

Notes from Kingston

May 2009

President's Message:

'Tis Spring, the bird is on the wing, a start of new beginnings! We have survived the snow, sleet, and rains of the past few months and are looking forward to warmer and dryer weather and the activities and events planned for 2009.



Our 141st Anniversary Spring Concert on May 16th, under the guidance of our Dirigent Jerry Hoch, is coming along very well. The Music Committee Co-Chairs Oskar Benzenhoefer and Fred Schink, our Liedermutter Vivian Longto, our Liedervater Henry Buser, and our accompanist Sherry Thomas have all worked diligently to assist Jerry in putting the final touches on our concert program. One more rehearsal and it's *Showtime*.

In keeping with our principal purposes and goals of promoting and preserving our German culture through music, we are also preparing for the 35th *Sängerfest* in Utica in June. We will be participating in the Mass Chorus Concert as well as the Mixed Chorus 2nd Class competition. Jerry has inspired and motivated us to reach into the depths of our singing capabilities and produce rich and harmonic music using his personal style of aerobic choral direction.

Please check your calendars and make a commitment to support your Germanic culture, heritage, and tradition by coming to our activities and events. You'll find good times, eine tolle Zeit mit *Gemütlichkeit* und viel *Spass*!

Mit freundlichen Sangergrusen und Kameradschaft,
With friendly Singers' Greetings and Camaraderie

Herman Alfons Koelmel,
President



As German-speaking immigrants settled around the state, they brought with them a love of choral singing and formed choruses like those back in their *heimat*. In 1897 twenty-two choruses pledged to support each other, encourage competitive singing, and advocate camaraderie. Thus the sangerbund was founded.

On Sunday April 26th delegates from German-American Choruses around New York State gathered in Utica, New York to participate in the annual Spring Bundes Music Committee meeting conducted by Chairperson Gail Miller. Gail lead the comprehensive presentation in reviewing all the aspects of the 35th Sangerfest scheduled for June 12 - 14 2009.

We are truly privileged to represent and honor our forefathers and past members who dedicated themselves to the German Community of New York State and inspired, motivated, and nurtured our cultural heritage and traditions.

This Sangerfest presents wonderful opportunities to renew old acquaintances and gives us an amazing insight into the history of our Germanic traditions and customs; rooted in Europe and maintained by our grandparents and parents. Now it's our chance to continue in their stead and demonstrate to our children and grandchildren our heritage and love of music and song.

Music brings us together in the traditions and customs of our heritage. Each time we participate in a Sangerfest we renew our commitment to the German cultural heritage and tradition of choral singing brought to this country so long ago. We remember those who came before us and welcome those who will succeed us. www.nyssb.org/35SF/35SF.htm



Kingston Maennerchor and Damenchor Inc.

37 Greenkill Avenue Kingston, New York 12401
(845) 338-3763 www.nyssb.org/KMD.htm

INTRODUCING by Doris Vogt & Christa Scheitz

We hope you will take the time to extend a hand of friendship and welcome to:

August (Gus) Emig

Gus joined the Maennerchor January 14th, 2009. He was introduced to the club by our President, Hermann Koelmel, and another member, Mickey Heilemann. He joined as a worker. Gus was born in Arizona but moved to Brooklyn, NY and also lived on Long Island, NY. He has four children and four grandchildren.

Gus was a Marine Engineer. He taught at Ft. Schuler, a SUNY Maritime College. He started there in 1960 and retired in 2008. As a teacher, Gus went on many training cruises. Leaving from New York City, he has been to many European countries - Greece, Portugal, Italy, and Turkey, etc. I'm sure he has many interesting stories he could tell. After retirement, Gus delivered flowers for a local florist.

In addition to our club, he was a member of the Liederkrantz Singing Club in New York City. He was a supporting member for about 10 years. I believe he is also a member of the Thursday afternoon group that meets at the Maennerchor. Thank God for this bunch of guys. They are helping keep the Maennerchor afloat.

Inge Gomo

Inge joined us on February 11th, 2009. The Post Master in Port Ewen mentioned that she was joining the Kingston Maennerchor and Damenchor and so Inge decided to join also. Not fully recovered from a recent illness, she joined as a supporting member. Eventually, she would like to be a working member.

