



MAY 2012

President's Message:



We hope that you enjoy receiving this newsletter three times a year instead of two. One of the requests made at our special meeting for members in August 2010 was to get information about Maennerchor activities to all of you in a more timely manner. We think this has been a big step in achieving that goal. Many thanks to Herman who really shines as Newsletter Editor. Thanks also go out to our Thursday Men's Group. Many have become active in helping the club in one way or another and this is appreciated.

To all of you who enjoy seeing new sights and doing a bit of traveling. We are considering two overnight trips during 2012. One is to the Thousand Islands in August and the other to Longwood Gardens and Philadelphia's European Christmas Market in December. You will find more information later in this newsletter. Also, if there are any destinations that you would like us to consider for future trips please let Walter/Doris or Richard/Hildegard know.

CALL FOR SINGERS!!!!!! I know you are out there someplace. Please consider joining us and our chorus. Although we have been fortunate to maintain our chorus, we have also lost far too many due to illness or failing voices. We rehearse during the months of September through May with January off. Rehearsals begin at 6:45 p.m. and end about 8:30 p.m.

Our music director, Dr. Dorcinda Knauth, along with the Music Committee, choose the music for our spring concert and fall sing along keeping in mind the abilities of the singers and the desires of our audience. Knowledge of the German language is not a requirement. So, think about it. No auditions – just dedication and the love of music

Join us for our upcoming activities: Concert in May and Wurstfest in August. We'll be looking for you. Meanwhile have a really great summer.

Hildegard



**144th Anniversary
Spring Concert and Dance**

Dr. Dorcinda C. Knauth, Music Director
Sherry Thomas, Piano Accompanist
Special Guest Appearance
Hudson Valley Youth Chorale
Singing Ambassadors
Grades 6 - 8
Mathew Camara, Music Director

Sunday Afternoon 20 May 2012
Doors Open 12:00 pm
Hors d'Oeuvres 12:00 to 1:00 pm

Concert 1:00 pm
Cold Buffet and Dessert Table after Concert

Dance Music by
The Mountain Tops
2:30pm-6:30 pm

Enjoy Good Music
Good Treats and Good Company

\$ 20.00 per person
Reservations Requested - Please Call

John Bruening (845) 658-9342
Walter Vogt (845) 336-6534



Kingston Maennerchor and Damenchor Inc.

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



NEW YORK STATE SAENGERBUND INC.

www.nyssb.org

**36th New York State Sangerbund Sangerfest,
8th 9th and 10th of June in 2012.**



It's almost show time. Music directors and singers around the state have been sharpening their choral skills, exercising their vocal cords, and reenergizing their minds and souls in anticipation of the upcoming sangerfest this June.

The Germania Singing Society of Poughkeepsie will host this triennial singing festival. We encourage all member vereine and German-American societies to support, attend, and participate in this event so that the 36th Sangerfest will be a true collaboration and demonstration of our Germanic heritage.



Many other folks have been working diligently behind the scenes developing the program journal, locking in the bands, reviewing the locations and schedules, readjusting and fine tuning the many details, soliciting – negotiating – and validating the adjudicators, and yes, verifying and testing all that information on the website. We may not be ready yet but all these activities and preparations will be complete and on display by June 8th.

For those of you living in or near the Hudson Valley there is a wonderful opportunity to observe and enjoy the traditions of sangerfest in the first night celebrations. On Friday 8 June, the 36th Sangerfest kicks-off with a Beef Burgundy dinner at the Poughkeepsie Germania Clubhaus (4-5:30 pm)

The concert, at nearby Arlington Middle School, featuring the combined choruses of the New York State Saengerbund starts at 7:30pm. Following the concert is an *After-Glow Party* with dance music, typical German treats, and cash bar. All are open to the public with minimal donations for the dinner and concert and an open door to the *After-Glow*.

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.

In remembering those who came before us and on whose shoulders we now stand I'd be remiss in not appreciating all the work and dedication of our dear friend May Barton who recently passed on her 99th birthday.

May was the first woman to serve as chairperson of the Bundes Music Committee; she held that post for 18 years.

She drove 100 miles round trip to Utica each Sunday for 35 years to fulfill her position as the volunteer choir director and soloist at the Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center.

May devoted her musical skills and expertise leading the Syracuse Liederkrantz and later offering sound advice, in a tactful manner, whenever solicited to the Liederverein and the NYSSB.

She always had a smile on her face, a kind word on her lips, and a love of her friends in her heart.

Let this be our incentive to continue in May's footsteps and join in motivating and inspiring each other in bringing our German culture and traditions to the forefront once again in New York State. I am looking forward to meeting and singing with you and all our *Alte Kameraden* once again at the Sangerfest.

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

Herman Alfons Koelmel, President

For more detailed Sangerfest information:

<http://www.nyssb.org/36SF/sf36.htm>

What Can You Do for Your Verein?

