

German-American Social Club of Sarasota

Newsletter June 2011

Dear Club Members,

As I mentioned in our last newsletter Marlies and I took a long trip to Europe. This time we used a cruise ship to get there and enjoyed it very much. Even though it was April and the Atlantic and especially the North Sea can be pretty rough, we had a very smooth sailing, which was helped by all the new technologies on board, like stabilizers etc. There was not one of the 22 days that we felt uncomfortable or were sick.

From Tampa we sailed to Bermuda and then on for seven days across the Atlantic. On the other side, rather than encountering a stretch of bad weather, the captain changed our course and we didn't go to our first scheduled stop in Madeira. That way we had an extra day at sea before we arrived in the Canary Islands. From there we were off to Spain, Portugal, France, Belgium, England and Holland for disembarkation.

We took the high speed train from Rotterdam to Germany; what a pleasant ride! After a little over two weeks in Germany we were on our flight back to the States. It's a shame there was no cruise back home, because that is definitely much more comfortable than a 10 hour flight.

The next longer cruise will probably go to Hawaii and the South Pacific. If you are interested, let me know.

I am still booking bands for 2012 and am open to suggestions. We have checked out numerous musicians and so far only one band could be hired.

There is no dance in June but hopefully I see you all back in July for our "Sommerfest".

Keep in mind there will be no more dinner reservations for our dances. If you want to eat buy your ticket for the food once you come into the hall. It will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Stay cool and be aware the Hurricane Season starts June 1st.

Dieter

Upcoming functions:

July 23, 2011	Peter Müller	Sommerfest
September 24, 2011	Peter Müller	Oktoberfest
October 22, 2011	Euro Express	Weinfest

Dances start at 7 pm (*unless otherwise indicated) 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 and the deadline is Wednesday before the event unless otherwise indicated.

Menu for July 23, 2011
Sommerfest

***Bratwurst, Potato Salad,
 Sauerkraut, Pickles,***

German Bread

\$6.00

Dessert - \$2.00, Coffee – free

Menu for September 24, 2011
Oktoberfest

***Big Skinless Bauernwurst,
 Potato Salad, Sauerkraut,
 Pretzel***

\$6.00

Dessert - \$2.00, Coffee – free

As mentioned in Dieter's message you do NOT have to call for dinner reservations any longer. A certain amount of food will be available for the evening of the dance, and you can make up your mind at the time of arrival if you want to eat or not.

New Members: Eugenia Keller
 Eva Nevira
 Steve & Hedy Nuspl

Two more of our members, Hans Dierks and Ray Fabec, are sporting new parts; Hans has a new hip and Ray a new knee. You are both in our thoughts and we wish you a mostly painless rehabilitation. We hope to see you on the dance floor in no time.

On Memorial Day the flag is raised briskly to the top of the staff and then solemnly lowered to the half-staff position, where it remains only until noon. The half-staff position remembers the more than one million men and women who gave their lives in service of their country. At noon the flag will be raised to full-staff to signal hope beyond death and honor those who survived battle.

HERITAGE DAY 2011



The 19th German Heritage Day was held on Sunday, March 27th, 2011 for the first time at the Wyndham Orlando Resort. It was a sell out and the organizers (UGAS) considered it a total success. The new site for the gathering as well as the hotel is beautiful. Everybody enjoyed the sit-down dinner. The Alpen Diamanten provided the music for dancing and listening pleasure and the surprise guest appearances were Anton aus Tirol and Heidi Eckhardt.

Ron Stopperich

On Hawaiian Night, April 16, we said 'farewell' to the Alpen Diamanten. Following is the note we received and I am including a picture of the bouquet of flowers we presented:

Dear Members of the GASC in Sarasota,

On behalf of the Alpen Diamanten, I would like to thank you for those beautiful flowers. We really appreciated your kind words at the last event. We had a great time and I think that everyone in attendance enjoyed the evening as well. Sarasota is a long trip for us but you made it worthwhile.



We part from the music career with many special memories. Your love and appreciation for our music has made an impact on our lives. You always made us feel welcome. We will never forget your smiling faces when you danced by in front of the stage.

We are looking forward to seeing you again when we visit your club. Then we will have a little more time to chat, enjoy a drink and even dance with you. I think that we will make many more nice memories.