Inge was born in Gelnhausen, Germany, which is a medieval town near Frankfurt. It is also the start of the *Fairy Tale Road*, where many of our fairy tales originated. There is a Sleeping Beauty Castle there, covered with roses; also a famous ruin of Frederick I's castle.

Inge graduated as a dietitian when she was 22. She came to the United States as a visitor. She met her future husband here and decided to stay. They lived in Big Indian, NY, where both worked as cooks. Her husband worked at the Gateway Diner and Inge in one of the local boarding houses that were so popular at that time. After having enough of cold weather, they moved to Florida and lived there for

12 years. Inge was a chef at an exclusive retirement home. When her husband became ill, they moved back North. Sadly, he is deceased. Inge moved to Port Ewen to a lovely apartment with a yard, so she can have a flower garden which is one of her favorite things to do. She also loves to bake.

Inge has a son, who lives in Hyde Park and has two children, and a daughter who lives in Catskill, NY, and was recently on the Rachel Ray TV show in a segment regarding fashion.

THIS 'N' THAT

20-20 RAFFLE WINNERS 2009

20 - \$25.00 Weekly Winners

Klaus Ankele	David Herrison
John & Charlotte Folkl	Jane Dempsey
Joan Avery	Marion Hohn
Heinz Phaff	Doris Vogt
Hans Funncius	John & Angela Galish
Linda Koelmel	Mike Brocco
Verda Raskowski	Dorothy Birmingham
Annegrete Barnum	Elizabeth Harms
Christa Kohler	Heinz Vogt
Erik Kohler	Terry Strini

GRAND PRIZE WINNERS

1st Prize Marilyn Rurtz - \$300.00

2nd Prize Carl Bell - \$200.00

3rd Prize Hanna Condiff - \$100.00

Thank you all for your support!

Kudos to member Earl Johnson for receiving the Judge Gilbert D.B. Hasbrouck Award for Library Advocacy at the 15th Annual Town of Esopus Library Community Awards dinner in November 2008. Earl has been on the library board for 12 years and has served as its president. He assisted in creating the first web site for the library and actively participated on the building committee.

DEUTSCHE STUNDE

On Sunday morning while enjoying Frühstück, glancing through the NY Times, or savoring that extra cup of coffee, tune into Hans Safer's **GERMAN HOUR** on Radio Station **WKNY 1490AM** at 10:05 AM. Listen to beautiful German Music and hear announcements of local interests. Music and entertainment for young, old, and all of us in between!

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Hildegard Edling - Historian/Archivist

SIXTEENTH SAENGERFEST BUFFALO, NEW YORK June 26, 27, 28, 1953

Excerpts from a personal account written by
Member Klaus Ankele in 2003

It was 1953, the Kingston Maennerchor had its 85 anniversary celebration on May 2nd and then preparations began for the Saengerfest in Buffalo. Fest Dirigent Hans Vigeland was making his round of clubs in the Bund to rehearse them for the mass chorus concert and Maennerchor Dirigent Robert Strothenke was rehearsing the chor for competition in the Fourth Class. Among the club members singing in the chorus were Rudy Schlichting, Heinz Vogt Jr. and Klaus Ankele who had just arrived in the United States two years earlier.

On Friday, June 26th, the Maennerchor participants traveled to Rhinecliff to join the Germania Poughkeepsie singers on the train ride to Buffalo. Along the way other singers joined them. The Statler Hotel in Buffalo was headquarters for this event which had 15 participating choruses:

City	Name of Chor	# Participants
Albany	Albany Maennerchor	16
Binghamton	Maennerchor	25
Buffalo	Frohsinn	38
	Bavaria	41
	Schwaebischer	24
	Banat	20
Gloversville	Concordia	32
Kingston	Kingston Maennerchor	13
Poughkeepsie	Germania	44
Rochester	Teutonia	55
	Badischer	12
Schenectady	Turner	35
Syracuse	Arion	54
Troy	Troy Maennerchor	23
Utica	Utica Maennerchor	49

The Niagara Falls Liederkrantz was scheduled to participate but had to withdraw. In each of the four competition categories the clubs had to sing two required songs. In fourth class they were Abend Gebet and Abend Standchen. First prize went to Buffalo Banat, second prize to Albany Maennerchor and third prize to Kingston Maennerchor.

