

## **Highlights in the History of the Bavarian Club Edelweiss 1933-Present**

### February 1932

Two couples performed a Schuhplattler dance at a masquerade party hosted by the Steuben Societies of White Plains. Because this entertainment was so enthusiastically accepted, one of the dancers, Franz Stein, an emigrant from Bavaria and a member of the Gebirgs Tracht Erhaltungs Verein Chiemgauer Grabenstätt in his hometown of Grabenstätt, Bavaria, decided to form a Schuhplattler Club in Westchester County in order to carry on the Bavarian traditions of his homeland.

### January 20, 1933

The "Schuhplattler Group Edelweiss of White Plains" was formed. The Edelweiss flower was chosen as the group's name and symbol because of its beauty and rarity. The first officers were Franz Stein as President and Vorplattler, Josef Huber as Treasurer, and Marie Heimerer as Secretary.

### March 30, 1933

Six couples performed for the very first time in White Plains accompanied by the Heidelberger Burschen Kappelle to an audience of over three-hundred people. Overwhelmed by the enthusiastic response from the audience, the Club decided to add four other functions to its calendar of events.

### 1934

Just one year later, the Club showed foresight when it changed its name to "Bavarian Club Edelweiss of White Plains" in order to accept non-dancers as members. This change proved to be a significant step in the growth, development and continuation of the Club.

### 1942-1945

During World War II, the Club put its activities on hold until the war was over.

### 1946

Thirty members gathered at Franzl's Restaurant to plan for the future and to prepare for its First Father's Day Picnic since the war; the picnic was arranged to be held the following June, at Franzl's Picnic Grove.

### 1953

Karl Bachmann, a member of the Club, suggested that a German-American Society of Westchester be formed for the purpose of promoting unity and social welfare among all the many German-American organizations in Westchester County. John Stein, a brother of Franz Stein, was voted in as the first president of the "Society".

### October 10, 1956

A Fahnenweihe was held at the Mt. Vernon Turn Hall in order to dedicate and bless the new Fahne ordered from Germany which would replace the original Fahne embroidered by Rosina Stein and used for 19 years. The new Fahne was designed to resemble the old one in that it had the same design of a dancing couple on one side and three Edelweiss flowers on the other. This was a special day for the Club Edelweiss for it was the first time that the Club hosted other Schuhplattler Clubs in the Greater New York and New Jersey area, resulting in a lasting friendship and cooperative spirit among all Schuhplattler clubs.

### 1957

The Bavarian Club Edelweiss joined the Vereinigten Bayern von Gross New York. The Club also participated in the First Steuben Parade and marched up Fifth Avenue with other member clubs of the German-American Societies of Westchester.

### March 2, 1958

The Bavarian Club Edelweiss celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the County Center in White Plains, New York. One-hundred and fifty Schuhplattlers performed for an audience of three-thousand people. The County Center was the site for many Oktoberfests where the Plattlers would perform such memorable dances as the Kronen Tanz and the Holzhacker and demonstrate the use of whips which would crackle and resound in the large room.

### 1964

At the suggestion of Franz Stein, the Club decided it should have a nice backdrop as a decoration for its functions. Charlie Wolls sewed together two drop clothes and Robert Polzer painted the beautiful mountain scene of St. Bartholomä on the Königsee with the Watzmann Bergen. The beautiful 14'x 22' painting was unveiled at the Club's Oktoberfest the following year. Still in use today, it continues to be admired by everyone at our dances and serves as the background for our Club's photos.

### 1969

Under the direction of Franz Stein, the Club established its first Kindergruppe.

### June 1970

The Kindergruppe, with a total of six couples between the ages of seven and twelve, performed for the first time at the Father's Day Picnic at Franzl's Picnic Grove.

### 1975

The Club was incorporated and the name was changed to "Bavarian Club Edelweiss Westchester, Inc."

### 1976

For the first time, the Kinder, Junior and Senior Schuhplattler groups performed.

### 1979

We sadly felt the passing of Ehrenmitglied Ella Mayer, who died while attending the 7th Gaufest in Los Angeles. Ella was vortaenzerin of Bavarian Club Edelweiss for eighteen years.

### October 9, 1983

The Club celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a Holy Mass followed by an Oktoberfest at the Westchester County Center. The Club was honored to have sixteen members from the G.T.E.V. Chiemgauer Grabenstädt attend these festivities.

### July 4, 1985

At the direction of the Club's President, Waldemar Stoppacher, eighty members, including plattlers, attended the Tenth Gaufest in Denver, Colorado. Under the leadership of Dieter Link, the Edelweiss Schuhplattlers proudly placed 5<sup>th</sup> in North America and 1<sup>st</sup> in New York State in the Preisplattling competition.