From the German-American Club of the Northern Catskills

This is a story about four people named, Everybody, Somebody, Anybody & Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done!

The Story of Two Sisters and Two Birthdays

By Charlotte Folkl

March 14th is Charlotte Folkl's birthday and April 21st is the birthday of her sister Elda Welz. Both were born in Gottschee, a small German speaking settlement in a mountainous region not far from the Alps and east Tirol. It dates back to 1330 and all ended with WWII 1945.

For hundreds of years Gottschee belonged to the large Austrian Hungarian Empire which came to an end in 1918. After WWI, the German schools were banned as we now fell to Yugoslavia, which was formed out of 7/8 of the old Austrian Empire. Things became very "unfriendly" for us, the exodus to America and other countries began. In almost every family young people left, some came back others did not. Our mother went back and forth two times, the third time in 1949 she stayed in America. Our oldest sister Dorothy was born in Brooklyn in 1927, three more daughters followed in 1929, 1932 and 1936 born in Bresowitz and Gottschee. In 1939, our father died at the age of 36, I (Charlotte) was only 3 years old and did not remember him only the tricycle he sent me from Germany. Our mother also had her old parents nearby and she could no longer operate our Gasthaus alone. The whole group was moved to another area in the winter of 1940/41, Gurkfeld ^[1] an der Save and surrounding areas for some reason. However, there we experienced bombings and partisan attacks by other ethnic groups.

In May 1945, the Soviet Army was heading our way, we all tried to flee from them but got caught on a train waking up to Russian soldiers chasing girls. Our oldest sister spent the day locked in a toilet that said "kaput". All able bodied men were also "taken away", all women and children could leave. We had only what we could carry when we left and reached Germany with 1 or 2 suitcases for the five of us. After a refugee camp in Munich, then with acquaintances in Augsburg, and two different farms we tried Aalen, ^[2] Württemberg near Stuttgart because Stuttgart had an American Consulate and it was in the U.S. zone.

Bureaus were set up to receive refugees and they found us two rooms, ration cards and a widow's pension for our mother; the older sisters, ages 16 and 19, found jobs in a factory. Elda and I went to school, we had missed a whole year. Dorothy was able to go back to America in the summer of 1946, the rest of us not until 1949, immigration laws were very, very difficult for displaced persons with sponsors. We landed in Long Island, LaGuardia Airport after a 3 day flight with 3 stops. The one-way flight cost \$400.00 each, a lot of money then and I was sick all the way over.

Then came school in a different language. Everyone else worked as domestic's and saved money. By 1958, or so, Mama bought a house, it passed on to a married sister and her then in-laws, who also came over. Her young husband was drafted and sent back to Germany for a year. In 1959 Mama bought another house and lived in it to the end of her life at the age of 79, loving her 9 grandsons and sewing almost to the end in their dressmaking business with Dorothy.

In 1957 John & I married, Elda married John's friend also named John, we had 3 boys and Elda 4 boys. In 1964, all 4 of us moved to Red Hook., NY where our husbands built us two beautiful houses next to each other. Our 7

boys grew up together like brothers. We love the Hudson Valley and the Kingston Chor that John & I joined in 1994 and Elda a few years later. We all work, sing and dance there.

Elda's husband, unfortunately, passed away after 31 yeas of marriage, but she has two beautiful grandchildren. John & I have made it to 55 years married so far and we have 3 sons and 7 grandchildren.

By the way, our maiden name was Maurin and John Maurin born 1734 is our ancestry records. We can still speak the old Gottscheer language which surely will die out after us. A 1970 census estimated 25,000.00 of us left all over the world. The Gottscheer Club, in Ridgewood, Queens is still quite active. We have two other members from Gottschee: Josef Fink, Shokan, NY and John Maichen, Hudson, NY.

^[1] Gurkfeld on the Save River is also known as, Krshko, Krsko, Krško and is located in today's Slovenia.

^[2] Aalen is about 70 kilometres (43 mi) east of Stuttgart and 48 kilometres (30 mi) north of Ulm.

[See History of Gottschee Further Below](#)

OMA & OPA'S CORNER

From time to time we try to highlight the adventures of our children and grandchildren. If you have an especially proud moment to share, please submit it for inclusion in our newsletter.

He Soars with Eagles



Hans and Marion Hohn's 18 year old grandson, Erich James Watson, recently became an Eagle Scout, scouting's highest honor. The ceremony took place on March 17th at Erich's home church, Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Tabernacle, NJ. Scouting is a Watson family tradition; his father Richard as well as his three uncles were all Eagle Scouts. His sister Gitta, 16, and brother Graham, 13 are also in scouting. Their mother Brigitte is a troop leader. Erich's

project was to mark the jogging trails around his high school. Now if only they came up with a merit badge for keeping their rooms neat!



