distancing while at the club.

You can mail checks to the club to my attention, or simply pay online with any major credit card on our website: <https://deutscherclub.us>.

Mail to:

Deutscher Club of Clark

attn. Membership Secretary

787 Featherbed Lane, Clark, NJ 07066

### Annual Dues are:

1. \$80.00 for Regular members
2. \$70.00 for Senior Member – must have attained the age of 72 and been a member for 25 consecutive years
3. \$145 for couples
4. Existing Lifetime members are encouraged to pay \$20.00 voluntary dues (discontinued)

1/1/2009)

2020 NEW MEMBER INTERVIEWS AND INDUCTIONS have been postponed until further notice.

**\*\* Pay your annual dues on-line • Visit the DC website \*\***

*Buzz Sawyer, Membership Secretary*

## NOW HIRING

**WAITERS & WAITRESSES** Become a member of the DC Service Team! Interested in applying? Please call Deutscher Club Manager, Ewald Hollinger at (732) 574-8600.

## ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

**The Entertainment Committee** will begin meeting again this month and welcomes any member to join and help us plan events for the club. We meet on the **first Thursday of the month, at 6:30 PM**, right outside the manager's office. Our responsibilities include planning special event dances, hosting Saturday night dances, organizing entertainment, naming the Man and Woman of the Year and many other activities. **The Decorating Sub-committee**, led by Carol Marquardt, works hand-in-hand with us to "dress up" the Club for every special event. They meet, same day and time, with the Entertainment Committee to coordinate requirements for seasonal, holiday, and special events decorating. Any member of the club is welcome to stop by and sit

in on a meeting to see what we do before agreeing to become a full-time member of the committee or sub-committee. I hope to see you there! *Brian Daly*



SKAT is a three-handed, trick-taking card game of the Ace-Ten family, devised in 1810 in Altenburg, and it is the national card game of Germany! What – don't know how to play the game? You are invited to join Peter Richter with the rest of the SKAT players who meet **every Wednesday and Thursday at 8:00 PM** and learn the game.

## KNITTING CLUB at the Deutscher Club!

Join a circle of fellow crafters **every Thursday at 3PM** and teach, share your tips and tricks, and socialize. No experience is necessary.



## Hiking News

With the holidays so close and so much left to do, die Wandergruppe will remain "zu Hause" for the holidays. May everyone have a blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy, New Year. *John Carroll*



**Friday, December 11th, 2020, 7 PM**

After enjoying dinner with the family at the Club, step out to the Pavilion at **7:00 PM**. Behold the lighting of the DC Christmas Tree and join in singing a few Christmas carols.

Sip some Glühwein or hot chocolate and wait for Santa to make his appearance on the roof of the Deutscher Club!

## Christmas Gala



**Saturday, December 12th, 2020,  
5:30 – 10:00 PM**

**with Music by The Adlers  
or**

**Sunday, December 13th, 2020,  
1:00 – 6:00 PM**

**with Music by Tom Groeber**

### MENU

CREAM OF POTATO SOUP—  
SPINACH SALAD with ORANGE  
MANDARIN, WALNUT, STRAWBERRY  
and STRAWBERRY DRESSING—  
CRAB and LOBSTER STUFFED  
MUSHROOM—  
PRIME RIB served with Baked Potato  
and String Beans—  
ROASTED DUCK served with Potato  
Dumpling, Red Wine Pear and Red Cabbage—  
HALIBUT with WINE SAUCE served with  
Rice and String Beans—  
ASPARAGUS- MUSHROOM CREPES with  
HERB SAUCE served with Rice—  
CHOCOLATE LAVA CAKE with RASPBERRY  
MOUSSE and WHIPPED CREAM

Sign-up sheets for both days are in the Foyer. Cost is \$50 per person (TT incl). Tickets are available for purchase from the Bartenders or from any Vorstand member.





**COMING SOON.....**



## Meeting of the Amateur Astronomers

Will take place at the Club in January  
Members and their families are welcome!  
Stay tuned for the details.....

**THANK YOU**  
to the Gauvervand  
Nordamerika Ausschuß  
and Delegates for your  
support to postpone the  
28. Gaufest to 2022.

**Save the date!**  
July 7 to 10, 2022

We appreciate your  
support.

We are looking  
forward to seeing you  
in Atlantic City, NJ.

More information  
coming soon



28. Gaufest - July 7-10, 2022

**The great meals you enjoy at the Club are now available for catering your home party.** Please stop by and see Ewald, our Manager, for a full list of options. Catering is available for pick-up on Thursdays through Sundays

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We eagerly invite you to come experience the new life we have been given through Jesus Christ, and we welcome the opportunity to share our faith and our Christian community with you. We are a ministry of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS) serving Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Traditional  
Worship  
+

