



Der Botschafter

Uninformed members a good club do not make

Issue 11/2021

Where did Halloween originate? What does it mean?

Halloween, also known as **All Hallows' Eve**, can be traced back 2,000 years to a pre-Christian Celtic festival held on Nov. 1 called **Samhain** (pronounced "sah-win"), which according to the Indo-European Etymological Dictionaries, translates in Gaelic to 'summer's end'.

Historians have linked Halloween to **Samhain**, the Celtic festival of the summer's end celebrated in Ireland, Scotland, and the Isle of Man. According to Celtic mythology, the veil between the Otherworld and our world thins during **Samhain**, making it easier for spirits and the souls of the dead to return.

Because ancient records are sparse and fragmentary, the exact nature of **Samhain** is not fully understood. It was, however, an annual communal meeting at the end of the harvest year. It was time to gather resources for the winter months and bring animals back from the pastures.

According to folklore, **Samhain** is also thought to have been a time of communing with the dead.

There was a belief that it was a day when spirits of the dead would cross over into the other world, according to Live Science. Halloween provides a safe way to play with the concept of death. People dress up as the living dead with fake gravestones adorning front lawns — activities that would not be thought of at other times of the year.

Others thought Samhain was less about death or evil than about the changing of seasons and preparing for the dormancy and rebirth of nature as summer turned to winter.

Though a direct connection between **Halloween** and **Samhain** has never been proven. Many scholars believe that because **All Saints' Day**, celebrated on Nov. 1, and **Samhain**, celebrated Oct. 31, are so close together on the calendar, that they influenced each other and later combined into the

called **Halloween**.

Christian/Irish Influence

Some evangelical Christians have expressed concern that **Halloween** is somehow satanic because of its roots in pagan ritual. However, ancient Celts did not worship anything resembling the Christian devil and had no concept of it. In fact, the **Samhain** festival had long since vanished by the time the Catholic Church began persecuting witches in its search for satanic cabals. Black cats also do not need to have any association with witchcraft to be considered evil — simply crossing their path is considered bad luck any time of year.

As for modern Halloween, it is noted that **Halloween** beliefs and customs were brought to North America with the earliest Irish immigrants, later by the great waves of Irish immigrants fleeing the famines of the first half of the nineteenth century. Known in the North American continent since colonial days, by the mid-twentieth century **Halloween** had become largely a children's holiday.

Since that time, the popularity of the holiday increased dramatically as

adults, communities and institutions have embraced the event.

Through the ages, various supernatural entities, including fairies and witches, came to be associated with **Halloween**. Centuries ago, In Ireland it was said to be a time when spirits of the dead could return to their old haunting grounds. It became fashionable to dress up as ghosts or witches.

Along with widespread commercialization and the arrival of mass-manufactured costumes, the selection of disguises for kids and adults greatly expanded to include everything from superheroes to princesses to politicians.

Halloween in Florida



UGAS CLUB NOVEMBER EVENTS IN FLORIDA

CAPE CORAL...Nov 20 Coronation Ball

Music by:

CENTRAL FLORIDA...Nov 6
Proklamationsball – Music by
Sonnenschnapps Duo

Alpanrose Schuhplattler...No
report

HOLLYWOOD... Nov 13 – Founder's
Day Dance – Music by Bob Houston

Marion County...No report

Miami & Auerhahn...Nov 6
International Food Festival
Nov 19...Happy Hour 6p.m. until ???
DJ Mack – Specialty monthly drink
Nov 20 – Christmas Market
Nov 26 – Tango Lovers Dance

NAPLES...No event

NEW PORT RICHEY...Nov 21 Herbst
Tanz – Music by Eva Adams 12:30-
5p.m.

PALM BEACHES...No events

PALM COAST...No Report

PINELLAS COUNTY...Nov 6

70th ANNIVERSARY DINNER DANCE

Music by Frank Svet

Nov 13 – Fall Dance with Matthias

Nov 20 – Crowning of Prince & Princess

Dinner Dance with Manni Daum

Nov 27 – Bayrischer Abend with Eva

SARASOTA...Nov 20 – Hat Dance with
Matthias Wagner

SPRING HILL...Nov 19 – Schlachtfest @
4 p.m. with Manni Daum

SUN CITY CENTER...No events

TAMPA CULTURAL CENTER...No events

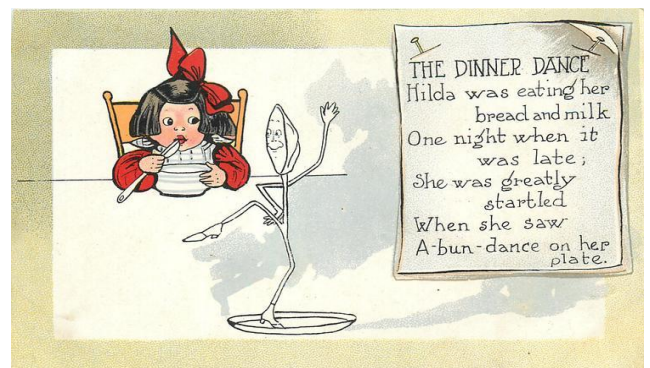
THE VILLAGES...Nov 18 Dinner Dance with
Alpine Express

TREASURE COAST...Nov 13 5 p.m. Elks Lodge
Thanksgiving Dinner Dance with Music by Ron
Finn

VENICE...Nov 6 Fruehschoppen 10-2 p.m
@ North Jetties

Nov 20-Wine Fest Dance – So.Venice Yacht
Club 6-10 p.m.

WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA...No event



From the Desk of

KURT FREITER, President

UGASF

As I write this message, I am hoping that it finds all of your members in good health and your clubs still surviving in these very difficult times of COVID. This pandemic, now in its second year of lingering, has created major financial hardship and havoc within our many member clubs.

Unfortunately, in spite of the efforts of every club to survive, we are probably going to be losing some more clubs due to a great number of reasons. I am deeply respectful of the valiant efforts of every Club President and their respective Board of Directors to keep their club alive and still offer a togetherness spirit and ***Gemütlichkeit*** to their members. These days, because of COVID, it is difficult to keep the Club Spirit alive.

Therefore, as I reflect on our own organization of UGASF we are facing the same problems as you, our Member Clubs, because the survival of UGASF as an organization is very much dependent on the survival of you, the member clubs.

We are like a family where everyone is dependent on the other. If one fails, we as an organization need to become aware and help if we can – and I repeat if we can.

As you all know 2020 was supposed to have been the election year for your Directors for the Board. Because of COVID we were unable to hold an election and every Director remained on the UGASF Board and committed for another two-year term.

This year is the election year for your Executive Board members – President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. According to the UGASF Bylaws we should have set up a Nominating Committee at the last membership meeting to go out and find solicit/invite candidates for these positions. Due to the struggles each club has been facing and lack of availability of Nominating Committee Members one could not be established.

Therefore, I have appointed Charlotte Kappel, the UGASF Secretary, to become the Nominating Committee Chairperson.

I am requesting that all Club Presidents and Delegates approach their members for consideration of interested persons putting their names forward to serve in any of the above-listed positions. Please advise Charlotte of any interest and support.

UGASF, like your individual clubs, is managed by volunteers and your time of serving UGASF is recognized as volunteering above and beyond your club responsibilities. I welcome anyone not only considering and attending the next membership meeting but also taking up a position.

Over the past two-year term of our current Board in office, we have been struggling to identify and realign the mission of UGASF. Even the potential survival of the organization has become a challenging undertaking since most clubs themselves are trying to realign and figure out what to do. An election will be held in November, and we will motor forward!

Wishing you all continued good health for your membership and your clubs, we hope to get back to enjoying each other's clubs and the ***Gemütlichkeit*** they provide.

Your President,

Kurt Freiter



**MEETING
NOTICE!**

This email sent Oct 11 4:14 p.m. to all club Presidents and Representatives:

Good Afternoon to All:

Hopefully these messages reach you in good health and you have all had a good summer!

Please disregard my previous message about the Membership Meeting on November 6 which was to be held at the G-A Club in New Port Richey. Unfortunately, due to distance some of the most southern clubs would not be able to be in attendance.

Therefore, our meeting has been changed as follows:

Date - November 6 - Saturday

Place - German American Club of Pinellas County

Time: Lunch to be served at noon - Donation per person \$8.00.

As you all know food prices have increased dramatically and this is a small donation to the club for the luncheon

Officers Meeting - 11 a.m.

General Membership Meeting - 1 p.m.

Please confirm by email to Charlotte (cmk13@tampabay.rr.com) that your club will be represented.

This is a reminder that the election of OFFICERS will be held at this meeting. Due to COVID it was NOT possible to hold an election for Directors in 2020; therefore, all directors had agreed to stay "on board" for another term.

Please note the attached letter from the President, Kurt Freiter, which we ask you to kindly disseminate to all of your members.

Hope to hear from all of you soon

Kind regards, Charlotte

OFFICERS - TERMS EXPIRE November 2021:

President: Kurt Freiter

kfreiter@bellsouth.net

Vice President: Susie Zimmer

susieztrans@icloud.com

Secretary: Charlotte Kappel

cmk13@tampabay.rr.com

Treasurer: Open

DIRECTORS – TERMS EXPIRE

November 2022

Paul Buerkle

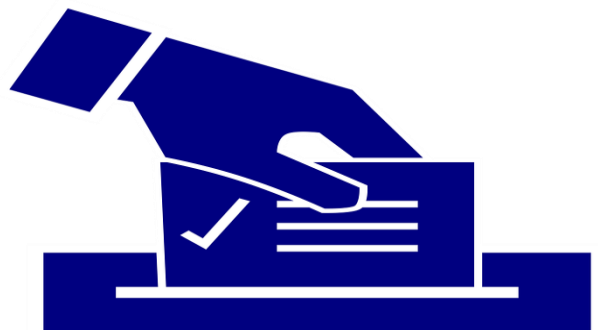
melliebuerkle@gmail.com

Fred Kappel

cmk13@tampabay.rr.com

Ilse Kearney

ilsekearney@yahoo.com



Lots of NEW information on our website...

Please remind your members to check out our website at UAGSFlorida.org

Do you have a new suggestion you would like to pass along? Please feel free to contact any one of our Board Members..