

## A Word from the GABC President

Dear Friends,

Summer is in the air. It is getting stickier by the day, we have our daily thunder storm, hurricane season is opened and many of you are going on vacation. Your GABC is busy planning ahead and we will have quite some interesting events coming up and just hope that you will join and meet friends and business acquaintances. Our 2 Stammtischs' we have each month are becoming increasingly popular and crowds of 35-40 are nowadays a normal attendance. It appears from comments we receive that our mix of one Stammtisch "at the beach" (Hofbrau Munich) and one "in the Gables" (Fritz & Franz) are the right mix. Those of you who haven't been there, come and join us at either (or both) events. It is a casual way to meet, have a beer or two and some good German food, and relax, together with fellow GABC members and friends. Visiting guests are of course more than welcome and visiting residents, those who "visit" the Stammtisch - join us, become a GABC Member, it is worth it.

On May 30 we had a very successful event in Ft. Lauderdale (please see article on next page) and we intend to repeat this on a more regular basis. Increasing fuel prices and I-95 issues have many of our members from Broward and Palm Beach not attend our meetings and events on a regular basis, which is why the GABC Board has decided to arrange more events and gatherings in Broward, so all our members from "up



North" can join without hassles. Our Broward representative Michael Faerber will assist in our efforts and become the "go-to person" for our members and friends from Broward and Palm Beach.

Myself and my fellow Board Members hope to see you all on one of our events. Enjoy the Florida summer, and hopefully without hurricanes.

A warm welcome to our newest members:

Richard DiBenedetto,  
President of Opulent Exotic  
Sales, Inc. in Homestead

Uwe Siebler, President of Siebler Corporation in Miami

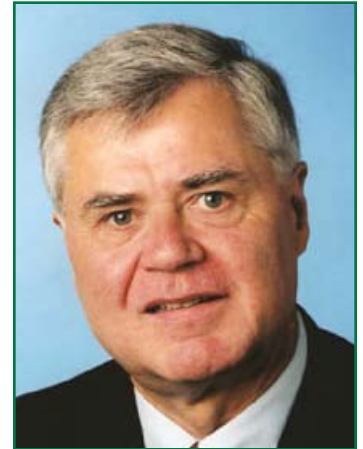
Johanna Imhof, Relationship  
Management in Miami

Norman Braman, President of  
Braman Motors in Miami

Monique Mathieu, CEO of  
Monique Mathieu LLC in Fort  
Lauderdale

*Michael K. Claus - President*

## Retired German Diplomat to Head The Miami Bach Society



Ambassador (ret.) Volker R. Anding has been chosen to lead the Board of Directors of the celebrated Miami Bach Society and its award-winning Tropical Baroque Music Festival. "I am just thrilled to have someone with his international reputation, community connections and musical acumen to represent and lead our group," exclaimed University of Miami Music Professor Donald Oglesby, who founded the Bach Society 25 years ago. This sentiment was echoed by retiring Board Chairman, Gordon Fales, who has agreed to stay on as Chairman Emeritus to continue his exemplary fund-raising efforts on behalf of the renowned early music group.

Dr. Anding served as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to both Panama and Uruguay; he was German Consul General in Miami, from 2001 to 2004. He also held posts in San Francisco, New York, Detroit, London, Brussels, and Dakar, Senegal. He is active in the German American Business Chamber, the Alliance Française and other regional community groups. Additionally, he is an accomplished cellist currently performing with the Alhambra Orchestra.

In the summer of 2007, Anding and his wife returned to Miami

following his retirement from the German diplomatic service. His wife, the former Erin McKenna, is a native of Michigan; they have a daughter, Stefanie, who will return very soon from Philadelphia to Miami. He joined the Board of the Miami Bach Society in August of last year and has since been courted by many other community groups because of his extensive international experience, his artistic abilities and his interest in contributing to the burgeoning cultural community here in South Florida.

