



**German-American Social
Club of Sarasota**

Newsletter December 2014

Dear Club Members,

We had our club elections on Oct 16, 2014 and nobody came forward to fill the job of our secretary. I tried very hard to have Rosemarie Deutsch keep doing it, because she has done such an outstanding job over all these years, but she wants to have some more time for other things and I understand that, even though I don't have to like it. Thank you, Rosemarie, for all your work and we never ever had such a perfect newsletter. Well, if things stand as they are, we will have no more newsletters beginning January 2015.

I welcome Troy Scott as a new Director. He was voted into office and will take the position of Ron Stopperich, who spends a lot of his time away from the Suncoast. Ron, thank you very much for all the work you have done for us.

I also welcome Jack Carlon who will be our new Treasurer. Jack takes this position from Ernst Shillus, who has done an outstanding job with our finances. Thank you, Ernst, for many years of service and always being the first in and the last out at our functions.

As this year comes to a close I would like to recognize all of our Volunteers, Officers and Directors for their time and effort to help our club in any way they could. Without you, there would be no dances, picnics, food to serve or cakes to eat. Please keep up your good work and be there for your Club.

I hope to see you all at our Christmas Party and on New Year's Eve. Please don't forget to call Brigitte with your reservations to both dances.

Have a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. I'm looking forward to see you dancing in 2015; the new schedule is attached to this newsletter.

Dieter

Upcoming functions:

December 6, 2014	Christmas Party	Peter Müller
December 31, 2014	New Year's Eve	Manni Daum
January 24, 2015	Western Night	Peter Müller
February 14, 2015	Fasching	Manni Daum
March 5, 2015	General Membership Mtg.	Fruitville Library
March 15, 2015	Club Picnic	Longwood Park

Dances are held at the VFW, Post 3233, 124 South Tuttle Avenue., Sarasota, FL 34237. For reservations for the dances as well as dinner call Brigitte at (941) 371-7786 or e-mail her at b.wetjen@verizon.net and the deadline is the Wednesday before the event unless otherwise indicated.

Menu for December 6, 2014
Christmas Party

***Kassler, Roasted Potatoes,
 Sauerkraut, German Bread***

\$6.00

Menu for January 24, 2015
Western Night

***Bratwurst, Potato Salad,
 Sauerkraut, German Bread***

\$6.00

Our next event is the Christmas Party on December 6th. Entrance and dinner is free for members, guests pay \$15.00 at the door with free dinner included. **Please bring your 2014 membership cards as proof when checking in at the door.** The deadline for reservations for this event is December 1st (as mentioned in my October newsletter).

Our chefs, Klaus and Gudrun Schymanek ask for your cooperation now and in the future by making reservations for dinner with Brigitte when you call or e-mail her. It is just too difficult, if not impossible, to estimate how much food might be needed for those who wish to eat, but didn't reserve.

The New Year's Eve dance starts at 8:00 pm. There will be NO dinner. You can bring your own snacks, but NO drinks, not even water. There will be a bottle of champagne per table for midnight toasting. Manni Daum will keep us entertained into the New Year. The price for this event is \$20.00 for members and \$30.00 for guests. Please make checks payable to 'GASC' and use the envelope enclosed. The deadline for reservations to this dance is December 15th. Only full payment will guarantee your reservation.

Now to the changes for 2015 and beyond. Beginning with the event on January 24th, 2015 we will be starting our dances at 6:00 pm and they last until 10:00 pm with dinner served around 7:00 pm, doors open at 5:30 pm. The different timing was decided by majority vote of our members at the Spring Picnic on March 2, 2014. Please mark your calendars accordingly. A new Event Schedule for 2015 is on the last page of this newsletter.

DUES It is once again time for our annual membership dues. This dues goes by calendar year: from January through December. Brigitte Wetjen thanks those who have already paid for 2015. For those who have not, membership payment of \$30.00 per person is due by January 15th, 2015. Please make your checks payable to "GASC" and mail it to Brigitte in the enclosed envelope, (separate checks for dues and event payments please).

