



GOTTSCHEER RELIEF ASSOCIATION, Inc.

657 FAIRVIEW AVENUE

RIDGEWOOD, N.Y. 11385

JAHRESBRIEF - NEWSLETTER Winter 2008/2009

Letter from the President

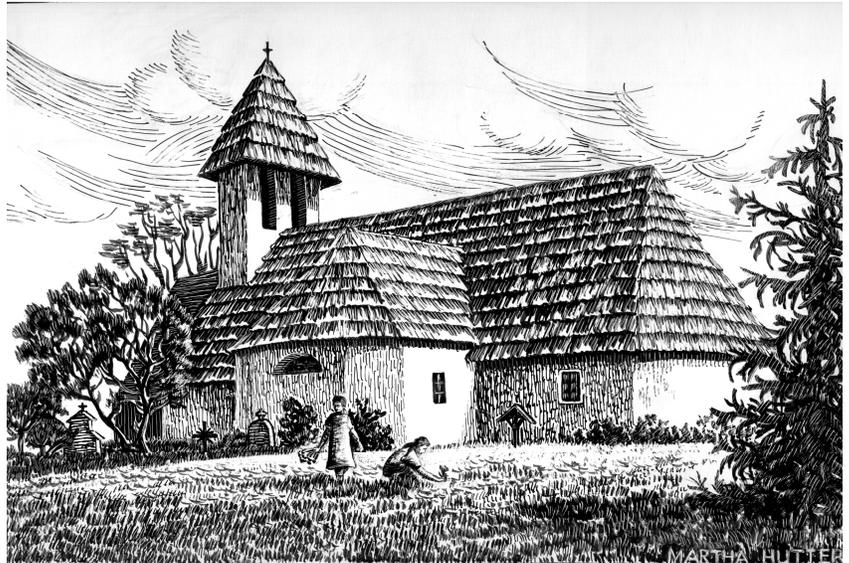
Dear Landsleute & Friends,

I often ask myself, and others, "Why do we do it?" There is no glory. It doesn't make us financially wealthy. It often adds excess stress to our already busy lives. Dedicating a part of our lives to the work of the Gottscheer/American community sometimes seems to return no rewards.

This year, though, the reward has been made very clear to me – we do it for our children. In June at the Gottscheer Volksfest my daughter, Melissa, was crowned Miss Gottschee, the highest honor a young Gottscheer/American woman can possess in our community. She speaks frequently of how she dreamed of being Miss Gottschee. Although not everyone can be Miss Gottschee, or even has the desire to do so (I know I didn't), this is only one of the many ways we strive to maintain cultural, sports, and social activities for our children.

In October at the Relief Association's Ehrennachmittag, we honored Albert Belay, a man who exemplifies commitment to family and our community. One of the original founders of BW Gottschee and long time President of the Maennerchor, Mr. Belay has always worked in all areas of our community to encourage youth participation in our events and activities, such as the Steuben Day Parade and the Weihnachtsfeier, along with his long term relationship with the German-American School in Ridgewood. Nurturing like this can then lead an interested youth to the enjoyment of great cultural music, which is his true passion, through the Gottscheer Chöre. What a gift!

Besides the Weihnachtsfeier, another great Christmas spectacle for our younger children is the Kinderbescherung sponsored by the Kranken Unterstützungs Verein. Last year I got to witness what happens the morning of the Kinderbescherung. All the long time members of the KUV, primarily Dads and Opas, come to Gottscheer Hall to prepare the gift bags for all the children. WOW! What an experience that was! It was like watching Santa's elves on an assembly line. And for whom do these men get up at the crack of dawn? - our children!



Drawing of Kerndorf church by Martha Hutter

Then, of course, there are all our other organizations that are youth friendly. The children's group and teams of Die Erste Gottscheer Tanzgruppe and BW Gottschee have grown to impressive sizes, thanks to the work of all the families and friends that make it possible. Then there's our youth friendly Gottscheer Vereinigung, Bowling Club, and Rod and Gun Club, which many of our young men can hardly wait to become of age to join. Even at Gottscheer Hall we stay with tradition by continuing to employ young Gottscheer/Americans to help in the kitchen, on the wait staff, and at the bar.

Yes, we do it for our children. I know not all of us will have a daughter or grand-daughter reign as Miss Gottschee, but the commitment of the volunteers that maintain these organizations will be here if and when your child decides to 'check us out'. Not only as a member, but as a guest at one of the many events, as a volunteer at a club function, or as a marcher in the Steuben Day Parade, we'll be here with open arms ready to embrace them with not only our culture and heritage, but our compassion for ALL of our children. Wishing all of our readers a Blessed Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

William Osanitsch
President, Gottscheer Relief Assoc. NY



Bir binschn Ai oln
scheonə Bainochtn
ünt a glikklichəs najəs Jur!

We wish you all
a beautiful Christmas
and a happy New Year!

Wir wünschen Euch allen
schöne Weihnachten
und ein glückliches neues Jahr!

Friedrichstein - Albert Belay

Zwischen dem Burgnock und dem Lienfelder Nock ist auf einem felsigen Bergrücken die Ruine des einst stolzen Schlosses "Friedrichstein".

Als im Jahre 1420 die Ortenburger Grafen ohne Erbfolge ausstarben, ging ihr Besitz, darunter auch Gottschee, an den Grafen von Cilli, Hermann II über. Dessen Sohn Friedrich II erbaute dann am 970 m hohen Bergrücken das nach ihm benannte Schloss Friedrichstein. Dort verbrachte er nach dem Tode seiner ersten Frau Elisabeth, mit seiner gegen den Willen seines Vaters geschlossenen Ehe mit Veronika von Dessenitz kurze Zeit. Schon im Jahre 1427 wird Friedrich von seinem Vater gefangen genommen, eingekerkert und das Schloss Friedrichstein geschleift. Veronika fand nach ihrer Flucht im Jahre 1428 einen gewaltsamen Tod.

