

September 2010

Friendship Newsletter

Official Publication of the

German American Society of Pinellas County

Since 1951

**“All the News
Is Print that Fits”**

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President's Message

Elliot Wagner

Last month our society hosted a SPIFFS general assembly meeting in our main hall. We provided refreshments and it was an opportunity to show off our club house to the many SPIFFS delegates who had never seen it before. On the following day we also hosted a Pinellas Park Chamber of Commerce mixer. Again it was another opportunity to showcase our facility.

We recognized the many volunteers who keep our club running at our annual Labor Day picnic. The music of **John Matuzalem** delighted those attending, who enjoyed, singing, dancing, good times, good food and drink with friends and fellow members.

200th Anniversary of Oktoberfest

The biggest and best Oktoberfest our club has ever sponsored will be here in less than 2 weeks, starting Fri., Sept. 24th.

This truly Bavarian tradition is the best chance for visitors to experience and enjoy a German tradition that dates back to 1810.

Our Oktoberfest is the most authentic in Tampa Bay. No other Oktoberfest comes close to having the atmosphere we offer. This year our tent will be twice the size of last year's tent and it will seat well over 300 people at tables. At our peak last year we had over 550 visitors in one night. So the addition seating is needed for the comfort and enjoyment of our guests.

Reservations for groups of 10 people or more are still available.

It is our biggest and most important fund raiser. We still need people to promote the event by distributing our flyers and solicit donations for our raffle. I invite each of you to join me in making 2010 the best Oktoberfest even better.

Since June 24th, every Thurs. evening at 6 pm a small group has met to work through the details that will make this a successful event. These meetings were open to everyone and the last two meetings will be on 9/16 & 9/23.

With hard work and the blessings of God, the German American Society of Pinellas County will have another enjoyable, educational and successful Oktoberfest. **Volunteer now!**

As we come down from the excitement of Oktoberfest, let's look at the upcoming events that need our attention.

The article on page one highlights the SPIFFS Folk Fair.

Other events worthy of note will be the Veterans Day dance Nov 6th, our Christmas Party Sun, Dec 12th with Sepp & Heinz and our gala New Years Eve Celebration Dec. 31st also with

(Continued on page 2)

SPIFFS REPORT

The Folk Fair will be in the Vinoy Park starting Nov. 3rd. This is a special year since the city of St. Petersburg is also celebrating the 100th Anniversary of St. Petersburg's Waterfront Parks.

On November 3rd, 4th, and 5th the Folk Fair will be open to school students from Tampa Bay area. Sat. Nov. 6th will be open to the public. Unlike previous years no admission will be charged. This change combined with promotional efforts of the city will result in larger attendance on Sat.

The Folk Fair has been staged on or near the waterfront of Tampa Bay for most of its history, first in the Bayfront Center and more recently at Vinoy Park and Albert Whitted Park, so it makes sense to participate in this special anniversary celebration.

The German American Society as we have for years will provide a cultural exhibit and sell German food at the event.

We need volunteers for 6 days. Since, Tues, Nov 2nd is election day, we will remove from our back hall, everything we will need for SPIFFS by Sunday, Oct 31st, so the election board can set up on Nov. 1st.

Folk Fest Work Dates:

Sunday, Oct. 31 - Pre-Set-Up

Tues, Nov 2nd - Set-Up

Wed Nov 3rd Elementary School 8AM-4pm

Thurs. Nov. 4th, High Schools, 8AM - 4PM

Fri. Nov. 5th, Middle Schools, 8AM - 4PM

Sat. Nov. 6th, General Public

Sat. Nov. 6th, Tear Down

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| OFFICERS 2009 | | DIRECTORS TERM | |
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| President | Elliot Wagner | Willy Freuh | 2011 |
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MOVING? NEW PHONE NUMBERS? NEW EMAIL?

Tell us your news! If you don't see it, it's because we don't know. Email

Elliot@ElliotWagner.com

FIND A MISTEAK?

Mistakes serve a purpose. We try to publish something for everyone. We know some people like to look for mistakes.

DON'T FORGET!!

Membership Meeting 1st Thursday

DUES - Jan. 1st

BOOSTER donation anytime!

(Continued from page 1)

Sepp & Heinz .

Elections

Nov. 2nd is the national general election. Our society is also coming into elections season. This year nominations will open Nov. 4th and limited to new officers only. Nominations will remain open until the Dec. 2nd membership meeting, when they will be closed and elections held.

Seven positions to be filled:

- President
- 1st VP
- 2nd VP
- Recording Secretary
- Corresponding Secretary
- Treasurer
- Financial Secretary

If you love the club and want to see it continue to flourish consider running for one of these offices. It is important for members to show interest in these elections and that all members participate.

If you look at the left side panel of this page you will see your current officers and directors. Don't assume these people want to or will continue in their present position. Some may and others may not.

