

## 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.*

“People without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots” by Markus Garvey

Now it is official. 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 Heritage Day festivities will be held at the Hofbrauhaus in St. Petersburg on March 3, 2019 from 10am 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.

This Heritage Day get-together fulfills the statement above! At this fest you may even find old friends and others who speak your dialect and you can impress them. Now is a good time to practice German Gemuetlichkeit!

The issue about some German clubs of UGASF mentioned in the German Life issue of Oct/Nov. 2018, the story written and pictures posted by David Volz. This story got out of hands at the UGASF meeting because some members had a different understanding, and assumed Susanne Nielsen was doing the research for David Volz without the authorization from the board. Susanne Nielsen is asking for a retraction of this information in the minutes at the next meeting.

"Auld Lang Syne" is as ubiquitous on New Year's Eve as booze and counting down from 10. But when the song plays over the weekend, a lot of folks won't even know what it means. The tune became part of New Year's Eve traditions across the globe, but it started in Scotland. Scottish poet Robert Burns claimed he was the first to put the lyrics of the ancient melody onto paper when he sent it to the Scots Musical Museum in 1788, according to a page about the song at Scotland.org. Burns didn't write the song, but did reportedly pen in a letter to a friend, "There is more of the fire of native genius in it than in half a dozen of modern English Bacchanalians!"

"Auld Lang Syne" roughly translates to "for old times' sake" and the song is about honoring one's friends and reminiscing about the year that's gone by.

Lyrics for the song differ because as time has gone by folks began making minor changes here and there. Mariah Carey's version, for instance, basically repeats the first two parts of the song over an increasingly fast beat. It's also unlikely you'll hear Burns's original version since most folks can't understand the language. But here are the full lyrics of an English translation, via *The Independent*, likely to be pretty close to what you'll hear—and really all that matters are the first eight lines:

*Should old acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind? Should old acquaintance be forgot, and old lang syne? - For auld lang syne, my dear, for auld lang syne, we'll take a cup of kindness yet, for auld lang syne. - And surely you'll buy your pint cup! and surely I'll buy mine! And we'll take a cup o' kindness yet, for auld lang syne. - We two have run about the slopes, and picked the daisies fine; But we've wandered many a weary foot, since auld lang syne. - We two have paddled in the stream, from morning sun till dine; But seas between us broad have roared since auld lang syne.*

## Happy New Year

The January 19, 2019 meeting is scheduled to be held at the Casselberry German-American Society, lunch at noon, meeting at 1:00pm.

The 2019 German Heritage Day will be March 3, 2019 at the Hofbrauhaus in St. Petersburg from 10am to 6pm.

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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