Eagle Scout Erich Watson, 18, center, with his Atlanta cousin, Jake Johnson, 16, on the left, his brother, Graham, 13, on the right and his Catskill cousin, Tucker Hohn, 9, in front.

Editor's Note: We Congratulate Erich for all his hard work, dedication, and continued commitment to this most difficult but rewarding achievement.

Eagle Scout may be earned by a Boy Scout who has been a Life Scout for at least six months, earns a minimum of 21 merit badges, and demonstrates Scout Spirit, and leadership in the troop. He must plan, develop, and lead a service project.

The Eagle Scout Service Project is the opportunity for a Scout to demonstrate leadership of others and a commitment to duty while performing a project for the benefit of his community.

The scout must develop a comprehensive plan and submit it for approval. Upon completion, he then must submit a final report detailing the results as was projected in his initial plan. After all requirements are met, he must complete an Eagle Scout board of review.



All County Musicians



Herman and Linda Koelmel's granddaughters have been selected to the 2012 All County Music Festival. 9th grader Amanda Rose Brunner played clarinet representing the Onteora Central School in the All-Ulster-County Band. She is also on the High Honor Roll and plays on the Softball Team.

Her sister, 6th grader Carolin Rose Brunner, represented Woodstock Elementary School playing violin in the All-Ulster-County Orchestra. These events were sponsored by the Ulster County Music Educator's Association. Carolin is also on the Kingston Soccer Travel Team.



THE GERMAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

Hildegard Edling - Historian/Archivist

A Bit of History



What do we really know about the German National Anthem. Probably not very much. So here I go with some background about this song known as the Deutschlandlied or Das Lied der Deutschen.

The melody comes from Franz Joseph Haydn's Emperor Quartet Opus 76 No. 3 which was the old Austrian imperial anthem "Gott erhalte Franz den Kaiser". In 1841 August Heinrich Hoffmann von Fallersleben, a literary historian, adapted his poem "Deutschland, Deutschland uber alles" to the melody of the quartet's second movement. The song expressed

the desire of many for national unity. Its first public performance was on August 26, 1841.

The song has had a highly political history and was quite controversial. One source I found states that from the time of Bismark's Prussia (1871) to the end of World War I it was replaced by another anthem. Another source states that the first time it was sung at an official function was in 1890 when Helgoland transferred from Great Britain to Germany.

Although sung at official functions, it is not until August 1922 that all three verses of "Das Lied der Deutschen" are officially introduced as the national anthem. This official act came from Friedrich Ebert, the first president of the German Republic (Weimar Republic). During the Nazi Era the first stanza became the national anthem and the second and third stanzas were declared illegal. The first stanza was kept in combination with the Horst Wessel Lied, Hitler's party's official anthem.

In 1948 when the Federal Republic of Germany was created there was the need for a national anthem and although alternatives to "Deutschlandlied" were sought all attempts failed. It appears that to some extent Theodor Heuss, first president of the Federal Republic, and Konrad Adenauer, first chancellor of the ruling Christian Democratic Union eventually worked together to resolve the issue and in May 1952 the third stanza became the official anthem.

It seems that disputes over whether or not the third stanza was in fact the "official" national anthem carried on for years until 1990 when the German Constitutional Court declared that the third stanza was to be treated as the national anthem.

Following the fall of the Berlin Wall alternatives to this anthem were discussed but none succeeded. Keep in mind that East Germany had had its own anthem. In November 1991, following correspondence between then Chancellor Helmut Kohl and President Richard von Weizsaecker, the third stanza was declared the national anthem of the reunited Germany

The third verse in both German and English:

Einigkeit und Recht und Freiheit für das deutsche Vaterland!
Danach lasst uns alle streben Brüderlich mit Herz und Hand!
Einigkeit und Recht und Freiheit Sind des Glückes Unterpfand;
Blüh' im Glanze dieses Glückes, Blühe, deutsches Vaterland.

Unity and law and freedom For the German Fatherland
Then let us all strive for Brotherhood with heart and hand!
Unity and law and freedom Are the foundation for happiness
Bloom in the glow of happiness Bloom, German Fatherland.

Information extrapolated from an article in the October/November 2011 issue of German Life magazine; the Encyclopedia Britannica; and other internet sources.

Note: It is worth mentioning that a fourth verse was written in 1923 by Albert Mattai during the French occupation of the Ruhr region. Only the third verse is the national anthem.

R Ur DUEs Due

Are your Dues Over Due?

Our Financial Secretary, Annemarie Harms is accepting 2012 dues. Please make your check payable to the Kingston Maennerchor and Damenchor @ \$35.00 per member. Mail it to the attention of Annemarie Harms at 37 Greenkill Avenue Kingston, New York 12401 and she will return your 2012 Membership Card.