Im Jahre 1429 wurde Friedrich aus der Gefangenschaft entlassen. Graf Hermann II starb 1434 in Pressburg bei seinem Schwiegersohn Kaiser Sigismund. Friedrich übernahm das Erbe der Grafen von Cilli. Im Jahre 1435 baute er Schloss Friedrichstein nach den alten Plänen wieder auf, mit einer dem Hl. Johannes geweihten Schlosskapelle.

Nach dem Tode Friedrichs im Jahre 1454 übernahm dessen Sohn Ulrich II das Erbe. Nach dessen Ermordung in Belgrad 1456 ging das reiche Erbe der Cillier erbrechtlich an das Haus Österreich. Diese verpachteten die Herrschaft Gottschee in der Folge an die Grafen von Thurn, von Blagay und Khysel die ihrerseits Friedrichstein als befestigten Sitz bewohnten. Von 1469 bis 1584 brandschätzten die Türken elfmal das Land, Bauernaufstand und Pest plagten die verarmte Bevölkerung. Burg Friedrichstein widerstand allen Gefahren.

1641 kaufte Graf Wolf Engelbrecht von Auersperg die Herrschaft Gottschee und baute 1650 das mächtige Stadtschloss. Von nun an hatten alle Verwaltungsorgane ihren Sitz im Stadtschloss. Die Burg Friedrichstein wurde dem Verfall überlassen. Nur ein Schlosswart hauste noch dort, später waren es Jagdgehilfen.

Unsere Großeltern wussten noch von einem „Friedrichschoina-Baiblain“ zu erzählen, einer alten Frau die, mit einer Kraxe am Rücken, mit verschiedenen Heilkräutern handelnd anzutreffen war. Sie war als lediges Kind einem Berufsjäger auf Schloss Friedrichstein geboren und hat durch ihre Kinder- und Jugendjahre mit ihrem Vater dort gehaust. Als erwachsenes

Mädchen ist sie dann oft zu ihrem Geliebten den steilen Hang hinab nach Grafenfeld geeilt, um wieder vor Sonnenuntergang zurück auf Friedrichstein zu sein. Nach dem Tode ihres Vaters hat sie ihren Schatz in Grafenfeld geheiratet. Dort wo ein Feldweg vom Friedrichsteiner-Nock her in die Dorfstrasse mündet stand in Grafenfeld Nr.59 "Fridrichschoinasch" Haus, wohl nach ihr benannt. Dort waltete sie als Gastwirtin bis ins hohe Alter. In ihren 112 Jahren wurde sie dreimal Witwe und heiratete den vierten Mann in ihrem 108-ten Lebensjahre, den sie dann nicht mehr überlebte.

Burg Friedrichstein ist kaum als Ruine noch zu erkennen, und der Grabstein dieser Frau: "Maria Wiederwohl, geb. 14. Juni 1798, gest. 26. November 1910" wurde Opfer der Nachwehen des Zweiten Weltkrieges.



Landsleute, kommt zur Weihnachtsfeier

der Gottscheer Relief Association

Götscheabaschö Bainochtn

am 28. Dezember um zwei Uhr nachmittag
im Gottscheer Klubhaus!

Benn də Kheltə pain Häushə aff də Schaibm shlugət
ass shai plint bərn̄t drvön,
ünt də Khotə von Vanschtr Panklain jugət,
hevət bidr 's Gəvriashn un.
Ünt də Vriashə graifət aühin in an laarn Pam
ünt in Maishlain noch in də Eardə.
Benn nua lai dr Shneab pollain mecht kham!
Dai liabə Barlt shluffent schon gearn.

Wenn die Kälte beim Haus auf die Scheiben schlägt
dass sie blind werden davon,
und die Katze von der Fensterbank jagt,
fängt wieder das Gefrieren an.
Und das Frieren greift hinauf in den leeren Baum
und dem Mäuslein nach in die Erde.
Wenn jetzt nur der Schnee bald kommen möcht!
Die liebe Welt schlief schon gern.



GOTTSCHER CHÖRE

Deutsch Gottscheer Gesangverein und Gottscheer Männerchor arbeiten eng miteinander und widmen sich der Pflege des Deutschen und Gottscheer Liedes. Am ersten Sonntag im Januar umrahmen die Gottscheer Chöre die Deutsche Messe in der St. Mathias Kirche in Ridgewood. Im Februar veranstaltete der Deutsch Gottscheer Gesangverein seinen traditionellen Maskenball. An die besten und originellsten Masken wurden Preise verliehen. Der Gabentisch sah mit den vielen Preisen, unter anderem heimische Faschingskrapfen, sehr einladend aus.

Am 27. April veranstalteten die Chöre ihr jährliches Frühlingskonzert unter der Leitung von Zina Skachinsky. Auch

beim Volksfest arbeiten wir tatkräftig mit. Am Nachmittag warteten die Gottscheer Chöre mit einer Gottscheer Liederfolge auf.

Am 17. und 18. Juni beteiligten sich die Chöre am Sängerausflug nach Hawley, PA. Am Samstag Nachmittag erfreuten wir die Gäste mit einem Liedervortrag und am Sonntag umrahmten wir die Messe in der Kirche Queen of Peace gesanglich.

