



# UNSERE ZEITEN



NEWSLETTER OF BAVARIAN CLUB EDELWEISS, WESTCHESTER, NY

Summer Issue



God Bless America



2016

## President's Message

Welcome to our Summer Edition! We celebrated a lot of good things these past couple of months: 83<sup>rd</sup> Stiftungsfest in May held at Kolping on Hudson where we honored Peggy Dougall as recipient of the Franz Stein Award; Kinderfest in June at the Lancaster Liederkrantz (PA) where our Jugend Group participated; Sommerfest in June at KOH and the Annual Vereinigte Bayern Family Day in July also at KOH. Many thanks to the support of our membership who supported these events! We continue to uphold our heritage and our traditions! And not to forget all our volunteers who continue to give their time and support!

*Gloria Mayer McSweeney*  
*President*

## BAVARIAN CLUB EDELWEISS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016

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VOLKSTANZGRUPPE - PEGGY DOUGALL, MONICA LUEDKE, HELMUT KRAFT

### OTHER APPOINTED POSITIONS:

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UNSERE ZEITEN NEWSLETTER: SONYA KALL, EDITOR  
VETERANS OF THE HUDSON VALLEY REP: JOHN MCSWEENEY  
CLUB HISTORIAN: IRMA BLUME  
GAUZEITUNG: DORIS LECHNER

## NEW HAPPENINGS & EVENTS FOR 2016

### ONGOING:

**KAFFEE KLATSCH** Every 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Legion Hall from 3-4:pm. Coffee and milk will be provided by Peter and Peggy Greges and members are asked to bring baked goods to share on a rotating basis. Bring your own cup and saucer so it tastes more like you're at Oma's and not Starbucks!

**PLATTLER PRACTICE** meets first and third Tuesdays of the month at the American Legion Hall in Thornwood. 7.00pm Jugendgruppe and 7.30pm Adult group

**VOLKSTANZGRUPPE** meets first, second and third Tuesday of the month from 4:30-6pm at the Legion Hall.

**MONTHLY MEMBER MEETING** third Thursday of the month at the American Legion Hall in Thornwood

**PLEASE REMEMBER OUR VETS!** Clothing and monetary donations as well as acrylic yarn and homemade knitted or crocheted lap blankets are accepted on a regular basis at the monthly member meetings

### BAVARIAN CLUB EDELWEISS EVENTS:

**OKTOBERFEST**, Sunday, October 9, 2016 at the Holy Rosary Church in Hawthorne

**MAGNANINI WINERY**, Sunday October 16, 2016

**CHRISTKINDLMARKT**, Saturday, November 12, 2016 at the Mt. Pleasant Community Center, Valhalla, 10am-4pm

**CHRISTMAS PARTY**, Sunday, December 4, 2016 American Legion Hall

## MEMBER INFORMATION ...

**TRACHT:** no updates

### **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO OUR MEMBERS:**

JULY... Linda Ohland, Ernest Wieting

AUGUST... Peggy Dougall, William Hildreth, Kenneth Lex, Elizabeth Lex, Monica Luedke, Harrison Phillips

SEPTEMBER... Carol Gagliano, Alfred Hodge, Roland Lex, Bruce Lindner, Dietmar Link, Harry Phillips, Sandra Dougall Stromberg,

OCTOBER... Maria Obermaier Kehrle, Adolf Lex, Lisa Lindner, Daphne Lindner, Elizabeth Rodrick, Herbert Seeff

**GET WELL WISHES:** Al Hodge, Angela Leschke, Daphne Lindner, Ethel Wittman

**MEMBER DEATHS:** We remember and pray for those we recently lost: Anezia Adams on April 12th

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:** None at this time

### **CONGRATULATIONS!**

20 year Members: Hilde & Jim Sachse, Marianne & Manfredi Janowski

50th Anniversary: Irma & Fritz Blume

80th Birthdays: John McSweeney, Ernest Wieting, Peggy Greges

Engagements: Carol Gagliano and Daniel Hepp

Marriage: Melanie Briggs (ex- Kindergruppe) and Joseph McMillen

Graduations: all of the following were past Kindergruppe dancers:

Andrea Archul –from Roger Williams University, Gabelli School of Business, BS in Marketing:position with C+S Wholesale in Keene, New Hampshire (please visit when passing through NH!)