"He is a cultural treasure," said Kathy Gaubatz, Executive Director of the Bach Society and founder of its Tropical Baroque Music Festival. "You can't imagine our good fortune in having a man, who is fluent in French, Spanish, and of course English and German to represent us, both here and abroad." "He knows the local Consular Corps, has diplomatic, cultural and business connections in the United States, Germany, Europe and South America. He is also a musician in his own right. What a stroke of good fortune to have him lead us into our 25th season and 10th Festival year."

To submit a story for next month's edition please send an email to:  
[info@gabc.us](mailto:info@gabc.us)

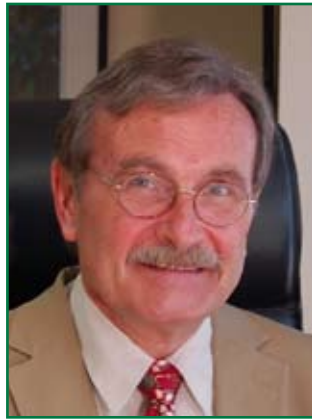
## Consul General's Corner

*Liebe Mitglieder der German American Business Chamber*

ein wichtiger Schritt ist getan: die GABC ist durch das Abkommen mit der Deutsch-Amerikanischen Handelskammer Süd in Atlanta erstmals direkt an das offizielle deutsche Aus-landshandelskammersystem angekoppelt. Lassen Sie uns gemeinsam das Beste daraus machen! Die Unterstützung des Generalkonsulats haben Sie dabei.

Die kommende Hurricane-Saison gibt mir Anlaß, wieder einmal darauf hinzuweisen, daß sich deutsche Staatsangehörige, die sich dauerhaft oder auch nur zeitweise in Florida aufhalten, beim Generalkonsulat auf freiwilliger Basis registrieren lassen können. Die Angaben werden selbstverständlich gemäß den deutschen Regelungen zum Datenschutz behandelt. Eine solche Registrierung macht es dem Generalkonsulat leichter, im Notfall Hilfs- und Unterstützungsmaßnahmen zu organisieren und mit Ihnen Kontakt aufzunehmen, erforderlichenfalls auch Kontakt zwischen Ihnen und Ihren Angehörigen in Deutschland herzustellen. Ein Merkblatt zur Registrierung ist beigefügt.

In diesem Jahr begehen wir den 60. Jahrestag der Berliner Luftbrücke. Die USA haben damals dafür gesorgt, daß die zwei Millionen Westberliner überleben konnten. Die besondere Geste, sich mit Abwurf von Schokolade um die Berliner Kinder zu kümmern, ist mit in die Geschichte eingegangen. Die Luftbrücke hat eines der wesentlichen Fundamente für die freundschaftlichen Beziehungen zwischen den USA und Deutschland gelegt.



In Kürze beginnen die Fußball-Europameisterschaften in Österreich und der Schweiz. Es wird sich zeigen, wieviel von dem Schwung der Weltmeisterschaft bei unserem Team noch übriggeblieben ist, vielleicht ist ja sogar noch etwas hinzugekommen. Über die Möglichkeiten, die Spiele unserer Elf hier zu sehen, sind die Fußball-Fans unter Ihnen sicher längst informiert. Diejenigen unter unseren US-Freunden, die annähernd Ahnung von diesem Sport haben, sollen sehen, daß, wie schon Sepp Herberger sagte, der Ball rund ist – nicht eiförmig, und, wie der Name des Sports schon sagt, mit dem Fuß und mit einer Menge Köpfchen gespielt wird, und daß Fußball nicht darin besteht, seinen Gegner umzuhauen und nach zehn Sekunden Aktion wieder für ein paar Minuten am Boden herumzuliegen. Viel Spaß!

Im Namen aller Mitarbeiterinnen und Mitarbeiter des Generalkonsulats wünsche ich Ihnen einen schönen und hurricane-freien Sommer

*Klaus Ranner*

## European Chamber of Commerce's Event

The 3rd Joint European Chamber of Commerce's event was held May 30, 2008 at the Broward Center of the Performing Arts in Fort Lauderdale. The German American Business Chamber and the British-American Chamber of Broward County were hosting this joint event, which turned out to be huge success. Over 140 members, friends and family followed the invitation. Old and new members of the different organizations and affiliations were mingling and had a good time. This event showed again, that there is a need to establish more events in the Greater Fort Lauderdale area. The event was supported by members of the British-American Business Council of Palm Beach. Michael Faerber, the representative of the GABC for Broward County says "The GABC is establishing at this moment different alliances to other organizations

within Broward County, which seem to be the 'way to go'. We are going to organize more joint events for the 2008/09 season to establish a better visibility for the GABC and its members. There is an apparent need to work closer together with different organizations such the Broward Alliance and the other international chambers targeting the European/ U.S. market."

Speeches were held by Mark Nerenhausen, CEO of the Broward Center of the Performing Arts and The Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Klaus Ranner and his British counterpart, Her Majesty's Consul General Keith Allan. All three of them supported the idea to promote a higher visibility for the GABC and BACC Broward County within Broward County.



*Michael Towner (President British-American Business Council Palm Beach), Keith Allan, United Kingdom Consul General, Roy Yates (President British-American Chamber of Broward County).*

## Changes for the Visa Waiver Program: Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA)

On June 3, 2008 the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced the ESTA Interim Final Rule (IFR), which establishes a new online system that is part of the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) and is required by the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007. Once ESTA is mandatory, all citizens or nationals of Visa Waiver Program (VWP) countries who plan to travel to the United States for temporary pleasure or business will require an approved ESTA prior to boarding a carrier to travel by sea or air under the VWP.

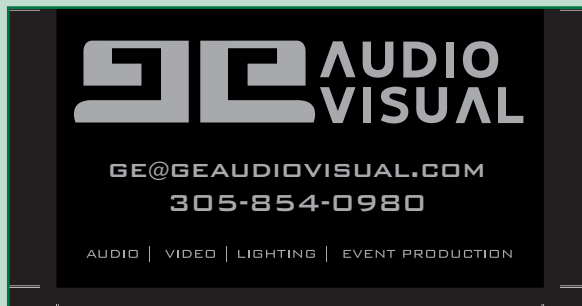
ESTA is a web based system. Travelers will log on to <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/> and complete an application online providing the biographical and eligibility information currently required on the paper I-94W form. The ESTA web-based system will be available for voluntary applications after Aug. 1, 2008 and will be implemented as a mandatory program 60 days after publication of a notice in the Federal Register. It is anticipated that the Secretary of Homeland Security will issue that notice in November 2008, for implementation of the mandatory ESTA requirements on Jan. 12, 2009.

To facilitate the authorization process, DHS recommends that ESTA applications be submitted no less than 72 hours prior to travel. However,

ESTA applications may be submitted at any time prior to travel to the United States. Upon successful completion of an ESTA application, the application will be queried against appropriate law enforcement databases. In most cases, ESTA will provide an almost immediate determination of eligibility for travel under the VWP. Possible responses include: Authorization Approved, Authorization Pending, or Travel Not Authorized, or Authorization Pending.

An approved ESTA travel authorization is valid for up to two years or until the traveler's passport expires, whichever comes first. The approval is valid for multiple entries into the U.S., however, it is not a guarantee of admissibility to the United States at a port of entry. ESTA approval only authorizes a traveler to board a carrier for travel to the U.S. under the VWP. In all cases, Customs and Border Patrol officers make admissibility determinations at all US ports of entry.

For further questions on this article or other immigration related issues you can contact Ellen von Geyso. Mrs. von Geyso is an attorney at Law in Miami admitted to the practice of law in Germany and Florida. She can be reached at [ellen.vongeyso@klgates.com](mailto:ellen.vongeyso@klgates.com) or (305) 539-3382.



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