An amazing thing happened in the first class competition. Out of a possible 600 points, the first place winner, Rochester's Teutonia, received 570.

Klaus recalls that the mass chorus concert was one of special note in that for the first time ladies were "allowed" to sing with the men. A 50 piece philharmonic orchestra accompanied the approximately 500 men and 300 women. The two hour concert included solos sung by guest baritone Clifford Harvout of the Metropolitan Opera.

Although the Kingston Maennerchor did not do well in the competition it appears from Klaus's journal that they had great fun.

"After all, as upbeat and enthusiastic we all were, we joined this Saengerfest not to win glorious trophies, but to gain an experience in music, to enjoy camaraderie and not last to have some fun too."

Thank you Klaus for sharing your experience with us. As an officer in the Saengerbund I see the dwindling numbers of both singers and choruses. The roster from October 2008 shows a total of 213 singers: 125 Ladies and 88 Men. Saengerbund member societies are:

City	Club	Participants	
		L	M
Albany	German-American Club of Albany	0	0
Binghamton	German Club of Binghamton	11	6
Buffalo	Buffalo Schwaben Chor	27	17
Gloversville	Concordia Singing Society	0	0
Kingston	Kingston Maennerchor & Damenchor	18	14
Poughkeepsie	Germania of Poughkeepsie	12	5
Schenectady	Turner Men's and Ladies Chorus	0	0
Syracuse	Syracuse Lieder Verein	20	15
Troy	Troy Maennerchor - Damenchor	8	9
Utica	Utica Maennerchor (with ladies)	29	22

There have been many changes over the years and especially since the 1953 Saengerfest. Then competition was only among men's choruses. Today there are categories for men, ladies and mixed. Also, where there were four classes of competition, today there are two for mixed and one each for men and ladies. The format for the weekend however is the same. There is a mass chorus concert on Friday evening, competition on Saturday, banquet and dance Saturday evening and a picnic on Sunday. Probably the most rewarding part of a Saengerfest is the time spent with friends from other clubs who we only see at the Saengerfeste. We're off to Utica this year -wish us well in the competition which for us is second class mixed.

141st Anniversary Spring Concert

7:00 PM Saturday May 16th

*Plan to join us for a festive evening of joy!
Call your friends and neighbors!
Start the Spring Season in Friendship,
Fellowship, and Gemütlichkeit.*

Our Choral Director Jerry Hoch along with our accompanist Sherry Thomas and the Music Committee have developed a wonderful program for your musical gratification. Our chorus has worked diligently, studied hard, and now feels both joy and accomplishment in our preparation and presentation. We invite and welcome you to our concert. We have prepared an evening of German and American, Classic and Contemporary, songs for your entertainment and enjoyment.

You can have an insight to the Mass Chorus Concert of the upcoming 35th Sängerbund in June. Many of these songs will be performed in Utica. The program includes:

Deutscher Sängergross *German Singers Greeting*

Kingston Theme Song

Einigkeit und Recht und Freiheit *German National Anthem*

Star Spangled Banner *U.S. National Anthem*

Musikerfüllt die Welt *Music Fills the World*

Festgesang *Festival Song*

Die Sandmännchen *The Little Sandmen*

Schlafe, Mein Prinzchen *Sleep, My Little Prince*

The Navy Hymn *Memorial to Travelers*

Das Lieben Bringt Gross Freud *Love Brings Great Joy*

Rote Lippen, gold'ner Wein *Red Lips, Golden Wine*

Und wieder blühet die Linde *Linden Trees Bloom Again*

During the concert we will bestow scholarship awards to graduating high school students who have excelled in the German language studies in our area schools including the **Rhinebeck - Rheinbach Exchange Program** *Hearts Across the Water* a cultural exchange for students of Rhinebeck New York and Rheinbach, Germany.

We will also be presenting *Ehren Unkunde* (certificates of honor) from the *New York State Sängerbund* to recognize singers for their years of dedication to German Choral Singing and in grateful appreciation of their efforts in fostering and preserving the German culture through music and song.