Isabella Caico –from Bel Air High School, MD; attending Rochester Institute of Technology, Bio-Medical Engineering

Kirsten Oettinger –from Tappan Zee HS; attending University of Tampa. Program: Speech Pathology

## “HEIMAT ECHO” MUSIC ON YOUR COMPUTER

Hi All,

I wanted to share with you all that on Saturday mornings from 9-10 am EST there is a radio program out of Milwaukee called Heimat Echo. For those who are not familiar with it, its "repertoire is a unique blend of traditional German Volksmusik, brass band music, and Schlager Hit Parade music from the 1950's and 1960's." (per their website)

Below is the link to the website which has the link under quick links to stream the station, as well as podcasts of past shows. You can also find the station on the app TuneIn for those with iPhone/iPads or other devices. If you are on FaceBook, you can join the Frühstücksverein. As the program is playing, members of the vereine chat with each other. You may recognize members or may even recognize some of the musicians playing on the program from time to time. I hope you all try it out an tune in or listen to past programs to get a feel for the program. I will post to the link on the Club's website as well. The hour goes by so quickly, especially when doing chores around the house.

I forgot to mention that there is a Polish hour and two hours of Slovenian music as well a little later in the morning.

I hope you enjoy!

Carol Gagliano

**JOY1340.COM**

## **SPECIAL THANKS!!!**

Bavarian Club Edelweiss Fahnenmutter, Rosa Seidler, realized that a new Trauerband was needed to accompany our Flag. Rosa immediately called Fahnen Eibl in Olching, Germany and placed the order outlining what we required.

Rosa requested the Band be ready for pickup on July 21, at which time it was picked up by Rudy and Cathy Leschke on Olching (outside Munich) on their way to the Gaufest in Steingaden in the Allgau, Germany. Carol Gagliano, her daughter, Felicia, and Dan Hepp, who all also attended the Gaufest, brought the Trauerband home to America.

We thank Rosa and Christa Seidler Schmitz for their diligent work in getting the new Trauerband to the Club in a very timely manner.



## DER BAYERISCHER BIERGARTEN

*It's summertime and time for the Bavarian in us to turn our thoughts to lazy days at the beach and barbecuing in the yard—NOT!!! Here's where the real Bavarian is spending his every free moment — the Biergarten!*



### All about Bavarian beer gardens!

- **Off to a great start.** The beer garden season officially starts in May in true style round the maypole with traditional May dances and a barrel of tasty "Maibock".
- **The fine difference.** A truly traditional beer garden will still today allow its guests to bring their own food. This dates back to the times of King Ludwig I in the 19th century and was reinforced in 1999 by the Bavarian beer garden bylaws.
- **Beer garden beer.** If you order a beer in the southern beer garden you will get a litre glass of lager whilst in the north you will be served with a "Seidla" – a half litre – beer from the barrel. Pils is very popular in the Franconian beer cellars whereas in the southern gardens wheat beer and shandies are still enjoyed by many.
- **It's all a matter of where you live.** A southern Bavarian goes "in the beer garden" whereas a Franconian goes "on the beer cellar". But they both still end up in the same place!
- **Bavaria's largest beer garden** (and probably the largest in the world) is Munich's Hirschgarten that can cater for some 8,000 people.
- **Don't forget: Obazda.** Serves 4: Press 500 g ripe camembert with a fork. Mix in 40 g soft butter, 200 g cream cheese, a finely chopped onion and 6-8 dessert spoonfuls of beer. Season with salt, pepper, paprika and ground cumin and garnish with onion rings, chives or radishes. Serve with bread or pretzels.

- courtesy of bayern/by



## OUR FAVORITE RECIPES

submitted by  
Sonya Kall  
ENJOY!

