

GERMAN AMERICAN SOCIETY FRIENDSHIP OF PINELLAS COUNTY

NEWSLETTER

Since 1951 May 2024

Gulf Coast Enzianer Schuhplattler Verein FC Bayern München Fan Club

Next Membership Meeting: Thursday, May 9 7:00PM





Rainer Mortham President Hello, friends! Grüße, Freunde!

Congratulations to Welton Brewing Company and Oyster Bar for their Grand Opening of their restaurant and bar last month in what we traditionally called our Festhalle. The Weltons serve a delicious Maine Lobster and Oyster menu, in addition to a selection of wines and beers. May our partnership prosper in the future!

Announcement correction on my part: At this time our door fees for members at \$7, and guests at \$10, remain the same. Only some of the menu prices have increased: the Special to \$16 and a couple of single items from \$8 to \$10.

Last month's changes implemented by our Entertainment Committee, attracted a different crowd: the "Schlager Party", evening with Josef Winter and the CD night with the theme of "Spring Break Beach Party". Hans' special drinks at the bar were also quite a different experience for our club. Thank you Schuhplattler ladies for your efforts! Our **Kulturabend**, covering the state of Baden-Württemberg, (Stuttgart, Karlsruhe, Pforzheim, Mannheim, Freiburg and the Schwarzwald), inclusive the Maultaschen dinner, presented by Timmy Rachford and crew, was an impressive success, attended by over 60 guests! Einfach toll!

The Board decided to move the Friday evening Stammtisch event from the Bierstube to the Biergarten, hours 5-9 PM. (Biergarten Saturday hours are still 5-10). We have recognized that the Welton Brewing Co. and Oyster Bar customers also enjoy our Biergarten along with the multiple choices of German Biers that we serve;. We are taking advantage of this fact! Prost!

Maifest begins at noon on May 18th and ends at 7. Manni Daum will be playing Maifest during the afternoon, (2-6) and Josef Winter will play for the <u>Maifest Dance</u> in Germania Hall in the evening, 7-11 PM. Our own Schuhplattlers will also perform in both venues on this day. As a complete surprise, Sepp will entertain us for our <u>Memorial Day Dance</u> May 25, after which he will return to Germany.

Friends! We all need to attend the **OPEN HOUSE** at our Thursday, May 9, General Membership meeting. It will be an informational and organizational gathering pertaining to **Maifest** on the 18th. Group leaders will present a short overview of their volunteers' responsibilities. We intend to use the Maifest "dry run" as feedback for our upcoming Oktoberfest.

IMPORTANT: <u>The board will also present a contract for the renewal of our three roofs, required by our insurance agency in order for them to be able to continue to insure our organization and property.</u>

Your President Rainer/Ray

P.S. Reminder: We will continue to review, discuss and approve By-Law changes. At the completion of this process the committee will update, using a different print format.



Willkommen Freunde und Besucher!

Das Ziel unserer Gesellschaft ist die Deutsch Amerikanische Freundschaft zu fördern.

Bitte lassen sie uns auf einem Bogen (gelegen neben der Küchentür der Tanzhalle) wissen, von welcher Stadt oder welchem Land in Deutschland, Österreich, oder Kanton der Schweiz sie stammen oder herkommen.

Es erfreut uns sie kennenzulernen und wünschen Ihnen Viel Spass und Vergnügen während des Aufenhalts hier in Florida!

Rainer Mortham, Präsident

Ilse Kearney Sunshine Lady

Hello Members and Friends.

This month, I have not heard from any person telling me they are ill. I had a long conversation with Janet Link and she informed me about all the troubles she went through in the last few months, starting with having blocked arteries, heart trouble, and several other symptoms. I am just glad that she is still well enough to be mobile. Thanks to her husband Martin who drove her all over the place from one doctor visit to another. Thank you both for being with us.

I spoke with Erna - our oldest member - this past Saturday and she is having quite a lot of trouble with her big toe on her right foot. The wound just doesn't want to

heal. I am glad Erna is in great spirits.