Am Laborday Wochenende nahmen die Chöre am Gottscheer Treffen in Cleveland teil. Mit dem Cleveland Gottscheer Chor umrahmten wir die Festmesse in der Kirche Notre Dame in Chardon gesanglich. Am Nachmittag gaben wir einen Liedervortrag.

Wie immer beteiligten wir uns an der Steubenparade. Erwähnenswert sei

unsere alte Gottscheer Tracht; sie ist immer dabei.

Am 28. September beteiligten sich die Gottscheer Chöre am Ehrennachmittag für den Präsidenten des Gottscheer Männerchores Albert Belay. Die Chöre gratulierten und erfreuten Albert Belay mit einem Liedervortrag.

Am 16. November veranstalteten die Chöre ihr Herbstkonzert. Mit der Chor-Weihnachtsfeier und Götscheabaschö Bainochtn klingt das Jahr 2008 aus.

Wir danken allen, die uns in unserem Bestreben unterstützen, unser Kulturelles Erbe, unser Brauchtum, unsere Gottscheer Mundartlieder zu pflegen, um es der nachfolgenden Generation weiterzugeben.

(Therese Kump)

On June 1, our annual **Gottscheer Volksfest** took place at the Plattduetsche Park in Franklin Square, Long Island. It was a day filled with sunshine, music, dancing, singing, laughter, joyful conversations and good food. The Gottscheer Relief Association's president William Osanitsch and Volksfest Chairperson Elfriede Parthe welcomed an estimated 1,800 visitors of all ages at the outdoor event, which is the biggest Gottscheer gathering of the year organized by the Relief Association and all its affiliated Gottscheer clubs. **Miss Gottschee for the year 2008 was crowned at the event. She is Melissa Osanitsch**, the daughter of our president William and his wife Dorothy, and the sister of Stephanie. The family resides in Milford, Connecticut. The new Miss Gottschee is a recent graduate of the University of New Haven where she majored in Music and Business. Her paternal grandparents are Ida Kump (nee Petschauer) of Katzensdorf, and the late Johann Osanitsch of Stalzers, Gottschee; her maternal grandparents are Adolfine Rauscher (nee Huber) of Munich and Anton Rauscher of the Sudetenland. Melissa is a frequent visitor to Gottscheer Hall and has been involved there in many activities. Congratulations, Melissa!

Winners of the 2008 Volksfest CASH RAFFLE: \$500 - H. Jonke (Middle Village, NY), **\$250** - Marianne Solar (Ridgewood, NY), **\$200** - Elfriede Rom (Madison, AL), **\$150** - Joseph Kikel (Ridgewood, NY), **\$100** - Julius & Maria Krines (Middle Village, NY), **10 prizes at \$50 each** - Mr. & Mrs. Alois Plut (Hicksville, NY), Therese Kump (Glendale, NY), E. Widmer (Queens, NY), Joseph Hoefflerle (Glendale, NY), Pauline Schlindrer (Middle Village, NY), Robert Kraker (Glendale, NY), Pat Re (Stratford, CT), Gottscheer KUV (Ridgewood, NY), Richard Rom (Ridgewood, NY), H. Meditz (Middle Village, NY).

The **Miss Gottschee Committee** would like to thank everyone who helped celebrate the start of the summer with our new Miss Gottschee at our very special dance featuring the hit band Die Schlauberger. It was an exciting and fun night for everyone who was there! The Miss Gottschee Committee will be hosting another exciting dance in 2009 and we hope to see everyone there

partying with us! It will be a night you don't want to miss. Please watch the website for the date and more information as it is available.

We are looking forward to hearing from applicants interested in being Miss Gottschee 2009!

Please visit www.gottscheenewyork.org to view the requirements and application.

For more information, e-mail:

missgottschee@gottscheenewyork.org

Attention all former Miss Gottschees and Princesses! The Miss Gottschee Committee is interested in hearing from you! They are collecting contact information and would also like to hear what you have been up to since your reign as Miss Gottschee or a Princess. Please tell us a little about yourself now, including any involvement in the Gottscheer organizations and activities. Most importantly, please include your current contact info so we can stay in touch! Send e-mail to:

missgottschee@gottscheenewyork.org

**Gottscheer Relief Association
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Sunday, January 18, 2009
2:00 pm

Gottscheer Hall, Ridgewood, NY

All Landsleute and Friends
are invited to attend!

Archive Update - The "Gottscheer Collection" is temporarily unavailable because of renovations at St. John's University Library. We thank the Gottscheer Heritage and Genealogy Assoc. for their donation this past summer of another valuable book to the Gottscheer Archive, *Wasserquellen im Gottscheerland* by Anton Prelesnik.

Steuben Parade - This September the Gottscheers once again strengthened their relationship with the German American Community by marching in the 51st Annual Steuben Parade down Fifth Avenue in Manhattan on September 20, 2008. Led by former Cornflower Queen,

Nicole Radske, the Gottscheer Division looked fantastic. Starting off the group was a float with Die Schlauberger playing on it. Then came the National Colors and Streamers, along with William and Dorothy Osanitsch. The young players of Blau Weiss Gottschee Soccer Club stole the show with their smiling faces while they waved their flags. The Relief Association, Maennerchor, Memorial Chapel, Vereinigung, Bowling Club, Deutsch Gottscheer Gesangverein, Kranken Unterstuetzungsverein, Rod and Gun Club, Central Holding Corp., and the Gottscheer Zeitung were all well represented in the parade. This year's Miss Gottschee, Melissa Osanitsch, looked stunning as she rode down Fifth Avenue in a cabriolet convertible. The Gottscheer Division had a float representing "Gottscheers Then and Now" with members of the community riding on it. This group truly reminded the people of their Gottscheer heritage in the traditional Tracht. The Button Box Accordionist Dino Mezcic played on the float which was sponsored by *Karl Ehmer Quality Meats*, Ridgewood, NY. Walking along side and in front of the float were the colorful and spirited members of the Die Erste Gottscheer Tanzgruppe Adult, Junior, and Children's Groups. A second vintage car carried friends and family of the Greater New York Gottscheer Community. This year's Steuben Parade First Princess, Kathryn Pando, also of Gottscheer descent, represented us well. In all, the parade was a great success and a lot of fun for all who participated. Let's also not forget all the people who came out to view the parade and cheer us on as we marched by. We are looking forward to participating in the parade again in the coming year. Come join us on September 19, 2009!