### GERMAN POTATO SALAD - Perfect for all your Biergarten Pairings!

1 pound fingerling potatoes  
2 TBS Champagne vinegar  
2 TSP Dijon mustard  
1/4 cup plus 2 TBS canola oil  
1 shallot finely cut  
2 scallions sliced  
salt and white pepper to taste

Place potatoes in a medium pot and cover them with water. Bring to a boil and then simmer for about 15 minutes until tender. Drain, peel and cut into coin size pieces.

Whisk the Champagne vinegar with the mustard in a small bowl or mug. Add oil gradually and continue whisking until smooth. Add the shallots and scallions and salt and pepper to taste. Pour the dressing over the still warm potatoes and toss to coat them. Let stand at room temperature for roughly 10 minutes then sprinkle chives over the center before serving. This salad can be prepared and refrigerated overnight before serving the next day and can be heated quickly in a microwave.

## Steuben Parade

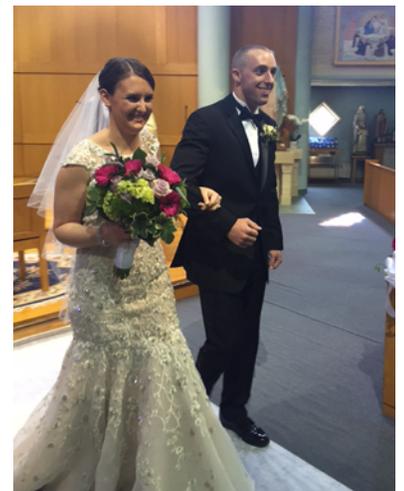
This year's parade will take place on Saturday, September 17. We would like to have a strong showing again this year! Please contact Rosemarie Link to let her know if you will be attending at (845) 628-5573. This year BCE bought a box of the cornflowers from the Vereinigte Bayern to support the parade. They are available for member purchase for \$2 each if anyone is interested.

## CONGRATULATIONS!!!

to our members Carol Gagliano and Dan Hepp on their recent engagement announced while vacationing in Germany

&

to proud parents Elicia and Tom Briggs and grandparents Edith and Al Hodge on the wedding of their daughter/granddaughter Melanie Briggs to Joseph McMillen





## WELCOME TO THE HOME OF THE 26. GAUFEST BUFFALO!!

Thank you for visiting! This website will provide you as much information as we can about the 26. Gaufest Buffalo event. Please navigate thru the menu items to get to the specific information you are looking for.

We are proud, and honored, to be hosting this event for the third time! We are working on some things that will help to celebrate that accomplishment.

We hope that you will enjoy all aspects of what we are putting together!

Please continue to check back for updates.

### Find us here:

-  **Email:** [Gaufest2017@roadrunner.com](mailto:Gaufest2017@roadrunner.com)
-  **Facebook:** [26. Gaufest 2017 - Buffalo](#)
-  **Twitter:** [@gaufestbuffalo](#)
-  **Instagram:** [gaufestbuffalo2017](#)

## 26. GAUFEST BUFFALO HOTEL INFORMATION

Last update: 6/5/16 @ 7:20pm EST

**WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING ON OTHER HOTEL PROPERTIES.**

**WE HAVE SENT AN EMAIL, TO THE EMAIL LIST WE WERE PROVIDED, REQUESTING THAT EACH VEREIN SUBMIT A LIST OF MEMBERS THAT WOULD LIKE TO BE ON A WAIT LIST FOR HOTEL ROOMS. ONCE WE HAVE PROPERTIES AVAILABLE, OR OTHER ROOMS BECOME AVAILABLE, WE CAN START HANDING ROOMS OUT TO THOSE ON THE LIST.**

**IF YOU STILL NEED A ROOM, PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR VEREIN KNOWS SO THEY CAN GET YOU ON THE LIST.**

### ADAM'S MARK HOTEL - HEADQUARTER HOTEL

**The Adams Mark is sold out!!** It only took about 18 hours, which is the fastest the Adams Mark has ever sold out an event! Thank you all!