If you like and respect your leaders then tell them and support them. If you have criticism and complaints then have the courage to make those know as well.

All of your officers make a great commitment of time and energy on your behalf. It is unfair and unrealistic to assume they will do those jobs until they die. Complacency is not in your best interest and new people should want to step into some of these positions.

Section 7.2 of our bylaws states:

A Nominating Committee consisting of five (5) Members shall be appointed in advance of the meeting at which elections

are to be held. One member of the Nominating Committee, who shall serve as Chairperson of the Committee, shall be appointed by the President; two members of the Nominating Committee shall be elected by the Board of Directors at its September meeting; and two members of the Nominating Committee shall be elected by the membership at its October meeting. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a list of candidates and the offices for which they have been recommended, and present such list to the Members at the November meeting, and such persons are thereby nominated for the offices specified. Additional nominations may be made by any Member at the November meeting.

I would like volunteers for the nominating committee. You may also be asked to migrate onto the elections committee (if you are not on the ballot). The Nominating Committee will be selected at the Oct. 7th membership meeting.

Uncontested races are not in the interest of the members of our society. Officers should feel be accountable to the members and if there is no competition for a position then you get less motivated officers.

Do you really want someone taking an office because no one else wanted it. It's the future of your club and apathy has consequences.

SHARE A RIDE

There are those who would love to attend our functions, but are unable to drive.

Members & guests who need a ride and those willing to "give a lift" to someone in need call **Greta Perry**, 727 789-1335 with names, addresses & phone numbers. We will facilitate arrangements.

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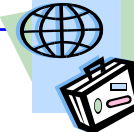
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Clubhouse Rental Policy

All members and friends might not be aware they can rent the Main Hall or Back Hall for special occasions, such as weddings, receptions, parties, memorials, meetings and other events. Tell your friends!

Club members receive a reduced price not offered the general public.

Hold your next gathering at the club! Contact Elliot Wagner for details.

Emergency Fund Donors

We seek donations for needed repairs. Thanks to the many members who have renewed contributions for 2009!

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Sunshine Lady

Ilse Kearney

Hello Members and Friends,

This summer is almost over and I have to say we have had a busy time keeping track of all our patients.

Long standing member **Gertrude Göbel** passed on August 15. Just the week before, I had visited her at Oak Manor Nursing Facility. She seemed weak and could not walk to the dining room. She was in a wheelchair, yet quite alert. She knew who was with her and did not seem much different to me than before, except her not walking which did not surprise me since she had trouble with walking before. Gertrude, you will be missed.

I have stayed in contact with **Horst Buller** and found out that he is doing well after his brain surgery. **Susan Wittstock** is also holding up. I am very happy with both of you. **Gerda Kern** fell out of bed last week and is in Morton Hospital in Clearwater. She was in good spirits when I saw her recently, yet still quite weak.

Casimir Ziarko is now in the Heron House in Largo. He sounds good and up-beat. Thanks to **Angelika Garrett** from the Berliner Club for helping me find him again.

Josefa Wagner called me also and informed me that she is doing better, yet not quite well enough to come to the club.

Helen Sverak is making strides toward wellness also.

I am wishing all of you a speedy recovery – keep the faith.

Die Kunst zu leben
hat mehr mit dem Fechten
als mit dem Tanzen zu tun,
weil man auch auf unvorhergesehene
Streiche gefasst sein muss.

Marc Aurel

IN MEMORIUM

On July 28, 2010

Longtime Member

Wilhelm van Geuns

(87 years old)

Passed Away

September Milestones!

We love to celebrate life achievements and significant milestones. If you're not mentioned, perhaps we **don't know**, have incorrect information or just made a **mistake**. Contact us!

Happy Birthday

- 3 Frederick Aldridge
- 3 Blair Stobaugh
- 7 Michael Dempsey
- 13 Martha Reiter
- 16 Inge Schulz
- 16 Irene Schattner
- 17 David Loucks
- 20 Horst Bliwernitz
- 23 Maria Mallory
- 23 Hans Tegge
- 24 Edda Howard
- 30 Genaro Fiorentino
- 30 Gisela Torrent



Happy Anniversary

- 13 Helmut & Ewa Lohden 14 YEARS
- George & Margot
- 15 Carpenter 38 YEARS

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CLASSIFIED ADS

FREE for members when space is available. Have something to sell or want to buy something, contact us!

UGASF Report

Ilse Kearney

Greetings Members and Friends,

I recently confirmed that the Heritage Day Festivity will take place on March 27, 2011 in Orlando. I will get more detailed information at the November meeting.

On another note, I will be driving to Orlando on September 5 to get more information for the Gaufest, which will take place in Orlando in 2011. Either myself or someone from the Schuhplattlers will keep you up-to-date from now on.