Sunday, December 28, 2008 - 2:00 pm
at Gottscheer Hall

Götscheabaschə Bainochtn

Gottscheer Relief Christmas Party
featuring the Gottscheer Choirs

All welcome - Admission free

Newsletter Committee:
Martha Hutter, Eleanor Zach

C L U B U P D A T E S

DIE ERSTE GOTTSCHER TANZGRUPPE started 2008 with their annual performance in March with music by the Spitzbuam. Some performances through the year included the Gottscheer Volksfest, Sacred Heart Parish Oktoberfest, Taj Mahal in Atlantic City and the Austrian Day - Buschenschank. We also had the pleasure of performing at the Ehrennachmittag honoring Mr. Albert Belay. Some of our dancers, adults and children, went to the Treffen in Cleveland and performed there. A great time was had by all. We again had a strong turnout at the Steuben Parade. We had a great time at our annual bowling night held in April and will hopefully get a ski trip together this winter. Our dance season wrapped up October 26 at our annual Bierfest with music by the Heimat Klänge.

We hope to see you at our **annual performance on March 28, 2009**. I would also like to encourage all who receive this newsletter to speak to your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, age 8 thru 99 to come and join Die Tanzgruppe. We have formed many long lasting friendships through the group. We wish all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy 2009. *(D. Neubauer)*

The GOTTSCHER VEREINIGUNG - Our Club year started with our 72nd Annual Dance in January. Great dance music was provided by "Die Adlers." Between members, and their guests, over 260 people enjoyed the affair.

The Club once again manned the Wurststand (Raffle) at the Gottscheer Volksfest in June at Plattduetsche Park. Over a dozen hard-working members raffled off over 12 dozen Jaegerwurst and Cervelat.

In connection with this year's North American Gottscheertreffen which was distinctively hosted by the E.O.U.V. in Cleveland, the Club sponsored a bus. After a stop in Pennsylvania to pick-up some guests, we arrived in Cleveland with over 50 people.

However, not everything that occurred with the Club this year was of a happy nature. It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of our Vice President, Hermann Ostermann on October 10, 2008. Hermann was an honorary member of our Club, having joined in 1976. He was our Vice-President for the past 20 years, and his passing was a blow to our members. He

will be missed.

On December 14th, we will gather with family and friends at our annual Christmas Dinner. Music will be courtesy of Werner Goebel.

Lastly, please come join us at our **73rd annual Dance on January 10, 2009** at Gottscheer Hall. Tickets are \$10. Please call (718) 628-5031. Music is by the "Kapelle Fellas" and there is a great prize stand. You'll have a great time. See you there! *(R. Hoefflerle)*

BLAU WEISS GOTTSCHEE - Currently at 22 men's, boy's and girls teams, BW Gottschee is looking stronger than ever. After a real good showing and positive feedback from the United States Soccer Federation, The Gottschee Academy's U-16 and U-18 squad's are looking forward to once again taking on the country's other elite Club squad's. All of the other non-Academy teams are busy playing in the Cosmopolitan Junior Soccer League and all are faring quite well even though most are playing up a year.

With the weather getting colder all teams are getting ready for the short but very competitive indoor season. We are also gearing up for our own 21st Annual BW Gottschee Indoor Tournament coming in January. This tournament has always been well received by the entire soccer community for its competitive soccer and wonderful management and atmosphere.

BW Gottschee will be having its soccer player **BW Christmas Party on Saturday December 20th** at Gottscheer Hall. The kids really have a great time and it gives the parents and coaches time to sit back and relax off the field.

BW Gottschee is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization and all donations are not only much appreciated, they are tax deductible. Many thanks to all members and Gottscheers for their continued support. Please visit our new and updated website at: bwgottschee.org

Keep checking back for new and exciting information updated weekly. *(J. Krische)*

The **GOTTSCHER KUV** - 2008 was the year of our 107th Bauernball. This is our annual fund raiser which helps support the work of the Kranken Unterstuetzungs Verein. At each Bauernball we award our

annual college scholarship which can be up to \$1,000. Our winner for 2008 was Monika Loeschinger, daughter of member Joseph Loeschinger #645. The usual hit at the Bauernball was the Button accordion jam session. The participants this year were John Stampfel, Walter Golser, Etoe Grzin, Mario Honovic and John Mender. John Stampfel was awarded a plaque in recognition of his 15 years of participation in the button accordion jam sessions. Mark your calendar for our next **Bauernball on March 14th, 2009**.

We also have our traditional **Kinderbescherung** on the third Sunday in December which provides live entertainment (usually a puppet show or similar treat) for all the kids, parents, grandparents and friends. The event concludes with the appearance of Santa Claus (thanks to the efforts of Fred Hoefflerle over the past 28 years!). Santa and the KUV make available gifts for all the children with the added support of The Gottscheer Vereinigung, Gottscheer Relief and the Gottscheer Maennerchor.