Doors open at 7 PM

Dance Music by the **Mountain Tops** 8:30-12:30

Sandwich Platters - Cake - Coffee - Tea
available after the concert

Donation \$12.00

John Bruening 658-9342

GERMANY TOUR 2010

We are continuing the development of a 2 week tour through southern Germany in the summer of 2010. Sue Owens, the Choral Director and Music Professor from Syracuse has offered her services to enable us to perform in concert if we have enough singers from throughout the Sängerbund. Several choruses in Germany have also offered their facilities. Highlights include visits to:

Travel through the Bavarian Forest to Grafenau Concert
Hepberg Concert with Sigi Puppele & MGV Liederkranz
Oberammergau and the Passion Play
Ramsau - Berchtesgaden - Königssee & St. Bartholomae
München - Tour City Marianna Platz - Glockenspiel
Travel through the Schwarzwald Black Forest
Roman Spas in Baden-Baden
Rastatt Concert with MGV Eintracht Elchesheim

With our friends at Reisebüro Sauer we have developed a preliminary plan with a first guess estimated cost. We are also developing the airfare with Singapore Air. Currently, the most vital aspect of this trip is the ticket availability for the *Passion Play*. The admission tickets have just been released and to make the reservations we must purchase them as soon as possible. The price ranges from 100€ to 400€ and they sky rocket higher with hotels and meals.

Leni & Peter Sauer have suggested that we can get fairly decent seats for about 125€ however, we must act immediately. You do not have to be a singer to be a member of this tour. If you are interested in joining us please submit the following information as soon as possible and I will get back to you with more details.

Full Name: **Full Address:**
Telephone: **E-Mail Address:**
Passport Citizenship: **Age:** **Sex:**
Singer Voice: **Chorus Name**

Please mail or e-mail to:

Hermann Koelmel

78 Baker Road Bearsville, NY 12409

hkoelmel@hvc.rr.com

(845) 679-8352

Oberammergau Passion Play

This epic performance is long; a good five hours plus a three hour break. In 2010, in a change from previous custom, the show will be in the afternoon and evening. The first half is from 2:30 to 5 pm then a supper break followed by the second half from 8 to 10:30 pm.

TALENT CORNER

Hildegard Edling

Our artists have been busy in the past six months. From May 4 - May 29, 2009 Franz Heigemeir has an exhibit at the Dutchess Community College Art Gallery titled *NIGHT VISITORS* and inspired by the night-blooming cereus which resides and flourishes in his home. The opening reception for this show is on Wednesday, May 6 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. www.heigemeirart.com/FHart/Franz%20Brochure%20Apr2009.pdf



Franz Heigemeir www.heigemeirart.com

During the month of March, Marianne Heigemeir had a one person show "Pastel Jewels: Still Lives in Pastel" in the members's gallery at the ASK Arts Center in Kingston. Marianne's pastels are so realistic that I can almost smell the flowers. Also at the ASK galleries in March was a show called "Contemporary Hudson" where Franz had a small sculpture.

Member Vindora Wixsom and her hard working board has done a wonderful job of transforming this old Main Street building into a center that embraces so many of the arts including theater, dance and writing. www.askforarts.org

We encourage you to support the talent of our community by attending events such as the openings mentioned above.

Last fall we reported about Herman and Linda Koelmel's granddaughters and their instrumental musical proficiency. We are happy to report that 11-year-old Amanda Rose Brunner, once again represented Woodstock Elementary School in March playing clarinet in the All-Ulster-County Orchestra sponsored by the Ulster County Music Educator's Association. She's looking forward to her 6th grade graduation in June.

THE PERSONALS



Congratulations and Best Wishes to Jerry and Delphine Hoch! Their 2nd son, Ryan Michael, was born on March 12th. He weighed 8 pounds, 8 ounces and was 21 inches long. 2 year old brother Ethan welcomed Ryan with hugs and kisses and promised to share some of his things. The boys are a welcomed addition with mom and dad at our weekly rehearsals.

