

# Der Botschafter

(the messenger), a monthly newsletter.

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

November, 2017

This short newsletter is created to keep information flowing between board members, club members, and among clubs. Keep the communication open and bring the club's closer together.

A People without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.

Author: Marcus Gravey

There are two events I neglected to mention in the October issue:

**The Day of German Unity.** 25 years ago, on Oct. 3, 1992, the East Berlin Wall came tumbling down, reuniting East and West as one Germany.

**German-American Day.** The German-American Day is celebrated on October 06, 2017. It is a day to celebrate the German American heritage. The German-American Day is celebrated annually and commemorates the date in 1683 when 13 German families from Krefeld near the Rhine landed in Philadelphia.

These families subsequently founded Germantown, Pennsylvania, the first German settlement in the original thirteen American colonies. Originally celebrated in the nineteenth century, German-American Day died out in World War I as a result of the anti-German sentiment that prevailed at the time. The holiday was revived in 1983 by President Ronald Reagan.

**United German Societies of Florida, Inc 1971-1974.** Yes, there was such a group. Susie Zimmer happened to find a copy of proof in one of her club's newsletter articles. Susie was also able to get a copy of this club's application for "Florida Not for Profit Corporation". Date filed was May 5, 1971 and "Dissolved by Proclamation" on Oct. 21, 1974. As registered name, none is mentioned, the registered address is 240 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Largo, FL 33540. I stopped at this address to learn more, but no one was home. Gerda Des Jardin, member of the German American Society of Pinellas County, (the only person I personally knew), was Secretary of this club. Susie Zimmer also found out on a second try that the name of the registered agents are George & Caroline Steck, members of the German American Society of Pinellas Park. Perhaps some of the longtime members may be able to put a face with the names. If anyone wants proof, see me, Martin Grum, I can show you proof.

**The November member meeting** is also the Election Meeting. Election of officers is in order. Martin Grum 352.259.9432 was appointed as nominating chairman, Michael Reis 352.637.2042 and Ralph Brand 239.649.1325 were chosen to assist. As of now we have confirmed nominations for **president: Kurt Freiter, Lantana Club, Kerry Ann Bauer, Cape Coral Club; vice-president: James Coburn, West Central Florida Club; secretary: Susie Zimmer, Cape Coral Club; treasurer: Ilse Kearney, Pinellas Park Club, Charlotte Kappel, Sun City Center German Club.** Nominations from the floor at the time of election are welcome.

The next UGASF membership meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2017 at noon, at the German American Society of Pinellas County at 8098 66<sup>th</sup> Street N. Pinellas Park, FL 33781. This is an important meeting and every member club should make an extra effort to be present and offer one's suggestion and opinion.

Remember to keep March 11, 2018 open for German Heritage Day festivities at the Casselberry Club.

Website: [ugasflorida.org](http://ugasflorida.org)

Martin Grum, editor 352.259.9432

Happy Thanksgiving to all.