Our hearts, prayers and well-wishes go out to Gerhard Glaesel. He feels poorly, lost a lot of weight and the doctors just cannot put a finger on a definite prognosis. We sure hope that will change so that he and Eugenia can resume a normal life.

I am also sad to say that we lost another long-time member. **Don Moen** passed away on October 4th, 2014. Our hearts and condolences go out to Irene and her family.
May he rest in peace.



May be you are curious about one of our musicians who plays for our entertainment and dancing pleasure quite often:

Manni Daum

Manni Daum was born and raised in Worms am Rhein, Germany with Danube Swabish roots. He immigrated to the United States in 1986, living in Florida now for 14 years. Manni Daum has been North America's top German entertainer, singer and yodeler for more than 28 years. He has released over 50 albums and has performed at many TV and radio shows on both sides of the Atlantic. As a music and show producer, he has brought various European acts to North America. He plays 7 instruments and composed over 300 songs. Manni now performs mainly for the German community in Florida and is often accompanied by his extremely talented son Jason. He plays drums, saxophone, guitar and bass. Jason was born in Germany and enjoys Polka music. He definitely gives it a new kick.

GASC of Cape Coral (Oktoberfest News)

German American Friendship Club, Venice - Events 2015

January 17, 2015 / SOUTH OF THE BORDER → Manni Daum
February 21, 2015 / MARDI GRAS → Alpine Express
March 21, 2015 / FUNNY HAT DANCE → Sepp Diepolder
April 18, 2015 / UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN → Manni Daum

Dances start at 6:00 pm at 4425 Yacht Club Drive, Venice, FL.
For Reservations call: Sonja (941) 497-2692



Her
hair was up
in a pony- tail, her
favorite dress tied with
a bow. Today was Daddy's Day
at school, and she couldn't wait to go.
But her mummy tried to tell her,
that she'd probably stay home. Why the kids might
not understand, if she went to school alone. But she
was not afraid; she knew just what to say.
What to tell her classmates of why he wasn't there today.
But still her mother worried, for her to face this day alone. And
that was why once again, she tried to keep her daughter
home. But the little girl went to school eager to tell
them all about a dad she never sees, a dad who never calls.
There were daddies along the back wall for everyone to meet. Children
squirring impatiently, anxious in their seats. One by one the teacher called
a student from the class to introduce their daddy, as seconds
slowly passed. At last the teacher called her name. Every
child turned to stare, each of them was searching, a man who wasn't there.
'Where's her daddy at?' she heard a boy call out. 'She probably doesn't have one'
another student dared to shout. And from somewhere near the back, she
heard a daddy say, 'Looks like another deadbeat dad, too busy to
waste his day.' The words did not offend her, as she smiled up at her Mum, and
looked back at her teacher, who told her to go on. And with hands behind her back
slowly she began to speak. And out from the mouth of a child, came words
incredibly unique. 'My Daddy couldn't be here, because he lives so far away.
But I know he wishes he could be, since this is such a special day. And though you cannot
meet him, I wanted you to know, all about my daddy, and how much he loves me so.
He loved to tell me stories, he taught me to ride my bike. He surprised me with
pink roses, and taught me to fly a kite. We used to share fudge sundaes, and ice cream
in a cone. And though you cannot see him, I'm not standing here alone. 'Cause my daddy's
always with me, even though we are apart. I know because he told me, he'll forever
be in my heart. With that, her little hand reached up and lay across her chest,
feeling her own heartbeat beneath her favorite dress. And from somewhere in the
crowd of dads, her mother stood in tears, proudly watching her daughter, who was wise
beyond her years. For she stood up for the love of a man not in her life, doing
what was best for her, doing what was right. And when she dropped her hand back
down, staring straight into the crowd, she finished with a voice so soft, but its message clear
and loud. 'I love my daddy very much, he's my shining star. And if he could, he'd be
here, but heaven's just too far. You see he is a soldier and died just this past year, when
a roadside bomb hit his convoy and taught brave men to fear. But sometimes when
I close my eyes, it's like he never went away.' And then she closed her eyes, and saw him
there that day. And to her mother's amazement, she witnessed with surprise: a room full of daddies
and children, all starting to close their eyes. Who knows what they saw before them, who
knows what they felt inside. Perhaps for merely a second, they saw him at her side.
'I know you're with me Daddy,' to the silence she called out. And what happened next made believers
of those once filled with doubt. Not one in that room could explain it, for each of their eyes had
been closed. But there on the desk beside her was a fragrant long- stemmed pink rose.
And a child was blessed, if only for a moment, by the love of her shining star, and given the gift of
believing
that heaven
is never too far.