### August 1988

Because of the generosity of Robert & Mary Haumaier, the Edelweiss Schuhplattler group and 70 Club members attended the 1200 Anniversary of Karlsperg and the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the G.T.E.V. Chiemgauer Grabenstädt. Robert & Mary presented the Club with a beautiful ribbon for its flag which serves as a lasting reminder of that special occasion.

### 1991

Edith Hodge and Lydia Stoppacher organized the Club's first Christmas Fair for the purpose of selling Bavarian articles and foods. This popular event proved to be a major annual fundraiser.

### 1992

The Volkstanzgruppe was started this year in order to enhance our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, an idea put forth by Gloria Fernandez because of the renewed interest in folk dancing in Germany. Instructed by Dieter Link, they performed at the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party. Since then, Al Hodge has served as Vortanzer and the repertoire includes more than 20 dances. Members of the group have attended folk dance seminars across the country sponsored by "The German American Folk Dancers of North America" of which the Club became a member in 1994.

March 6, 1993

Celebrating our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Alex & Henry's with a dinner dance, the Club honored the founder of the Club, Franz Stein, and his wife, Rosina, the only two remaining members of the original group formed in 1933, with a 60<sup>th</sup> year Urkunde and 60<sup>th</sup> year pin.

October 9, 1993

For its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Club had a new flag made in Germany. The flag was blessed at a Fahnenweihe and the Club celebrated the event at an Oktoberfest party held at the Westchester County Center and chaired by Gloria Fernandez. Many clubs from the surrounding areas and from Grabenstätt attended this successful event.

December 6, 1993

Our Club mourned the loss of its founder, Franz Stein. The Club was his life. He was so very proud of the Club, its members and its accomplishments.

January 1994

At the suggestion of Gloria Fernandez, the Club offered a German language course to its members. Eighteen students enrolled in this weekly course taught by Heidi Lechner, an Edelweiss member and the Steuben Parade Königin for 1993.

January 11, 1995

Another sad loss for us, our Club's first Fahnenmutter, Rosina Weiss Stein, passed away.

1995

A new Kindergruppe was formed under the direction of Ingrid Lorenz with approx. 20 children. In June 1997, the group attended its first Kinderfest hosted by Schlierachtaler Stamm, complete with a police escort from the Whitestone Bridge to the park in Brooklyn.

July 1997

For the Gaufest XVI in Delaware, the Trachtenmutter, Irme Blume and Marlene Kehlre, designed a new dirndl in the traditional Chiemgauer fashion. It received many compliments and drew mega applause as the girls twirled!

March 7, 1998

The Club celebrated its 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Alex & Henry's.

1999

Edith Hodge & Lydia Stoppacher collected recipes from its members and published a "Bavarian Club Edelweiss" cookbook.

June 4, 2000

The Club hosted the 7<sup>th</sup> Mid-Atlantic Annual Kinderfest at Crawford Park, Rye Brook, NY. Thirteen clubs attended and performed. This successful Kinderfest was the result of two years of planning under the leadership of John Sonnenburg, assisted by Ingrid Rodgers and Joseph Lorenz as well as many other parents of the children and Club members.

Summer 2000

A group of about 30 members and friends traveled to Germany for the Passionspiel. It was a wonderful experience and a bonding time for the members who traveled together.

#### 2000

In preparation for Gaufest 18, the trachtenmutter, Gloria Fernandez and Amanda Lechner arranged to have new festtrachts made by Trachten Pöllman in Munich Germany.

#### July 4, 2001

Our Patent Verein, the Gemütlichen Enzianer, hosted Gaufest 18 at the Nevele Resort. Prior to the start of the Gaufest, our Club enjoyed a 4<sup>th</sup> of July Dinner Cruise to view the Macy's fireworks. We were happy to have 25 friends from Grabenstätt attend with their own Brass Band. For many of us, it would be the last time we would see the Twin Towers hovering over Lower Manhattan. At the Gaufest, our Club won the Meistpreis for having more than 200 people in attendance. The Kindergruppe performed the Kronentanz as the Ehrentanz and received much applause. We were proud of our adult Schuhplattler group which danced in the competition and earned 10<sup>th</sup> place.

#### September 11, 2001

We all watched in shock and horror as two planes flew into and destroyed the World Trade Center buildings killing thousands of people. Out of respect and in mourning, the 44<sup>th</sup> Steuben Parade was canceled for that year.