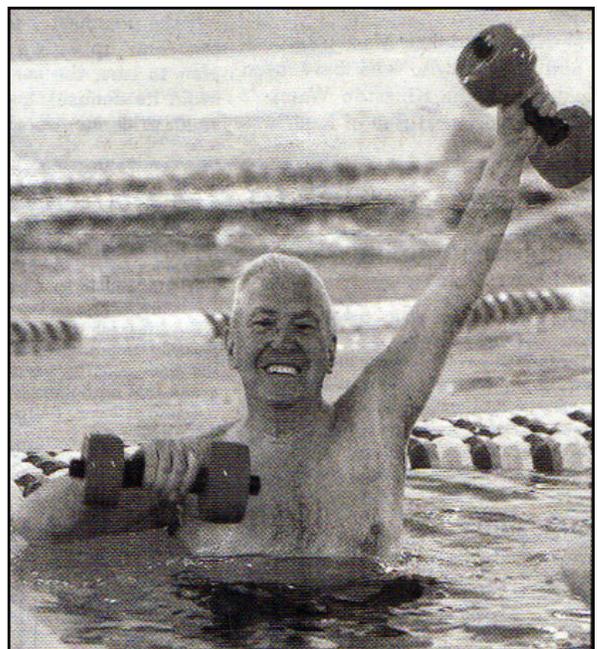
CONVALESCING: Some of our members and friends on the road to recovery include an amazing array of walking wounded, medical healers, and surgery veterans. Everyone is reportedly doing well. Recuperating from various illnesses and health related issues are Carl Bell, Richard Bracklow, Walter Bruchholz, John Bruening, Hank Buser, Franz & Marianne Heigemeir, Heinz Holzauer, Monika Kaufmann, Hermann Koelmel, Christa Kohler, Doris Krastin, Ruth Miller, Reinhold & Ann Schmitt, Marianne Stolte, Doris Vogt, Heinz Vogt, and Walter Vogt. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers, and wish you all a rapid and successful return to good health.



Gesundheit, Glück, in Gottes Segen!

Once a Marine, Always

Walter Vogt, recovering from several surgical procedures, is rehabbing by participating in the *Aquarobics Class* at the Kingston YMCA. Walter was featured in a recent article of the Kingston Daily Freeman demonstrating his "water workout".



Walter getting in shape for his 80th *Semper Fi*



CHRISTKINDLMARKT

Mark you calendars for the first Friday and Saturday in December when we will hold our first ever Christkindlmarkt. This traditional market/bazaar takes place in parts of Germany, Austria and Switzerland beginning at the very end of November and continuing until Christmas.

We will have vendors with Christmas related items for decorations and gifts for you to purchase, traditional Christmas sweets for the pleasure of your taste buds, and a "Stube" where you can sample traditional Christkindlmarkt fare.

More specific information will follow in our November newsletter. In the meantime if you have specific questions about this event feel free to contact any of the committee members through the club: Hildegard Edling, Inge Luettgé, Christa Scheitz and Annemarie Harms.

The Christkindlmarkt Story

Long ago in the mountainous areas of Germany, toymakers would gather in the villages in the weeks leading up to Christmas to sell their wares. Many villages would use that time as a chance to get together and enjoy a little festival, since the work of harvest would usually be over and the winter would only just be beginning. For children it was a magical time, since many lived on farms or in the villages themselves and did not often see what new wonders the toymakers had invented, or see what was new in the wider world. So the annual gatherings of toymakers were very popular, not to mention they were a major source of income for the villagers who would busily prepare the sausages, mulled wine, and baked goods for weeks in advance. The most popular and well-known market is the Nurnberg Christkindlmarkt which derives its name from the Christ-Child which is carried through the streets by the children of the city in the toymaker's parade, and placed in his manger on Christmas eve.

Tradition has it that the Christkindl was added to the parade some time after the fairs became popular destinations, when local clergymen became concerned that all the activities and commercial endeavors might drown out the manger story, and persuaded the businessmen to make the procession of the children at the end of the parade a part of the Christian Nativity scene. And so it was, and so it still is.

The following is excerpted from a 1998 recollection of President Dottie Birmingham as she remembered the 100th Anniversary celebration in 1968.

