

Bavarian Club Edelweiss



JANUARY 2010 NEWSLETTER



Unsere Zeiten

“President’s Message”

I wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year with continued prosperity and happiness!

As I look back over the past year, I am proud that we have achieved so many of the goals that were set in 2009. I especially want to thank my Executive Board including the Trustees for their continued loyalty and support in helping us reach those goals. Also Vergelts Gott to the Plattlers, Volkstanz Gruppe and Kinder Gruppe. Thank you Doris Koch, our Historian, for providing us with current archival history, to Rosa Seidler, our Fahnen Mutter for keeping the Toten Band current, to Veronica Archul, our Trachten Mutter for keeping our tracht updated, Rosemarie Link our Social Director and to Jim Sachse our Bier Fuchs!

2009 Goals: As your President I set goals for myself and many were met:

-We changed the Board meetings to the first Tuesday of the month as many of us must travel a great distance. -To cut mailing expenses, we utilized e-mail for our membership list, Bylaws and Newsletters for those people who have computers. We published three newsletters which were sent out every four months. Herb Seeff, as our Editor, has done a phenomenal job by obtaining great photos and interesting articles. -The reintroduction of the Franz Stein Scholarship fell by the wayside due to the lack of supporting funds. -The much ignored website in years past was revamped. Thanks so much to Carol Borselio, our webmaster, for the terrific job that she did to get the website regenerated and running smoothly once again. As a matter of fact as of December 31 (YTD) we had 2500 hits (or visits) to our website. -Callingpost.com, an efficient and sophisticated phone system that dials all members at once has turned out to be a viable system where we have all benefited. -During the year we passed a list around to our members to find out their talents and we tapped into their resources which helped our Christkindl Markt to be such a success. -Our event advertising got bigger and better. Thanks to Al and Edith Hodge, Waldemar and Lydia Stoppacher who took the initiative to revamp our signage, order new signage, pass out the flyers to the local stores. Thanks to Carol Borselio for your advertising skills on the website and thanks to Linda Kraker for your continuous e-mailings to other clubs, organizations and members regarding various upcoming events. -We had two Heimatabends with great success! Our Fasching and Pot Luck Party in February had twenty-five attendees. Following the Christkindl Markt, we invited the vendors including our members for a bite to eat and served refreshments. - We renamed the annual Spring Dance to the 76th Stiftungsfest which was held at Kruckers in Pomona on Sunday, April 26th and was a success with 131 members and guests in attendance with little work on our part. -The 22nd Gaufest held in Toledo in August which was attended by at least seventy-five members. The coach, driven by Erwin Hildenhagen was a memorable event. We were dancing in the aisles and ate and drank all the way to Toledo! The best was that we had members from four

clubs on board: Bavarian Club Edelweiss, Die Gemuetlichen Enzianer, Poughkeepsie Almrausch and Bayern Verein Newark. While we did not come in the top five, we were part of the competition that included seventeen clubs. Congratulations to our plattlers who competed! It was the first time competing for: Christina and Stephanie Kraker and Dan Hepp. A job well done! We were very proud of our plattlers and we hope they continue to strive for the next 23. Gaufest in Orlando! -Our annual Christmas Fair held on November 7th at the Legion Hall was renamed "Christkindl Markt" (from Christmas Fair). It was a huge undertaking but it was a great success!

2010 Goals: This coming year brings us additional challenges and new ventures. Continuing profitability is a key factor for 2010.

-In order to reduce expenses and control environmental impact, our newsletter, membership lists, flyers and club functions will be distributed via e-mail. Paper copies will be provided to members who do not have computers or are homebound. We will also research more cost efficient ways to print flyers, etc. -We will strive to keep the admission prices to our events and the pre-paid dinners at as little cost as possible so that all our members and friends are able to attend these affairs.

-I will ask the Trustees along with our Treasurer, to review our profit and loss statements and to determine where we make our profit and where we are losing income; the results will be reported to the members.

-The trachten inventory will be reviewed as to what is owned, what we have purchased and what is due. Tracht is an ongoing expense and we will continue to make arrangements with our trachtlers to pay off their tracht in a timely manner.

-The Bereavement Guidelines needs to be revamped. A committee will be appointed to review these guidelines and make recommendations for modification.

-We are also contemplating a new cookbook focusing on German and Austrian cooking and baking. It could also contain the customs, traditions, holidays and holydays and how they are celebrated, etc.

-The Franz Stein Scholarship Award will be pursued. We will also look at alternative awards for students of members who are graduating from high school and are pursuing higher education. We must always keep in mind that they are our future!

-Effective January 2010, we increased the annual dues from \$30 to \$35; this was proposed and passed at our November meeting. The last increase was approximately ten years ago.