### HYATT REGENCY HOTEL - SECONDARY HOTEL

Website Reservations: [Hyatt Regency Reservation Link](#)

**Note: The reservation link calendar starts at 2016.**

**Please make sure you are veiwing June/July 2017 to get to our room block.**

Call Direct: 888-421-1442, mention group code GAUFEST BUFFALO 2017

Standard Double - \$159

Standard King - Sold Out!

**We currently have a block of Standard Double rooms for a check-in on Friday, June 30th thru check-out on Monday, July 3rd.**

**SUITES  
SOLD OUT!**

# “KULTUR PUR”

## A VISIT TO THE TRACHTENKULTURMUSEUM

- courtesy of Alexander Kall



On my recent summer trip to Germany, my family and I had the pleasure of visiting the Trachtenkulturmuseum located in Holzhausen. Accompanying us was my grandfather, which made it a very special visit for me. He was a member of the Bayerischer

Volksfest Verein von 1874, the first Bavarian-American club founded in New York and the USA. In fact, he was their “Fahentraeger” (flag bearer) for many years. They did not perform Schuhplattler dances like my mother and I now do. Instead, those members performed the “Schaefflertanz” - or dance of the coopers (barrel-makers). Traditionally, the dance is only performed every 7 years and it dates back to 1517. Most people will recognize their red jackets, black pants and white stockings on the figurines in the Glockenspiel of Munich’s New Town Hall on the Marienplatz.



Thanks to our iPad with Google maps, we were able to find our way to the museum, located in the rolling fields of Niederbayern (though only 40 minutes from our home in Erding). Housed in a former rectory belonging to the Archdiocese of Munich and Freising, the museum is comprised of 4 buildings - a main office with the actual museum and exhibits; a climate-controlled archive; a reception hall with a stage and bar; and a seminar building with everything from sleeping quarters to seminar rooms equipped with a kitchen. Though



we thought we were only going to see a museum, it was interesting to find out that any Trachtenverein or it’s members could attend seminars there or hold their own. The rooms housing the sleeping quarters were like hotel rooms decorated in various period bavarian furniture from late 1800’s to modern rustic ‘landhaustil’. And each room was sponsored by a specific “Gauverband” - including one from the North American Gauverband.





First opening on May 2 of 2015, the museum holds artifacts from clubs all over Bavaria, Canada and the USA. In 1883, the first Trachtenverein was formed in Bavaria. Over 800 clubs have since been formed in over 22 “Gauverbaende”. All of these clubs, including ours here in North America and Canada uphold the motto “Sitt und Tracht der Alten wollen wir erhalten”. This place is the embodiment of that and is staffed by volunteers looking to do their part in preserving that culture.



Our guide, Erika Korenjak, gave us a special tour of all the buildings. As an exception to the rule, she allowed us into the climate controlled archive room where thousands of items like flags, banners, clothing, jewelry, and documents are categorized and wrapped in special paper to prevent aging or deterioration. Pulling out some of the drawers, we were able to see banners from some of our NY and NJ Schuhplattler groups. Then came the high point of the trip for me....we pulled out the original flag from my Grandfather’s club.

Though it was not the exact flag he carried (which is also housed in the archives as the club has long ceased to exist), it was it’s predecessor. At that moment, I felt proud that I was also actively carrying on Bavarian traditions as my “Opa” did. We found the beer stein from his club’s 100th anniversary when we got back to the main building as well.



It was a rainy and rather cool day when we went to the museum. But when we left, the weather couldn’t erase the smile from my face, or the warm feelings I had inside, knowing that 3 generations of my family, me included, were tied to this place and trying our best to keep it all alive and going!

See you all next June at the  
Gaufest hosted by  
SG Edelweiss Buffalo!