German Unity Day

On October 3, 2010 Germany will celebrate the twentieth anniversary of Germany's reunification. The Berlin Wall came down on November 9, 1989, coincided with the anniversary of the founding of the first real German Republic (the Weimar Republic) in 1918.

On November 9, 1989, the GDR ceased to exist as a state just four days before its 41st anniversary. One million people celebrated in the streets and squares around the Reichstag. The upheaval in the GDR was one of several peaceful revolutions in central Eastern Europe

to overcome not only the communist dictatorships, but also the division of Europe.

Eleven months later, on the afternoon of October 3, 1990, after a night of joyous celebrating across Germany ushered in the day on which East and West Germany officially became one, Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Berlin received a phone call from his friend and fellow statesman President George H. W. Bush in Washington.

The call lasted only three minutes, but it spoke volumes about the warm relationship that had grown between the two leaders and about the permanent bond of gratitude forged between their countries that would not end with the Cold War.

George H.W. Bush and Helmut Kohl have remained friends-Kohl was the first recipient of the George Bush Award—and have come together over the years to mark the Day of German Unity. In 1999, ten years after the Fall of the Wall, the two leaders and Mikhail Gorbachev came together in Berlin for the national Day of German Unity celebration.

Germany was reunited, after 45 years of division. October 3, 1990, has since been celebrated as the **Day of German Unity** (*Tag der Deutschen Einheit*) and is an official holiday in Germany.

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German-American Day

Most Americans, if we think about Germany at all this time of year, focus on **Munich's** Oktoberfest, with its "Oompah" bands, barmaids toting hefty beer mugs and traditional costumes.

Yet, on the heels of Oktoberfest, is German-American Day, October 6th. It is the day in the United States when we celebrate German heritage. We remember on this date in 1683 that 13 German families from Krefeld near the Rhine landed in Philadelphia and established the first entirely German settlement. These families subsequently founded Germantown, Pennsylvania, the first German settlement in the original thirteen American colonies.

In 1983 President Ronald Reagan proclaimed October 6th as German-American Day to celebrate and honor the **300th anniversary of German American** immigration and culture to the United States.

On August 6, 1987, Congress approved S.J. Resolution 108, designating October 6, 1987 as German-American Day. It became Public Law 100-104 when President Reagan signed it on August 18.

A proclamation (#5719) to this effect was issued October 2, 1987 by President Reagan in a formal ceremony in the White House Rose Garden, at which time the President called on Americans to observe the Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The Charge Of The Light Brigade

by Alfred, Lord Tennyson 1809-1892

Memorializing Events in the Battle of Balaclava, October 25, 1854
Written 1854

This poem was written to memorialize a suicidal charge by light cavalry over open terrain by British forces in the Battle of Balaclava (Ukraine) in the Crimean War (1854-56). 247 men of the 637 in the charge were killed or wounded. Britain entered the war, which was fought by Russia against Turkey, Britain and France, because Russia sought to control the Dardanelles. Russian control of the Dardanelles

threatened British sea routes.

Many in the west best know of this war today because of Florence Nightingale, who trained and led nurses aiding the wounded during the war in a manner innovative for those times. The War was also noteworthy as an early example of the work of modern war correspondents

Half a league half a league,
Half a league onward,
All in the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred:
'Forward, the Light Brigade!
Charge for the guns' he said:
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.

'Forward, the Light Brigade!
Was there a man dismay'd ?
Not tho' the soldier knew
Some one had blunder'd:
Theirs not to make reply,
Theirs not to reason why,
Theirs but to do & die,
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.

Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon in front of them
Volley'd & thunder'd;
Storm'd at with shot and shell,
Boldly they rode and well,
Into the jaws of Death,
Into the mouth of Hell
Rode the six hundred.

Flash'd all their sabres bare,
Flash'd as they turn'd in air
Sabring the gunners there,
Charging an army while
All the world wonder'd:
Plunged in the battery-smoke
Right thro' the line they broke;
Cossack & Russian
Reel'd from the sabre-stroke,
Shatter'd & sunder'd.
Then they rode back, but not
Not the six hundred.

Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon behind them
Volley'd and thunder'd;
Storm'd at with shot and shell,
While horse & hero fell,
They that had fought so well
Came thro' the jaws of Death,
Back from the mouth of Hell,
All that was left of them,
Left of six hundred.

When can their glory fade?
O the wild charge they made!
All the world wonder'd.
Honour the charge they made!
Honour the Light Brigade,
Noble six hundred!

MEMORIAL FUND - Members & friends may donate in memory of a loved one. Consider bequeathing to the club.

IN MEMORY OF

Margo Braun

Paula Barker
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Martha Reiter
Hilde Speidel
Werner Vogt

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George & Margot Carpenter

Otto Fanslow (Brother)

Inge Schulz

Henry Frodl

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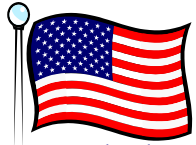
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