-We are currently in the process of exploring a new venue where we can combine our meetings, our storage and have our proben under one roof. The garage stock recently inventoried by Dieter Link and Fritz Blume has been cleaned out and items were discarded that are no longer useful to us.

Financial Stability:

Our financial stability has greatly improved over the past year. We actually made a profit this year! I am happy to report that our overall net profit as of December 31, 2009 was \$2900. The profit summary is as follows: 76. Stiftungsfest: \$402, Summerfest: \$1100 (and it was a rainy day with 113 people in attendance), Oktoberfest: \$2800 (with 300 people in attendance) and the Christkindl Markt: \$5600.

We lost in excess of \$1000 at the Christmas Party due to inclement and icy weather. We owe the Kraker Family our thanks for all the arrangements for the party.

Thanks to our Treasurer, Herb Seeff who keeps a tight rein on what comes in and what goes out! We work with a great group that performs well together in a team environment and are committed to the bottom line.

We welcome Carol Borselio who accepted the position of 2nd Vice President. Carol is not only an active plattler but is also our webmaster as well as a master arts and crafts person. We also

welcome Daniel Hepp as our 1st Vice President who moved up from 2nd Vice President. We wish Margaret Mezcic, outgoing 1st Vice President, well in her endeavors. Margaret served four years as 1st Vice President and we will miss her!

We will continue to uphold our traditions, culture and customs through our native folk dancing, our dress, foods, music and the German language. We will leave that legacy for our children and our children's children. "Sitt und Tracht der Alten, wollen wir erhalten" - Traditions of old in honor we uphold."

Vielen Dank,

Gloria Mayer McSweeney
1 Vorstand

Christkindl Markt 2009 was a great success as a result of many factors: We changed the name of the event to "Christkindl Markt," added St. Nikolaus (thanks Fritz and thanks Carol for making his cloak and mitre), utilized the outdoors to cook the bratwurst and added pretzels to the menu which were a hit! We placed tables and chairs outside for our customers, placed a lighted Christmas tree outside for all to see, added more vendors (a total of 9) displayed our hand-crafted ornaments on the small Christmas tree and added stollen (15) and Bavarian nuts to our edibles.

We thank Lydia & Waldemar Stoppacher, Edith & Al Hodge, Herb Seeff, Dori Ann Rodrick and Carol Borselio for the great advertising and publicity which brought in hundreds of people.

Vergelts Gott for their support including: Chris Rodrick, Kathe Seeff, Rosemarie and Dieter Link, Fritz and Irma Blume, Linda and John Kraker, Hilde and Jim Sachse, Ray Long, Dan Hepp, Monica Luedke, Hans Lechner, Herman and Maria Karnbaum, Kevin Leitner, Helmut and Rosewitha Eckhoff, Roland Lex, Jenny Johanson, Zita and our beloved butcher, Helmut Kraft, Margaret Essig, Wilhelmina Oettenwalder, Ernie Wieting, Dave and Peggy Dougall, Kitty Fries, Linda Szoldatits, Gary Hohenberger, Elicia Briggs, Marianne Kapfer, Helen Larsen and Tracey Reardon. Also to Maria Romano and Lotte Gaa for knitting, to our potato batter makers: Renate Doren, Louise Brescia, Hilde Sachse; to our cookie bakers: Margaret Mezcic, and her crew including Lisa Lindner and Angela Leschke. Thanks to our Arts and Crafts folks: Maria Oettinger, Veronica Archul, Carol Boreslio, Joan Sauer and to Barbara Barclay who has a way with the vendors! Also to our friends: John McSweeney, Ryan (new plattler) and his visiting brother Aaron and to Sieggy and Kathe Hepp for knitting and working in the kitchen.

If I have left anyone out, it was merely an oversight on my part.

"Operation Santa 2009" is a project sponsored by the Semper Fi Parents of the Hudson Valley. The goal for the Christmas season was to have scarves and helmet liners sent to the troops who are serving in Afghanistan, Iraq and Kosovo where the weather is very cold. I asked our membership if they were interested in participating and some volunteered to either knit, crochet or simply donate towards the purchase of the wool. I would like to thank the members who have supported this project: Maria Romano, Lotte Gaa, Jennifer Johanson, Elicia Briggs and to Lydia Stoppacher and Doris Koch for their donations. This is an ongoing all year project so please let me know if you are interested in helping.

Below is the Calendar for 2010 – Calendars are available at our monthly meetings or are enclosed with this Newsletter.

