



***UNINFORMED MEMBERS
A GOOD CLUB DO NOT MAKE***

Der Botschafter Issue 2/2022

We believe that many members of German American Clubs do not truly know the History of UGASF nor what it truly stands for.

***HISTORY OF THE
UNITED GERMAN-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF FLORIDA***

Following in the footsteps of our organization since its inception!

During the early years of the 1980s, *Gerda Des Jardin* of the Pinellas Park Club proposed the idea of founding an *umbrella organization* encompassing all of the German-American Clubs of Florida. Due to lack of support, the idea died.

In November 1990 *John Lange*, president of the club in the Palm Beaches, invited the presidents of Casselberry (*Heinz Ölker*), Cape Coral (*Klaus Kohl*), Daytona Beach (*Fritz Eggerts*) and Miami (*Hannelore Crothers*) to the Palm Beaches with the thought of founding an *umbrella* organization, which hopefully would include all the German-American Clubs of Florida.

Several Meetings followed at which *Fritz Eggerts* presided as the President. During this time the ground rules were worked out for a set of By-Laws and a State Charter.

In 1991, on April 13, ten clubs attended the first General Membership Meeting in Miami. Officers were elected and *John Lange* became the first official president. On September 24 the Articles of Incorporation and the Charter were submitted, approved and sealed by the State.

A motion was made by *Chris Schwärzle* of Port St Lucie to celebrate the first Florida German American Heritage Day on April 11, 1992. The Miami club was selected to host this first-ever event, with annual Heritage Day events following in 1993 at the Palm Beaches, 1994 in Central Florida, and 1995 in Cape Coral.

By the time the 1996 event rolled around, there were twenty-seven member clubs and the Osceola Agricultural Center was chosen for the event. *Inge Denys*, president of Central Florida, rose to the occasion (as usual) and offered to cook for a packed house. Unfortunately, it was raining "cats and dogs". There were power outages for several hours, but the beer was flowing, the food arrived by 3 p.m. and the event was "a rip-roaring success."

Commencing in 1997 UGASF was financially able to host this event at a larger, nicer facility with the St. Petersburg Coliseum being chosen annually until 2010, at which time the event was moved to central Florida at the request of the majority of the clubs.

In 2011 and 2012 we held weekend events at the Wyndham Resort facility: Heimat Abend was held on Saturday, with the Heritage Day on Sunday. Future events were held at the American German Club of the Palm Beaches, German American Club of Cape Coral, The Bahia Shriners in Orlando, and for three years at the clubhouse of the German American Club of Central Florida. The 2120 event was cancelled in Pinellas Park due to the Covid-19 virus restrictions.

UGASF is a not-for-profit organization. The Corporation is organized and shall be operated for the purposes of:

- promoting German customs and traditions by unifying member German-American clubs in the State of Florida;
- furthering communications and cooperation among member organizations;
- by representing member organizations on a State and National level.

The purposes shall include but not be limited to the collection and dissemination or presentation of educational materials and programs to its members and to the general public about German music, dance, folklore, art, language and other customs and traditions.

At the request of the Honorary Chairman, *Willie Schöps*, officers and members of UGASF took part in the 35th annual German-American Steuben Parade held on

the famous Fifth Avenue in New York in 1992. Prior to the parade our UGASF banner was completed dedicated at this event.

In an effort to promote and preserve German language and culture, UGASF has awarded two \$1000 scholarships in the past to FASG FL High School students who excelled in the study of the German language and continued to study German at an accredited college or university.

Since the founding of UGASF in 1990, past presidents of our organization are: *Fritz Eggerts, John Lange, Klaus Kohl, Hannelore Crothers, Bud Schmitt, Uwe Kellner, Kurt Nolden, and presently, Kurt Freiter.*



Below is a list of **present** and **past UGASF Member Clubs**. All clubs marked with an * are members of UGASF in 2022. The majority of the past clubs have totally disbanded, generally due to attrition of membership. Unfortunately, many ethnic clubs are having these same problems...people are getting older; young people are not joining.

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| Bonita Springs | Brevard County |
| *Cape Coral | *Central Florida |
| Charlotte County | Daytona Beach |
| Dunedin—Steuben Society of American – Unit #813 | Gainesville |
| Grove Land | *Hollywood |
| Lakeland | Manatee County |
| *Marion County | *Miami |
| *Miami – Schuhplattler Auerhahn | Naples – Gemütlichkeit |
| Naples – Harmonie | New Port Richey |
| *Orlando – Schuhplattler Alpenrose | Osceola |
| *Palm Beaches | Palm Coast |
| *Pinellas County | St. Augustine |
| *Sarasota | *Spring Hill |
| *Sun City Center | Tampa Bay Bären |
| *Tampa Bay Cultural Center | The Villages – Deutscher Club |
| The Villages – GA Club | *Treasure Coast |
| *Venice | Vero Beach |
| *West Central Florida | |

UGASF CLUB FEBRUARY EVENTS IN FLORIDA

Feb 12 – Prinzenball

Feb 19/20 – Bierfest or Gardenfest

Friday nights: members and guests
“gemütlicher” Abend

CENTRAL FLORIDA...Feb 5 Heimatabend

with Alex Meixner

Feb 26 – Maskenball with Europa

Alpanrose Schuhplattler...Feb 19

AccordionFest 2022 at Clubhouse of
German American Society of Central
Florida 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. \$10 p.p.

HOLLYWOOD... Feb 12 Valentine's

Dinner Dance; Music by Shane Lemar
Entertainment

Feb 26 – Karneval / Fasching – Music by
Bob Houston; Entertainment by Brazilian
Carnival Dancers

Marion County...Feb 27 Dinner Dance

with Eva Adams @ noon

Marion Oaks Community Center

PALM BEACHES...Feb 20 – Bierfest

Picnic in pavilion \$25 members/\$35
guests

Feb 27 – Frühschoppen – free admission
all items a la carte

PINELLAS PARK...Feb 5 Heimat Abend with
Eva Adams.

Feb 12 – Black & White Ball with Frank Svet

Feb 19 – Valentine's Dance/Country with John
Johnson

Feb 26 – Carnival Costume Ball with Matthias

SARASOTA...Feb 26 – Valentine's Day Dance
with Sepp

SPRING HILL...Feb 18 – Western Night with
Eva Adams

SUN CITY CENTER...Fasching Event

TAMPA CULTURAL CENTER...Lunch @
Bon Appetit, Dunedin at 11:30.

Cultural Conversation group – monthly

Feb 11 – operatampa.org

Hoffmann's Erzählungen

The Villages...Feb 17 – Dancing to the tunes of
Europa

TREASURE COAST...Feb 20 President's
Dinner Dance; Music by Solid Gold/Jack Kelly
@ 1 p.m.

VENICE...Feb 19 – Mardi Gras with music by
Eva Adams

WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA...No event

IMPORTANT PHILOSOPHICAL QUESTIONS ON LIFE!

Why do supermarkets make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front?

Why do banks leave vault doors open and then chain the pens to the counter?

Why do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in our driveways and put our useless junk in the garage?

Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called RUSH HOUR?

Why do they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?

Remember our Website: **UGASFLORIDA.ORG**

Send all information & suggestions to
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