If you choose not to renew, kindly let her know. She may be reached at (845) 336-7440

Du, dein - Dues is Due

INTRODUCING

*by Doris Vogt and
Christa Scheitz*

Please take the time to extend a hand of friendship:



David Bell

Dave was a member back in the 1970's. After being invited by Kurt Sulzbach to attend the Thursday men's group, he decided to rejoin. He was reinstated in the fall of 2011 and enjoys the good company, good food and drink on Thursday afternoons. Dave was born in Pennsylvania and graduated from Lehigh University. He was eventually hired by IBM and rose to fourth level management. He served the company for 34 years and has been retired for 20 years and is living the good life in Woodstock, New York.

George Goldstein

George was introduced to the Kingston Maennerchor by Peter and Gladys Spiegler. Peter was a former singer with our choir. George enjoyed the pizza that day along with a good beer or two.

George was born in Brooklyn, NY and attended the Hawthorne Private Boys School. He did not graduate from there but after joining the U.S. Air Force and being stationed at River March Air Force Base in California, he went to school by day and performed his Air Force duties at night. He then graduated with a high school diploma. George was in the service from 1954 - 1974. After retiring from the service, he joined the U.S. State Department. He was an electronics officer both in the Air Force and the State Department. He retired from the State Department after 16 years.

In addition to the KM&D, George is a member of the Masons and the Shriners. He is a Master of the Rhinebeck Lodge 432. Last year, he was Mason of the Year, He is President of the Shriners from 2009 to 2013.

George transports children to and from the Children's Hospital in Springfield, MA. They do orthopedic work, cleft palate, etc. He does the same for the Boston Shriners Hospital for badly burned children. In the month of February alone, he made the trip 19 times.

For relaxation, George enjoys skeet and trapshooting. He enjoys a good cigar and a good beer or two. Well deserved after doing such great volunteer work.

Mel and Anne Marie Seddon

Mel and Anne Marie joined us February 8, 2012. They were acquainted with the club through the Sons of Norway. We try to support one another.

Anne Marie was born in Jamaica, L.I. Before becoming a stay-at-home mom, Anne Marie was an Executive Secretary for an engineering firm on Long Island. Mel and Anne Marie lived in Manhasset, L.I. for 30 plus years. After moving to Olive Bridge, they added on to a cabin they formerly owned and made it into a permanent home where they still live. Mel and Anne Marie will be married 51 years in July of this year. They have 2 children and 3 grandchildren, ages 10, 8 and 6. Their son and his wife live in Troy, NY and their daughter and her family live in Annapolis Maryland.

Mel and Anne Marie owned a 40 foot yacht, named the Binker. They enjoyed sailing for 21 years. During the summer months the yacht was their home. They belonged to the Port Washington Yacht Club. The author, Uffa Fox, wrote a book on yachts and the Seddon's yacht was mentioned in the book.

Anne Marie loves to garden. She also enjoys hiking, although not quite so much any more. She also knits, crochets and does embroidery. She has taken up wood carving which she finds interesting and fun.

Mel and Anne Marie are both very involved in their Sons of Norway Lodge. Anne Marie was Vice-President for 4 years and currently she is their secretary. Mel is their treasurer which involves taking care of all the assets of the lodge. This includes their beautiful picnic grounds and buildings in Saugerties, NY. The grounds are called Elvedol.

Mel was born in Lenovia, NJ. He graduated from Nyack High School. While at school, he took two years of German. He took the course for the technical side of engineering. Mel was President and CEO of the A. Warcher Company, Inc. This was a prominent textile agency in Manhattan, NY. He started there in 1957 and retired in 1965.

Julia Nilsen

Julia joined the us in December 2011. She was already familiar with the club through the Sons of Norway, Hudson Valley Lodge 3-432. The Sons of Norway are good friends to our club and we all try to support each other.

Julia was born in Sharon, Connecticut and now lives in Wappingers falls, NY. She lives on a 28 acres dairy farm. Julia and her husband Tim have been married 15 years. They have a son and daughter and lots of animals.

Julia graduated from Millbrook High School. She put herself through college on a part-time basis. She graduated with a business degree and a RN nursing degree. She also worked at the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture for 10 years. Now, Julia calls herself a Domestic Engineer. Sounds good to me! She happily is a stay at home mom, taking care of their family and all the animals. Currently, she has chickens, roosters, 3 dogs including a new black lab puppy, and there is a goat and horse in the future. Julia loves all outdoor activities and along with everything else, Tim has signed up to be an assistant soccer coach.

Julia is a past Vice-President of the Sons of Norway and is currently finishing up a two-year term as President. She is a member of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Fishkill, NY.

THE PERSONALS

DEUTSCHE STUNDE DOPPELTE

You can now enjoy beautiful German music, news, and information of local interests twice on Sundays. Music and entertainment for young, old, and all of us in between!