Love,

Heck, Ann & Rudy

Salute to Vienna

New Year's Day Concert at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall

Join us at the next annual New Year's Day Concert, *Salute to Vienna*, on January 1, 2012 at 8:00 pm at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall. Charlotte Kappel orders groups of excellent seats at a discount. I just received the preview ad: *The Strauss Symphony of America* features a brilliant new cast of over 75 musicians playing a light-hearted blend of popular Strauss waltzes, polkas and operetta pieces. The conductor is **Imre Kollár** from Budapest, soprano **Hege Gustava Tjønn**, (Vienna-Oslo), tenor **Zsolt Vadász**, (Budapest), dancers from **Ballett St. Pölten** (Austria). This will be the 13th season.



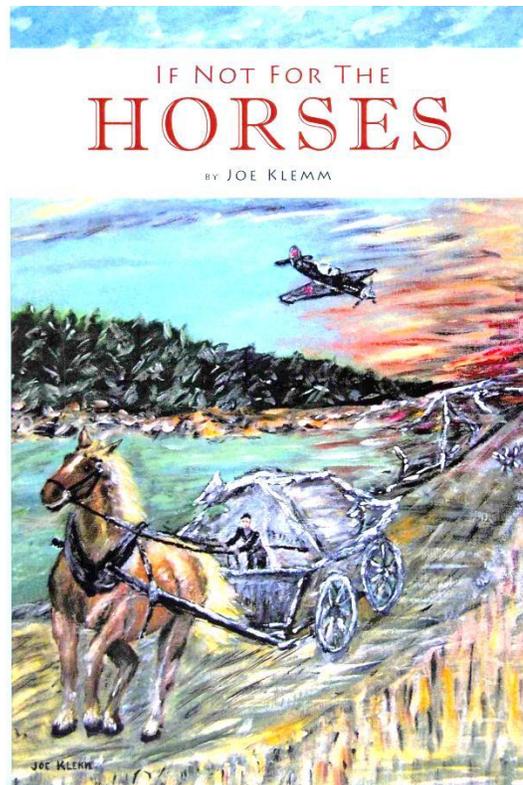
The cost per ticket is either \$55.00 or \$65.50, depending on the location. If you are interested, please contact Janet Link at (941) 929-9097 or at linkjanet@yahoo.com so that she can submit to Charlotte the number of seats needed. Payment will be collected by Janet Link at a later date.

IF NOT FOR THE HORSES

Our member, Joe Klemm, wrote this book. It is the experiences of a young boy and his family uprooted from their farm in free Lithuania, forcibly resettled in another country by Adolf Hitler, and then uprooted again by the advances of Stalin's Russian Army. After being shuttled back and forth between the two dictators, he and his family plan and orchestrate their escape via covered wagon while under siege. All the while the youngster, Joe Klemm, does not lose his optimism and love of life. This narrative vividly describes his story of survival and flight to the west, his life in West Germany, his immigration to America, and finally how he returned to Germany as a tank driver with the U.S. Army. The theme, "life is great" permeates through the whole book.

I had the pleasure of reading it cover to cover. It brought back memories from my own childhood of the mean and lean years of that era. It is not just an account of Joe's 'adventures', but also of the value and love of family as the most important aspect in life.

To order a copy of this book, contact Joe Klemm at 1904 S. Wenona Street, Bay City, MI 48706-5277 or call him at 1-800-652-2358. The cost is \$14.45.



Frank Zeckel and his wife, Rikki, originally from Germany, have lived in Sarasota for over 16 years. His extensive background in the banking industry gives him an edge when it comes to dealing with the banks in our area. As a Board Member for the Siesta Key Chamber, Frank stays "in the know" of all Siesta Key events and with his membership in the International Club and Snowbirds Club stays attuned to the needs of our clients. Frank is the techie of the Siesta Key Team and as such handles all our technological needs.

Andrea, represents the marketing arm of the Siesta Key Team. With her past experience in marketing and fundraising, Andrea is able to help our clients position their properties in the fast changing Sarasota marketplace. Andrea is also a member of the Siesta Key Chamber.



FRANK ZECKEL

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Together we are poised to help you achieve your real estate needs whether you want to downsize into a condo, find a home for your winter getaway, to relax in the island lifestyle or join the downtown cultural center. We listen to our clients. This is a major step and of utmost importance in helping to identify your wants and needs. Customer satisfaction is our ultimate goal and we stress relationship building with everyone we meet. We understand that purchasing a home is a momentous event...we want it to be stress free and joyful as well.

Ich moechte mich bei Ihnen kurz vorstellen. Seit 1997 lebe und arbeite ich in Sarasota. Aufgrund meiner Ausbildung zum Bankkaufmann in Deutschland, arbeitete ich von 2000 bis 2008 als Manager fuer verschiedene amerikanische Banken in Sarasota. Seit 2007 bin ich Vorstandsmitglied im Siesta Key Chamber of Commerce .

Im Immobilien bereich bin ich seit 2008 selbstaendig taetig, und in 2009 gruendete ich das Siesta Key Team, mit meiner Geschaeftpartnerin Andrea Smith.

Sollten Sie ueber einen Verkauf Ihrer Immobilie erwaegen, wuerde ich Ihnen gerne unser Marketingkonzept vorstellen. Gerne erstelle ich Ihnen auch auf Anfrage eine kostenlose Wert-Analyse fuer Ihre Immobilie. So koennen Sie sicher sein, den optimalen Preis fuer Ihr Objekt zu erzielen.

Stellenangebot – Help Wanted

Ich bin Inhaber eines Unternehmens im Bereich der Sportmode in Sarasota, FL. Unsere Produkte sind im hochwertigen Bereich angesiedelt und werden in den USA nationwide vertrieben.

Ich suche eine Büromanagerin mit einschlägigen PC-Kenntnissen in Vollzeit-Beschäftigung, die Schulung in unsere ERP-Software (QuickBooks) erfolgt bei uns im Haus, Sie werden eingearbeitet. Ihre Aufgabe umfaßt den Telefondienst mit unseren Kunden sowie unseren 18 Vetretern. Weiterhin die Auftragsbearbeitung, d.h. Erstellung von Lieferscheinen und Rechnungen, auf der Basis eingehenden Aufträge unserer Kunden sowie aus Bestellungen unseres e-shops.

Einwandfreie Kenntnisse der englischen Sprache in Wort und Schrift sind für diese Tätigkeit unbedingte Voraussetzung.

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Swimming and Bathing for Sport, Leisure and Health

Germans gravitate to cool and refreshing waters in hot months, whether to the sea, a local lake, “the bathing ship” or the neighborhood pool. Throughout the year, one can swim in a number of natatoria, but it is in summer that the number of fans multiplies exponentially.

Practically every city in Germany offers a *Freibad*, an open-air water park or pool. These outdoor pools have a long history in Germany and have been popular since the 18th century. Of course, the history of bathing in Germany goes back much further. Remains of ancient Roman baths have been found in the cities of Trier and Aachen, and a number of spa towns also have histories reaching back to ancient Roman times.

In Berlin, there is something called the *Badeschiff*, a large swimming pool fashioned out of an old ship that floats on the river Spree. This builds on the 18th-century tradition of locating swimming pools along the river. In Berlin alone, there were said to be 15 such pools along the Spree. The *Badeschiff* is, however, thoroughly modern; in addition to functioning as a pool, it serves as a venue for concerts and boasts an open-air bar in the summer.

The North Sea and the Baltic Sea are, of course, perennial favorites for people from across Germany and beyond. The seaside resorts there have a long history and were popular for the treatment of a variety of ailments and as a retreat. Heiligendamm, the oldest seaside spa in Germany, was founded on the Baltic Sea in 1793. It was popular among the noble classes and frequented by the German Emperors.

Many public and private bathing facilities also offer various saunas or thermal baths. German health insurance companies support (maybe by now mostly used to support) this form of therapy, enabling those suffering from chronic conditions to attend a *Kur*, or cure therapy, at one of the certified *Kurorte* or spas every three years for a few weeks at a time. This, too, has been a part of German culture since the time of the Roman Empire. The word spa itself is an acronym for the Latin “sanus per aquam,” or “health by water.”



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Memorial Day, formerly known as Decoration Day, is a U.S. federal holiday observed on the last Monday of May. It commemorates men and women who died while in military service to the United States. First enacted to honor Union and Confederate soldiers following the American Civil War, it was extended after World War I to honor Americans who have died in all wars.