The Gottscheer Kranken Unterstuetzungs Verein offers men and women between the ages of 18 and 55 the opportunity to join their organization in the interest of preserving the Gottscheer heritage and traditions while promoting support for fellow Gottscheers. Anyone interested in obtaining more information about the Gottscheer Kranken Unterstuetzungs Verein is welcome to email Financial Secretary Fred Hoefflerle at Cheesconnoisseur@aol.com (spelled without the "e" at the end of cheese) or call him at (917) 601-7524. *(F. Hoefflerle)*

Every year, the **GOTTSCHER ROD & GUN CLUB** prepares for the hunting season with a target shooting competition. This year's winner was Joe Morscher, Jr. Our hunting season started with the muzzle loading season. The successful hunters were Joe Kikel with a spike, Joe Morscher, Jr. with a doe, and John Pantazis with a doe. During the bow season, Jim Schwerdt harvested a 4-point buck and a doe. So far, during rifle season, Joe Kikel harvested a 5-point buck. The deer were all taken on the club property in Norway, NY, in the foothills of the Adirondacks.

This year, our **Jaegerball is to be held on Saturday, January 17, 2009**, with

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

a donation of \$45. Doors will open at 7 pm at Gottscheer Hall. Full course dinner includes a choice of venison sauerbraten or roast beef with wine, beer and soda. Entertainment will be the Kapelle Fellas. See you then! (*J. Morscher*)

The GOTTSCHER BOWLING CLUB's last season got underway, returning once again to Jib Lanes for our fourth year. In the first half of the season first place was held by many teams. Coming down the stretch, three teams battled down to the last two weeks of the campaign. On the last night, Francesco Vilardi's team, "The Finish Line," with Bill Sedler and Edgar Mantel, won the season crown.

The winner of the annual Gottscheer Open Tournament was Freddy Luscher. Also, the last week of the season is reserved for the Top Ten Tournament which puts the best bowlers of the year against each other. In a low scoring match, Maurizio D'Angelo kept Matt Guile at bay to win the title.

Besides the bowling, we also had other functions during the year, including our Annual Awards Dinner in October and our Christmas Party in December. At the Volksfest in June, the Bowling Club had their hands full with the Roast Beef Stand. Over 800 sandwiches were sold. It was a beautiful day and fun was had by all. We also had our day trip to Lukan's Farm Resort in Hawley PA on July 13th. It was a picture perfect day with fun at the pool, tennis, ball field, basketball, and beach volleyball. Non-members are welcome to join us every year.

Hope to see you at our **upcoming dance on Sunday, March 1st, 2009**. The Heimat Klänge will be performing. Cost is \$10.00. There will be lots of prizes and a full menu will be available. Prosit!! (*M. Guile*)

THE GOTTSCHER CHOIRS are always eager to accept new singers. Why not consider coming to a rehearsal at Gottscheer Hall on a Wednesday evening to see what it's like? We are sure you'll enjoy the experience and it's a great way to contribute to the Gottscheer community at various events throughout the year. **Don't forget, everyone is welcome to celebrate the Christmas Season with us on December 28th at 2:00pm at the Relief Gottscheeabache Bainochtn in Gottscheer Hall (free admission), and at Sunday Mass in St. Matthias Church on January 4th at 8:45am.** (*T. Kump*)

So, What's New at Gottscheer Hall?

We know that many of you who receive this newsletter don't have the opportunity to frequent Gottscheer Hall, or Ridgewood for that matter. You should know what's available at Gottscheer Hall these days if you're in Queens or Brooklyn and feel like stopping in or you're coming to an event at "the Clubhouse".

There is a Tap Room menu Wednesday through Saturday from 4:30 to 10 PM, featuring selections like Three Cheese Baked Spätzle, Krainerwurst prepared in various styles, traditional Goulash, Sarah's delicious Bread Pudding topped with Rum Raisin Sauce for dessert, and Palatschinken like your Mom or Oma used to make. If you're coming for a club event that doesn't include a dinner, there are similar menu selections available in the Ball Room during the event.

Along with great food and "gemütlichkeit", there is a great selection of beer on tap, now featuring Gösser draught from Austria. And there's a complete array of delicious dessert coffees including "Gottscheer Coffee", made with the Gottscheers favorite brandy, Dujardin.

If you're in town on a Friday, make sure to stop by for FREE live entertainment in the bar from 8:30 to 11:30 PM. Every Friday is a surprise, featuring music like Button Box players, Blue Grass and Jazz, and on some Fridays we even feature Transylvanian Folk Music. There are also piano bar performers from time to time.

Along with all of this, Gottscheer Hall is still a great place for your catered events with a very affordable catering menu. Gottscheer Hall is an all around great value with a staff that does a great job, making sure that your friends and family get the best service, food and spirits. Hope to see you some time for a party, dinner, or just a drink.

(*W. Osanitsch*)

I Remember...

About a year ago, in Church, the priest spoke of Jerusalem and Bethlehem. This was an appropriate sermon, for it was Christmas. He painted a picture of what things were like, so different from today, so much more difficult. He said that in Jesus' time, the size of Jerusalem was, by today's standard, a small town and Bethlehem only a small hamlet. "That makes sense," I thought. And it conjured up images of what life at that time was like... How small was small? My thoughts drifted back to Gottschee. How did this compare to Gottschee fifteen centuries later? Hmm... something to think about.