On Sunday morning while enjoying Frühstück, glancing through the Kingston Freeman, Poughkeepsie Journal, or savoring that extra cup of coffee, tune into Hans Safer's *German Hour* on Radio Station WKNY 1490 AM at 10:05 AM. Hans has become a tradition of German Culture and Entertainment in the Hudson Valley for many years. You can hear him live on your pc at www.1490wknyc.com

After your Mittagessen you can tune in once again for another hour of soothing German entertainment and relax with Helga Nowak-Razey on her *Heimatsstunde with Helga* on Radio Station WHVW 950 AM from 2 to 3 PM. Helga may be heard throughout the Mid Hudson River Valley and as far away as Connecticut and New Jersey.

Contact both Hans or Helga and they will play that special request for you or your special person.

Check out German Radio Stations on-line: <http://www.nyssb.org/Radio/Radio.htm>

Alte Kameraden



*Condolences to the families of
our members and friends who
are no longer with us.*



Anne Schmitt and friend Daniel Stegner, son of Anton Stegner, and brother of Donna Stegner. Dear friend of the New York State Sangerbund, Syracuse and Utica, May Barton passed on her 99th birthday.

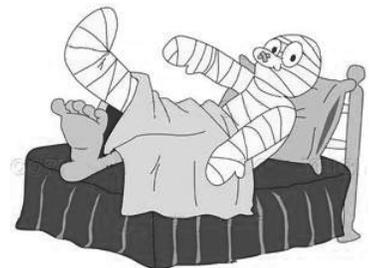
Our thoughts and prayers are with you,

„Brüder und Schwestern auf Leben und Tod“

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 hospital stays, various illnesses, and health related issues are

Joan Arena, Oskar Benzenhoefer, Anna and Hank Buser, Anneliese Duerr, John Galish, Monika Kaufmann, Christa Kohler, Vivian Longto, Ruth Miller, Bob Rossler, and Herman Koelmel.

We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers, and wish you all a rapid and successful return to good health. Please send them a note of friendship.



Gesundheit, Glück, in Gottes Segen!

From the Archivist

Hildegard Edling – Historian/Archivist

In the fall 2009 Newsletter I highlighted a program for the Thanksgiving Night, November 28th, 1929 “Entertainment and Dance” at “The Rondout Social Maennerchor”. It never ceases to amaze me that they were able to hold successful events Thanksgiving Eve. And that is exactly what they did. There were two major events each year with others interspersed (as best as I can determine from our records). The spring event was held on a Monday evening in April at 8:15 p.m. Monday evenings!!! How did they manage it? A much more relaxed after work hours ethic I suspect.

Below is printed information from the April 25, 1935 Thursday Evening event. Apparently this was handed out along with the program itself. They made mistakes then too folks. The entertainment program gives the date of April 28 and this handout is for April 25. The program ended with a SOLO SCENE “*Fleischermeister Wuerstelbauch*” performed by Mr. Alfred Köhler and a SKETCH “*Down by Charlie’s*” written by member Charles Corson and performed by Messrs. Corson, Ewel, Kubicek and Zellmer.

ROUNDOUT SOCIAL MANNERCHOR			ENTERTAINMENT
OFFICERS			AND
Honorary President	CHARLES CORSON		DANCE
President	FRANK KIWUS		by the
Vice President	PAUL OTTO		
Recording Secretary	WILLIAM THEINERT		
Financial Secretary	ALFRED KÖHLER		
Treasurer	FRED SCHOLL		
Librarian	KARL DÜSCHER		
Trustees	HERMAN REUNER		
	FRED MENZEL		
	KARL DÜSCHER		
MUSIC COMMITTEE		ROUNDOUT SOCIAL MANNERCHOR	
LEROY SLEIGH	PAUL OTTO	MANNERCHOR HALL	
LUDWIG WERNER	WILLIAM THEINERT		Thursday Evening
JOHN B SCHWALBACH, Director			April 25th, 1935
			Music for Dancing by
			PARDEE & ALLEN’S ORCHESTRA

Travel with us in 2012

We are currently developing two Bus Trips, 2-Day and 1- Night. The first will be to the Thousand Islands in August and the second to Philadelphia's Longwood Gardens in December. Highlights include:



Castles of the 1,000 Islands

Monday 6th & Tuesday 7th August 2012

\$ 345/double - \$ 415/single

Two-Nation Cruise through 1,000 Islands

Tour of Boldt Castle & Singer Castle on Dark Island

Round-trip Motorcoach -Hotel Accommodations

Baggage Handling & Taxes

1 Breakfast - 1 Dinner - 1 Lunch - 1 Boxed Lunch



Philadelphia's Longwood Gardens

Tuesday 4th & Wednesday 5th December 2012

\$ 245/double - \$ 300/single

Guided Tour of Philadelphia - Longwood Gardens

European Christmas Market

Macy's Christmas Light Display - Dickens Village

Round-Trip Motorcoach - Hotel Accommodations

Baggage Handling & Taxes - 1 Breakfast - 1 Dinner

Walter Vogt at 845-336-6534

Richard Edling at 845-757-5135

All prices are based on a minimum of 30 people

For further details see the events section of our website

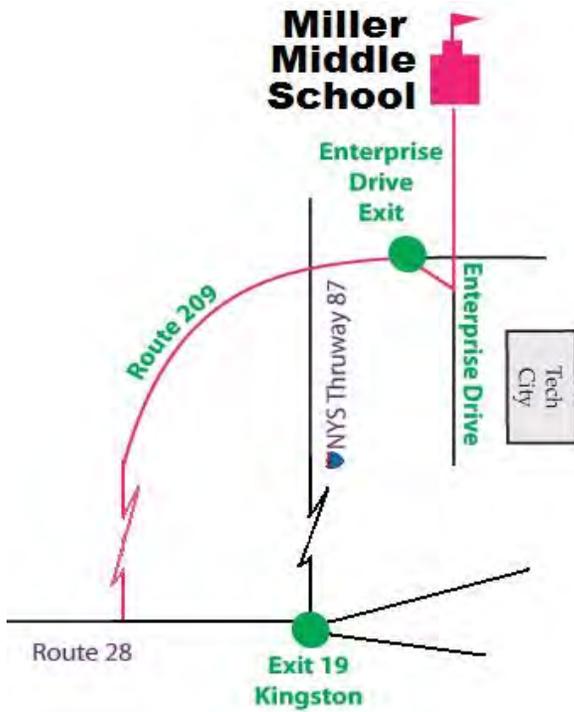
www.nyssb.org/KMD.htm

Health

12th Annual Women's Health & Fitness Expo

Miller Middle School

Saturday May 19th, 2012 from 8:30am-5:00pm



The location is different from past years when it was held at Tech City. This year it will be at Miller Middle School 65 Fording Place Rd Lake Katrine, NY. Miller Middle School is about 1 Mile North of Tech City.

Join thousands of women to learn, unwind, ask questions and get all the tools you need for healthier living! This is a day for women and their families.

Over 150 exhibits. 20+ free health screenings (osteoporosis, blood pressure, glucose, depression, body fat, and others). Informative seminars, workshops & fitness demos. Private mini-consultations with specialists at "The Doctor is In" booth. A healthy cooking food court, Spa area, and More!

Visit <http://www.womenshealthexpo.com> or e-mail at getfit@womenshealthexpo.com for more information. (845) 802-7025

\$8.00 at door - \$7.00 Online, Seniors, Students - Under 12 Free.

Recognizing a Stroke

A stroke is a medical emergency and can cause permanent neurological damage, complications, and death. It is the rapid loss of brain function(s) due to disturbance in the blood supply to the brain.

This can be due to a lack of blood flow caused by blockage or hemorrhage (leakage of blood). As a result, the affected area of the brain cannot function, which might result in an inability to move one or more limbs on one side of the body, inability to understand or formulate speech, or an inability to see one side of the visual field. **The effects of a stroke can be totally reversed if it is recognized, diagnosed, and then medically cared for within 3 hours.**

Stroke symptoms typically start suddenly, over seconds to minutes, and in most cases do not progress further. The symptoms depend on the area of the brain affected.

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage if people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke. You can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

STROKE: Remember the 1st Three Letters **S. T. R.**

S - Ask the individual to SMILE.

T - Ask the person to TALK

SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE COHERENTLY
(I.e. It is sunny out today.)

R - Ask the person to RAISE BOTH ARMS.

New Sign of a Stroke
Stick Out Your Tongue

Ask the person to 'stick' out his tongue. If the tongue is 'crooked' (it goes to one side or the other) that is also an indication of a stroke.

If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call 911 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher. If you get this message to 10 people; you can bet that at least one life will be saved.

Where the Élite Meet to Eat

Come join us for some fine ethnic cuisine in our area. This food is made with love, following Grandmas authentic recipes, at a reasonable price, and for a good cause.