Wyley is doing the best he can. Nursing home life is not always the best - we get it! Elisabeth Sellick keeps on motoring. I am so inspired by Elisabeth and her enthusiasm. Keep it up Elisabeth.

Has anyone heard from the Winkler's? It seems that every time I call, it's the wrong time. All our Schuhplattlers are in good shape; all ready to dance at the Maifest on Saturday May 18th. Our

treasurer Karin is bouncing around quite well again. I am so glad that her knee has healed up so well and she no longer needs a wheel chair.

I am asking again, please inform me should any person in your family not feel well. We are happy to help and support them.

Des Lebens unbescholt'ne Freuden Sind Freundschaft, Liebe, froher Sinn, Und unter diesen Seligkeiten Fließ' jeder Deiner Tage hin.

- Sprichwort

Dear Members,

We have received one scholarship application so far. The scholarship starts in September 2024.

If you have a child graduating from high school this year and if they are interested in college, let us know. Our Scholarship application is available on our club's website or just sent me an email: ilsekearney@yahoo.com and I will forward a complete application to you.

Your Scholarship Chairperson - Ilse

ST. PETERSBURG INTERNATIONAL FOLK FAIR SOCIETY

On Sunday, April 28, the St. Petersburg International Folk Fair Society (SPIFFS) hosted a picnic at Lake Seminole Park for its member clubs. Complete with food and music, it was a wonderful event that allowed participants to get to know each other. There was a diverse array of cuisines representing different cultures, which provided a unique culinary experience for everyone involved. The music enhanced the ambiance and created a festive atmosphere, making it a memorable gathering where people could connect through food and music from around the world. Overall, it was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate diversity and enjoy delicious homemade dishes while enjoying the company of fellow members.

The German American Society has been a long time Sponsor of SPIFFS and we are happy to have supported them throughout the years

If anyone is interested in community outreach, please reach out to George White or Eric Schutzendorf! There is always room for more people who are passionate about German culture and traditions!



CRAFTING CLUB

Are you interested in unleashing your creativity through crafting? Join our newly formed Crafting at the Club group! Whether you're a seasoned crafter or just starting out, we welcome individuals of all skill levels and backgrounds. From sewing and crocheting to scrapbooking and jewelry making, there's something for everyone. Connect with like-minded individuals, share tips and tricks, and embark on crafting adventures together. Work on your own project, or join in on a group project. We plan on meeting once or twice a month, on Sunday afternoons. We also encourage everyone to bring snacks to share. If you're interested, use the QR code to join the WhatsApp group and stay updated on the group's happenings!



Crafting at the Club

Sew. Knit. Crochet. Embroider, or Craft to your heart's content alongside a supportive group of like-minded members!

German American Society, 8098 66th St N Pinellas Park, FL 33781 Every other Sunday, 1-4 pm Scan below to join the WhatsApp group!



WHAT IS MAIFEST AND A MAIBAUM?

As the flowers bloom and the warmth of spring envelopes the air, communities across the globe come together to celebrate the joyous arrival of May with Maifest. Maifest is a jubilant festival that marks the transition from the cold grip of winter to the lively embrace of spring.

Maifest traces its roots back to pre-Christian times when Germanic tribes marked the halfway point between spring and summer, and performed different rituals to ensure fertility and abundance, like dancing around the Maibaum.

The centerpiece for any Maifest is the Maibaum, or May tree/pole. It is erected in the town center and decorated with signs and shields of the trades people in the town. Stealing the Maibaum is a playful tradition in some German-speaking regions where young men from neighboring villages attempt to steal the decorated Maibaum from another village as a prank. It's usually done in good spirits and if successful, is often followed by negotiations for beer and celebrations between the villages involved.