Bayernverein  
Newark



“Schlierachtalerstam”



Original Enzian



“G” miatlichen”  
Enzianer



## RECENT EVENTS

### *Kaffeeklatsch -- May 10, 2016 — Legion Hall*

- courtesy P. & D. Dougall

“The May 10th's Kaffeeklatsch -Deutsche Sprach Gruppe was well attended. There was a Kirsche Joegel, Lavendar Kuchen, Pizzelles and cookies. Thanks to all who contributed and to Edith Hodge for donating a can of coffee. Many thanks goes out to Peter and Peggy Greges for the table set up. Looking ahead there will NO June get together due to graduations and weddings confirmations,etc.

A demo is planned for July 12th at 2pm American Legion Hall,Thornwood on " How to make Dampfnudeln ". In addition also how to make additional sauces that go with it.

On August 9 there will be Potluck BBQ at the Gregis's residence. More info to follow.... so stay tuned.  
(postponed due to excessive heat)

Yes we had a special visitor "Engelbert the Egret" came to the Kaffeeklatsch. The other picture is the Kirsche Joegel in the forefront and Affe Knoedel and Lavendar Kuchen.”



### *Kaffeeklatsch — July 12, 2016 — Legion Hall*

- courtesy P. & D. Dougall

“Wow ...Es war eine gute Treffen Gestern!

Many thanks to **Peter and Peggy** for their faithful set up and stove technology. **Linda Ohland** , our own cookbook coordinator, who took a submitted recipe, went ahead and did it. Having never tasted or knew what a Dampfnudel should look like she brought in 2 trays! That's takes courage and confidence. **Edith** brought in the Vanilla Sauce, **Lotte** her delicious Weinsosse, **Irme**- peaches, **Moi** -blueberries, ice tea and more DN , **Elfriede**-cups and plates. **Peggy G.** Jello and lemon pies (refreshing), **Zita** her blueberry kuchen, **Dave** had some music. But it couldn't be heard due to conversations. I was glad to see some new faces join us **Marianne, Lucie,** and **Waltraud and Anita.**

**Many thanks to all who came and helped eat the goodies...clean up was easy!”**

Tschuss,  
Peggy

## RECENT EVENTS

### *83rd Stiftungsfest — May 14, 2016 — Kolping on Hudson*

More than 90 people came out to help us celebrate our 83rd Stiftungsfest in Asam Hall at Kolping on Hudson. The weather held out long enough to make it an enjoyable. The Bratwurst Boys provided great music while our Schuhplattlers and Volkstanz groups entertained us. Alexander Kall made his debut dancing with our Jugend group that day. Peggy Dougall was honored this year as the recipient of the Franz Stein award. Thanks go out to everyone involved in making this a great event this year!



## Franz Stein Award, May 14, 2016

### Margaret Peggy Dougall

The member we honor today truly exemplifies our motto "Sitt und Tracht der Alten, wollen Wir erhalten."  
*Translated:* "We will continue to uphold our customs and traditions." Our honoree continues to keep the German language and culture alive through traditions, native folk dancing, dress, foods and music. I am proud to present Margaret Peggy Dougall as this year's recipient of the Franz Stein Award.

The many accomplishments that she has achieved include:

#### ...Enhancing our traditions and culture:

-Introduced a monthly afternoon Kaffee Klatsch for our senior club members. Coffee and cakes provided by our great bakers are provided.

-Continues an annual Fasching celebration with festivities, traditional foods and German folk songs.

#### ...Enhancing our native folk dancing:

-Co-Leader of the Volkstanzgruppe; over the years she has introduced and taught several native folk dances from the regions of Germany and the Tyrolean areas.