Days past, the Christmas rush was over, and my thoughts returned to the priest's sermon. Somehow his words touched me personally and kept bringing me back to the difficult times in Gottschee. What was life like for the early settlers? Surely it too was a hard existence, incomprehensible to us today. Carniola, with the territory that became Gottschee, was a frontier wilderness with small pockets of civilization here and there. Often, a mere handful of shack-like structures made up a settlement. Life was a constant struggle to survive – there must have been no shortage of fear, hunger and combating the elements. It is frightening just thinking about the possibility of being confronted by wild animals. Then there was the darkness. Fear during the day is one thing, but at night, in the darkness, I imagine fear

must have become a threatening monster. People embraced daylight, laboring from day-break until darkness set in. I remember my own experiences of darkness as a child. I recall when I was three or four years old, my mother giving me a bath in a basin atop the kitchen table. It was evening and the kitchen was dark except for a lamp or candle flickering in a corner. I remember my fears of the darkness there. And it still makes me feel uneasy just thinking about the darkness.

Our forefathers accepted their fate, for they had no choice. Survival was the key word. Their quest was to clear the land in order to grow food to feed themselves and their families. It is difficult to imagine times when a person's life expectancy was only in his 40's. Perhaps on our standards, the "good old days" weren't that good. Nevertheless, the Gottscheers by their nature were basically a happy people, for they knew nothing different.

Not too long ago I received a letter from a young man in Colorado. He and his family had visited Gottschee. In his letter he wrote: "We cannot live the lives of our ancestors, but we can certainly remember them." My sentiments exactly. We can remember them and know that through their struggle and perseverance, they shaped who we are today.

- Edeltraud Krauland Kneier



Our Community Beyond the City

- Martha Hutter

Gottscheers who settled in the city always remembered their rural roots. City life was rarely a true first choice. Almost as soon as they had secured their full time jobs in our large metropolis they began to look to the country. Many bought their own farms or weekend country homes in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania or the Catskills of New York State, as well as far out on Long Island when it still resembled a wilderness, two to four hours by car from their city domiciles. After retirement from their weekday jobs some would move there permanently, joining others who had already found a way to make a living far from the big town. But although they all sought to leave the city behind, they did not like to leave each other behind. Bringing along a following of relatives and friends, they formed their own clusters of Gottscheer neighbors or even mini-colonies; most disappeared over time, while a few endured and grew.

In a 1956 issue a local Pennsylvania newspaper, *The Wayne Independent*, wrote about a young Gottscheer couple that had settled in Wayne County. It was around 1930 when Josef Hiris and his wife first visited the countryside near Lake Wallenpaupack in the Pocono Mountains and decided to stay. "It would be a wonderful spot, they thought, for their countrymen back in Ridgewood to spend their vacations," the newspaper states, "And just like today the people visit, learn to love the area, buy property and build, so the young Hiris couple decided to do something about it and bought two buildings surrounded by fifty acres in the area around Route 590 known as Hawley RD 1, not far from the big lake, and proceeded to turn the venture into a boarding house, until eventually they were able to accommodate sixty-five vacationists. They never advertised or engaged in promotional activities. Their first visitors were relatives, and as Mother Hiris' table and hospitality became known in Ridgewood's Gottscheer colony, others came ...".

This was the beginning of the large Gottscheer community at Hawley, Pennsylvania. The Hiris children Frank, Joseph, William, Helen, Mary and Anna all settled in the immediate area and started businesses of their own, such as the Hawley Inn operated by Frank. So did many of their visitors from Ridgewood.

"The story does not end here," the newspaper article from the year 1956 continues. "What became of the erstwhile boarders and what some of them are doing now reads like a *Who's Who in Wayne County*, and they can all be found in a radius of ten miles of the former Hiris boardinghouse." The article then names twenty Gottscheer families that permanently lived in that area.

The Gottscheer colony at Hawley experienced further growth in the 1960's and 1970's, when a new generation of Gottscheer families built homes in the area. The Farm Resort of Alois and Olga Lukan on Long Ridge Road became a very popular vacation spot for the Gottscheer residents of New York City. Today operated by the couple's children, the resort continues to be a favorite summer meeting ground for *Landsleute* from almost anywhere.

Another Gottscheer community of a different kind emerged at Walden near Ellenville in New York State. Among a group of city residents the idea was born to create a "Gottscheer village" in the countryside. In 1962 they incorporated the *Gottscheer Country Club*, which then purchased a large farm property in the Hudson Valley 70 miles north of the city. The land was parceled into one-acre lots that were sold to a growing membership of eager homebuilders. Roads were laid and utilities brought in. Twenty years later the new "village" -- aptly named Neu-Gottschee -- boasted twenty-five newly

built year-round homes; eventually the number of houses grew to about forty. The original farmhouse was turned into a clubhouse, where parties and gatherings were held, mostly for the many visitors that regularly came from Ridgewood by the busloads. Around 1985 the community added a chapel in commemoration of the shrines that were once in every village in Gottschee.

A popular vacation spot for Gottscheer families from Ridgewood exists at Swan Lake in New York State, less than three hours by car from the city. This too started as a group endeavor with the purchase of one large property by some members of the soccer club Blauweiss Gottschee. A hall surrounded by bungalows serves the member families as a summer resort, and often doubles in winter as a shelter for their hunters. This undertaking also led a number of Gottscheer families to acquire year-round homes in the vicinity.

At Lake Mahopac near the city a cluster of Gottscheer families can be found. As the story goes, a Gottscheer named Yonke (the name was *Jonke* in Gottschee) bought a lot at the end of a dirt road. He wrote "Yonke Road" on a shingle and hung it from a tree by the roadside. When the townspeople came around to pave the road, they accepted the name and made it official. Mr. Yonke attracted a number of relatives and friends to the immediate area.