In addition to the typical beverages found at German festivals, no Maifest celebration would be complete without the May specialties, Maibock and Maibowle. Maibock bier is a traditional lager beer brewed for springtime consumption. It's known for its strong malty flavor, deep golden color, and slightly higher alcohol content compared to other lagers. Maibowle is a traditional punch made by mixing white wine with sweet woodruff syrup, fresh strawberries, and sometimes a splash of sparkling wine or champagne.



Maifest is more than just a festival; it is a celebration of community spirit and togetherness. It provides an opportunity for neighbors to come together, forge new friendships, and strengthen existing ones, as it fosters a sense of belonging and Gemütlichkeit.



The German American Society proudly hosts an annual Maifest. This year it is on May 18th, from Noon to 7PM. It takes place out in our Biergarten where we have a permanent Maibaum (May Pole) erected. When the Hofbräuhaus in downtown St. Peterburg closed, we asked and received permission to relocate their 31 foot long Maibaum to our Biergarten. On the evening of November 2, 2020, an intrepid collection of club members went to move it to our property. Fortunately, the Maibaum was already brought down, saving us that work. But there were two main issues in transporting the Maibaum: The length and the weight.

The Maibaum is essentially a brightly painted telephone pole. With a lot of hard work and a little

ingenuity, the team was able to get it loaded onto a trailer and driven to our property. Once there, the pole was freshly painted and a brand new, custom metal ring was fashioned. We also had custom signs and shields made.

Finally, we had it raised via crane and nestled into a solid concrete housing where our Maibaum now gloriously resides. If you've somehow missed noticing it, be sure to take a view at the Maibaum the next time you are in the Biergarten .

Gemütlich-Celt

Grab your kilts, lederhosen, and dirndls! Experience the fusion of German and Celtic heritage in an evening filled with music, dance, and delicious food!



Saturday, June 22, 2024 6 - 11 pm

Tickets:

\$30/\$25 Adults (Guests/Members) \$20/\$15 Kids (Guests/Members) Kids Under 5 Free!

Includes Celtic and German Sample Platter (Dessert Available)

Entertainment By:

Drunken Shrubbery

Celtic Dancers

Gulf Coast Enzianer Schuhplattler Verein



Presented By:

Dunedin New World Celts

The German - American Society Friendship of Pinellas County



The German-Amercan Society 8098 66th St N, Pinellas Park, FL 33781



For More Information:

https://germantampabay.com/gemutlich-celt/

Get Your Tickets



Email: infogcesv@gmail.com for dietary and allergy requests



The Krampus Verein is off and running, putting together the details of this new club, working on sourcing costumes, and preparing their schedule of events. The club will host social events throughout the year. At Christmas time, there will be a Krampus Night and a Krampus Market that will coincide with the Christkindlmarkt. If interested, please contact Todd Bogner at tbogner32@gmail.com, or via text at 813-610-2531.



OPEN HOUSE

ATTENTION ALL GERMAN AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP MEMBERS (and potential members)

SPECIAL OPEN HOUSE Thursday, May 9 7pm

The German American Friendship Society (GAFS) is hosting an Open House Thursday, May 9 in the main hall. This is open to the public and will supplant most of the May membership meeting agenda. We want everyone to make a special effort to come and invite your friends to learn what GAFS is all about. This should be very informative!

The Open House will be a combination recruiting drive and launch of the six new volunteer groups that we have been talking about. These new groups



are a way to add a more personal level of communication, give members a senior person who can guide them if they have questions, and most importantly, welcoming and socializing new members as they join the club.



We already have more members in first 4 months of 2024 than all of 2023. "New" members might not know others in the club or how things function. To address this, the Open House will cover our club's background, our purpose, and a little about each of the main parts of our club.

Some members may not know, for example, that the club has several sub-organizations. We have the Saturday evening dances, the FC Bayern München Fan Club, and our Schuhplattler folk dance group. We are also starting a crafting club and the Krampus Verein is also just getting started.

