

German-American Social Club of Sarasota

Newsletter 10/2007

Dear Club Members,

As you all know I took over the Presidency after we lost Dennis in June. He did such a great job; it took me very little time to get organized. At our Board of Directors meeting in August the board unanimously voted Gerhard Glaesel to become Vice President. Gerhard also agreed to be in charge of the food activities.

Ladies, please be aware that Adelheid Shillus, our Cake Lady, in spite of not feeling very well, will occasionally call you to provide desserts. She figured out a great rotating system that works very well. Home-baked cakes are mostly appreciated.

Summer is officially over and so far we've been very lucky on the hurricane front. Pretty soon our members and friends from the north will be back . Wir heißen sie herzlich willkommen!

The activities for our second half of the year are all planned out. You will find the schedule for dances and events for 2008 in this newsletter. Please note that our 2008 Business Meetings at the Gulf Gate Library will start at 6:30 pm instead of 7:00 pm.

Let me once more point out our travel plans:

Oct. 20, 2007 by bus to the Cape Coral Oktoberfest

Since this trip is fully booked I can only take reservations for seats that will not be taken. I will call about three days in advance to find out if everybody with a reservation is really going.

Jan. 19, 2008 start from Ft. Lauderdale for an eleven day cruise

to Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, Columbia and the Dominican Republic. 20 people have so far booked this cruise. Call me if you are interested.

Dieter

Functions for the rest of 2007 will be:

October 27, 2007	Euro Express	Oktoberfest
November 11, 2007	Club Picnic	Longwood Park
November 14, 2007	Business Meeting 7 pm at	Gulf Gate Library
November 17, 2007	Peter Mueller	Wiener Abend
December 15, 2007	Sepp Diepolder	Christmas Party
December 31, 2007	Sepp Diepolder	New Year's Eve*

Please note that the Christmas Party AND the New Year's Eve festivities will start at **6 pm instead of the usual 7pm**, so that we may enjoy our dinner before the band starts playing. Details about the menus of these two events will appear in the December newsletter. As always, for reservations call Brigitte Wetjen at 371-7786 or e-mail b.wetjen@verizon.net .

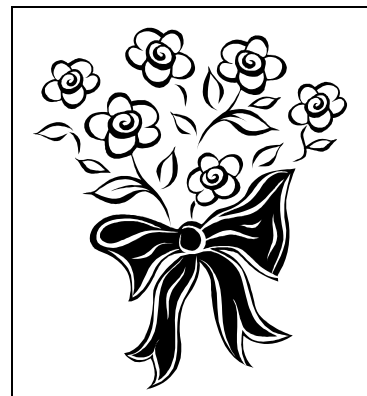
*on New Year's Eve we will have tables of 8 (eight) ONLY. Payment of \$38.00 per person is due by the end of October. Only payment will guarantee your reservations.

We have a new Vice President!

As already mentioned in our President's Message we have a new Vice President. After Dieter Schneider vacated that spot to become President, **Gerhard Glaesel** agreed to take the V.P. position. He is no stranger to the ins and outs of the club. Gerhard and Monika worked very hard for many years to help make the dances and picnics the success they were and it is only fitting that he join us now as an officer of GASC. Congratulations, Gerhard, we warmly welcome you.

At our Sommerfest dance on August 4th, we presented **Erika Paschek** with a bouquet of flowers to acknowledge and celebrate her membership in the GASC since 1976.

Margot Scheiterlein is the other member with an even longer history in our Club and she was acknowledged and celebrated with a bouquet of flowers at the Weinfest on September 22nd for her membership since 1973.



New Members!

Welcome - Willkommen

Horst Bornkast John Jurasek Regina Seme Richard & Donna Voxbrunner

Mike Ilcyn had knee replacement surgery. He came home from rehab and undergoes therapy three times a week. He seems in good spirits, watching "The Game" this Thursday morning.

Richard Voxbrunner has a broken arm and because of re-injury couldn't make it to our last dance. We wish you both well and hope you will make a full and speedy recovery.

German Heritage Day

The date and place for the German Heritage Day 2008 is set for Sunday, March 30, 2008. Once again it will take place in the St. Petersburg Coliseum since we have yet to come up with a more central, affordable location for this event. So please make your plans to attend this annual event. So far we have not changed the admission ticket price from last year (\$18.00), and we hope to be able to keep it at that cost.

The entertainment will be provided by the well known and always enjoyable German Band: "The Alpen Diamanten". And if all goes as planned, there will be some additional German cultural entertainment for your pleasure.