Calendar for 2010

Jan. 21 Thurs. Installation Meeting
Feb. 12 Fri. Fasching Party
Mar. 20 Sat. Bayern Verein Newark,
80. Stiftungsfest
Apr. 10 Sat. Die Gemuetlichen Enzianer
Bauern Ball
Apr. 24 Sat. 77. Stiftungsfest
June 19 Sat. Sommerfest
Sept. 25 Sat. 53. Steuben Day Parade, NYC
Oct. 10 Sun. Annual Oktoberfest
Oct. 17 Sun. Magnanini Winery
Nov. 06 Sat. Christkindmarkt
Dec. 12 Sun. Christmas Party

Membership Meeting:

**Every third Thursday of the Month at the
American Legion Hall
52 Garrigan Avenue
Thornwood, New York 10594**

Volkstanz Practice, 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month
Schuhplattler & Kindergruppe, 1st, 2nd & 3rd
Tuesday of each month at the Legion Hall in
Thornwood

Fahnenmutter: Rosa Seidler

Club Historian: Doris Koch

Membership Chairperson: Linda Kraker

Officers for 2010

Gloria Mayer McSweeney, President
(845) 896 - 2771 • Cell (845) 240-3227
zumleben1231@yahoo.com

Daniel Hepp, 1st Vice President
(203) 746-5119

Carol Borselio, 2nd Vice President
(203) 249-5034

Herb Seeff, Treasurer
(845) 628-7638

Linda Kraker, Corresponding Secretary
(845) 628-7798

Monica Luedke, Recording Secretary
(914) 552-5262

Vorplattler: Roland Lex (845) 803-3774
2nd Vorplattler: Kenneth Lex
Vortaenzerin: Veronica Archul

Trustees:

Dietmar Link, Marge Essig, Max Lorenz

Appointed Positions:

Trachtenmuetter: Veronica Archul

Kindervertreterin

Ingrid Wittmann
(914) 736-9139

Jennifer Johanson
(914) 769-4391

Volkstanzgruppe

Alfred Hodge
(914) 769-7149

Helmut Kraft
(914) 941-2490

Best Wishes to Elizabeth and Kenny Lex on the birth of their baby girl Chloe last July

Birthday Greetings to our members:

Congratulations to NOVEMBER: Helga Brugger, Elfriede Frankenberry and Daniel Hepp

DECEMBER: George Wolf, Heidi Lechner and JANUARY: Fritz & Irma Blume, Bruno Doren and Lydia Stoppacher.

Special congratulations and best wishes to Angela Leschke on her 80th Birthday in December.

Get well wishes: Gus Wittmann and Frank Romano. Please keep them in your prayers.

2010 Dues: Please pay your Dues at the next Membership Meeting or mail your payment (\$35.00) to Carol Borselio, 6 Miami Court, Cos Cob, CT 06807

UPCOMING EVENTS – OUR CLUB

FASCHING PARTY – on Friday, February 12th ...7:00 pm Pot Luck Dinner

Contact: Carol Borselio 203-249-5034

American Legion Hall, Thornwood, NY

Costumes please....we want to be entertained! Celebrate, party, cause mischief, get it out of your system...it soon will be the start of the Lenten Season.

77th STIFUNGSFEST - April 24th.....6:00 PM

Contact: Rosemarie Link 845-628-5573

Chalet on the Hudson, 3250 Route 9D, Garrison, NY 10516

Celebrate our Anniversary with us at this formal event overlooking the lovely Hudson River. More information to follow.

UPCOMING EVENTS – OTHER CLUBS

Saturday, March 20th - Bayern Verein Newark 80th Stiftungsfest - 6:30pm
Kenilworth Veteran's Ctr., 33 South 21st Street, Kenilworth, NJ
Contact: 908-851-9465 Rick Ernst – Cost: \$30.00 per person.

Saturday, April 10th - Die Gemuetlichen Enzianer Bauernball ... 8:00 PM
Polish American Hall, NY 5 Pulaski Place, Port Washington, NY – Music by the Heimatklaenge Orchester. Tickets are \$30.00 which includes German and domestic beer, wine and soda as well as sandwich platters, snacks, coffee and cake. Ages 12 to 30 - \$20.00, 6 to 12 - \$14.00 Under 6 Free. Our schuhplattlers will be participating. If you plan to attend, please call Roland Lex 845-803-3374

Saturday, April 17th - Arion Singing Society Bavarian ... Volksfest Dinner Dance
411 Danbury Road, New Milford, CT
Contact: 960-354-7593 www.arionsingingsociety.com

Herb Seeff - 2009 has been a very interesting and exciting year for me

Not too many foreign leaders have had the honor to address a Joint Session of Congress. German Chancellor Angela Merkel was invited to do so on November 3, 2009. Lars Halter, Chairman of the German American Steuben Parade and myself were there to witness this historic event. We were invited to attend this Joint Session in the Capitol by Congressmen Michael McMahan and Steven Israel. Once the usual introductions of the Vice President of the United States, the President's cabinet and other high ranking officials were done, the German Chancellor was escorted into the Chamber by a "Welcoming Committee". Standing at the historic lectern in front Vice President Joseph Biden and Speaker of the House of Nancy Pelosi, Mrs. Merkel gave a thoughtful and emotional speech. – A once in a lifetime experience for me.