#### Early 2002

Not an easy task, but after considerable discussion and planning by the trachtenmutter, Gloria Fernandez. Amanda Lechner and the committee decided on a new Club dirndl ordered from Bergland Trachten Ltd. to be ready for the Gaufest 19 in May 2003 in Philadelphia, PA.

#### June 9, 2002

More than 150 Club members gathered together to have Club photos taken.

#### January 17, 2002

Installation of January 17, 2002 brought many new Board members: John Sonnenburg, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Christopher Rodrick, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Joseph Lorenz, Vorplattler, Waldemar Stoppacher, Trustee, Hildegard Eder Kren, Vortaenzerin. Peggy Dougall completed the remaining term of Recording Secretary for her daughter, Sandra Dougall who got married and moved out of the area.

#### March 2, 2002

We celebrated our 69th Anniversary at the Canyon Club in Armonk. Christopher Rodrick was the event's Chairman.

#### April 12, 2002

Trachtenmutter Amanda Lechner and Gloria Mayer Fernandez formed a dirndl committee to research a new Verein dirndl. The committee met many times over several months to design a new dirndl and review new fabrics. It was decided that Bergland Trachten in Kansas would design and make the new dirndls according to the traditional dirndl pattern along with the apron and blouse.

#### April 20, 2002

Our annual Spring Dance was held at Holy Rosary School in Hawthorne. Roland Lex was Chairman.

#### May 4, 2002

The 2002 Delegates Meeting was hosted by Die Gemuetlichen Schuhplattlers of Anaheim, California. In all, 159 people attended representing forty-five vereine. Hans Lechner, President, along with John Sonnenburg, Joseph Lorenz and Roland Lex attended. Einzelschuhplattling for adults was the most discussed subject.

May 27, 2002

With sadness we received word that Thomas and Kimberly Hunsader were tragically killed. Thomas was Vorstand and former Vorplattler of Die Gemuetlichen Schuhplattler Verein in Anaheim and Kimberly was Vortaenzerin. They left behind two children, Hans and Kaethe. A trust fund was set up for the children and we sent a donation. Thomas and his committee had hosted the Delegates Meeting.

June 1, 2002

The Kinderfest for the Mid-Atlantic Region of the Gauverband Nord Amerika was hosted by the German Hungarians in Pennsylvania. Our Kindergruppe participated in the event under the direction of Ingrid Lorenz.

June 9, 2002

More than 150 members gathered together to have a club photo taken. Ingrid Lorenz arranged this at Holy Rosary Church Auditorium in Hawthorne.

June 16, 2002

Our annual Father's Day Picnic was held at Ryder Park in Ossining. Music was provided by DJ brothers Bill and Chris Rodrick.

July 4, 2002

A Fourth of July cruise around Manhattan was attended by our members and guests.

July 5-7, 2002

Our Plattlers and members journeyed north to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of S.G. Alpenland in Montreal. Guests stayed at the Sheraton Laval with an overflow at the Hilton. There were 750 people who attended the banquet.

July 28, 2002

The German-American Societies Summer Fest was held at Kolping-on-Hudson in Montrose. Our Volkstanz Gruppe performed with five couples.

August 16-30, 2002

The Bavarian and Tyrolean Dance and Music Tour of North America, a group from the Dreifluesse Gauverband in Bavaria, toured the northeast which started in Montreal and ended in New York. The Schlierachtaler Stamm Schuhplattler Verein hosted the New York visit at a Heimatabend which our plattlers and members attended.

September 21, 2002

The 45<sup>th</sup> German American Steuben Parade was held and Siegfried and Roy were the Grand Marshalls. A memorial service to commemorate the first anniversary of September 11<sup>th</sup> was held at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Our club had two princesses in the parade: Princess Christina Dorothea Bobbinger and Junior Princess Elicia Nauerz. Hildegard Eder Kren was the announcer at the Grand Stand near the end of the parade route. Some members went to an "Under the Tent" event in Central Park after the parade. The Chairman of the Central Park event was Herb Seeff.

October 5, 2002

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wartburg Fall Festival was held. Three couples from our Volkstanzgruppe performed.

October 13, 2002

Annual Oktoberfest held at the Holy Rosary School Auditorium in Hawthorne. Music was provided by The Adlers. The Oktoberfest committee included: Barbara Barclay, Chair, and John Sonnenburg, Chris Rodrick, Hans Lechner.

October 19, 2002

German American Club of the Northern Catskills held their Third Annual Oktoberfest at Belleayre Mountain in Highmount, New York. Music was provided by Bud and Linda Gramer. Our plattlers performed.