Begun as a ritual of remembrance and reconciliation after the civil war, by the early 20th century, Memorial Day was an occasion for more general expressions of memory, as ordinary people visited the graves of their deceased relatives, whether they had served in the military or not. It also became a long weekend increasingly devoted to shopping, family gatherings, fireworks, trips to the beach, and national media events.

By 1865 the practice of decorating soldiers' graves had become widespread in the North. The first known observance was in Boalsburg, Pa in October 1864, and each year thereafter. The friendship between General John Murray, a distinguished citizen of Waterloo and General John A. Logan, who helped bring attention to the event nationwide, was likely a factor in the holiday's growth. On May 5, 1868, in his capacity as commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic – the organization for Northern Civil War veterans – Logan issued a proclamation that "Decoration Day" should be observed nationwide. It was observed for the first time on May 30th of the same year; the date was chosen because it was *not* the anniversary of a battle.

There were events in 183 cemeteries in 27 states in 1868, and 336 in 1869. The northern states quickly adopted the holiday; Michigan made "Decoration Day" an official state holiday in 1871 and by 1890 every northern state followed suit. The ceremonies were sponsored by the Women's Relief Corps, which had 100,000 members. By 1870, the remains of nearly 300,000 Union dead had been buried in 73 national cemeteries, located mostly in the South, near the battlefields. The most famous are Gettysburg National Cemetery in Pennsylvania and Arlington national Cemetery, near Washington, D.C.

The Memorial Day speech became an occasion for veterans, politicians and ministers to commemorate the war – and at first to recall the atrocities of the enemy. They mixed religion and celebratory nationalism and provided a means for the people to make sense of their history in terms of sacrifice for a better nation, one closer to their God. People of all religious beliefs joined together, and the point was often made that the German and Irish soldiers had become true Americans in the "baptism of blood" on the battlefield. By the end of the 1870s the rancor was gone and the speeches praised the soldiers of both the Union and Confederacy. By the 1950s, the theme was American exceptionalism and duty to uphold freedom in the world.

In Flanders Fields

By: Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD (1872-1918) Canadian Army

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Please remember there will be NO August Newsletter. Now I like to leave you with a poem I received via e-mail a while ago. It is to make us think about nature's fury lately, about false prophets predicting the end of the world as well as all other disasters afflicting mankind and question how much we bring on ourselves.

Die Erde spricht

Ihr habt mir großen Schmerz bereitet,
 habt mich verletzt und ausgebeutet.
 Seit ewig hab ich euch gegeben,
 was alles ihr gebraucht zum Leben.
 Ich gab euch Wasser, Nahrung, Licht,
 lang hieltet ihr das Gleichgewicht,
 habt urbar mich gemacht, gepflegt,
 was ich euch bot, betreut, gehegt.
 Doch in den letzten hundert Jahren
 ist Satan wohl in euch gefahren.
 Was in mir schlummert, wird geraubt,
 weil ihr es zu besitzen glaubt.
 Ihr bohrt nach Öl an tausend Stellen,
 verschmutzt die Meere, Flüsse, Quellen,
 umkreist mich sinnlos Tag und Nacht,
 seid stolz, wie weit ihr es gebracht.
 Habt furchtbar mich im Krieg versehrt,
 kostbaren Lebensraum zerstört,
 habt Pflanzen, Tiere ausgerottet,
 wer mahnt, der wird von euch verspottet -
 kennt Habgier, Geiz und Hochmut nur
 und respektiert nicht die Natur.
 Drum werde ich jetzt Zeichen setzen
 und euch, so wie ihr mich, verletzen.
 Ich werde keine Ruhe geben,
 an allen meinen Teilen beben,
 schick euch Tsunamiwellen hin,
 die eure Strände überziehn.
 Vulkane werden Asche speien,
 verdunkelt wird die Sonne sein.
 Ich bringe Wirbelstürme, Regen,
 bald werden Berge sich bewegen,
 was himmelhoch Ihr habt errichtet,
 mit einem Schlag wird es vernichtet,
 und Blitze, wie Ihr sie nicht kennt,
 lass fahren ich vom Firmament.
 Ich kann es noch viel ärger treiben,
 drum lasst den Wahnsinn endlich bleiben!
 Hört, Menschen, was die Erde spricht -
 denn ihr braucht sie, sie braucht euch nicht!

Hilde Philipp