

German-American Social Club of Sarasota

Newsletter 4/2009

Dear Club Members,

The Knights of Columbus informed us about eight weeks ago that they are selling their building. Since that time we are looking for a new hall to hold our monthly dances. We looked at a number of different buildings but they were either too expensive, had not enough parking, the owners mandated to sell their own food at regular restaurant prices or other demands we found hard to live with. The Knights want us to stay up to the last day they own the hall, but nobody knows how soon it will sell; so be prepared for a change in venue. If any of you know of a nice place for us, let me know.

Our picnic on March 8th was a huge success. We had over 190 people attending and it seemed everybody was happy and had a good time. A big THANK YOU goes to all the volunteers and musicians that helped to make this day very special. Thank you also for all the home-baked desserts, they were delicious. The last guests left shortly before 4:00 pm with the “clean-up crew”.

*Let me once again call on you to make your reservations (for picnics and dances) **EARLY**; and if you are unable to come, let Brigitte know, so that someone on the waiting list may step in. There is a lot of work that goes into our functions and last-minute surprises are mostly aggravating. At the picnic we had about 20 more people than reservations. That's quite a challenge, especially for those who serve the food. We don't like to 'stretch' the food among too many members; so please call the “Reservation Hot Line” (371-7786) as soon as you decide to attend or until the Wednesday before the event.*

Our Anniversary Dance on March 28th was an elegant and fun-filled evening. There were 210 members and guests that danced the night away and enjoyed the superb music by the Alpen Diamanten. Quite a number of people asked me if they could eat dinner even though they had not made any reservations. Please keep in mind that if you don't tell us, we do not have the food for you. Call Gerhard Glaesel (923-4043) at least four days in advance and we make certain you'll get your dinner.

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Over 1,000 people attended the German Heritage Day in St. Petersburg on March 29th. Our Club was represented by 28 members and we all enjoyed good food, good entertainment and, of course, good company.

We witnessed a very moving ceremony to honor six American military servicemen who participated in the Berlin Airlift 60 years ago. These men risked their lives to help the population of Berlin during that crisis and were rightfully honored for it.

I am looking forward to see you at our next dance in April.

Dieter

Upcoming functions:

April 25, 2009	Sepp Diepolder	Hawaiian Night
May 23, 2009	Peter Müller	Mai Tanz
August 1, 2009	Alpen Diamanten	Sommerfest

Dances start at 7 pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 4880 Fruitville Rd., Sarasota, FL. For reservations call Brigitte at (941) 371-7786 or e-mail her at b.wetjen@verizon.net. For dinner reservations call Gerhard Glaesel at (941) 923-4043 or e-mail him at gmglaesel@verizon.net.

Menu for April 25, 2009
Hawaiian Night

***Kasseler Rippchen, Sauerkraut,
Potato Salad
Home Baked Bread – Butter***

\$6.00

Dessert - \$2.00, Coffee - free

Menu for May 23, 2009
Mai Tanz

***Chicken Cordon Bleu,
Potato Patties,
Asparagus, Rolls - Butter***

\$6.00

Dessert - \$2.00, Coffee - free

A few of our members need our thoughts and good wishes for a speedy and complete recovery: Ute Aletter, Elizabeth Bodek, Irene Krakow and Steve Mitzewich.

As most of you know by now, about a month ago we lost our long-time member, Alice Sauter. Our most heartfelt condolences go out to her husband of almost forty years. - Only a few people knew Alice well. Helmut graciously agreed to give us a better glimpse into her/their lives.

Alice was born in Summit, NJ in 1931. In 1938 her mother took her and her younger brother to Germany to pick up her maternal grandmother from Prussia and bring her over, since all of the grandmother's siblings were already in the United States. But due to bureaucratic hassle, the return to the US was delayed and then in 1939 when the war broke out, they could not return and were stuck in a war-torn Germany for too many years. When the Russians advanced in 1945 they had to flee to the West. On the way they stopped several days in Berlin where one of their aunts was living. During those few days Berlin was bombed every night. Luckily they survived the bombings and then fled to the West. They wound up in Visselhövede in the Lüneburger Heide. In 1947 the four of them finally returned to Alice's father's farm in Warren, NJ.