Sunday School

MODERN  
LITURGY

**WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE**

8:00am Service  
with Communion

9:15am For  
All Ages

10:30am Service  
With Communion



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## Der Tannenbaum

Ein üppig geschmückter Tannenbaum gehört unbedingt bei uns zu einem gelungenen Weihnachtsfest dazu. Wussten Sie, daß die Wurzeln dieses schönen Brauchs in vorchristlicher Zeit liegen? Bei dem alten germanischen Julfest am 21. Dezember – der Wintersonnenwende - holte man Zweige von Tannen und anderen Immergrünen als Symbol der Unsterblichkeit in die Häuser und schmückten sie mit Äpfeln und Nüssen, die als Fruchtbarkeitszeichen galten. Viele Jahrhunderte lang bekämpfte die katholische Kirche diese Bräuche, weil sie an die alte heidnische Religion erinnerten. Aber vergebens - das Volk hielt an seinen geliebten Ritualen fest. Die erste schriftliche Erwähnung eines Christbaums stammt aus dem Jahre 1419. Die Freiburger Bäckerschaft hatte einen Baum mit allerhand Naschwerk und Früchte geschmückt. Aber erst ab dem 16. Jahrhundert hielt der Christbaum vermehrt Einzug in die bürgerlichen Häuser, wo man ihn mit Süßigkeiten und Äpfeln behängte. Die Äpfel wandelten sich später zu Christbaumkugeln: Um 1830 wurden die ersten Exemplare aus Glas geblasen. Herzogin Dorothea v. Schlesien soll um 1611 die Erste gewesen sein, die ihren Weihnachtsbaum mit Kerzen geschmückt hat. Die Erfindung von Paraffin und Stearin im 19. Jahrhundert machte Kerzen schließlich auch für einfache Bürger erschwinglich. Zu dieser Zeit setzte sich der hell erleuchtete Weihnachtsbaum, wie wir ihn heute kennen, flächendeckend durch.

## The Christmas Tree

A lushly, decorated pine tree absolutely belongs to a successful Christmas celebration. Did you know that the roots of this beautiful tradition lay in the pre-Christian times? On the old Germanic “Yule Feast” on December 21st – the Winter Solstice – people took branches from pine trees and other evergreens into their homes as a symbol of immortality and decorated them with apples and nuts, which were believed to be fertility symbols. For many centuries, the Catholic church tried to ban these traditions, because they were too reflective of the old pagan traditions. But to no prevail – the people held on to their beloved rituals. The first written evidence of a Christmas tree came in the year 1419. In the city of Freiburg, the Bakers Guild had decorated a pine tree with all kinds of sweets and fruits. But it wasn't until the 16th century that a Christmas tree became more common in middle-class houses, where sweets and apples were hung on the tree. The apples later changed to Christmas ornaments – around 1830, the first glass-blown ornaments appeared. Around 1611, Duchess Dorothea von Schlesien was supposed to have been the first person to use candles on the Christmas tree. The invention of Paraffin and Stearin in the 19th century, made the use of candles on the tree more affordable for the average citizen. At that time, the brightly lit Christmas tree known to us today, became a nationwide phenomenon. Pötschke Verlag

*Inge Helling*

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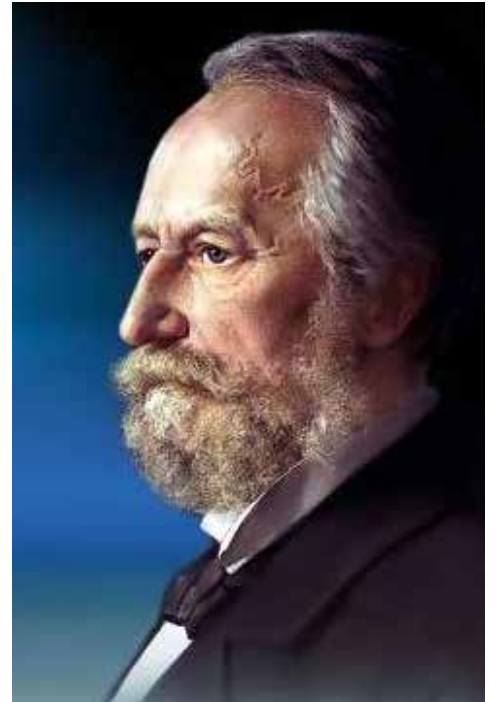


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## Adolf Gaston Eugen Fick – Contact Lenses

Adolf Gaston Eugen Fick was born in Marburg, Germany in 1852. His parents died when he was five years old. Fick was raised by his uncle, and namesake, a physiologist who researched vision. Taking after his uncle, Adolf Fick studied medicine at Wurzburg Academy where his uncle taught. He continued his education in Zurich, Marburg, and Freiburg. In 1886, Fick married Marie Wislicenus, moved to Zurich, practiced as an ophthalmologist, and began his research into contact lenses. Earlier scientific investigations into the nature of light and lenses were led by Leonardo da Vinci who suggested submerging the eye in a bowl of water, Rene Descartes who thought connecting glass tubes with liquid to the eye would improve vision, and Thomas Young who suggested wax and water for an eye mold. In 1887, Fick constructed, and fitted the first contact lens by designing a contact shell to rest on the less sensitive tissue around the cornea. The first test subjects were rabbits, then himself, and lastly, a small group of volunteers. Fick's lenses were large, heavy blown



glass circles 18-21 mm in diameter, and could only be worn for a few hours. It was considered the first successful model of contact lenses. Adolf Fick died in 1937. Last year, the worldwide market for contact lenses was worth 13 billion U.S. dollars.

*Barbara Streit*





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