



GERMAN AMERICAN SOCIETY FRIENDSHIP OF PINELLAS COUNTY

# NEWSLETTER

Since 1951

March 2024

Gulf Coast Enzianer Schuhplattler Verein  
FC Bayern München Fan Club

Next Membership Meeting:  
Thursday, March 14 7:00PM

# SAUSAGE FEST



## Tampa Bay's Wurst Festival

**Radeberger**  
PILSNER

Sponsored by  
Radeberger

**Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>  
11AM - 8PM**





**Rainer Mortham**  
President

Greetings friends! Grüsse Freunde!

With Michael Tressler and Todd Bogner at the helm, the German American Society is celebrating our second *Sausage Fest* on Saturday, March 9, 11AM to 8PM in the Biergarten. As the premier event for March, it is newly sponsored by **Radeberger** Brewery. Over twelve different sausage styles, including South African, Polish, British, and more are being prepared by different GAS groups and vendors. The program will include our own Enzianer Schuhplattlers and the last ever appearance of Sepp from Germany. He will entertain us both in the Biergarten in the afternoon and then in Germania Hall in the evening. Come enjoy authentic German beer, food, pretzels and desserts by Mama G's. This is a family friendly event with fun and games including Dachshund races! Watch the Wieners run!

Another March event is the return of Manni Daum on Saturday evening, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, with the Bavarian Night theme. Come and enjoy his music!

In the next several membership meetings we will have to review, discuss, and approve By-Law changes. Afterwards the committee will update and print them. This should improve the everyday functions of our friendship association.

Also, to increase the number of volunteers and their selection of activities which better reflect their talents and wishes, David Slosser is now is tabulating the updated membership forms. Designated Volunteer Group Leaders will contact you soon.

The permanent rental of our *Festhalle* will help to stabilize our financial situation and we look forward to the soft opening of the *Welton Brewery and Oyster Bar* in March!

Of course, you are always invited to join any of the activities in the Biergarten, every Saturday evening, from 6-10 p.m. and activities sponsored by our Bayern München Fan Club. Watching soccer games in the Bierstube is great fun! Schedule is posted on the doors, website, and Facebook. Viel Spass!

Spring is approaching, changes are arising all around us, hopefully for the better. Hope, of course, is not a plan, and so it is up to us, to every member of this friendship association, to effect positive changes for the betterment of our organization, by becoming an active member and participating in our monthly activities. We need your support!

Your President - Rainer/Ray



**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 Aufenthalts hier in Florida!

Rainer Mortham, Präsident



**Ilse Kearney**  
Sunshine Lady

Hello Members and Friends,

Spring is on its way!

I have not heard much from all our members, yet I have to say that I myself have been very busy the last 4 weeks. First came Werner's preparation for his bladder surgery, where it all went downhill. The surgery went well, yet the anesthesia...I don't know. It took Werner 22 hours to come too after surgery. Werner went for surgery on Wednesday came home on Friday evening and went right back to St Anthony's Hospital on Saturday morning at 4:00pm. We just had a "Celebration of Life" for Werner at the club. How fragile life can be (and is)!

Our bartender Janice is in St Anthony's hospital with an infection. The chemo-port which she is needing for her chemo treatment has infected. She does not know for how much longer she has to stay there, nor does she know when her chemo treatment will continue.

I saw Wyley at the club on Friday. He looks fine, yet Lillie informed me his ability to walk is slim to nothing. Wyley is in a nursing home now and the nursing homes name is: Arden Court, 300 Highland Avenue.

Our Elisabeth Sellick still has admirable humor. Elisabeth keep it up!

I sure hope all our members are in good healthy conditions. Please don't hesitate and give me a call or sent an email to inform me of any happenings.

"Thank You" to all the members participating in the Celebration of Life for Werner. Thank you also for the cards and condolences. I am grateful to all for sharing this difficult time with me.

Respectfully,

Ilse Kearney



*Wenn die Schwalben heimwärts ziehen  
Und die Rosen nicht mehr blühen,  
Wenn der Nachtigall Gesang  
Mit der Nachtigall verklang,  
Fragt das Herz in bangem Schmerz:  
Ob ich dich auch wiederseh?  
Scheiden, ach, Scheiden tut weh!  
Carl Herloßsohn*

Hello Friends and Members,

May I have your attention: the United German American Society Florida – UGASF is having its Heritage fest in co-junction with the Miami German American club and it's Schuhplattler club Anniversary. Our Schuhplattler Club is participating in the dancing activities. The festivity starts on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and will end on Sunday March 4<sup>th</sup>. 2024. Come and participate, enjoy the camaraderie with other participating clubs.