In 1968 Alice and I met at a Fasching Dance of the German Club in Union, NJ. After dating for a little over one year we got married in April

1969 and moved to Nutley, NJ, where we bought our first house. On Valentine's Day 1970 Alice gave birth to our only child, Linda.

In July 2000 we came to Sarasota to visit Simon and Louise Yadlowsky. Louise was Helmut's cousin and also sponsor for Helmut to come to the US. During that visit we bought our house in Sarasota and moved in permanently in late December of that year. During our first visit to the German American Club dance in 2001 we became members.

On April 18, 2003 Alice had her first cerebral hemorrhage. After three months in a nursing home, Alice had recovered enough that I could take her home. I cared for her until she had a second severe hemorrhage on Feb. 27th of this year. After being declared brain dead the next morning I had to make the hard decision to remove her from life support. Alice passed away at one PM on Saturday, Feb. 28th.

Helmut Sauter



Miss Me But Let Me Go

**When I come to the end of the road
and the sun has set for me,
I want no rites in a gloom filled room,
why cry for a soul set free?
Miss me a little... but not too long,
and not with your head bowed low.
Remember the love that once was shared,
miss me... but then let me go.
For this is a journey we all must take
and each must go alone.
It's all a part of the Master's plan,
a step on the road to home.
When you are lonely and sick of heart
go to the friends we know,
and bury your sorrows in doing good deeds.
Miss me... but let me go.**

George R. Monseur

Erika Paschek celebrated her 90th Birthday on March 14th. Congratulations to you, Erika, and we all wish you much happiness and good health in the coming year.



A warm welcome to our

New Members:

Jerry and Hilda Glaser
Joe and Renate Klemm
Richard Leitz
Qamar Rehmani
Steve and Inna Snyder

ATTENTION - REMINDERS and UPDATES via e-mail.

Due to inadequacies of our former internet provider we had to switch to a new one and this requires that all members and friends with internet access join the GOOGLE "GASC NEWS" group in order to receive Brigitte's REMINDERS and UPDATES that we got so accustomed to. We are very much indebted to Ron Wetjen for his efforts in taking care of this problem.

To subscribe to the newsgroup please follow these simple instructions. Go to our revamped website at:

<http://www.sarasotagermanclub.org>

and just click on E-NEWS. Fill in your (correct) e-mail address and click SUBSCRIBE. Shortly thereafter look for an e-mail from noreply@googlegroups.com in your INBOX. Open it and follow the instructions there to confirm and join the GASC group. Again, if you do not do this, you will not receive any e-news from us since the old list is no longer functional.

Please make sure you enter your complete and correct e-mail address and if you do not see the noreply@googlegroups.com message in your INBOX have a look at your JUNK and/or SPAM box, it may have ended up there, or you may have entered an inaccurate address.

Later, once a month, you will receive an email named: "**sarasotagermanclub.org mailing list memberships reminder**" that gives you the option to make changes to your subscription. This is just to "fine tune" your subscription and most people will not need to make any changes. Keep a copy of this **memberships reminder** just in case some day you want to make changes.

Unless you use above option, remember that every time you change your internet provider or e-mail address, in order to receive the messages from Brigitte you will have to re-subscribe to the group the same way as outlined above but with your new information.

German Native Personal Assistant

To help you in your home with things like: organizing, grocery shopping and errand running, light meal preparations, typing, pets, taking care of your home while you are out of town, etc.

Available between 9 am – 2 pm Monday - Friday
Local references

Interested – call **Cornelia Uccello**
at (941) 724-4312

Our travel reports have been well received. Unfortunately, this time I do not have one to share. Please let us hear about your travel experience to places near or far.

The reports and pictures do not have to be computer-generated. I'll take them any way they come, handwritten, even on the back of an envelope! And, I am sure, most everybody has drugstore-printed photos.

**The Berlin Airlift
June 27, 1948 to May 12, 1949**

Following World War II, a delicate balance of power had surfaced between the once united Allies: Great Britain, the United States, France, and the Soviet Union. The two blossoming superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, sought to ensure their permanence by negotiating territorial claims throughout the globe. At the Yalta and Potsdam Conferences, Europe and the Far East were partitioned off. Germany was divided into fourths allowing each Ally to run its division by a military government until a suitable national government could be devised and the country put back together. This divided Germany, under direct supervision of the Council of Foreign Ministers (Allied Control Council or ACC) and the Kommandantura, was to become the first battleground of the emerging Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union.