Individual Gottscheer families have always sought to buy their homes near siblings and cousins, thus keeping the Gottscheer community as a whole bound and in touch. Though many of our *Landsleute* may nowadays live scattered within such clusters or alone in the wider vicinity of the city, they have once every year on the first Sunday of June the opportunity to visit with each other and all the rest of us: The *Gottscheer Volksfest* at the Plattduetsche Park in Franklin Square, Long Island, has traditionally been the meeting ground for Gottscheer families from far and near. Happily, they continue to gather at this event in large number.

Greetings from Miss Gottschee



As Christmas approaches I realize that half of my reign as Miss Gottschee has passed. I have enjoyed every moment of my time as Miss Gottschee so far and I look forward, with great eagerness, to the coming months. I have had so many great experiences attending events, such as, the Volksfest, the Treffen in Cleveland, and waving to the crowd during the Steuben Day Parade.

Spending moments with long time friends as well as meeting new ones brings me such delight, and having the opportunity to have some good fun with the children has put a smile on my face uncountable times. I look forward to meeting those of you whom I have not yet met, and also creating more memories that I will treasure for the rest of my life.

In May 2008 I graduated from the University of New Haven as a double major in Music Industry and Business Administration. I am currently at a temporary position in Accounts Payable for an industrial sprinkler company as I continue to pursue possibilities in my career. The current economic climate is not the best for job searching, so I'm very content with the position I have and especially enjoy my co-workers and the hot cocoa that is one of the special little perks at my desk.

Thank you to all of you, for you have made and continue to make my year as Miss Gottschee extraordinary and unforgettable! May your holiday season be warm and filled with love! See you in 2009!

*Miss Gottschee 2008
Melissa C. Osanitsch*

THANKS TO ALL OUR DONORS! Many thanks to all of you that send in donations throughout the year, or a little extra with your chance book purchases. It's much appreciated! *Vrgelts Gött!*

\$500 German Society of NY in Memory of Adolph Schauer. **\$150:** Marie Mausser (Ridgewood, NY) in Memory of Adolf Mausser. **\$50:** Jeanmarie & Robert Brusati (Brooklyn, NY) in Memory of Hans Gladitsch, William Gerber (Avon, CT), John Michitsch (Elliot City, MD), Alan J. & Mary Ann Smith (Oakland, CA), Joseph Tschinkel (Forest Hills, NY). **\$45:** Donna Galligan (Cranston, RI), Anna Nick (Middle Village, NY), Lillian Verderber (Bayside, NY), Eric Zielinski (Tuckahoe, NY). **\$30:** Joseph L. Flack (Timonium, MD), E. Hutter (E. Greenwich, RI), Frank Juran (Glendale, NY), Hedwig Koenig (Hawley, PA). **\$25:** Larry Ginsberg (Floral Park, NY), Ronald Hoenigmann (Ellington, CT), Anne Jonke (Spring Hill, FL), Joseph Kofler, Jr. (Brevard, NC), Herb & Carol Michitsch (Stevensville, Ontario, Canada), Gloria Rinehart (Albuquerque, NM) in Memory of Joseph Koenig, R.J. Schager, Jr. (Brooklyn, NY), Joseph B. Schober (Chesapeake, VA), Thomas J. Wiegand (Franklin Square, NY). **\$20:** Lillian Betsch (Middle Village, NY), Albert Curl (Concord, NC), Susan L. Freudenberg (Randolph, NJ), Eric Jaklitsch (Douglaston, NY), Frank Juran (New Fairfield, CT), Eric Kostner (Astoria, NY), Fred Krusch (Aiken, SC), Philip Martin (Kansas City, MO), Maria Papiro (New Hyde Park, NY), Steven Shell (Mt. Laurel, NJ), Norene Keenan (Pompton Plains, NJ) & Diane Spreitzer (Loveland, CO) in Memory of John Spreitzer, Carl Verderber (Rhinebeck, NY), John Vogrin (Hawley, PA), Adelheid Wolf (Middle Village, NY). **\$15:** Elfrieda Bugos (Lino Lakes, MN), John B. Gladitsch (Middle Village, NY), Kurt Morscher (Frisco, CO), Timothy Morscher (Norwalk, OH), William Schneller (Lakewood, NJ), Sophia Stalzer Wyant (Palisade, MN). **\$10:** Gunter Kelm (Greenwood Lake, NY), Hilda Kiss (New Hyde Park, NY), Edeltraud Kneier (Ridgewood, NY), Dorothy Krusch (Parma, OH), Irma Lackner (Glendale, NY), Terence & Arlene Reilly (Long Island, NY), Ruth Tramposch (Baltimore, MD), Richard Wolf (Ridgewood, NY). **\$5:** Maria Behn (Trumbull, CT), Pepi Crocker (New Hyde Park, NY), Joann Danylak (Forest Hills, NY), Amadeo DePoto (Malverne, NY), Helen Gallagher (Bedford, TX), Herta Handler (Syosset, NY), Maria Kern (Glendale, NY), Rudy J. Kikel (Boston, MA), Theodor Kitz (Ridgewood, NY), Ron Kobetitsch (Tallahassee, FL), Hilde Kreiner (Middle Village, NY), Edward Krockner (New Philadelphia, OH), Irene T. Lackner (Ridgewood, NY), Hertha Lobisser (Alameda, CA), Gertrude Loschnig (E. Patchogue, NY), Rosemarie MacLoughlin (Katonah, NY), Lillian Matthews (Huntington, NY), Peter F. McWalters (San Pablo, CA), Herbert Michitsch (Stevensville, Ontario, Canada), Larry Moffit (Overland Park, KS), Mildred Muchel (Huntington Sta., NY), Bernard Nick (Tappan, NY), Eugene A. Palmer (Cortland, NY), Mildred Petroski (New York, NY), John Roethel (Wilmington, DE), George H. Rushmeyer (Spring Hill, FL), Bruno Schadinger (St. Catherine, Ontario, Canada), Helma Schmidt (Maryland, NY), William Schneller (Berkley, MA), Frank F. Spreitzer (Long Beach, CA), Rosalia Stalzer (Glendale, NY).

