

German-American Social Club of Sarasota

Newsletter 2/2007

Greetings Fellow Club members,

I would like to start by wishing all a very happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year. If you did not attend our New Year's Eve party, then you really missed it. We all had a great time. This is not to say that we didn't have a great time at our annual Christmas Party, but New Year's was just spectacular!

The upcoming year holds the promise of growth and prosperity. My hopes for the club are bright. The club has had good positive growth over the past year and I dare say that we have had fun. Financially we are healthy and we certainly hope to keep things that way. We have gained many new members and continue to attract many guests from other clubs to our functions..... we must be doing something right.

I would like to reiterate that my policy is that of an open door. You have a problem ... bring it to me. You have a suggestion... then let's hear it. By the same token I would hope that all of our members that are physically fit would be willing, in whatever small way, to lend a hand to the club wherever it may be needed.

Keep in mind that we are all ambassadors for the club. Feel free to invite friends and neighbors to our functions. This is how we attract new members. I have lots of ideas for the club.....fun ideas. More to come.....

Dennis

Our upcoming events will be:

February 24, 2007	Europa Band	Fasching *
March 11, 2007	Club Picnic at	Longwood Park
March 14, 2007	Business Meeting 7 pm at	Gulf Gate Library
March 24, 2007	Alpen Diamanten	Anniversary

To All Club Members

The United German American Society Heritage Day for 2007 is quickly approaching. Enclosed is a flyer with details of the event.

Due to the huge success last year of the bus trip, your club has agreed to rent a bus again this year for its members. Seats on the bus will be on a first-come-basis and it seems to be filling up quickly. The price will be comparable to last year at \$6.00 per person for members. Checks for the bus trip should be made payable to: GASC. The cost for the event is \$18.00 per person and checks should be made payable to: United German American Society (see flyer). Please note that tickets are for **ADVANCE SALE ONLY**. There will be no chance for ticket purchase at the door. So reserve early for Heritage Day and bus seats. For more information contact Ron Stopperich @ (941) 358-0621.

Dues - Dues - DUES

The membership payments in the amount of \$25.00 per person for 2007 were due on January 15th. We encourage everyone who has not paid yet to get a check in the mail to Brigitte Wetjen real soon. If, after February 1st the membership is not renewed, we are forced to charge the guest price of \$7.50 at the door for events. Also please make reservations early. It seems our events are becoming more popular all the time. All dances start at 7 pm, doors open at 6:30 pm and are being held at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 4880 Fruitville Road, Sarasota. For reservations please call Brigitte Wetjen at 371-7786 or e-mail b.wetjen@verizon.net.

Once again we are thrilled to welcome new members:



Christel Anderson
Gundel Dehn
Siegfried and Eva Schulte
Guenther and Bianca Strauss
Beverly Sullivan (who should have
been mentioned in the last Newsletter)



On January 2nd Erwin Wetjen suffered a heart attack. Thanks to quick-thinking Brigitte who got him to the hospital pronto, he is already feeling much better.

Jerry Wach is being treated for a rare form of Leukemia. Both are expected to make a full recovery. We wish them and several others also near and dear to us well and hope they all can enjoy life again with gusto real soon.



On the bus to port



Dominica

On January 5th to the 19th several of our members took a NCL cruise. They visited the islands of

Dominica
Barbados
St. Lucia
Antigua
Tortola

and judging from the smiles and tans they all had a great time.



The German Family History Quiz

1. The period between 1815 and 1848 in Germany is generally characterized by what term (a term reflecting a cozy world of domestic idyll)?
2. In what year was the Second German Empire established?
3. All major rivers in Germany (forget the meandering Danube River!) flow a) north b) south, c) east, d) west?
4. What river is the basis for centuries-old legends, has served as a major transportation route, and has become a symbol of the German nation?
5. What food, incorrectly recognized today for its German origins was the Roman emperor Tiberius known to have carried along on his journeys to the Middle East, as protection against intestinal infection?
6. When Henry Kissinger emigrated from Germany to the United States in 1938, his name was not Henry Kissinger. What was it?
7. The card we know as the “Jack” in playing cards and the “pawn” in chess are both named for the farmer in German. What do Germans call the “Jack” card and the “pawn” chess piece?
8. The grandson of German-born Friedrich Pförschin became the commander of the American Expeditionary Force in Europe during World War I. What was the grandson’s name?

Answers on page 6



Frequent Flyer Miles

Are you frustrated by collecting FF miles? Is there never a right time to use them? If transferring them to your friends or relatives is not practical, why not donate them before they expire. It is easy to do. Some airlines’ websites are set up for it and the Make-a-wish Foundation or the American Red Cross or (more are listed) will be happy to accept them. They are not tax-deductible to you, but it might make you feel good anyway.