With other members of the German American Steuben Parade on the 1st Advent Sunday, Kathy and I attended at special presentation made to Archbishop Timothy Dolan by the Parade Committee for his part in conducting the Mass on the morning of the Steuben Parade last September 20th. Kathy and I were honored to meet with the Archbishop personally.



Recipe by Veronica Archul from her Oma Rosa from Baden

Fastnachtkuechle

5 3/4 cups flour

1 1/2 packets rapid rise yeast

1 1/2 cups milk (warmed)

1 tsp. salt

6 tblesp. sugar

3 eggs (room temp.)

5 tblsp. butter melted into the milk

1/2 package vanilla sugar

lemon zest

1/2 stamperle (shot) of schnapps

Dissolve yeast with warm water and add pinch of flour to start activation. Add pinch of sugar, to further the activation. Mix ingredients thoroughly, and let the dough rise in warm place covered. Warmed towels (from microwave) help rise. Once the dough is risen, make doughnuts, oval shaped and place on boards. Let these rise again before frying. Fry dough in vegetable oil, until dark brown, top with confectioners sugar.

Do you know the History of Bavaria?

Located in southeastern Germany, at the foothills of the Alps, Bavaria is Germany's oldest and largest state. Today it is one of the biggest tourist destinations in Europe, and home to the famous fairy tale castle, Neuschwanstein, built by King Ludwig II in 1870.

Bavaria began as one of five principle duchies of Germany during the Middle Ages, ruled by the Agilofing family from 550-788 A.D.. Christianity found its way to Bavaria around the seventh and eighth century, via Scottish and Irish monks.

Charlemagne absorbed the duchy into his empire, and over the next four hundred years, the title of duke passed through several families. Henry the Lion, of the House of Welf, founded the city of Munich, which would become the leading city of Bavaria.

In 1180, Bavaria was given as a fief to the Witteslsbach family, who would rule until the end of WWI in 1918. The duchy was divided several times, only to be reunited in 1506 by Duke Albert IV. Albert introduced the idea of primogeniture, or, inheriting the title and lands by the eldest male son. This kept lands within the family, and kept the duchy from further division. Because of this strong unification, Bavaria withstood the Protestant Reformation that began in Germany by Martin Luther and his 95 Theses in 1517. It became a stronghold of Catholicism during the Counter-Reformation, serving as headquarters of the Catholic League during the Thirty Years War. During his reign, the Duke became an elector of the Holy Roman Empire, giving Bavaria greater political advantage.

With the death of Duke Maximilian Joseph in 1777, the question of the Bavarian succession intensified into a brief series of military skirmishes, with Prussia and Austria each vying for territory. In the end Prussia received Ansbach and Bayreuth and the elector of Saxony, who had been backed by Austria, was paid off to relinquish his claims to the succession. This conflict was dubbed the "Potato War" because each side tried to cut off the others food lines.

Bavaria joined Napoleon's Confederation of the Rhine, and in 1806, Napoleon dissolved the Holy Roman Empire, and elevated his new ally to a kingdom. The Bavarian Army took part in the invasion of Russia, ending in thousands of deaths. Shortly afterwards King Maximilian deserted Napoleon, joining the allies. In the end, he was allowed to keep his entire kingdom intact. Compared to many governments of its time, Bavaria had modern constitution and liberal government. King Ludwig I abolished trade guilds in 1848, allowing industrialization to flourish. Under his grandson, King Ludwig II, Munich became a great cultural center of Europe, attracting artists and musicians, such as Richard Wagner.

During the second half of the Nineteenth Century, Bavaria sided with Austria in its war against Prussia (1866) then sided with Prussia after being defeated alongside Austria. It joined the new German Empire, along with Prussia, following wars with France in 1870. During this time, King Ludwig II nearly bankrupted the Bavarian Government, building his fairy tale castles of Linderhof and Neuschwanstein, among others.

By the end of WWI, and the defeat of Germany, the Kingdom of Bavaria had disappeared. It survived as an autonomous state during the chaos of the 1920's, but upon the rise of Hitler, became the home to Nazi headquarters in Munich and Nuremberg. Much of Bavaria was heavily bombed during WWII.

After the War, Bavaria fell into the American occupation zone, and rapid rebuilding took place. It has been part of the Federal Republic of Germany since 1949. In 1972, Munich hosted the Summer Olympics. Today Bavaria is one of the main tourist destinations in Germany. Its bucolic scenery and rich history lend itself to visitor's imagination of fairy tale castles and storybook cottages.

We hope that you enjoy this Newsletter. We welcome any suggestions.

Mit Bayrischen Grüßen,

Herb Seeff