November 2, 2002

Annual Christmas Fair was held at Thornwood Legion Hall. The event was chaired by Lydia Stoppacher and Edith Hodge.

December 8, 2002

Annual Christmas Party held at the Mt. Pleasant Community Center. Dinner and Santa Claus were highlights of the afternoon, as we sang Christmas carols.

January 16, 2003

Installation Meeting congratulating new board members and welcoming Monica Luedke, Recording Secretary and Fritz Blume replaced James Sache as Trustee.

February 8, 2003

The Schuhplattlergruppe held a Heimatabend at the Independent Firehouse in Ossining. The Schwarzenegger Connection played and besides the groups performing many schuhplattlers, it was an extra treat to watch the Gosalschnalzen (Whips).

February 23, 2003

Installation Dinner of the Vereinigte Bayern von Gross New York und New Jersey held at the Castle Harbour Casino in the Bronx. Maria Romano decided to retire from her position as Recording Secretary and was honored with an Urkunde making her Ehren Delegierten. Diane Sinner replaced Maria.

March 2, 2003

Our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Jubilee was held at Villa Barone Restaurant in Mahopac, New York. The event started off with a Bauern Messe held at St. Patrick's Stone Church in Yorktown Heights. Members including our Kindergruppe and friends of Edelweiss participated in the mass. Music was provided by the Norbert Ludwig Orchestra. John Sonnenburg, Chairman of the event, thanked the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee for their hard work in making this a successful and memorable day. We were happy to have with us members of our sister club: G.T.E.V. Chiemgauer Grabenstaett from Bayern. Franz Stein, our founder, belonged to the Grabenstaett Verein, his hometown was also Grabenstaett. We are now one family and are happy to have so many Grabenstaetter's as our members.

April 26, 2003

Our Spring Dance was held at Holy Rosary School Auditorium in Hawthorne. Max Lorenz was Chairman of the event. Dance music was provided by Die Schlaubergers.

May 22-25, 2003

Gaufest 19 was held in Philadelphia and hosted by the United German-Hungarians. The Gaufest events and workshops included the Philly Fest Happy Hour, Welcome Abend, Oktoberfest, Mundart Messe, Sunday Brunch, Buffet Sunday Picnic and Farewell Carnival Party. The Gruppen Preisplattling started on Saturday morning followed by Einzelplattlen. Sixteen vereine took part in the Gau. We competed and placed ninth in competition.

May 31, 2003

The Mid-Atlantic Kinderfest was hosted by Bayern Verein Newark at the Deutsche Club Clark in New Jersey. After the fest, many members of our club attended Bayern Verein Newark's 73rd Stiftungsfest. Music was provided by Bernie's Orchestra. Post Father's Day Picnic held at Ryder Park in Ossining. The Spinmeisters (Bill and Chris Rodrick) were the DJ's. Our Junior and Senior Schuplattlers performed as well as our Kindergruppe and Volkstanzgruppe.

September 20, 2003

The 45<sup>th</sup> German-American Steuben Parade was held which started on 63<sup>rd</sup> Street and Fifth Avenue and went up to 86<sup>th</sup> Street. After the parade, many of the members

went to Central Park, "Under the Big Tent." Herb Seeff was the event chairman. The Grand Marshall was Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of New York City.

October 4, 2003

The annual raising of the German Flag over the Yonkers City Hall sponsored by the German-American Societies of Westchester County. Following the flag raising some of the members went to the 123<sup>rd</sup> Annual Wartburg Fall Festival in Mt. Vernon. Our Volkstanz gruppe performed.

October 5, 2003

Our oldest member, Erich Kothe celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday at the Travelers Rest. Our club hosted this memorable event in his honor. Club members and friends attended to wish him a Happy Birthday! Erich always claimed that he would reach his 100 year event. Erich passed away in 2004.

October 18, 2003

Our Annual Oktoberfest was held at Holy Name of Jesus in Valhalla. "Bavarian Blue," a band directly from Germany provided dance music. Barbara Barclay was Chair of the event.

November 8, 2003

Our Christmas Fair held at the Legion Hall in Hawthorne. The affair was a success thanks to chair, Doris Lechner, who made the fair bigger and better than it ever was!

December 7, 2003

Our Annual Christmas Party held at the Mount Pleasant Community Center. Santa was there for the children and we sang Christmas Carols. We also had a Chinese Auction.

January 14, 2004

The Board welcomed John Kraker as Treasurer, Linda Kraker as Corresponding Secretary and John Friday replacing Renate Doren as Trustee.