Quite a while back I received “Daddy’s Poem” on page 4 via e-mail from a friend. The story really does not have a season, but I thought if I shape it into a Christmas tree it could be a Christmas story. Children everywhere have experienced this tragedy all through the ages.

Marking the Advent Season

An Advent wreath—often made of evergreen branches and usually decorated with four candles—is one of the most popular symbols of the season. On the four Sundays in Advent families often gather to light the candles and to sing carols and read Christmas stories together.

The evergreen wreath has its roots in the northern city of Hamburg, where in 1839 a wreath was hung in the prayer hall of the ‘Rauhes Haus’ charity. This arrangement made of pine branches found favor in the homes of Protestant families, particularly those living in northern Germany. In the 1920s, though, Roman Catholics began to adopt the custom too.

Originally decorated with 24 candles, one for each day of Advent, the number has long been reduced to four, symbolizing the four Sundays before Christmas.

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*Immer ein Lichtlein mehr
im Kranz, den wir gewunden,
dass er leuchte uns so sehr
durch die dunklen Stunden.*

*Zwei und drei und dann vier!
Rund um den Kranz welch ein Schimmer,
und so leuchten auch wir,
und so leuchtet das Zimmer.
Und so leuchtet die Welt
langsam der Weihnacht entgegen.
Und der in Händen sie hält,
weiß um den Segen!*

Matthias Claudius

In the spirit of the season, the Officers and Directors wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy Year 2015



German-American Social Club of Sarasota

2015 Event Dates

<u>Date</u>	<u>Band or Event</u>	<u>Theme/Location</u>
January 24, 2015	Peter & Edith Müller	Western Night
February 14, 2015	Manni Daum	Fasching
March 5, 2015	General Membership Meeting	Fruitville Library
March 15, 2015	Club Picnic	Longwood Park
March 28, 2015	Just The 2 of Us	Anniversary Dance
April 25, 2015	Manni Daum	Hawaiian Night
May 16, 2015	Just The 2 of Us	Mai - Tanz
July 25, 2015	Manni Daum	Sommerfest
September 26, 2015	Just The 2 of Us	Oktoberfest
October 24, 2015	Just The 2 of Us	Weinfest
November 5, 2015	General Membership Meeting	Fruitville Library
November 8, 2015	Club Picnic	Longwood Park
November 21, 2015	Peter & Edith Müller	Wiener Abend
December 12, 2015	Manni Daum	Christmas Party
December 31, 2015	Peter & Edith Müller	New Year's Eve*

Dances start at 6:00 pm (*New Year's Eve at 8:00 pm), doors open at 5:30 pm and are held at the VFW, Post 3233, 124 South Tuttle Avenue, Sarasota, FL. 34237.

For reservations call Brigitte at: (941) 371-7786 or e-mail b.wetjen@verizon.net and the deadline is Wednesday before the event.

Picnics start at 11:00 am at Longwood Park. General Membership Meetings start at 3:00 pm at the Fruitville Library, 100 Coburn Rd., Sarasota, FL 34240