-Due to her enthusiasm and leadership, the Volkstanzgruppe also performs at events outside club activities. Peggy is always thinking out of the box. In fact, just recently, Peggy and Betty Bunger of Bayern Verein Newark have had conversations with BVN's wanting to start a Volkstanzgruppe. Over the years, they were so impressed with our group that they, too, wanted to start their own Volkstanzgruppe. Not only did Peggy send them instructions, a video and CD's, she invited the members of BVN's group and our group to come together so that we could show and teach them some of our dances. The camaraderie between the two clubs has great history; Bayern Verein Newark is our Paten Verein and we are their Paten Kind (trans: they are our Sponsor Parent and we are their Sponsor Child)

#### ...Enhancing our foods:

-Started a cooking class called "Cooking at Kolping." Along with our Chef Helmut Kraft, researched and taught how to make suelze (head cheese) and liverwurst. In fact, she acquired pig parts from a Vermont farmer to make the suelze. It was hard to look at the pigs head with his blue eyes swimming in the pot!

#### ...Enhancing our German language:

-In early 2015, she formed the Deutsche Sprache Gruppe (German Language Group) which meets once a month. Conversing "auf Deutsch," all German language skills were accepted and open to club and non-club members. If you lapse back into English, you must throw money into the piggy bank.

-At one of the Deutsche Sprache Gruppe get-togethers, she showed a German film titled: "Lautlos," complete with finger foods and refreshments!

-Several months ago, the Deutsche Sprache Gruppe was changed to Kaffee Klatsch Hour and meets on the second Tuesday afternoon in order to benefit our senior members who don't like to drive during the night hours. Presently there are about twenty members who are part of the group.

Peggy not only supports Bavarian Club Edelweiss, she is also active in the Vereinigte Bayern von Gross New York und New Jersey (United Bavarians of New York and New Jersey) She served as a Delegate in 1993 and 1994 and is currently the Corresponding Secretary, a position that she has held for the past twenty-one years [1995]. She was also instrumental in getting the Vereinigte Bayern's Calendar a head

start. Whether it is collecting pictures, researching holidays or soliciting bands to be part of the calendar, she is always looking to make things better!

In her “spare” time, you can find Peggy at Kolping on Hudson doing her “corporal acts of mercy” as part of the Edelweiss Gardening Club. Whether she is pulling weeds, planting or re-organizing the many gardens at Kolping, she unselfishly gives her time to make the grounds more attractive!

Peggy you have given so much to our verein with your creative and innovative ideas....always thinking of ways to enhance the traditions of our heritage and other aspects of our Bavarian and Tyrolean culture.

Vergelts Gott!

Gloria Mayer McSweeney

President

May 14, 2016



## The Musicians of Bavarian Club Edelweiss – Dieter Link and Fritz Blume

- courtesy G. Mayer McSweeney



Music plays an important part at any club’s function whether it is for dancing, listening or plattling, music makes us happy! Musicians keep the beat, the tempo and the rhythm. The Vorplattler listens to the down beat of when a figure changes, when the plattlers begin and end their dance and provides march out music when the performance is concluded.

The musicians of our verein go beyond what we expect from them. They not only play at plattler proben, at our events and outside jobs, but they also entertain us at Heimatabends, our Christmas party and jam with other verein accordionists. At a drop of a hat they’ll only be too happy to play Happy Birthday or an anniversary waltz when asked.

Dieter Link and Fritz Blume go beyond what we expect of them! Two men who never say no and always give back in every way they can...two plattlers who have taken the time to teach the jugend of our club to plattl because they are committed to the traditions and the culture of our Bavarian heritage.

## RECENT EVENTS

### *Mid-Atlantic Kinderfest -- June 4, 2016 -- Lancaster Liederkrantz*

Our Jugendgruppe did a great job representing the club at this weekend event and had a fun time doing it! ...and without Dieter, Fritz, Carol, Christine, Monica, Daniel and Dennis none of this would have been possible! The Alpenrose Schuhplattlers of the Lancaster Liederkrantz (PA) hosted this year's Kinderfest which was attended by 140 children from 14 dance groups and approximately 200 adults. All groups performed Ehrentaenze and when not performing they played games, learned other German activities and German songs. Children attending from BCE were: Sebastian and Analiese Phillips, Felicia Borselio, and Alison and Kristen Bogovic. We thank Dan Hepp, Rudy Leschke and Dennis Bogovic for performing with our kids.



**YOU'RE MISSING OUT ON SOME GREAT TIMES IF YOU'RE NOT TAKING PART IN THESE EVENTS! MULTIPLE GENERATIONS ARE HAVING LOADS OF FUN!**

**(HINT HINT HINT — NOTICE ANY SIMILARITIES?)**

## RECENT EVENTS

### *Sommerfest — June 18, 2016 — Kolping on Hudson*

-courtesy G. Mayer McSweeney

Thanks to all who attended, worked and participated at our annual Sommerfest! We especially thank our butcher, Helmut Kraft, for getting all the meats, wursts and sauerkraut, the grillers, the cooks, the bakers (thanks Peggy G. for chairing), the bar folks, the workers, the cashiers, the admission people, the set up and clean up folks. The Plattlers did a great job entertaining, as always. The Goalschnalzen, super! The Volkstanzgruppe always amazes me as to their dedication to our culture. The Jugendgruppe rocks; just out there having fun! Thank you Carol and Dan. Continued thanks to Veronica for her commitment to making sure we all looked beautiful in our nearly new dirndls. Thanks to Margaret who always keeps the kitchen in order! Thanks to Dieter for keeping our Inventory ship shape. Thanks to Fritz who leads the Plattlers and Jugendgruppe to the dance floor. And if I have forgotten anyone, it is not intentional!



## RECENT EVENTS



### *Vereinigte Bayern's Annual Family Day — July 30, 2016 — Kolping on Hudson*

-courtesy G. Mayer McSweeney

What a wonderful day it was where we celebrated our Bavarian heritage. A gathering of nine Vereine of the Vereinigte Bayern von Gross New York & New Jersey including support from other German American clubs. The day started out with a Memorial for our deceased members and past presidents. We lost Delegate Rudy Koller of Club Bavaria this year. Through the sun and the downpour we continued to party throughout the day; reacquainting with friends we haven't seen in a while and making new friends that we will forever hold close! The "Bratwurst Boys" band played for our entertainment who continued to play even when it was pouring. We had a Volkstanz Gruppen get-together with our Edelweiss group and Edelweiss Passaic where we shared folk dances. The kids were fishing, had a balloon toss contest and participated in the Ice Cream Parade. The adults partied, as usual, playing Schafkopf and Bocce, downing HB and enjoying their bratwurst! There were about 240 in attendance (adults and kids) and was a huge success.



## RECENT EVENTS



### *80th Stiftungsfest German American Club Peekskill — May 15, 2016 — Peekskill*

On the day after our Stiftungsfest, about 16 of our members journeyed to Peekskill to celebrate with the German American Club. Fun was had by that group and we thank them for supporting a fellow Verein and representing our club up there



## MEMBER POSTS

**Got something to buy, sell or swap? Need to get the word out about something? Let us know and it can be posted here!  
Let us know and it can be posted here!**

Walker or pedestal cane — contact Jeff Bernert 914-302-2806 [gjbernert@aol.com](mailto:gjbernert@aol.com)

Game and Poker Table with felt top for puzzles, etc. — contact Peggy Greges 914-793-3773

*Bayerischer Trachtenverband* sticker - approx 4in round - \$1.50ea —contact Sonya Kall  
914-886-3381 [alexvik2@optonline.net](mailto:alexvik2@optonline.net)



IN  
CLOSING

ENJOY THIS  
SHORT  
PERSONAL  
LIFE  
HISTORY  
OF ONE OF  
OUR  
DEPARTED  
LONG TIME  
MEMBERS

ERICH  
KOTHE

## Erich Bruno Kothe - An Autobiography

My name is Erich Bruno Kothe and my wife's name is Erna Olga Kothe.

We have been proud members of the Club Edelweiss since 1962 and honour members since 1982. Here is my story:

I was born October 7, 1903 in Germany. I attended a military school similar to the West Point Academy. I was seriously intent on a military career, but at the close of World War I, all military schools were abolished. I was saddened by this turn of events. But then again, those bruised ankles, which occurred every time some yelled "Achtung", were murder!