March 6, 2004

The Mid-Atlantic Region Jugendeinzelplattler hosted by the Gemuetlichen Enzianer was held at the Plattdeutsche Park Restaurant in Franklin Square.

March 13, 2004

We celebrated our 71<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Jubilee at Villa Barone Hilltop Manor in Mahopac. Music was provided by the Norbert Ludewig Orchestra. The event was chaired by Max Lorenz, Barbara Barclay and Annemarie Westfall.

April 17, 2004

Our Annual Spring Dance chaired by Dieter Link was held at Holy Name of Jesus Auditorium in Valhalla. Music was provided by Die Spitzbuam. Our junior and senior schuhplattlers performed along with the Kindergruppe and Volkstanzgruppe.

May 1-3, 2004

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Delegates Meeting for the next Gaufest was hosted by the Alpenrose Schuhpattlers of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The Delegates signed a large "Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary" card for Jerry and Marie Hugel who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary the same weekend. Our Vorplattler and President attended the meeting.

June 20, 2004

Annual Father's Day Picnic was held at Ryder Park in Ossining. The event was chaired by Chris Rodrick and Hans Lechner. Our Plattlers, Volkstanzgruppe and Kindergruppe provided the entertainment.

September 18, 2004

The 47<sup>th</sup> German American Steuben Parade was held and Mass was celebrated at St. Patrick's Cathedral prior to the parade. Following the service, the parade marched up Fifth Avenue for twenty blocks. The Grand Marshall was John Roland,

a TV personality. After the parade, the annual "Under the Big Tent" celebration was attended.

#### October 10, 2004

Annual Oktoberfest was held at the Holy Name of Jesus Church Auditorium in Valhalla, chaired again by Barbara Barclay. Music was provided by The Adlers. Bayern Verein Newark, our Paten Verein, performed along with our own junior and senior Schuhplattlers, Volkstanzgruppe and Kindergruppe.

#### November 6, 2004

Our Bavarian Christmas Fair was held at the Thornwood American Legion Hall. We had another successful event under the leadership again of Doris Lechner and Daphne Lindner.

#### December 5, 2004

Our annual Christmas Party hosted by the Executive Board was held at the Mt. Pleasant Community Center. Dinner was served and Santa Claus made his appearance. Diana Sonnenburg handled the donations for the Chinese Auction. Money made from the Auction was donated to local charities.

#### January 20, 2005

Installation Meeting: New Board members included: Christopher Rodrick as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Margaret Mezcic as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Roland Lex, Vorplattler and Kenny Lex, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vorplattler.

#### March 5, 2005

We attended the 75<sup>th</sup> Stiftungsfest of Bayern Verein Newark at the Kenilworth Fire Hall in New Jersey. Many of our Schuhplattlers and members attended.

#### April 24, 2005

The Vereinigte Bayern von Gross New York und New Jersey held their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Dance at Leonard's of Great Neck. Some of our members and plattlers took part in this affair. Our club became members of Vereinigte Bayern in 1957. Vereinigte Bayern was founded in 1929 by several Bavarian immigrants who felt a need to bring the many individual Vereine throughout New York and New Jersey together. As a result, the "Verband Bayerischer Vereine von Gross New York" was founded which brought these clubs under one umbrella. During World War II, the club ceased all activity. After the war ended, the club regrouped and became Vereinigte Bayern von Gross New York. New Jersey was added at a later date. In January, 1966 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, fourteen Trachten and Schuhplattler Vereine gathered to form the Gauverband Nord Amerika and the first Gaufest was held on Memorial Day weekend in 1967 under the auspices of Vereinigte Bayern von Gross New York. Today there are thirteen Vereine which send their delegates to a monthly general meeting of the Vereinigte Bayern von Gross New York und New Jersey.

#### May 5, 2005

Our Verein and the Enzian Volkstanzgruppe des Delaware Saengerbundes mourned the death of Karen Longo Leschke at the age of forty-four after a long battle with cancer. Karen was an honorary member of Bavarian Club Edelweiss and an active plattler since a young child. In 1983, Karen married another plattler, Ernst Leschke. In 1985, Karen and Ernst moved to Maryland and became members and plattlers of the Enzian Volkstanzgruppe. Karen was the mother of twins, Kristen and Brian.

#### June 4, 2005

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-Atlantic region Kinderfest hosted by the G.T.V. Almrausch, Philadelphia, was held on the picnic grounds of the Cannstatter Volksfest Verein. Thirteen kindergruppen participated in the fest and each kindergruppe performed an Ehrentanz. Our Kindergruppe participated under the direction of Ingrid Lorenz.

#### June 18, 2005

We held our Annual Summerfest at Kolping-on-Hudson in Montrose. The Schwarzenegger Connection provided dance music. The Schuhplattlers, Volks Tanz Gruppe and Kinder Gruppe performed.

#### June 30-July 3, 2005

We attended the 20<sup>th</sup> Gaufest, hosted by S.G.T.V. Edelweiss, Buffalo. There was a pre-welcome dance also known as the Vor-Gaufest tanz. Fifty couples participated in the Einzelpreisplattling. A Heimatabend was held and on Saturday morning, the Gruppenpreisplattling was held. Thirteen Vereine made the commitment to participate in the preisplattling. Our junior Plattlers, Charlotte Wittmann and Christine Kraker participated in the Jugeneinzelplattler. Our club received a trophy for the Verein with the largest attendance. Our schuplattlers competed and placed tenth in the competition. "Sitt und Tracht der Alten, wollen wir erhalten." - "Traditions of old, in honor we uphold."

#### September 17, 2005

The 48<sup>th</sup> German-American Steuben Parade was held in New York City. The Grand Marshall was Louis J. French, FBI Director. Our Vortaenzerin, Hildegard Eder Kren was the parade commentator at the 86<sup>th</sup> Street location. Many of our plattlers including the Volkstanzgruppe and Kindergruppe participated. Junior Princess from our Verein was Andrea Archul.

#### October 9, 2005

Our Annual Oktoberfest was held at Holy Name of Jesus in Valhalla. The chairman of the event was Gloria Mayer-Fernandez. Music was provided by Bernie's Orchestra. Bayern Verein Newark was a guest Verein who also presented an Ehren Tanz. Our junior and senior schuhplattlers along with our Volkstanzgruppe and Kindergruppe also presented Ehren Taenze.

#### November 5, 2005

Our Annual Bavarian Christmas Fair was held at the Thornwood Legion Hall. We had another successful event under the chairmanship of Doris Lechner who held many craft workshops and invited many vendors.

#### December 4, 2005

Our Annual Christmas Party was held at the Mt. Pleasant Community Center. Diana Sonnenburg was in charge of the Chinese Auction. The proceeds of the auction were donated to local charities.

#### January 19, 2006

Installation of our new Executive Board with Christopher Rodrick as President, Margaret Mezic, as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Gloria Mayer Fernandez, as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Outgoing President, Hans Lechner replaced John Friday as Trustee. Trachtenmutter Veronica Archul and Phyllis Froebrich replaced outgoing Trachtenmutter Amanda Lechner and Gloria Mayer Fernandez. Hans Lechner who was President for nine years gave his farewell and state of the union address which included his accomplishments throughout his presidency.

#### April 1, 2006

Die Gemuetlichen Enzianer, our Paten Kind, celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Bauernball at the Polish American Hall in Port Washington. Die Schlaubergers provided dance music.

#### April 22, 2006

Our Annual Spring Dance held at Holy Name of Jesus Church Auditorium. Chairman of the event was Margaret Mezc and Linda Kraker was in charge of the Glueckshafen. Music was provided by Die Spitzbuam. Our junior and senior plattlers performed as well as the Kindergruppe and Volkstanz gruppe. Past President, Hans Lechner was acknowledged for his continuing dedication and numerous accomplishments during his nine years as president.

#### May 5-7, 2006

The Gau Delegates meeting was hosted by S.T.V. Bavaria, Cleveland. The elections brought two new members to the board: Richard Naime as second Gau Vorplattler and Robert Hugel as Gaurevisoren

#### May 26-27, 2006

H.S.V. Bavaria of West Haven, Connecticut celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Friday evening a Heimatabend was held at the Harugari German Club. A banquet was held on Saturday evening. Music was provided by the Alpen Diamanten who traveled up from Florida. Everyone remembered Anna and Herbert Heise.

#### June 20 – July 5, 2006

Our Verein was among other metro area Vereine who were asked to send participants to Manhattan for a casting call for an upcoming Walt Disney movie titled: "Enchanted." Several of our Plattlers were selected to be in the movie. "Enchanted" was a story about a cartoon princess cast into "real life" in New York City. The scene was played at the Belvedere Castle in Central Park and featured over 120 principal dancers of which sixteen were Bavarian dancers. The dance that was performed was a derivative of many dances that the choreographers of Disney studied and turned into a "Disneyized" Bavarian dance. Representing our Verein was Veronica Archul, Barbara Barclay, Kenny Lex, Margaret Mezc and Chris Rodrick. The film was released in November of 2007.