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**NEW YEAR'S EVE
at GOTTSCHER HALL!**

featuring music by:
THE JOE WEBER BAND
Wed., Dec. 31, 2008

Cocktail Hour, Full Course
Dinner, Open Bar, Midnight
Champagne, Viennese Hour,
Hats & Noisemakers!
\$120 pp

For reservations call
718-366-3030

The Gottscheer Gedenkstaette (Memorial Chapel) was established 45 years ago by industrious Gottscheers who had a love for their homeland. The chapel was built on its own land for all Gottscheers and their deceased, wherever they live or are buried. Thirteen hundred names of people who died during displacement and the world wars are immortalized on marble tablets. The chapel also holds a Gottscheer archive, museum, and a typical farm-room (Bauernstube). We appreciate your continued support in helping to maintain the memorial. Please join us at our next Gemuetlicher Nachmittag on Palm Sunday, April 5th, 2009. The profit from this event is used only for the upkeep of the chapel in Maria Trost and is managed by the committee of the Gottscheer Memorial Chapel in New York. The Dr. Gerber Scholarship will be awarded to one or two students of Gottscheer descent. The 2008 recipients of the scholarship were Christina Rom and Andrea Morscher, both of Glendale. The 2009 Calendar will be available for \$12 at Gottscheer Hall or from Elfriede Hoefflerle 718-386-6863. US postage, add \$3. (R. Anschlowar)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For information & updates, call Gottscheer Hall 718-366-3030
or check our website: www.gottscheenewyork.org

DECEMBER 2008

- 20 Blau Weiss Gottschee Children's Christmas Party – 1:00 pm
21 KUV Children's Christmas Party – 2:00 pm
28 **Gottscheer Relief Christmas Party**
“Göttscheabaschə Bainochtn” – 2:00 pm
31 New Year's Eve at Gottscheer Hall

JANUARY 2009

- 4 German Mass with the Gottscheer Chöre, 8:45am
St. Matthias Church, Catalpa Ave., Ridgewood, NY
4 Gottscheer Männerchor General Meeting & Dinner
10 Gottscheer Vereinigung Dance
17 Rod & Gun Club Dinner Dance — *Jaegerball*
18 **Gottscheer Relief Annual General Meeting – 2:00 pm**
24 Ridgewood Eagles Dance
25 KUV General Meeting

FEBRUARY

- 8 Deutsch-Gottscheer Gesangverein General Meeting & Dinner
14 Deutsch-Gottscheer Gesangverein Maskenball – Masquerade Ball

MARCH

- 1 Gottscheer Bowling Club Dance
14 KUV Bauemball with Button Box Jamboree, Auction
and College Scholarship Award Presentation
28 Tanzgruppe – Spring Performance & Dance
29 Gottscheer Central Holding Corp. Annual Meeting

APRIL

- 5 Gottscheer Memorial Chapel Gemütlicher Nachmittag
19 Cozy Corner Fishing Club Dinner Dance
26 Gottscheer Chöre Frühlingkonzert - Spring Concert & Dance

MAY

- 10 Mother's Day Dinner Dance

JUNE

- 7 **GOTTSCHER VOLKSFEST**
Plattdeutsche Park, Franklin Square, NY

SEPTEMBER

- 19 **Steuben Parade – “Come & march with us on Fifth Avenue!”**

OCTOBER

- 3 Gottscheer Bowling Club Dinner Dance
25 Tanzgruppe Bierfest

NOVEMBER

- 15 Gottscheer Chöre Herbstkonzert – Fall Concert & Dinner Dance



Villø (Fülle, Stuffing)

- 1 lb white bread, cubed
- 1 lb smoked bacon
- 1 ½ lb smoked pork meat
- 2 krainerwurst
- 12 eggs
- 3 tbs flour
- 1 pkt dry yeast
- 6 tbs butter
- ¼ cup milk

Stir eggs and mix with cubed bread. Let soak ½ hour. Cube bacon and heat until it appears glassy. Drain off fat. Add butter, cubed meat and krainerwurst, reheat, and add to bread mixture. Blend warm milk, yeast and flour, and gently stir into above mixture. Place into buttered pan and bake in 350° oven for about 30 minutes.

[This recipe by Hilde Stalzer appears in Albert Belay's Gottscheer cookbook, "Hoimischai Khöscht" and is included here

with his permission. There have been many variations of Villø; some use more bread, or less eggs and meats, some don't use any flour and yeast at all, and some add other ingredients, like parsley, onions, celery and even raisins. This dish was traditionally prepared for Easter as "Oaschtørvillø" (Easter-filling). The tradition of bringing a basket of Easter foods (ham, wurst, colored eggs, breads, villø, strudl, horseradish, scallions and salt) to be blessed on Holy Saturday continues each year in St. Matthias Church in Ridgewood, as well as other local churches.]

Stay in touch throughout the year. Visit our website: www.gottscheenewyork.org

Would you like to be on our mailing list? E-mail all inquiries & address updates to gra@gottscheenewyork.org or write to Gottscheer Relief Association, 657 Fairview Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385.



A newsletter for FRIENDS OF THE GOTTSCHEER VOLKSFEST

Gottscheer Relief Association, Inc.
657 Fairview Avenue
Ridgewood, New York 11385

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED