

German-American Social Club of Sarasota

Newsletter October 2012

Dear Club Members,

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and are ready to join in the fun with the bands and dances we have lined up for you.

Our Oktoberfest dance with Peter Müller was quite a success and I hope you all show up for the Weinfest on Oct. 27th. We will try something new for that dance. There will be NO table or seat or food reservations for the 27th October. Instead you will seat yourself on a “first come - first sit” basis. If you want a specific table please show up early. There will be food available; we will estimate on past experiences and you can pay for it as you arrive.

For our upcoming Picnic on November 4th it is absolutely necessary that you make reservations. Please call or email Rosie Herke (941) 388-3244; herke2@msn.com. Without reservations we can't serve you food or drinks. The cutoff date for your reservations is Sunday October 28th.

The Picnic is free for members; guests pay \$10.00.

Don't forget, we have elections coming up at our General Membership Meeting on Oct. 30th. It is not too late to contact Lloyd Koontz if you consider running for office. We are always looking for people who are interested in our club's affairs and want to influence the way it is run. Even if you don't want to be on the board, come to the meeting. You will hear the reports of our officers, discuss past and future events and let us know what's on your mind and give us your feedback.

The board suggested a day trip to the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Tampa. I will organize that as soon as Marlies and I return from our trip to Australia/New Zealand. So expect an announcement in the next newsletter.

The event schedule for next year is done with the exception of New Year's Eve 2013. I'm still looking for a band. If you know of a good band call me with the details.

See you all at the Picnic in November

Dieter

Upcoming functions:

October 27, 2012	Peter Müller	Weinfest
October 30, 2012	General Membership Mtg.	Gulf Gate Library
November 4, 2012	Club Picnic	Longwood Park
November 17, 2012	Peter Müller	Wiener Abend

Dances start at 7 pm (unless otherwise indicated) at the Columbus Hall, 4880 Fruitville Rd., Sarasota, FL. No reservations for seating and food for October 27th, but call Rosie Herke (941) 388-3244; herke2@msn.com for the picnic and the deadline is the Sunday before the event. The picnic starts at 11:00 am

Our Picnic starts at 11:00 am at Longwood Park. We always appreciate the help of volunteers. It takes a great deal of planning ahead, but also of setting up. So if you have some extra time and muscle power, please come early and help us prepare.

Might we also suggest you dress up for our Wiener Abend dance on November 17th.

Menu for October 27, 2012
Weinfest

***2 Nürnberger Würstchen, Potato Salad,
Sauerkraut, German Bread***

\$6.00

Cake - \$2.00, Coffee - free

Menu for November 17, 2012
Wiener Abend

***Leberkäse (Veal Loaf), Potato Salad,
Sauerkraut, Pickels, German Bread***

\$6.00

Cake - \$2.00, Coffee - free

A warm welcome to our

New Members:

Robert and Julia zuHone

Our Sunshine Lady, Irene Carlon (927-1894) reports we had some members feeling poorly: Donna Blunden, J.J. Harkins and Benno Kuehls. Our good wishes are with them.

A good part of you are aware that Brigitte Wetjen is scheduled to have surgery on October 12th to remove a tumor from behind her left eye. It is an 8 hour procedure and we all hope and pray that she gets through this with flying colors.

She will need follow-up surgeries, hopefully minor in comparison to the first. So she will be laid up for quite some time and will be in no position to worry about her 'job' at the GASC during her convalescence. Therefore we will try the open seating arrangement on October 27th.

The annual New Year's Day Concert "Salute to Vienna" will be held at the Van Wezel on the evening of January 1, 2013 at 8:00 P.M. Tickets may be ordered now at discount prices: Rows 2-5 at a cost of \$65.50 each. Seats in Row 18 cost \$55.00 each. Please call Janet Link at 941-929-9097 if you are interested in joining us so that we may order the tickets.



Columbus Hall, 4880 Fruitville Rd., where we have our dances.

Come watch Monday Night Football on their 60" TV.
The Lounge opens at 8:00 pm, kick off at 8:30 pm.

Cruising Calamities

Cruising on a glamorous cruise ship can offer a relaxing and adventurous experience. Obstacles such as rough seas, sea sickness, and illness can offset the whole experience for any individual. Recently we encountered a few additional episodes on a fifteen day cruise from San Diego, California to the Hawaiian Islands.

Our captain, Roberto Volpi, had just made his daily noon time ship's report positioning us in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. He named the position as "the point of no return". It meant that we were passed our half-way mark to Hawaii. We were just finishing our lunch out on Lido Deck when another announcement cried from the bridge:

BRAVO! BRAVO! BRAVO!*.... FORWARD.....PORTSIDE.....MAN OVERBOARD!

We were sitting inside directly behind the window from the open deck and were able to peer out at the huge open body of endless water. Another message announced that it was a passenger that went over and that we were circling around to look for him. Soon we heard the engines turning us around. We were further informed that we were heading straight for him and that we were about two miles out. We were asked to look out for him.

Appearing in the distance we caught sight of orange-shaped cones bobbing up and down in the waves. These were the markers which had been thrown out to sea to mark the area when the alert had been given. We were following the markers! Meanwhile we heard that a woman on the open deck had observed a man taking off his shoes and diving overboard deliberately. (Ironically, the passenger had jumped off from Serenity Deck so named and designated as a quiet place for adult guests only.) Approximately one hour and a half had passed since the alert had been given.

A small rescue boat was launched from the cruise ship and could be seen popping up and down over the waves. It was headed to an area between the flaming orange markers riding the choppy, frothy whitecaps in the glistening sunlight. This entire scene visible to the naked eye! The man

was seen floating by the rescuers on the lifeboat as they successfully ended the attempted suicide. The 28-year old male passenger was all right and reported in "GOOD CONDITION".

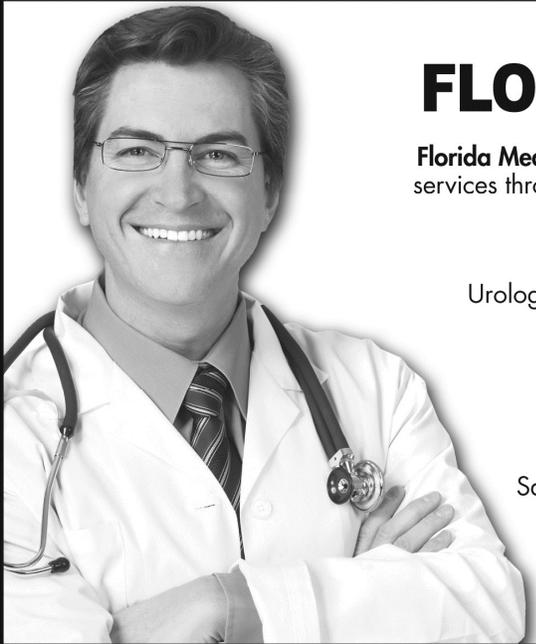
Our captain and his bridge mates were given a standing ovation while the young rescued man was held in confinement below. Would you believe that the captain is to retire in three months? What a heroic ending to his maritime career!

After visiting the Hawaiian Islands, we were headed back to California. In the middle of the night, we awoke to the sound of our night tables tumbling over crashing to the floor. The contents of the drawers were strewn all about. We awoke the next morning to discover that we were headed back to Honolulu. The sudden turning motion of the vessel had activated the upturn. We learned that a passenger had suffered a severe heart attack and had to be picked up by a medical ship from Oahu. He needed special care at a hospital in Honolulu.

Captain Roberto Volpi had surely heeded the needs of his special passengers aboard his ship. What a responsibility for him to assume while also steering his ship safely back to port.

*BRAVO repeated three times on a PA system is to alert crew of a fire or other serious incident on board ship.

Janet Link



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"Voice of the Century"

Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau Dies at 86

Winterreise (Winter Journey), Franz Schubert's 1828 song cycle for voice and piano, is one of the most iconic German art songs or *lieder*, influencing vocal technique not only within its genre but in German classical music in general. Only the greatest of vocal artists undertake to perform it in its entirety, given the intellectual and physical stamina required.

The great German baritone singer Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau recorded Schubert's *Winterreise* not once or twice, but a full eight times, over the course of four decades, with some of his generation's most celebrated musical talents accompanying on piano, from Gerald Moore (1955, 1963, 1972), to Daniel Barenboim (1980). His impeccable technique and deep baritone voice—and his prolific recordings—earned him a reputation as the master interpreter of Schubert lieder.

Classical music lovers around the world remembered Fischer-Dieskau, one of the great singers of the 20th century, with the news he had died May 18 near Munich, just before his 87th birthday.

One of the most recorded singers of all time, Fischer-Dieskau performed extensively on the most famous German opera stages in Berlin, Munich and around Europe for decades, from the early 1950s through his retirement from singing in 1992. Though well-known in the United States, he rarely performed outside of Europe. Known first and foremost for his mastery of the German art song, Fischer-Dieskau also took on numerous roles in opera, not only in his native German, but in French, Italian, and English. His ability to perform in diverse musical styles made him a legend of the vocal arts. Fischer-Dieskau was a “revolutionary performer,” Barenboim said, because he sang both German lieder and opera—something that had not been done before.

Born in Berlin in 1925, Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau studied one semester at the top conservatory in the city before being drafted into the army and sent to the Russian front in World War II. His success entertaining the troops as a prisoner of war in Italy delayed his return to Germany after the war.

He resumed his studies, but before long was singing professionally, including a recording of *Winterreise* for the American radio station in Berlin in 1948. From there his career took off, and Fischer-Dieskau was enchanting audiences around the world, whether in person or via his hundreds of recordings.

For Barenboim, Fischer-Dieskau's greatest achievement was his demonstration of the unity of text and music, and his ability to illuminate meanings through this harmony. © Germany.info

Compassionate Care Giving

Licensed CNA/caregiver (Hungarian) will assist with daily living, shopping, cooking, transportation. References available.

Judit Hollo

cell phone: (941) 720-1046

Karl May and die German's Image of Native Americans

In 1908, a 66-year-old man and his wife sailed on the ship *Großer Kurfürst* from Bremen to the United States. Upon reaching the state of New York, they traveled to the Tuscarora Indian reservation near Niagara Falls and there came into contact with Native Americans for the first and only time in their lives.

The two travelers were the writer Karl May and his wife Klara. At that time, he was already one of the most well-known German authors of adventure novels. His books had an enthusiastic readership and had seen numerous editions. However, he had never traveled to the regions he described in his books.

As a young child, Karl May lived in abject poverty and suffered from inexplicable blindness until he was seven. Still, he fondly recalled the fairytales his grandmother told him. His favorite school subject is said to have been geography. He was trained as a teacher but was later fired for embezzlement and theft. In the ensuing years (1861-1874), he was arrested time and again by the police for incidents of fraud and petty theft, spending eight years in various Zuchthäusern—special work prisons. Due to his good behavior, he was named administrator of the Zwickau Zuchthaus facility's library and found a great deal of time to read. There, he drafted his initial ideas for his works. In 1874, he returned home to his parents at the age of 32 and began to write.

The colonization of the world by the Europeans went hand-in-hand with a growing interest in descriptions of foreign cultures. The "Orient" and the "Wild West" held a special fascination.

Karl May quickly became successful and was soon able to live from his writing. He was likely familiar with the work *Leatherstocking Tales* by James Fenimore Cooper, which had already been translated into German as early as 1826. The tales contain romanticized descriptions of Indians similar to the works later written by Karl May. Perhaps May even knew the scientific travelogue by Maximilien Prinz zu Wied, *Reise in das innere Nord-Amerika 1832 bis 1834*, and the wonderful illustrations of Indians drawn by his Swiss traveling companion Karl Bodmer.

The main figure in Karl May's Wild West stories is the noble Apache chief *Winnetou*, who, together with his white trapper friends *Old Firehand*, *Old Surehand*, and especially *Old Shatterhand*, stands for values such as courage, friendship, and justice. *Winnetou* and his friends stand in stark contrast to the bad guys: bandits, barbaric Indians, or the land-hungry government.

Fantasy and reality intermingled in the life of Karl May. His stories are often written in the first person, almost as though he had experienced the adventures himself, which many of his readers believed. He identified with *Old Shatterhand*, the best white tracker of the Wild West. His wife often signed documents using the name of *Winnetou's* sister, *Ntscho-tshi*. He dubbed his house in Radebeul, Saxony, "*Villa Shatterhand*". There he died in 1912. In 1926, his widow had a log cabin erected in the garden of their home, the "*Villa Bärenfett*", where the first "Karl May and Indian Museum" was housed.

Karl May, who died 100 years ago on March 30, 1912, influenced like no other novelist the European popular imagination of the American Wild West and the American Indian. It is estimated that 200 million copies of his books have been sold up to the present day. That the planned publication of all his works will comprise 120 volumes shows just how prolific Karl May was.

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