

German-American Social Club of Sarasota

Newsletter October 2011

Dear Club Members,

I hope that all of our members had a wonderful summer and are ready to begin another successful season with us.

We started into our Fall Season with a very well attended Oktoberfest dance to the music of Peter and Edith Müller. Euro Express will play for us at the Weinfest on Oct. 22, 2011.

Please note that I had to change the date for our General Membership Meeting to Nov. 2, 2011 at 6.30 pm. As always, it will take place at the Gulf Gate Library. I would like to ask more of our members to attend this important meeting. This will give you the chance to hear the reports of our officers and influence the activities and future events of our club. If you're inclined you can also volunteer to help us out at upcoming events like the picnic on Nov. 6th at Longwood Park.

Remember the picnic is free of charge to all members of our club. There is a lot of time and effort that goes into making an event like the picnic a success, therefore please make your reservation early and let us also know if you have to cancel. We do buy a lot of food and drinks and it should not go to waste.

Several members of our club received E-mails from an organization called "Chartered Management Accountant of Switzerland" which claims to have audited FIFA record books and wanted our help as members of the GASC to move hundreds of millions of dollars into the US. Please be aware that this is a scam and don't fall for it.

On a more personal note: I would like to thank you for the many phone calls, cards and E-mails I received after my surgery. It sure helped a lot and I'm happy to report that everything turned out well.

See you soon.

Dieter

Upcoming functions:

October 22, 2011	Euro Express	Weinfest
November 2, 2011	General Membership Mtg.	Gulf Gate Library
November 6, 2011	Club Picnic	Longwood Park
November 19, 2011	Sepp Diepolder	Wiener Abend
December 10, 2011	Peter Müller	Christmas Party
December 31, 2011	Sepp Diepolder	New Year's Eve

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 October 22, 2011
Weinfest

Nürnbergger Würstchen, Potato Salad, Sauerkraut,

German Bread

\$6.00

Dessert - \$2.00, Coffee – free

Menu for November 19, 2011
Wiener Abend

Hessischer Ham, Potato Salad, Sauerkraut, Pickles,

German Bread

\$6.00

Dessert - \$2.00, Coffee – free

Urgent Message to our Members: Whenever you make payment for any club business, do NOT make out your check to a club member or officer, but to “G.A.S.C.”, otherwise the bank will not accept it!

New Members: Gabriele Kosak
Gerda Robinson



A few weeks ago Hannelore Jedel lost her husband and our former long-time Sunshine Lady, Hilde Freitag lost her son. Our hearts and prayers go out to both ladies in this difficult time.

Several of our members needed surgery: Werner Parker, Dieter Schneider and Regina Seme, Barbara Hartfiel has an injured foot. Both gentlemen feel restored and we wish them continued good health. We wish Regina and Barbara a speedy recovery. You are in our hearts and thoughts.

A Note from Vicar Andrew Gerike of the Lutheran Church of the Cross in Port Charlotte: Beginning on September 25th at 4:00pm we will be holding a German worship service with German hymns and readings. These services will continue throughout the year on the fourth Sunday of every month at 4:00pm. We wish to extend to you and the German Club in your area an invitation to come and join us for these services. The dates for the services through the year are as follows: 9/25/11, 10/23/11, 11/27/11, (no service in December), 1/22/12, 2/26/12, 3/25/12, 4/22/12 and 5/27/12. Lutheran Church of the Cross is located at 2300 Luther Road , Port Charlotte , FL 33983 . If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at vicar@lccross.org or at (941) 627-6060. I hope that you are able to join us!



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

GERMAN AMERICAN MONTH

WHEREAS, a significant number of Florida's citizens are of German descent; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, President Reagan approved the joint resolution of the United States Congress to establish October 6th as German American Day, which has since become an annual cultural tradition with celebrations nationwide; and

WHEREAS, throughout our history, German Americans have contributed to every facet of the American experience by helping to advance our civic liberties through their support of government service, freedom of the press, science, education, art, business and industry; and

WHEREAS, German Americans who settled here brought with them values that have enhanced and furthered America's commitment to freedom; and

WHEREAS, many German Americans have joined together with other Americans in time of war to guarantee our freedom and help preserve this nation; and

WHEREAS, it is important to recognize the significant contributions that German Americans have made to enrich the Sunshine State and nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing October 2011 as *German American Month*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 9th day of August, in the year two thousand eleven.

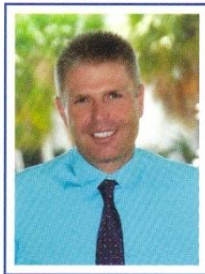
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Scott".

Governor

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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.



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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.

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50 Years ago: The Berlin Wall was built.

by Uwe Siemon-Netto

Early Sunday morning the telephone rang in my Frankfurt apartment. “Off to the airport”, my managing editor instructed me. That was on August 13, 1961. My longest working day ever lay ahead of me: 36 hours. I flew Pan Am to Tempelhof airport and then drove in a rented car to Bernauer Strasse, a street dividing the French and Soviet sectors.

On the eastern side, people roped themselves down from windows, while Communist cops stormed their apartment buildings from the backyard. Some refugees jumped into nets spread out for them by firemen. Nine days later, Ida Siekmann missed a net, becoming the first casualty of the Berlin Wall.

For the next three months Bernauer Strasse became my most important place of work. I was there when East German workmen unrolled bales of barbed wire, and later replaced it with a wall; when they rendered the Church of Reconciliation inaccessible; when workers' militiamen opened fire on a fugitive family of nine prompting a French lieutenant in a jeep to blast off warning shots from his machine gun. "Stop shooting or I'll aim my gun at you," he warned. The refugees made it safely across the border. I accompanied them to the Marienfelde processing center for escapees.

Marienfelde was then the central stage of this drama in the heart of Germany. Of the 2.6 million refugees thus far, 1.5 million had been housed here before being flown to West Germany. By the time the East German leader Walter Ulbricht ordered West Berlin sealed off, up to 2,500 left his country every day. Its economy was about to collapse. Entire branches of industry could no longer produce anything because their skilled workforce had run away.

But things did not look good for the West either. With the support of Soviet premier Nikolai Khrushchev, Ulbricht demanded an instant end to this drain of manpower. He wished to gain control of the access routes from West Germany to West Berlin, a city still under the sovereignty of the victorious four powers of World War II. This would never happen, however.

Kennedy was at that point no friend of the Germans. That would change in 1963, when he told a huge cheering crowd: "Ich bin ein Berliner" (I am a Berliner). But for the time being he did not interfere with the Communists as they walled in their own people. Egon Bahr, closest associate of Willy Brandt, Berlin's governing mayor, explained to me that his distrust of the U.S. began with this episode. Brandt, one of postwar Germany's most outstanding leaders, numbed his sorrow in a manner causing West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer to nickname him Willy Weinbrandt (Billy Brandy).

It so happened that earlier that year I had befriended an East German government official at the Leipzig Trade Fair. She hated the Communist regime. Now as the Wall was being built she found witty ways to tip me off. One bit of information she sent turned out to be a present for my 25th birthday. In a secret message she advised me to rush to the former palace of Prussia's crown princes in the Eastern sector. There I discovered, probably as the first Western reporter, that Soviet tanks had moved into the city. Two days later they confronted U.S. armor at Checkpoint Charlie, which turned out to be the most dramatic point of the 1961 Berlin crisis.

On that evening I had a date with my friend but was stopped at the border and grilled: "Who was your informer?" I did not tell the investigators but soon discovered that as a result of this incident I was not to see my family in East Germany again for years to come. My grandmother lived in Leipzig. Her neighbor was a well-meaning prosecutor. She warned her that if I attempted to enter the country again I would be tried for espionage. Granny slipped this information into an aluminum tube and mailed it to me in a home-baked cake.

I was banished from my native region "forever". But this "eternity" lasted less than 30 years. I was in San Francisco when the Wall came down in 1989. I flew home to rejoice with my fellow countrymen and remember fondly the Berliners I admired so much in 1961. They were a plucky lot.

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Als neues Mitglied möchte ich mich vorstellen. Ich bin Altenpflegerin mit 20 Jahren Berufserfahrung, 14 Jahre davon habe ich in diesem Beruf beim Deutschen Roten Kreuz in Düsseldorf gearbeitet. Ich bin mit meiner Tochter in die USA eingewandert und habe 2 Jahre in Connecticut als Babysitter, Housekeeper und Caregiver verbracht. Nun lebe ich hier und ich freue mich, daß es hier so viele Deutsche gibt. Wenn Sie Bedarf für meine Qualifikationen haben, rufen Sie bitte an oder e-mailen Sie mir.

THE DALI MUSEUM

In January 2011 the new Dali Museum in St. Petersburg opened up. We were told by our friends in St. Pete then that the outside was still a mess and it would be so crowded that it wouldn't be fun to go. So we waited, but in mid-July we felt it was time. The museum is easy to find from all directions and downtown. It is located at 1 Dali Blvd and can be contacted by tel. (727) 823-3767 or thedali.org. The building is a marvel in itself. It is located right by the water (and the airport) and one would think that location is not a good idea in a hurricane prone area, but the architect, Yann Weymouth, had considered it. The walls are concrete and 18 inches thick. It is said to withstand a category 5 storm! The entrance fee is \$21.00 per person (\$19.00 for seniors). After getting your tickets you can either take the elevators to the galleries or the soaring spiral staircase of solid concrete that's a nod to Dali's fascination with the double-helical structure of DNA (see photo). For those who remember the old Dali Museum with its limited space, this new one has all 96 oil paintings they own on display with room to spare for much of the rest of the collection, which includes 100 watercolors and drawings and 1,300 graphics, sculptures and other objects d'art.