There has been much discussion for improving the food service and the sound system. A professional sound system contractor has been hired, and he will be installing and monitoring the sound all day.

Ron Stopperich, Sarasota's Delegate to UGAS

Oktoberfest Sarasota

It looks like there will be an Oktoberfest in Sarasota after all. At the 11th hour, so to speak, a company called Event Specialty Promotions has taken over, but because of the limited time they have to prepare, this year it will be held one weekend only: October 19th to 21st at the Roberts Arena. For next year they are planning to extend the festivities and also invite bands from Germany as in the past.

2008 Event Dates

<u>Date</u>	<u>Band or Event</u>	<u>Theme</u>
Jan. 09, 2008	Business Meeting	Gulf Gate Library
Jan. 26, 2008	Bee Sharps	Western Night
Febr. 23, 2008	Alpen Diamanten	Fasching
March 05, 2008	Business Meeting	Gulf Gate Library
March 09, 2008	Club Picnic	Longwood Park
March 29, 2008	Alpen Diamanten	Anniversary
April 26, 2008	Bee Sharps	Hawaiian Night
May 17, 2008	Euro Express	Mai Tanz
July 12, 2008	Alpen Diamanten	Sommerfest
Sept. 10, 2008	Business Meeting	Gulf Gate Library
Sept. 27, 2008	Peter Müller	Oktoberfest
Oct. 25, 2008	Euro Express	Weinfest
Nov. 05, 2008	Business Meeting	Gulf Gate Library
Nov. 09, 2008	Club Picnic	Longwood Park
Nov. 22, 2008	Alpen Diamanten	Wiener Abend
Dec. 13, 2008	Peter Müller	Christmas Party
Dec. 31, 2008	Sepp Diepolder	New Year's Eve

Dances start at 7 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 4880 Fruitville Rd., Sarasota, FL
For reservations call Brigitte at: (941) 371-7786 or e-mail b.wetjen@verizon.net
Business Meetings at the Gulf Gate Library start at 6.30 p.m.

Trips and Travel

Would you like to share travel experiences and discoveries with your fellow club members? Your adventures may inspire others to get the Wanderslust to experience the wonders that our world has to offer. These can be local trips, State and National Parks, world tours, cruises, or trips to the Old Country.

All you have to do is write the highlights of your trip, include an appropriate picture and send it to Rosemarie Deutsch or Janet Link. If you feel that you're not a good writer, don't worry about it. Janet or Rosemarie will help you write your first short novel.

Here is an *example written by Janet Link:*

Everglades National Park

A trip to one of only a few American parks that enjoy UNESCO status as a World Heritage Site and falls within an International Biosphere Reserve was recently re-visited by Martin and Janet Link. The park can be accessed from the west via Everglades City where the visiting center offers boat tours of the thousand islands with its abundance of birdlife. The 1.5 million acre park stretches all the way to the east coast where it can be accessed from Rt.9336 to the Ernest F. Coe Visitor center. The entrance fee is \$10 per car. However, if you are over 55, you can purchase a \$10 GOLDEN AGE PASSPORT that is valid for your lifetime in any National Park. There is also a north entrance which we have not visited yet.

While touring the park we met several German families who really struggled with the high humidity and the mosquitoes .We highly recommend going in the winter months. If you are adventurous, you can try eating alligator or snake meats in Everglades City. "Guten Appetit"



White pelicans resting on a sandbank

ANGELA MERKEL

Laut "Die Welt" vom 31.08.07 ist die Deutsche Bundeskanzlerin Angela Merkel die mächtigste Frau der Welt. Das US Magazin Forbes hat sie dazu im zweiten Jahr gekührt. Sie hat es in relativ kurzer Zeit geschafft, sich Ansehen und viel Respekt im In- und Ausland zu verschaffen. Ihre guten Verbindungen u.a. zu USA, China, Frankreich, Russland und Israel (dort erhielt sie die Ehrendoktorwürde für Philosophie) zeigen dies. Es heißt, sie macht so gute SPD-Politik, daß die SPD - Teil der Großen Koalition - an Profil verliert und in den Umfrageergebnissen immer weiter nach unten rutscht.

Wer ist diese ungewöhnliche Frau?

Sie wurde als Angela Dorothea Kasner 1954 in Hamburg geboren und ist in 2. Ehe mit Prof. Joachim Sauer verheiratet. Ihr Vater, ein evangelischer Pfarrer, wurde in ihrem Geburtsjahr nach Brandenburg (ehem. DDR) versetzt, wo sie den größten Teil ihrer Jugend verbrachte.