"Thirty years ago a group of friends gathered in the ballroom of the Governor Clinton Hotel for a festive evening celebrating the 100th anniversary of our chorus. The passage of time certainly brings change; today the friends are scattered from here to California (*how prophetic*). Finding the journal from 1968 and reading it carefully made me think about the values of our organization. Tradition, renewal, and continuity are embodied in our tenure in Kingston. Although our individual memberships vary in duration, our collective memberships keep the Kingston Maennerchor and Damenchor, Inc. strong and active. Our respect for tradition is carried on in our singing of German songs, old and new. For some members the music is a reminder of childhood; for others the music connects them to a part of their cultural heritage which had been forgotten in the many generations since their ancestors arrived in the new country. For still other members the music introduces them to a tradition rich in melody and telling stories of love, heartfelt longing, happiness, sorrow, nature, humor, and good times."





Kingston Maennerchor and Damenchor Inc.

37 Greenkill Avenue
Kingston, New York 12401

Vielen Dank!

THANK YOU to the following SPONSORS who have so generously underwritten the 2009 Newsletters.

Inga Martin	Herman & Linda Koelmel
Christa Scheitz	Doris Vogt
Hildegard & Richard Edling	Alina Nitzschner
Joan Arena	Oskar Benzenhoefer
Charlotte & John Folkl	Fred & Lieselotte Hatesaul

If you have enjoyed this newsletter please consider a small donation to help us offset the costs of printing and delivery by mail.

For the latest information please visit our website
www.nyssb.org/KMD.htm

*Wir grüßen Sie mit Herz und Hand,
We greet you with heart and hand,*

*Die Sänger von dem Hudsonstrand
The singers from the Hudson Strand*

Officers 2009

President	Herman Koelmel
Vice President	Jefferson Davis
Recording Secretary	Christa Scheitz
Corresponding Secretary	Charlotte Folkl
Treasurer	Joan Arena
Financial Secretary	Annemarie Harms
Liedermutter	Vivian Longto
Liedervater	Henry Buser
Archivist/Historian	Hildegard Edling
Trustee 2009	Walter Bruchholz
Trustee 2010	Alina Nitzschner
Trustee 2011	Inge Luetzger
President Emeritus	Dorothy Birmingham
President Emeritus	John Bruening
President Emeritus	Ernest Mann

Standing Committees/Chairpersons:

Bar	John Bruening
Good & Welfare	Doris Vogt
House	Walter Vogt/Richard Edling
Music	Oskar Benzenhoefer/Fred Schink

Ad-Hoc & Other Committees/Chairpersons:

Calling List	Charlotte Folkl
Hall Rental	Walter Vogt/Carl Bell
Work Team Coordinator	Hildegard Edling
Newsletter	Herman Koelmel
Budget	Joan Arena

Newsletter Staff:

Editor	Hermann Koelmel
Transcription	Christa Scheitz
Talent Corner/Archives	Hildegard Edling
Introducing	Doris Vogt
Reporters	Club Members

Chorus Rehearsal Monday evenings at 6:30 PM.

Monthly Business Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 P.M. Our Financial Secretary is accepting Dues for 2009.



Kingston Maennerchor and Damenchor Inc. Calendar of Events 2009

May 16 Sat	141 st Spring Concert	8:30pm -12:30am	Mtn Tops
Jun 12-14	35 th NYSSB Sängerfest	Utica, New York	
Jun 28 Sun	Kaffeeklatsch	2:00pm-6:00 pm	R Wiedemann
Aug 9 Sun	Gartenfest	1:00pm-5:00 pm	R Wiedemann
Sep 20 Sun	Brat & Bier Fest	1 - 5 PM	
Oct	NYSSB Convention	TBD	TBD
Oct 18 Sun	Sunday Breakfast	9AM - Noon	
Nov 21 Sat	Liederabend 7PM	8:30PM-12:30AM	Bud & Linda
Dec 4 Fri	Christkindlemarkt	TBD	
Dec 5 Sat	Christkindlemarkt	TBD	
Dec 20/27	German Christmas	1:30 - 5:00 PM	Baby Jesus
Dec 21 Mon	Singer/Staff Christmas	7:00 -10:00 PM	