#### June 17, 2006

Our Annual Summerfest was held at beautiful Kolping-on-Hudson in Montrose. Music was provided by The Schwarzenegger Connection. Margaret Mezc was the event Chairman. All our Plattler groups and Volkstanzgruppe performed.

#### September 10, 2006

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual German Heritage Festival was held at the PNC Bank and Arts Center in Holmdell, New Jersey. Our Volkstanzgruppe was invited to perform. International entertainers performing were: Eberhard Hertel, Stefanie Hertel and Stefan Moss.

#### September 16, 2006

The 49<sup>th</sup> Annual German-American Steuben Parade in New York City was celebrated. President Chris Rodrick commented that "It is the one time during the year when the German-American community shows off their heritage, costumes and pride to all of New York City." The Grand Marshall was Carol Alt, model and actress. There was a photo of our young Plattlers carrying our vereins banner in the Sunday edition of Catholic New York. There were also other pictures of the parade in the December, 2006 Newsletter prepared by Herb Seeff. Junior Princess from our Verein was Nina Starace.

#### October 8, 2006

Our Annual Oktoberfest at Holy Name of Jesus in Valhalla was held. The Adlers provided dance music and all of our Schuhplattler groups provided traditional schuhplattler dances. Guest Schuhplattler Vereine included: Bayern Verein Newark and Die Gemuetlichen Enzianer.

#### November 4, 2006

Our Annual Bavarian Christmas Fair was held at the American Legion Hall. The grand prize for the raffle was \$500. Chairman Doris Lechner thanked all the members for their help and participation in making the Christmas Fair another huge success.

December 10, 2006

The Christmas Party was held at the German-American Social Club in Peekskill. Santa made a visit and the children sang Christmas carols with Santa. Linda Kraker handled this year's Chinese Auction which was another success. The Kindergruppe presented a bell-ringing medley under the direction of Ingrid Wittmann and Jennifer Johanson.

January 18, 2007

Installation meeting of the new 2007 Executive Board. Dieter Link installed as a Trustee. Ingrid Wittmann and Jennifer Johanson as Kindervertreterin.

April 22, 2007

Our Annual Spring Dance was held at the Holy Rosary Church Auditorium in Hawthorne. Music was provided by Die Spitzbuam and entertainment by our junior and senior Schuhplattler and the Kindergruppe and Volkstanzgruppe.

May 2007

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-Atlantic Region Kinderfest was hosted by the Alpenland Taenzer of New Britain, Connecticut. The weather conditions could have been better but did not dampen the plattler performances of these young children. There were Ehren Taenze performed by various groups.

June 11, 2007

Summerfest at Kolping-on-Hudson was another fun event. The Schwarzenegger Connection provided dance music and all our schuplattler groups including the Volkstanz Gruppe performed. President Chris Rodrick was the event's Chairman.

June 21-24, 2007

Gaufest 21, hosted by G.T.E.V. Edelweiss Reading, was held at Hershey Park, Pennsylvania. Participating in the the Jugeneinzel plattling was Steven Szoldatis, age 11, who had been plattling for less than one year. He danced with a girl from a mid-west Verein and did an excellent job. Eighteen Vereine, including our own, took part in the Preisplattling. We placed eight out of eighteen competing Vereine. Hats off to our Vorplattler, Roland Lex who led the group! Gaufest 22 will be held in Toledo, Ohio.

September 9, 2007

Our Volkstanzgruppe participated at the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual German Heritage Festival in Holmdell, New Jersey. Heino and his showband highlighted; this was Heino's last concert prior to his retirement.

September 15, 2007

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the German-American Steuben Parade was held on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Dr. Henry Kissinger was the Grand Marshall and led off the event after mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral. One of the largest crowds in many years, German-Americans marched along the parade route and enjoyed press coverage in the Daily News, the NY Post and Catholic New York. Our young plattlers carried arches decorated with flowers. Junior Princess from our Verein was Lauren Johanson. Our Verein participated in the first Steuben Parade in 1957 and was part of the German-American Societies of Westchester County contingent. To commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, our Plattler carried the Krone or Crown (of the Kronentanz) in this year's parade.

October 6, 2007

Edelweiss Passaic celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Some of our Plattlers and Executive Board attended the event.

