

## United German-American Society of Florida, Inc. (UGASF)

*This short newsletter is created to keep information flowing between board members, club members, and among clubs. Keep the path of communication open.*

Now it is official. The BOD had their past meeting and workshop at the Hofbrauhaus in St. Petersburg. President Freiter made the announcement at the UGASF membership meeting at the Cape Coral German Club on November 17, 2018 that the date for the German American Day festivities will be held at the Hofbrauhaus in St. Petersburg on March 3, 2019 from noon to 6pm. This get-together is not just another Oktoberfest or Beerfest, make sure all your members know about this. This would also be a good time to tell the club members what UGASF is about and does.

“People without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots” by Markus Garvey This Heritage Day get-together fulfills to the statement above! Everyone in Germany learns to read and write the correct German in schools, but as soon as we got home we spoke the regional dialect. 52 is the number of dialects spoken in Germany and we all understand each other, but when the Bavarian from the deep south and the Platt-deutsch in the far north talk they do not understand one-another. At this fest you may find others who speak your dialect and you can impress them.

Martin Luther was the one who decided in 1517 to translate the Bible into German but with nothing but regional dialects, he created a new language called “Hochdeutsch”. And when he was finished in 1534 it was accepted by the people, and everyone understood one-another, I think...

Now is a good time to practice German Gemuetlichkeit!

In an old list of Roman bishops, compiled in 354, the day December 25, 336, is the first recorded celebration of Christmas. For the first 300 years of the church's existence, birthdays were not given much emphasis – not even the birth of Christ. The day on which a saint died was considered more significant than his or her birth, as it ushered him or her into the Kingdom of heaven. Christ's baptism received more attention than his birthday in the January 6<sup>th</sup> feast of Epiphany.

The January 2019 meeting is scheduled to be held at the Casselberry German-American Society at noon.

The 2019 German Heritage Day will be March 3, 2019 at the Hofbrauhaus in St. Petersburg.

Check out the UGASF website: [ugasflorida.org](http://ugasflorida.org). Please add our email to your club's newsletter list: [ugasof@gmail.com](mailto:ugasof@gmail.com).

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