Polish Dinner

Friday

18 May 2012

White Eagle Hall

487 Delaware Avenue Kingston, NY

\$ 12.00 – Seniors \$ 10.00

2 Seating's 5 PM & 7 PM

Take Out

For Reservations Please Call

Paul Weresynski, (845) 339-5685



144th Anniversary Spring Concert and Dance

Sunday Afternoon 20 May 2012

Doors Open 12:00 pm

Hors d'Oeuvres 12:00 to 1:00 pm

Concert 1:00 pm

Scholarship Presentation

Large Buffet and Dessert Table

Dance Music by

The Mountain Tops

2:30pm-6:30 pm

\$ 20.00 per person

Reservations Requested - Please Call

John Bruening (845) 658-9342

Walter Vogt (845) 336-6534



Beef Burgundy Dinner

Friday 4:00-5:30 pm

8 June 2012

36th Sangerfest Kick-Off Dinner

Germania Singing Society of Poughkeepsie

37 Old Degarmo Road Poughkeepsie

Reservations by May 1st \$ 15.00

Patricia Kemmerer (845) 454-8192

Sangerfest Concert at Arlington Middle School 7:30pm.

After-Glow Party following the concert

Join Us for an Old Fashion



Rouladen Dinner

Sunday Afternoon Dance

24 June 2012

1:00 - 5:00 pm

Dance Music by

Ed Rocks

Enjoy Good Music

Good Treats and Good Company

Reservation Requested by 15 June

Rouladen Dinner

Served from 12 to 1:30 PM

\$20 per person

For Reservations Please Call

Inga (845) 254-4394

Walter & Ruth (845) 338-2754

Wurstfest

Sunday Afternoon

19 August 2012



1:00 - 5:00 pm

Dance Music by

Joe Unger

Enjoy Good Food

Good Drinks and Good Company

\$5 per person

For Reservations Please Call

John (845) 658-9342

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The singers from the Hudson Strand*

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Scholarship

Some of the most important and most rewarding aspects of our work in furthering and advancing our chorus in preserving and promoting German culture, heritage, and tradition through music and song is that of educating our youth and scholarship.

Each May we bestow scholarship awards to graduating high school students who have excelled in the German language studies in our area schools. We also donate to the Rhinebeck – Rheinbach Cultural Exchange Program.

Scholarship Committee Chairperson Linda Koelmel and her committee of Walter Bruchholz, Franz Heigemeir, and Ruth Miller had the heartening opportunity of selecting the scholarship recipients again this year. Congratulations to the scholarship winners; we wish you success and a pleasant journey in your future endeavors.

This year's recipients are above average students, leaders in their schools, with musical interests, and a strong desire to learn and appreciate German culture and tradition. They are the future of our community and we have an obligation to encourage, support, and assist them as they continue to study, learn, and promote our values and customs.

Our Scholarship Fund is self-supporting and we appreciate the response you traditionally give this fund. We are a charitable 501c3 not for profit organization. Please send your tax-deductible donations to help us continue support the future leaders of our German-American community.

Become a Monday Knight

Yes Monday is rehearsal night, BUT we are open for all members. While the singers are rehearsing Richard is manning the barroom. Stop in to visit, renew friendships and make new ones. It would be especially nice if former singers would drop in. We miss you.

The club is open from approximately 6:15 to 9:00 p.m. most Monday evenings from September to May. If in doubt, call first.



History of Gottschee



Painting of the city of Gottschee by Michael Ruppe (1930)



Gottschee 1941-1943



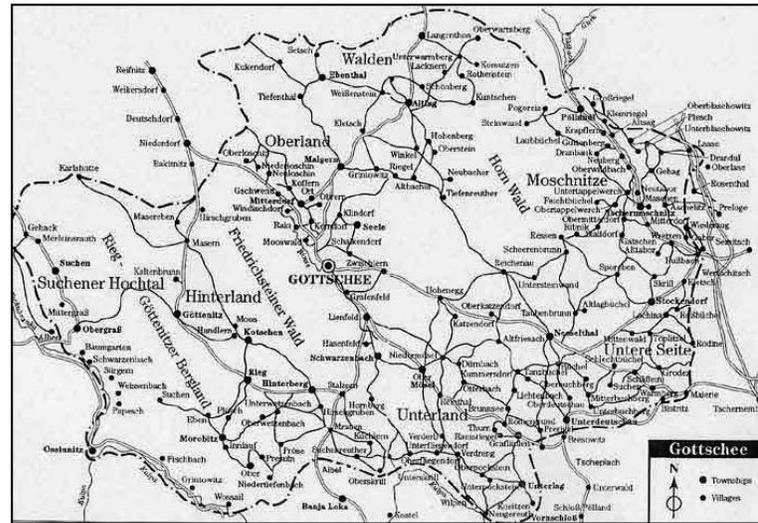
The former county of Gottschee (today known as Kocevska) is located in the country of Slovenia. Gottschee lies in the south central part of Slovenia, the southern border of Gottschee IS near the country of Croatia. The ethnic and linguistic area was about 331 square miles.

The Gottschee county map below shows the location of the villages; their names are written in German.

In the year 1247, Patriarch Berthold, Archbishop of Aquileja and a prince of the Holy Roman Empire, gave a large estate in the province of Krain, today Slovenia, in fief to the Carinthian Counts of Ortenburg. The fief included an uninhabited, densely forested highland bordered by the rivers Cabranka, Kulpa, and Gurk.