His work is not everybody's cup of tea, but if you go, take one of the audio guides (available free at the ticket counter on a first-come first-served basis). It gives you details about each numbered painting, details you might miss on your own. Every hour on the half-hour there is also a tour by a very knowledgeable docent, also very worthwhile in my opinion. They interpret up to minute details the images of the large canvases and give you a glimpse into the complex world of Salvatore Dali's life and dreams.

Eleanor and Reynolds Morse from Ohio were friends of and experts on Salvatore Dali and owned the biggest collection. When the taxman came calling about their collection, they thought of donating it to a museum, but felt it should be housed in a museum of its own; thus started the long search for a location, until St. Petersburg won.

Rosemarie Deutsch

23rd GAUFEST June 30th-July 3rd, 2011 in Orlando, FL. USA

What is a GAUFEST? It is a biennial gathering in North America organized by the GAUVERBAND NORDAMERIKA that is dedicated to preserving and perpetuating the cultural heritage of Bavaria (Germany) and Tyrol (Austria). Its focus is to include its customs, ethnic costumes, language, folk music, and folk dances. The GAUVERBAND NORDAMERIKA provides member societies in the United States and Canada with educational programs and opportunities for fellowship through conferences, festivals and published media. It also cultivates ties with heritage societies in Bavaria and Tyrol.

We were guests among 1500 participants sitting with our friend who had been both past president and dancer in his group in Washington, D.C. called Washingtonia. The table was decorated with his group's flag and handmade Maitanz centerpiece. Our table was situated in between groups from Ontario, Canada and Passaic, NJ. Never have we attended an affair with so many dancers! Luckily, the ROSEN SHINGLE CREEK Center had provided space for 1500 people and a LARGE dance floor. We had different bands to provide for our entertainment throughout the four days and evenings. Locally, Orlando's Europa band performed as did the East coast band called 'Spitze'. A band from Bavaria offered traditional music. We recognized Gulfcoast members dancing from the Gulf Coast Enzianer Schuhplattler Verein. They entertain us at Oktoberfests throughout our area. Their dancers range from 6-90 years of age and practice at the Pinellas German-American Club.

During the course of the four days, we enjoyed watching the competitions which included individual couples as well as groups. The young children as young as six years of age were so talented and accomplished for their age! Each child received recognition for participation. Awards were given to the top three individual couples and groups. Groups were judged for ages (16-34), (35-49), (50-59), (60+). Would you believe that the younger groups had the most competitors? It was most inspiring to see young people carrying on the GAUFEST traditions!

The colors, costumes, and processions of flags from all representative societies were most spectacular at the banquet. The respect and interaction of all ages, groups and nations was truly a thrilling experience which we will never forget. Imagine a multitude of 1500 people standing and singing the printed words of five anthems: Lied der Bayern (Bavarian), Austrian, Canadian, German, and the American national anthem. (If you ever need the words, we have saved the program.)

The four days just flew by with events, breakfast, lunch, banquet and MUSIC. Unlimited Warsteiner beer, wine, soda and water were available at most events. Wow! Dancing can increase your thirst!

In two years, June 20-23, 2013 Cleveland, Ohio will host the next GAUFEST. Hopefully, the traditions will continue at GAUFESTS many years to come. Most fortunate will be those of us who will have the opportunity to witness or participate in this most worthwhile event. We wish to thank Willy and Dorita Frueh of Sarasota for inviting us to be their guests.

Janet Link

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Epic Film "Das Boot" Turns 30

A number of special events were held across the US this year to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Academy Award-nominated epic WWII masterpiece *Das Boot* by director Wolfgang Petersen. Critically acclaimed as one of the best war films of all times, *Das Boot* follows the lives of fearless U-Boat captain Capt.-Lt. Henrich Lehmann-Willenbrock (played by Jürgen Prochnow) and his inexperienced crew as they become engulfed in the "Battle of the Atlantic" during World War II. Ordered to patrol the Atlantic and destroy an allied armada bringing supplies to Britain, the crew confronts the constant and paralyzing fear of the unknown enemy above in the claustrophobic iron belly of a German U-boat. Director Wolfgang

Petersen's epic adventure deftly explores tension as pressure builds to an explosive climax, packing a visceral punch few movies can match. With 11.5 million dollars in ticket sales, it is one of the most successful German films in US cinemas to date. The story is based on a novel by Lothar-Günther Buchheim.