The year of 1948 was a critical turning point in the presidency of Harry Truman. He was staring down the barrel of a re-election campaign, presented with his lowest approval rating to date, and faced with the threat of a possible World War III with the Soviet Union over a developing situation in Berlin. Furthermore, Truman's record against the Soviets, up to this date, had been ineffective in keeping them from occupying Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria.

The Soviets, trying to push the west out of Berlin required that all Western convoys bound for Berlin traveling through Soviet Germany be searched. The Trizone government, recognizing the threat, refused the right of the Soviets to search their cargo. The Soviets rejected arguments that the occupation rights in the non-Soviet sectors of Berlin and the use of the supply routes during the previous three years had given Britain, France and the United States a legal claim on the use of the highways, tunnels, railroads and canals. Relying on Soviet good will after the war, the Western Allies had never negotiated a pact with the Soviets guaranteeing these ground passage rights to Berlin through the Soviet zone. On June 24, 1948 the Soviets severed communications between the non-Soviet zones and Berlin. That same day, they halted all traffic in and out of Berlin. On June 25, the Soviets stopped supplying food to the civilian population in the non-Soviet sectors of Berlin.

At the time, West Berlin had thirty-five days worth of food, and forty-five days worth of coal and they asked the West for help. In response, the Western Allies formed the *Berlin Airlift* to bring supplies to the people of Berlin and on June 25, 1948, General Lucius D. Clay gave the order to launch **Operation**

Vittles. The next day thirty-two C-47s lifted off for Berlin hauling 80 tons of cargo including milk, flour and medicine. Ultimately, the success of the Airlift was humiliating to the Soviets, who had repeatedly claimed it could never possibly work. Soviet fighters harassed the cargo planes. They could not claim that cargo aircraft were some sort of military threat. In the face of unarmed aircraft refusing to turn around, the only way to enforce the blockade would have been to shoot them down, a risk they didn't want to take.



Most hazardous was the weather. This was overcome by ground controlled approaches handled by radar operators who reduced landing gaps to three minutes, rain or shine. With a round-trip distance of 274-565 miles, depending upon the base and corridor used, planes did not have to refuel in Berlin.

By 12 May 1949, when the Soviets lifted the blockade, **1,783,000 tons** had been flown with a loss of thirty-one U.S. lives in twelve fatal accidents. Flights totaling **250,000** continued on into October to build up stocks for the coming winter. The airlift proved the West would maintain its position in Berlin even at the risk of war. The airlift was a public relations victory for the peaceful use of airpower, heightening the reputation of the U.S. Military Airlift Command and of Generals LeMay and Tunner.

A favorite story of the Berlin Airlift involves a Utah man named Gail Halvorsen, better known as the 'Candy Bomber'. Other names given to him by German children were: Uncle Wiggly Wings, Der Schokoladen Flieger, Uncle Wackelflieger and Raisin Bomber. Here is his tale:

Between the years of 1948 and 1949 *Berlin Airlift* pilot **Lt. Gail Halvorsen** was so struck with the friendliness and excitement of the Berlin children that he wanted to do something special for them and to spread a little cheer to their beleaguered lives in Berlin during the blockade. **Lt. Halvorsen** decided to start his own operation and named it "**Operation Little Vittles**".

He bought out nearly all the candy available where he was based and out of strips of cloth created miniature parachutes and attached the candy to them. At the beginning, **Lt. Halvorson's** buddies gave up their rations of candy and gum and also their handkerchiefs to help the cause. The American Confectioners Association asked **Lt. Halvorsen** how much sweets he could use. They sent tons of candy and gum to Westover AFB for processing. 22 schools in Chicopee Massachusetts converted an old fire station into a Little Vittles headquarters. They made parachutes, tied on candy or gum and sent the finished product to **Lt. Halvorsen** at Rhine Main AFB. When the supplies came, **Lt. Halvorsen's** squadron and others helped to air drop the candy over the city of Berlin (including East Berlin until the Russians told them to stop) to the eagerly waiting children. By January of 1949 **Lt. Halvorsen** had air dropped more than 250,000 parachutes loaded with candy on the city of Berlin bringing a little joy to the nearly 100,000 children during the Russian blockade.

(If you are interested, you can read more about the airmen of the *Berlin Airlift* in the book "Untold Valor" by Rob Morris)