The Biergarten is open to the public every Friday and Saturday. We have special Members-only activities

such as bi-monthly Sunday Frühschoppen and the bi-monthly Kulturabend.

We host annual fests including: Maifest, Sausagefest, Kriskindlmarkt and of course Oktoberfest.

We also do hall & grounds rentals, host Tampa Bay Rowdies watch parties, and other events like Molly B concerts/dances. All these will be briefly covered.

Following the Open House program, we will break out into the 6 groups, then the bars will open and the kitchen will have currywurst and fries available. That's when we get down to the main business of our club: **Gemütlichkeit.**



Hope to see you there!





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Cerman American Society 8098 66th Street North Pinellas Park, FL 39781

Cermantampabay.com



President	Rainer Mortham
1 st Vice President	Michael Tressler
2 nd Vice President	Manuela Hendrickson
Treasurer	Karin Rohret
Financial Secretary	Lydia Hickey
Secretary	Brandon Welton
Corresponding Secretary	Maggie Welton
Parliamentarian	Manuela Hendrickson
Past President	Debbie Del Favero
Directors	Term
Eric Schutzendorf	2024
Angelika Smith	2024
Ernie Vogt	2024
Timmy Rachford	2025
Kim Barkman	2025
Michael Meile	2026
Susanna McColley	2026
Committee Chairperso	ns
Bar	Hans Dragilla
Biergarten	Manuela Hendrickson, Karin Rohret
Building	Michael Meile
Decorating	Linda Kremkau
Entertainment	Linda Kremkau
FC Bayern Fan Club	Timmy Rachford
Hall Rental	Karin Rohret
Kitchen	Timmy Rachford
Membership	Angelika Smith
Publicity/Website	Michael Tressler
Scholarship	Ilse Kearney
SPIFFS	George White
Sunshine Lady	Ilse Kearney
UGASF	Ilse Kearney

RENT THE HALL

Did you know that members can rent any of the available event spaces for 50% off?

Birthday parties, office parties, club meetings, card groups, anniversaries, retirement parties –there is something for everyone.



You can rent not just the main hall but also the Bierstube or the Biergarten!

Let your family and friends know about these great spaces for their events.

Contact Ernie Vogt:

evogt1121@gmail.com

Or call the club: 727-350-6520



FC BAYERN FAN CLUB

Servus, Bayern Fans!

As we approach the final stretch of the season, the excitement at Bayern Munich remains undiminished. Let's delve into what lies ahead for the Bayarian giants in May 2024.



After this Saturdays loss to VfB Stuttgart, Bayern onlny has a two point lead for Stuttgart for second placce. Any slip ups by Bayern oer the last two games could cost them second place.

On Sunday, May 12, Bayern hosts VfL Wolfsburg at the Allianz Arena.

Saturday May 18th, Bayern ends the season at Hoffenheim

This summer, we will also be hosting watch parties for the German national team in the Euros and the US Men's National Team playing in Copa America. We will have food specials and other fun surprises for these games.

USEFUL WEBSITES

GERMAN CONSULATE GENERAL IN MIAMI miami.diplo.de

UNITED GERMAN AMERICAN SOCIETY OF FLORIDA ugasflorida.org

GERMAN NEWS IN ENGLISH thelocal.de

MUSIC FROM GERMANY surfmusic.de/bundesland.htm

YOUR HOME NEWSPAPER FROM GERMANY

www.onlinenewspapers.com/germany.htm

GERMANS TRAVELING TO U.S. VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

de.usembassy.gov/visa-

German National Team at Euro 2024

Qualification: Germany, as the host nation, has automatically qualified for Euro 2024. However, their preparations haven't been ideal due to managerial changes. Julian Nagelsmann's task is to fine-tune the team and build confidence.

Group Stage: Drawn in Group C, Germany will face Hungary, Scotland, and Switzerland.

US Mens National Team in Copa America

The USMNT, led by coach Gregg Berhalter, is gearing up for the Copa America. Their friendlies against Colombia and Brazil in early June will serve as crucial tune-ups. With the tournament hosted on home soil, the Yanks aim to prove their readiness for the big stage.