*Our Fasching dance is February 24th and as in recent years we would **Love** to see everyone wearing a costume. There will be a first, second and third prize again this year for the most imaginative attire. So check your closets or get creative.



Fastnacht

Karneval

Fasching

Das Wort **Fastnacht** und seine regionalen Abwandlungen (in Mainz auch Fassenacht, in der Schweiz Fasnacht, in Baden und Schwaben Fasnet, regional auch Fasent, südlich von Hamburg auch Faslam) werden vor allem in Hessen und Rheinhessen, in der Pfalz, am Mittelrhein sowie in Baden, Schwaben, dem Saarland, Luxemburg (Fuesend), der Schweiz und den westlichen Landesteilen Österreichs (Alpenraum) verwendet. Auch im Rheinland kommt es als Fastelovend oder Fasteleer vor, wurde dort aber im offiziellen Sprachgebrauch durch das Wort **Karneval** abgelöst.



Ein Elferrat tagt zur Prunksitzung in Köln

Vom **Fasching** spricht man vor allem in Bayern, Österreich, Franken, Sachsen, Brandenburg, Hamburg sowie in Teilen von Hessen, Schwaben und Niedersachsen. Das Wort kommt von Vaschanc, was den Ausschank des Fastentrunks bezeichnete. Heute ist der Begriff auch in Norddeutschland am verbreitetsten.

Als Karneval, Fasching oder Fas(t)nacht bezeichnet man traditionell die Zeit der Ausgelassenheit, Fröhlichkeit und überschäumenden Lebensfreude vor Beginn der christlichen Passionszeit, im katholischen Ritus Fastenzeit genannt.

Weltweit wird der Karneval sehr unterschiedlich gefeiert. Bekannt sind u. a. der Karneval in Rio, Karneval in Venedig und der Karneval von Québec. Auch in den Südstaaten der USA gibt es eine ausgeprägte Karnevalstradition. Man verwendet hier die französische Bezeichnung Mardi Gras (Fetter Dienstag, Fastnachtsdienstag).

Die größten Umzüge finden in den Karnevalshochburgen statt: Köln, Mainz, Düsseldorf, Bonn, Koblenz und Aachen. Aber auch weiter südlich, etwa in Frankfurt am Main (Fastnachtssonntag), Mannheim (Fastnachtssonntag) oder Karlsruhe (Fastnachtsdienstag) gibt es große Umzüge mit mehreren Hunderttausend Besuchern.

Am Abend zu Aschermittwoch um Punkt Mitternacht endet der Karneval und es gibt an vielen Orten die Tradition, dass die Karnevalisten in dieser Nacht eine Strohpuppe, den so genannten Nubbel, als Verantwortlichen für alle Laster der karnevalistischen Tage, vor allem wegen des ausgegebenen Geldes, verbrennen. In Düsseldorf und anderen niederrheinischen Städten wird der sogenannte Hoppeditz zu Grabe getragen. Dieser war ursprünglich eine typisch niederrheinische Narrenfigur. Dieser Schelm oder Hanswurst hatte Ähnlichkeit mit Till Eulenspiegel und den mittelalterlichen Hofnarren. So wird berichtet, dass es im 18. und 19. Jahrhundert am Niederrhein der kleinen Leute Brauch war, in der Nacht auf Aschermittwoch ausgerüstet mit Stangen, an denen Würste hingen, durch die Straßen zu laufen und lustige Lieder zu singen.

Alaa

Helau

und



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Wo befreundete Wege zusammenlaufen, da sieht die ganze Welt für eine Stunde wie Heimat aus.

(Hermann Hesse)

Wenn es darum geht, eine Immobilie zu kaufen oder verkaufen, dann kontaktieren Sie eine leistungsfähige und vertrauenswürdige Maklerin und Spezialistin vor Ort. Ich lebe seit einigen Jahren in Sarasota, bin staatlich zugelassene Immobilienmaklerin in Florida und verfüge über lokale Marktkenntnis im Immobiliengeschäft. Ich stehe Ihnen gerne für individuelle und realistische Beratung zur Verfügung.

Whether you're selling or buying, I look forward to serving all your real estate needs. Professionalism, efficiency and above all honesty and trustworthiness do matter when choosing a realtor. Quality and service make a difference!

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Answers to quiz on page 4

1. The "Biedermeier" period
2. 1871
3. a) north
4. The Rhein (Rhine) river
5. Sauerkraut
6. Heinz Alfred Kissinger
7. In both cases the answer is the "Bauer" (one of several, but the most commonly used, meaning "farmer")
8. General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing

Whether you are close or far away, please visit our website at

www.sarasotagermanclub.org

and its many links. It is fun and like visiting old and new friends, and remember, armchair travel does not require the decision as to what to pack!