Anyone interested, the UGASF has special rates for hotel stay. Please get in touch with me for further information.

Your UGASF Delegates - Ilse and Anne

Dear Members,

It's application for Scholarship time again. The German Club has a scholarship program for our members and families. If you have a child graduating from high school this year and 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](mailto:ilsekearney@yahoo.com) and I will forward a complete application to you.

Your Scholarship Chairperson - Ilse



# SAUSAGE FEST



Tampa Bay's Wurst Festival

12+ different sausage styles

Dachshund races!

Fun and games

Family friendly

Local vendors

Delicious German beer

Live DJ

German pretzels and desserts

Dances by the Enzianer Schuhplattlers



Sponsored by Radeberger

Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>  
11AM - 8PM

German American Society  
8098 66<sup>th</sup> St N • Pinellas Park, FL 33781  
germantampabay.com



## SEPP FROM GERMANY

Josef Diepolder, or Sepp as he is known all around the world, was born in 1939 in Ahmendingen, Germany, which is in the Allgäu region near Memmingen. Raised by a mother who played guitar and traveled to perform, he began playing music at an early age so that he could accompany her on weekends. As a young man, he was a member of the Gebirgsjäger in Garmisch-Patenkirchen.

In 1965, Sepp moved to Meersburg to take advantage of musical opportunities, and began traveling throughout Europe. While playing in Rotterdam in 1967, he was contracted to play at the World Exhibition in Montreal, Canada. This turned out to be a big break for Sepp. He began playing all over North America. From the Pacific Northwest to Florida and from California to Washington DC, he was everywhere. Helen, GA, Veil, CO, all the way to Hawaii. He spent 19 years of nonstop touring.



The late 70's brought him to Florida more frequently, and he began playing in Daytona, and at the Heidelberg Castle Restaurant in Sarasota. That's where he met the future owner of the Matterhorn Restaurant in Tampa, where he also performed.

In addition to accordion, he plays baritone, trombone, and concert zither!

I'm sure you know he is not only a talented musician and a consummate "Stimmungsmacher", but also a genuinely wonderful person.

For many years, the Schuhplattler group danced to music recorded by Sepp and his brother, Heinz.

It seems the time has come for him to retire from his U.S. adventures and return to Meersburg.

Please join us on March 9, as we celebrate the many years of music and memories Sepp has given us.

Lieber Sepp, pfiat di und vergelt's Gott.



## SEPP'S FAREWELL

JOIN US!

MAR 9 | ADMISSION  
6:00 - 11:00 PM | \$7 MEMBERS  
\$10 GUESTS

### FULL BAR

A full cash bar is available

Signature Cocktail: Radler (\$7)

### DINNER (6 - 8 PM)

All dinners served with a side salad.

- Schnitzel, Bratwurst, or Leberkäse (\$12)
- Dinner Special:** Schnitzel with Käsespätzle and Cucumber Salad **OR** a Larger Side of Käsespätzle with Cucumber Salad (\$14)
- Additional sides, authentic German pretzels, and dessert available.

### LIVE MUSIC

Sepp

Large dance floor!



# ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

We have a busy month ahead of us with March having five Saturday night dances. They are:

- 3/2 – Bill Castner – Golden Oldies
- 3/9 – Sepp’s Farewell Night
- 3/16 – Jackie V – St. Patrick’s Day
- 3/23 – Manni Daum – Bavarian Night
- 3/30 – Eva Adams – Easter Parade

Bill Castner, King of Dance, Sing, and Swing, brings in the crowd with his Golden Oldies. He plays songs that we can all sing along with and dance the night away.

On March 9, Sepp will have a full day playing for the Sausage Fest in the afternoon and again in the main hall that same evening. A farewell celebration is being planned honoring Sepp who has been playing at our club for many, many years. A special presentation will be prepared along with a photo booth for Sepp to take photos with all his friends at the club. Hopefully, he can look back at his time playing for the Pinellas Park German American Society with fond memories. Please come to wish Sepp well as he leaves for Germany in April. He will be sorely missed!

