

St. Martin's Day: Lantern Workshop & Parade

We cordially invite you to celebrate St. Martin's day
with us at the German Society !

A bit of history...

St. Martin's Day, November 11, is the feast day of St. Martin of Tours (born around 316), one of the most familiar Christian saints. He started out as a Roman soldier, was later baptized and became a bishop. It is understood that he was a kind man who led a quiet and simple life. The most famous legend of his life is that he once cut his cloak in half to share with a beggar during a snowstorm, to save the beggar from dying of the cold.



In most regions in Germany, there are many old traditions linked to St. Martin's day. One of the most popular is the St. Martin's parade: Children make their own lantern and go door to door with their lights, singing St. Martin songs, in exchange for sweets.

The German Society offers two events related to St. Martin:

Lantern workshop on Saturday, November 3rd

For all those who would like to dive deeper into this German tradition, we offer a Lantern workshop one week before the parade. At 10am, we meet in the German Society and craft our own lanterns. Please bring your own material, if possible - please see our website where we show two different lantern models and a list of materials needed for each:

www.germansociety.org/stmartin.html.

St. Martin's Parade on Sunday, November 11th

At 5:00pm, we meet in the Ratskeller. There will be a short story about St. Martin.

Afterwards, we will start the St. Martin's parade, rain or shine, march around the neighborhood and - then return to the German Society's Ratskeller for some toasty, tasty goodies of our own. Kids of all ages are welcome to attend! Lanterns can be bought at the Society on the day of the event.



St. Martin's parade 2011, in the German Society Garden

Attendance to both events, the lantern workshop and the parade, is free, but in order to facilitate planning, please let us know with how many persons you will attend (RSVP).



The German Society of Pennsylvania

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