1973 – 1978: Studium der Physik in Leipzig. Danach arbeitete sie als wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin an der Akademie der Wissenschaften in Berlin, wo sie 1986 promovierte. Eine normale wissenschaftliche Karriere war also vorprogrammiert.....aber es kam anders.

Während der Wende in der DDR im Herbst 1989 erkannte sie, daß ihr Arbeitsplatz nicht sicher blieb und daß sich demokratische Parteistrukturen herausbilden würden. Beim neu gegründeten "Demokratischen Aufbruch" (DA) arbeitete sie zunächst unentgeltlich, wurde später dann Pressesprecherin.

Im April 1990 wurde Angela Merkel Regierungssprecherin der einzigen frei gewählten Regierung der DDR. Als am 31. August 1990 der Einigungsvertrag in Bonn unterschrieben wurde, war sie dabei. Später begleitete sie Lothar de Maiziere als Regierungssprecherin auf zahlreichen Auslandsreisen.

Im Oktober 1990 trat der DA der CDU bei.

Beim CDU Bundesparteitag initiierte Merkel ein erstes persönliches Gespräch mit Helmut Kohl, damaliger Bundeskanzler, der ihr politisches Talent erkannte und ihr Förderer wurde (Kohl's Mädchen).

Im Dezember 1990 wurde sie Abgeordnete des gesamtdeutschen Bundestages und dann von Kohl als Ministerin für Frauen und Jugend nominiert.

Ohne eine eigene Hausmacht hatte sie es zunächst nicht leicht, aber die Gunst der Stunde - sie besaß eine unbelastete Ost-Biografie - machte sie 1993 zur Landesvorsitzenden von Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

Nach der Bundestagswahl am 16. Oktober 1994 wurde sie unter Kohl Bundesministerin fuer Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit .

Nach der Spendenaffaire 1999 distanzierte sich Merkel von Kohl mit ihrem Artikel in der FAZ.

Nach längeren Machtkämpfen wurde Merkel 2000 zur neuen CDU Bundesvorsitzenden gewählt. Nach der Wahlniederlage 2002 übernahm Merkel den Fraktionsvorsitz der CDU/CSU und profilierte sich als Oppositionsführerin (2002- 2005).

Ihr Machtzuwachs zeigte sich u.a daran, daß ihr Kandidat für das höchste Amt in Deutschland – das des Bundespräsidenten – durchkam: Horst Köhler.

Seit 2005 ist Angela Merkel Bundeskanzlerin der Bundesrepublik Deutschland. Ihr sachlicher Regierungsstil kommt gut an. Einer ihrer politischen Schwerpunkte ist die Umweltpolitik. Als EU Ratspräsidentin (2007) erreichte sie, daß die EU sich verpflichtet, den Ausstoss von Treibhausgasen bis 2020 um ein Fünftel zu verringern. Auch wenn hierzulande der Klimawandel noch nicht so ernst genommen wird, so werden wir doch alle die Konsequenzen zu tragen haben, denn wir ALLE sitzen in dem selben Boot, das Erde heisst.

Angelika Overdiek

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October 3rd is Day of German Unity
(Tag der Deutschen Einheit)
This official national holiday commemorates Germany's reunification in 1990, when East and West once again became one country known as **die Bundesrepublik Deutschland** (the Federal Republic of Germany). The date reflects the signing of the reunification treaty rather than the actual date of the 1989 opening of the Berlin Wall.

German-American Day,
October 6th.

The first German-American Day was proclaimed by President Ronald Reagan in 1983 for the 300th anniversary of the arrival of 13 German families on board a sailing vessel named "Concord" (the German Mayflower). The Germans from Krefeld landed in Philadelphia on October 6th, 1683 and founded Germantown, PA (now part of Philadelphia). In 1987, after a campaign by German-American organizations, Congress made October 6th an official day of commemoration and President Reagan signed the proclamation quoted above.

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Start bei Traumwetter!

Dieses Jahr, absolut traumhafter Sonnenschein begrüßte die Wiesn-Wirte, als sie auf ihren Brauerei-Prachtgespannen beim traditionellen Einzug der Wiesn-Wirte auf das Oktoberfest rollten.

Nachdem Oberbürgermeister Christian Ude mit den traditionellen Worten "O'zapft is!" und drei Schlägen das erste Faß Wiesn-Bier geöffnet hatte, begann in Bayern die fünfte (und in München beliebteste) Jahreszeit.

Am Sonntag folgte der beliebte Trachten- und Schützenumzug.