St. Patrick’s day, with Jackie V entertaining us, brings out the Irish in all of us. We hope everyone who attends the dance wears something green. If you wear green, the Leprechauns won’t be able to see you. But if you’re sporting any other color this day, you’re easier to find for them to pinch you. This is according to legend. Sláinte!

As mentioned in the President’s message, Manni Daum returns once again to entertain us with his German music. It has been a while since he’s played at our Saturday night dances. It will absolutely feel like Oktoberfest that night.

Then it’s almost Easter, when we will have Eva Adams playing for us. Dress in your Easter best and wear those Easter bonnets!

For the Saturday night dances, Steve in the kitchen has added a special dinner related to our theme of the night. So far, these dinners have gone over well. Additionally, we will continue to add a special drink of the night and will advertise the drink with a flyer and provide a list of drinks with the costs. All the special drinks will be made with what we have on hand so there shouldn’t be added costs to the bar.

We’ve placed small dance flyers on the tables to further advertise our events. This will better inform folks letting them know who’s playing the following week. The marquee seems to be benefiting us with each week’s dance theme advertised so folks driving by can see what’s happening.

Also, at the Saturday Night dances, Linda will be taking on the role of hostess to welcome newcomers who come in the door to make them feel welcome and showing them where to go for food, drinks, etc. Hopefully, this will make us more hospitable! We want them to leave with a great experience and a memorable time.

Linda Kremkau, Entertainment Committee Chairperson,  
Ilse Kearney and Susanne Kern-McColley, Committee members



# GULF COAST ENZIANER SCHUHPLATTLER VEREIN

On March 24, the Gulf Coast Enzianer Schuhplattler Verein drove to Casselberry to participate in Trachtenfest. Trachtenfest celebrates all the national costumes of Germany.

This year’s festivities included a very special flag presentation by Schuhplattler Gruppe Alpenrose. Last summer, they traveled to Germany, not only to collect the hand embroidered flag, but also to host a traditional Bavarian flag blessing. The debut of the new flag, in Casselberry, was both moving and inspiring.

We performed an Ehrentanz in their honor, as did Original Auerhahn (Miami) and Orlando Trachtenverein (Orlando). The bands were wonderful and had everyone up and dancing all night long. As it is with these events, it’s always great to see old friends and meet new ones.



## FEBRUARY DANCES



Join us every **Saturday** from **6-10 PM** for beer and gemütlichkeit.



<b>President</b>	Rainer Mortham
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b>	Michael Tressler
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>	Manuela Hendrickson
<b>Treasurer</b>	Karin Rohret
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Lydia Hickey
<b>Secretary</b>	Brandon Welton
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	Maggie Welton
<b>Parliamentarian</b>	Manuela Hendrickson
<b>Past President</b>	Debbie Del Favero
<b>Directors</b>	<b>Term</b>
Eric Schutzendorf	2024
Angelika Smith	2024
Ernie Vogt	2024
Timmy Rachford	2025
Kim Barkman	2025
Michael Meile	2026
Susanna McColley	2026
<b>Committee Chairpersons</b>	
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 Karin Rohret:

rohret@onlinesunbiz.com

Or call the club: 727-350-6520



## FC BAYERN FAN CLUB

Servus Bayern Fans und Gruss Gott

February is coming to an end and the Bundesliga season is winding down as well with only 11 matchdays left in the current season.

The month was tough for FCB with Bayern losing 3 matches in a row for the first time in a decade yet we still sit in 2nd place, 8 points behind Bayer Leverkusen. Bayern are currently on 53 points which is the *highest ever point total in Bundesliga history for a 2nd place team* at this point in the season.

March kicks off this Friday as we travel to Freiburg for a 2:30pm kickoff. Next week we continue our Champions League matches as we host Lazio from Rome at the Allianz Arena, needing a win to overturn the 1st leg 0:1 defeat in Italy's capital city. That match is Tuesday, March 5th at 3pm.



Harry Kane continues his goal scoring ways with 2 goals this past weekend, leading Bayern to all 3 points at home versus RB Leipzig. Kane sits atop the Bundesliga goal scorers list on 27 goals in 23 matches. A few years back Robert Lewandowski broke a seemingly “unbreakable” record when he bested “Der Bomber” Gerd Mueller’s 40 goal season back in the early 1970’s by 1 to finish with the record 41 goals in a season. Kane has his eyes on that record now and if he can remain on form, he might just be the NEW all time goals in a season record holder.