Buckle up for an exhilarating May and Fussball all summer long!

Prost!

Our Team of professionals speaks many languages but most of all - we speak the language of Real Estate.

Your needs are our focus.

As an active member of GAFS I will make a donation to the Club for every real estate transaction initiated through club members of our wonderful organization.

> Manuela Hendrickson, Broker 727-455-2709 www.Globallifestylerealty.com

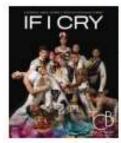


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Dinner & Opera/Theater/Classical Concert









"Waltz into Spring", Clearwater/St.Pete: The Florida Orchestra 11:00 am (5/1,2)

G.F.Handel, Tampa Bay Symphony:, Straz, NTPAC, Palladium, St Pete, (5/5,7,10,12)

Opera in HD: Live from the Met: Puccini's Madama Butterfly (5/11)

New Musical: "Twelve Angry Men", AsoloRep, Sarasota, FL (5/11-6/9)

Rock Musical: American Stage Hedwig and the Angry Inch (German-LGBTQ),
St. Petersburg, FL (5/15-6/12)

Brahms' Double Concerto, 18th May 2024 The Florida Orchestra, Mahaffey
Theater, St. Petersburg, FL

Mahler's Resurrection, <u>25th May</u> 2024 The Florida Orchestra, Mahaffey Theater , St. Petersburg, FL

Museum: "Survival of the Fittest": The Great Four (Richard Friese,Carl Rungius,Wilhelm Kuhnert,Bruno Liljefors, 1854-1959) Wildlife Painters, James Museum St.Pete, FL,(2/17- <u>Sunday,May 26, 2024</u>)

DINNER 5:00 pm & Theater/OPERA/Klassík 2:00/8:00pm

Make your own OPERA/theater reservations, please

To connect 813-416-8434, Susannen2@verizon.net

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

To all those who love to dance and enjoy a really good meal, I would encourage all to come enjoy the Saturday Night dances. We work hard to provide the entertainment and dream up the themes for each and every Saturday night event. We have added special drinks and dinners for all to enjoy. It's a time to meet new people and even learn to dance. Please support our club by attending these Saturday night dances and bring your friends.

For May, we have scheduled more dances. See the schedule of events in the newsletter for details.

Sepp agreed to play for us one last time for the Memorial Day dance before leaving for Germany on June 9th and retirement! Honestly, we all will truly miss him and his wonderful music! Best wishes always Sepp!

Joseph Winter played German music for the first time for us on April 6 for our Schlager Party. He proved to be very entertaining and he's invited back for the Maifest evening dance on May 18. Manni Daum entertained us with his robust German music for Heimat Abend and he kept us dancing throughout the night. We will see him again at Maifest in the Biergarten during the afternoon hours.

Our Spring Break Beach Party featured Renae as our DJ who played requests with lots of beach music and line dancing. The decorations were really fun with hula hoops, beach balls, and fun glasses. It doesn't take much for us to have a really good time. Thanks to the 'young' folks who turned out to support our club that night!





I just wanted to thank Susanne, Ilse, Hans, Rainer, and Steve for working together to make these functions better to serve our guests. Rainer and Steve shop during the week to make mouthwatering special meals each Saturday night. And Hans and Vicki create drink specials that have become popular, especially the sweet drinks such as the Mai Tai's, Grasshoppers, and Strawberry Daiquiris!

Also, a huge thank you to all those who support our club by volunteering each Saturday night at the door, counter, and bar. And we cannot forget those who MC for us, clean up, take out the trash, and close! We really appreciate what you do for the German American Society! THANK YOU!