Gottschee was founded at the end of the 13th century, carved out of the uninhabited mountain forests in what is today the south central part of Slovenia.

The county of Gottschee was colonized in 1300 by the Carinthian counts of Ortenburg with settlers from Carinthia and Tyrol, and by other settlers who came from Austrian and German Dioceses of Salzburg, Brixen, and Freising. The settlers cleared the vacant and heavily forested land and established towns and rural villages.



The area of lower Carniola (the duchy of Carniola was called Krain in German) that was to become Gottschee had been a strategic part of the Holy Roman Empire since the year 800. As a result, there were a number of important castles and fortifications in and around Gottschee.

In 1350, the emperor made available 300 families from Thuringia in Germany, and this group formed the basis of the population of Gottschee County as a German-speaking language island in a duchy mostly inhabited by Slovenians.

An ecclesiastical document issued in 1363 refers to a pastorate at "Gotsche" in the new settlement; this is the first mention of the name of the later-day linguistic island and its center town, Gottschee, today known as Kocevje.

The people of Gottschee continued to preserve the customs of their ancestors. They also developed a distinct German dialect called Gottscheerisch. It was mainly a spoken language and those that were born there in the 1920s and 1930s still speak the language today (On the Links page, click Gottscheer Relief Association of New York to view and listen to the Gottscheerisch language.)

In 1471, Emperor Friedrich III bestowed upon the town its municipal chapter and city seal. About 100 years later, in 1574, Gottschee was owned by the Hapsburg Archduke Carl. Also in that year, there was an Urbarium (land register) produced with statistics of land, the number of villages, names of the owners, and taxes.

In 1492, the citizens of Gottschee were granted the right to peddle the products of their home industry and other wares throughout the empire, a privilege they came to use extensively.

Statutory labor and oppressive taxation by feudal lords and bailiffs were other hardships to be endured, leading in 1515 to a peasant revolt that started in Gottschee and swept from there through Krain and other provinces of the empire.

Located in the path of the Turkish invasions of the 15th and 16th centuries, this outpost settlement of the Holy Roman Empire was overrun repeatedly. Ravages of the plague and cholera also took a heavy toll on the lives of the citizens of Gottschee.

In 1641, Wolf Engelbrecht of Auersperg bought the county (*Grafschaft*) of Gottschee. In 1770, Maria Theresa ordered a count of all males in order to be drafted into the Austrian army. In that same year, all urban and rural dwellings were counted and recorded.

From 1809 to 1815, Napoleon's army occupied Gottschee. In the late 1800s, the Gottschee ethnic and linguistic area of 331 square miles consisted of 176 villages organized into 19 townships and 18 parishes. The population was about 26,000 and like many Slovenians and other Europeans, Gottscheers began to emigrate from their homeland. Many immigrated to various areas in the United States and Canada, with large numbers settling in Cleveland, Ohio, and Brooklyn, New York.

In 1918, after World War I, with the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Duchy of Carniola and with it Gottschee became part of the province of Slovenia in the newly formed Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. Gottscheers were given Yugoslavian citizenship. In 1929, the kingdom became known as the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. Slovenia gained its independence from Yugoslavia in 1991. Today, the area of the former county of Gottschee is known as Kocevski, Slovenia. The city of Gottschee is known as Kocevje.

During World War II, the Gottscheers lost their homeland. When the German and Italian armies invaded Yugoslavia in April 1941, an agreement between Italy and Germany gave control of the Gottschee land area to Italy. Nine months later, the German government resettled the Gottscheer ethnic Germans from their 650-year homeland. This was done in December 1941 and January 1942, when almost 12,000 Gottscheers were relocated to Brezice (Rann), Slovenia that had been incorporated into the German Reich during the war.

Between 1941 and 1943, many of the Gottscheer villages were destroyed in battles between the Yugoslavian partisans and the Italian forces.

At the end of World War II, when both Gottschee and Lower Styria were reclaimed by Yugoslavia, the people of Gottschee were made homeless and stateless and ended up as refugees and expellees in temporary camps in Austria.

Some of the refugees eventually found new homes in Austria and Germany, however, most immigrated to the United States and Canada, where they had friends and relatives who had immigrated to those countries prior to World War II.

Today, the largest number of Gottscheers and their descendants live in the United States, many living in Ohio and New York, with smaller numbers living in Austria, Canada, Germany, and Slovenia.



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Dear Friends,

Over the years our newsletter staff has worked diligently to deliver our club information to you on a timely basis. We are pleased to bring you the current news of upcoming events, successes of past events, happy news of our members and families, and sad news of our loved ones who have dedicated themselves to our goals and aspirations and are now convalescing or have passed on.

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