Come join us at the Bierstube and FC Bayern Klubhaus for ALL matches of FC Bayern, and other Bundesliga matches too. If you are a fan of other teams we have the capability to show other matches on our eight high definition TV’s.

Just about every match also features some genuine homecooked German meals -not to mention a great selection of German draft and bottled beers at the Bierstube Bar ,served by the incomparable Maggie Welton!

Prost und Mia San Mia!

Timmy

## 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  
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www.onlinenewspapers.com/  
germany.htm

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

3/1	FC Bayern v SC Freiburg (2:30-5)	
3/1	Stammtisch (5-10)	
3/2	Golden Oldies Dinner and Dance (6-11)	Bill Castner
3/2	Biergarten (6-10)	
3/5	FC Bayern v Lazio (Champions League) (3-6)	
3/6	Schuhplattler Practice (6 PM)	New dancers welcome
3/8	Stammtisch (5-10)	
3/9	FC Bayern v Mainz (9:30-12:30)	
3/9	Sepp Farewell Celebration Dinner and Dance (6-10)	Sepp from Germany
3/9	Biergarten (8-10)	Sausage Fest ends but you don't have to leave!
3/13	Schuhplattler practice. (6 PM)	New dancers welcome
3/15	Stammtisch (6-10)	
3/16	FC Bayern v Darmstadt (10:30A-1:30P)	
3/16	St Patrick's Dinner and Dance (6-11)	The Jackie V Group
3/16	Biergarten (6-10)	
3/20	Schuhplattler practice (6 PM)	New dancers welcome!
3/22	Stammtisch (6-10)	Watch the basketball tournament!
3/23	Bavarian Night Dinner and Dance (6-11)	Manni Daum
3/23	Biergarten (6-10)	
3/27	Schuhplattler practice (6 PM)	New dancers welcome!
3/29	Stammtisch (6-10)	Watch the basketball tournament!
3/30	FC Bayern v Dortmund (10:30A-1:30P)	
3/30	Biergarten (6-10)	
3/30	Easter Parade Dinner and Dance (6-11)	Eva Adams

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## SATURDAY NIGHT DANCE VOLUNTEERS

Date	Counter	Door	Garbage	Closing
3/2	Don W.	Manfred L.	Rainer	Rainer
3/9	Linda K. Gisela D.	Don F.	Rainer	Rainer
3/16	Kelly K. Maura P.	John K.	Rainer	Rainer
3/23	Don W.	Tara W.	Rainer	Rainer
3/30	Kelly K. Maura P.	John K.	Rainer	Rainer

We reserve the right to change the entertainment.

Dress code at dances:  
No shorts. Lederhosen  
and Dirndls welcome  
anytime.

For dances, Main Hall  
doors open at 6:00 pm.  
Dancing from 7 until  
11:00 pm. Dinner service  
ends at 8:00.

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Advertising for 2023 (eleven issues)

Half page: \$30/mo \$330/year

Quarter page: \$20/mo \$220/year

Business card: \$10 /mo \$110/year

You are responsible for the graphics of your ad.

**Deutscher Gottesdienst**  
in der  
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Clearwater FL 33755

jeden 4. Sonntag des Monats um 15 Uhr .

Das Heilige Abendmahl wird jeden Monat gefeiert.  
Nach dem Gottesdienst folgt eine gemütliche Stunde mit  
Kaffee, Kuchen, und deutschen Liedern zum Mitsingen.

Please submit any news articles,  
pictures, or feedback to:  
**newsletter@germantampa.com**



German American Society, Inc.

8098 66th St. N.

Pinellas Park, FL 33781



# ST. PATRICK'S DAY

JOIN US!

**MAR 16** | **ADMISSION**  
6:00 - 11:00 PM | **\$7 MEMBERS**  
**\$10 GUESTS**



## FULL BAR

A full cash bar is available

### Signature Cocktail:

Grasshopper (\$7)

## DINNER (6 - 8 PM)

*All dinners served with a side salad.*

- Schnitzel, Bratwurst, or Leberkäse (\$12)
- **Dinner Special:** Corned Beef with Cabbage, Potato, and Carrots (\$14)
- Additional sides, authentic German pretzels, and dessert available.

## LIVE MUSIC

**Jackie V**

Large dance floor!

Follow Us



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

[www.GermanTampa.com](http://www.GermanTampa.com)

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