Linda, Susanne, and Ilse Entertainment Committee

UPCOMING EVENTS

5/8	FC Bayern v Real Madrid (Champions League) (3-5 Pl	M)
5/8	Schuhplattler Practice (7 PM)	New dancers welcome
5/9	Open House and Membership Meeting	
5/10	Biergarten (5-9)	
5/11	Mother's Day Dinner and Dance (6-11)	Brad Turk and Frank Maravick
5/11	Biergarten (6-10)	
5/12	FC Bayern v Wolfsburg (12:30A-3P)	
5/17	Biergarten (5-9)	
5/18	FC Bayern v Hoffenheim (9:30A-Noon)	
5/18	Maifest (Noon-7)	
5/18	May Dinner and Dance (6-11)	Josef Winter
5/22	Schuhplattler Practice (7 PM)	New dancers welcome
5/23	Krampus Verein Meeting (6PM)	New members welcome
5/24	Biergarten (5-9)	
5/25	Memorial Day Dinner and Dance (6-11)	Sepp
5/25	Ribs and Riffs! Biergarten (7-10)	
5/29	Schuhplattler Practice (7 PM)	New dancers welcome
5/31	Biergarten (5-9)	
6/1	Tampa Bay Rowdies Watch Party (9:30P-11:30P)	vs Sacramento Republic
6/5	Schuhplattler Practice (7 PM)	New dancers welcome
6/7	Biergarten (5-9)	

SATURDAY NIGHT DANCE VOLUNTEERS

Date	Counter	Door	MC	Garbage	Closing	We reserve the right to change the entertainment. Dress code at dances: No shorts. Lederhosen and Dirndls welcome anytime.
5/4	Laura P. Susie F.		Rainer		Rainer	
5/11	Kelly K. Maura P.	John K.	Rod G.	Rainer	Rainer	
5/18	Linda K. Barbara B.	Georg B.	Rainer	Rainer	Rainer	For dances, Main Hall doors open at 6:00 pm. Dancing from 7
5/25	Don W. Ilse K.	Tara W.	Rod G.	Rainer	Ilse K.	until 11:00 pm. Dinner service ends at 8:00.

BIERGARTEN VOLUNTEERS

Date	Volunteers	Date	Volunteers
5/4	Michael Chantal	5/24	Oz
5/10	Ernie	5/ソ5	Aric Chantal
5/11	Paul Manuela	5/31	Michael
5/17	Manuela	G/1	Karin Manuela

ROWDIES VOLUNTEERS

VOLOIVILLING			
Date	Volunteers		
5/4 4:00	Manuela		
6/1 10:00	Michael		
6/8 10:00	Ernie		
6/21 7:30	Maggie		



Brad Turk

352.875.3961 bradturk@cox.net

- Oktoberfest
- Special Events
- Weddings
- **Private Parties**
- And More!









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Das + Heilige - Abendmahl + wird - jeden + Monat - gefeiert.

Nach=dem=Gottesdienst=folgt=eine=gemütliche=Stunde=mit= Kaffee, *Kuchen, *und *deutschen *Liedern *zum *mitsingen.

Rease submit any news articles, pictures, or feedback to:

newsletter@germantampa.com

German American Society, Inc. 809866thSt.N. Pinellas Park, FL33781



MEMORIAL DAY DANCI

JOIN US!

MAY 25

ADMISSION \$7 MEMBERS 6:00 - 11:00 PM | \$10 GUESTS

FULL BAR

A full cash bar is available.

Signature Cocktail:

Sea Breeze (\$7) Vodka with Cranberry and Grapefruit Juices

DINNER (6 - 8 PM)

All dinners served with a side salad.

- Schnitzel, Bratwurst, or Leberkäse (\$8-\$14)
- Dinner Special: Pulled Pork Sliders with Coleslaw and Baked Beans (\$16)
- Additional sides, authentic German pretzels, and dessert available.

LIVE MUSIC

Sepp

Large dance floor!

German American Society of Pinellas County 8098 66th St N, Pinellas Park, FL 33781

www.GermanTampaBay.com

All menu offerings and entertainment are subject to change without notice.