October 7, 2007

Our Annual Oktoberfest was celebrated at the Holy Rosary Church Auditorium in Hawthorne. Bernie's Orchestra provided the dancing music. Chairman of the event was President Chris Rodrick. Our Kindergruppe, junior and senior Plattlers as well as the Volkstanzgruppe performed. We also enjoyed a performance by our Paten Verein, Bayern Verein Newark. Tom Vogt, Gauvorstand attended as our guest. In keeping with the Oktoberfest season, the local tabloid "The Journal News – Life and Style –" wrote an article in their weekly edition about Oktoberfests in the area and we were mentioned in the article.

October 14, 2007

As we have for many years now, our Plattlers performed at Magnanini Winery in Walkill, New York, for their annual Oktoberfest. Members and friends joined the annual Oktoberfest celebration which was rich with German food and great wine. We were sorry to have learned of Mr. Magnanini's passing and we sent a sympathy card to his family.

November 3, 2007

Our Annual Christmas Fair was held at the Thornwood American Legion Hall. We enjoyed accordion music and beautiful crafts from our talented members. The Chairman of the event was Barbara Barclay who pulled this fair together in two months and did a fabulous job.

November 15, 2007

Our monthly meeting was held and an important discussion revolved around proposed changes to our Bylaws of Bavarian Club Edelweiss which had not been updated in fifteen years, since 1993. Many sections and articles of the present Bylaws were amended and modified to reflect current issues of our Verein. Gloria Mayer Fernandez and her committee worked very hard work and spent a lot of time in revising our Bylaws.

December 2, 2007

Our Annual Christmas Party hosted by the Executive Board was held at the Peekskill Social Club. Linda Kraker and her committee organized this event which was a huge success. She also led the Chinese Auction Proceeds from the raffle were donated to local charities.

January 17, 2008

Installation of our new board brought in a new trustee, Margaret Essig, who took the place of Waldemar Stoppacher whose three year term expired. There were no other changes.

April 19-20, 2008

Today we are celebrating another milestone in our Verein's history as we celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Jubilaeum of our Verein. Our festivities include a Bauernmesse, Banquet and Frueschoppen which is being attended by our members, friends and guests including our Grabenstaett family who traveled here from Bavaria. Fr. Joe Blenkle will be celebrating Mass (Bauernmesse) at Holy Name of Jesus in Valhalla. Our Banquet is being held at the Westchester Manor in Hastings-on-Hudson and the Frueschoppen which will be held on Sunday will be at the Peekskill Social Club. The Committee, led by Gloria Mayer-Fernandez wish you a wonderful weekend and thank you for your support.

***Franz Stein Award Recipients:***

*Franz Stein Award: Waldemar Stoppacher, 2002*

*Franz Stein Award:* Diana Sonnenburg and Doris Lechner, 2003  
*Franz Stein Award:* Barbara Barclay, 2004  
*Franz Stein Award:* Christopher Rodrick, 2005  
*Franz Stein Award:* Renate Doren, 2006  
*Franz Stein Award:* Linda Kraker, 2007

20 Year Members:

Victoria Haag, Karl Josef Kehrlé, Emil and Charlotte Nauerz, Monika Phillips, Albert Wittmann, 2001  
*20 Year Anniversary:* Nick and Ottilé Harin, Jennifer Hodge Johanson, Roland Lex, Ingrid Wittmann, 2002  
*20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:* Marlene Kehrlé Brownell, August (Gus) and Jean Kluger, Ingeborg Link Kulka, 2004  
 Kathryn Fries, 2006

50 Year Members:

Eleanor Stein Link Sposato, 2003  
 Eleanore Baal, 2004  
 Reinhold Baal and Doris Koch, 2006  
 Theresa Engelhard, Rosemarie Hildenhagen, 2006  
 George and Monika Wolf, 2007

*60 Year Anniversary:* Rosa and Helmut Seidler

**Presidents**

1933-1935	Franz Stein
1936-1936	Max Platiel
1937-1937	John Mayer
1938-1949	Franz Stein
1950-1951	John Stein
1952-1953	Max Klauser
1954-1956	Harry Lenger
1957-1961	Franz Stein
1962-1963	Fred Heiner
1964-1964	Harry Lenger
1965-1967	Fred Heiner
1968-1978	Franz Stein
1979-1983	John Pammer
1984-1989	Waldemar Stoppacher
1990-1991	Erwin Hildenhagen
1992-1995	Waldemar Stoppacher
1996-1996	Gloria Mayer-Fernandez
1997-2003	Hans Lechner
2003-Present	Chris Rodrick

**Vorplattlers**

1933-1964	Franz Stein
1964-1965	Fritz Blume
1966-1989	Dieter Link
1990-1990	Joseph Lorenz
1991-2001	Kenneth Lex
2002-2003	Joseph Lorenz
2003-Present	Roland Lex