To support my family, I was forced to work in a coal mine. I use the term "forced" since coal mining was not my idea of a job. My happiest moments were spent playing my harmonica. I could always be found amidst a group of my beer drinking pals. In time I found it necessary to learn to play the concertina, as I could not play the harmonica and drink at the same time!

Along the way, I met Erna. We got married on November 6, 1923. I was now working as a cutter in a glove factory. This job was a vast improvement over my employment as a coal miner. Soon our son, Eric, Jr., was born. Everything was going well, until someone noticed the gloves rolling on the production line had six fingers!!!

I had a cousin living in the United States who, for some time, had been trying to persuade me to bring my family over. At that time, it was very difficult to find employment in Germany. To make matters worse, every time I pronounced the name of my hometown, Goeritzhain, someone always said "Gesundheit"!!

I had had it. My family and I set sail from Hamburg, Germany for America. We came over on the steamship "Albert Ballin". but it

has been said that when people saw the ship approaching the American shores they ran up and down Time Square shouting "Erich is here! Erich is here!" It was June 25, 1928.

My first impression of New York was disappointing. I looked high and low, but saw no cowboys or Indians. Furthermore, the streets were not lined with gold. However, the streets did bear evidence of the presence of horses!!

My future was promising. Now it was my turn to make some dough! The following morning I went to work in my cousin's bakery, the "Karl Thiele Bakery" in Irvington, New York.

This work proved to be as bad as the coal mining job. In the mines, I got all black. In the bakery, I got all white. I was a role model for integration before anyone even heard of the term! You might say I went from Black Power to Flour Powder!

The hours at the bakery were terribly long. I started at four o'clock in the morning and delivered finished baked goods well into the afternoon. Delivering goods enabled me to practice my English. You won't believe it, but in a short time, everyone in Irvington had a German accent!

For a short time, I worked in the Fisher Body Plant in Tarrytown, New York. It had been claimed that this was the first time stripped cars came off the line! This job was subject to seasonal layoffs -- at least that's the story I gave my wife!

On October 20, 1928, I found a new job. I reported to the American Brass Company plant, which later became the Anaconda Wire and Cable, in Hastings-on-Hudson. The personnel man at the time was Judge McCullen. When I learned that McCullen was actually a Judge, I immediately thought I was guilty of some infraction of the immigration laws. Before Judge McCullen spoke, I offered to return

the silverware to the steamship line!

For about one year, I worked as a carpenter's apprentice and was transferred from carpentry to the coarse wire drawing department.

My wife heard about fins and scale in the rodmill and something about crabs in a certain room, so when I arrived home reeking of fish soap solution, she was thoroughly convinced I worked in a cannery!

Around this period, I purchased my first vehicle - a Harley-Davidson Motorcycle. I put on my leather gaiters, riding breeches, leather coat, and flying helmet. It has been said that I resembled the famed World War I flying ace, Red Baron von Richtoffen!

Through the years, I became a virtuoso of the concertina. As a result, this has brought great enjoyment to myself and my wife.

I was very popular with the sauerbraten crowd. My concertina, my wife, and I were invited to many parties.

We were at such a party in the Yorkville section of New York, one evening. At the end of this event, we started our trip home. As we headed north along the Hudson, Erna remarked that there was something wrong. "Eric," she yelled. "When we drove to the party the river was on our right and now it is still on the right!" "Oh", I replied bleary-eyed, "the tide must have changed."

I could go on at length with many more yarns. Instead, I will mail the rest of my material to "Laugh-In".

I hope you all had a little fun with my story. Of course, I was lighthearted about many events which reflected a difficult and very serious time in all our lives.

God Bless all of my Edelweiss friends. ~~AND NEIGHBORS AND~~ EDDELWEISS FRIENDS

*This comes out on the special*  
-Erich Kothe

P.S. You can still find the names Erich and Erna Kothe engraved on the Immigration Wall on Ellis Island, New York.

*I'm 98 years now. Member of Edelweiss Club 42 years.*

