



GOTTSCHEER RELIEF ASSOCIATION, Inc.

657 FAIRVIEW AVENUE

RIDGEWOOD, N.Y. 11385

JAHRESBRIEF - NEWSLETTER Winter 2009/2010

Letter from the President

Dear Landsleute & Friends,

My sister was visiting yesterday and during dinner we talked about our days in Ridgewood. She now lives in New Jersey with her family and I am in Connecticut with mine, but we both agree that some of our fondest childhood memories are in Ridgewood as small children. Our Oma would care for us during the day while our mother worked at a local knitting mill on Onderdonk Avenue. We would go to Grover Cleveland Park to play in the sprinklers or to watch a traveling show of marionette puppets that would come to the park from time to time. I remember walking to Myrtle Avenue with my grandmother and she would speak German or Gottscheerisch with most of the people she would meet along the way.

This was part of the Gottscheer community as I remember it. We all have memories of our Gottscheer roots. Whether that was going to the Club House for a party or playing on the streets of Ridgewood, or meeting one another at the food blessing at St. Matthias on Easter Saturday. In the case of our parents and grandparents, their memories of the Gottscheer community mostly exist in Austria and Gottschee itself. As we reflect on these memories, the members of the Gottscheer Relief and its affiliate organizations will continue to make new times to cherish all over the world.

This year we will be entering into an agreement orchestrated by the Arbeits Gemeinschaft (AG) in Austria that involves all Gottscheer organizations across the globe. The AG has taken large strides in furthering the relationship with the Gottscheer organizations in Slovenia by approving a promotional grant in the amount of 13,613.76 Euro awarded by the Carinthian Provincial Government. These funds will be given to Gottscheer Altsiedlerverein and the Peter Kosler Verein in Slovenia so that

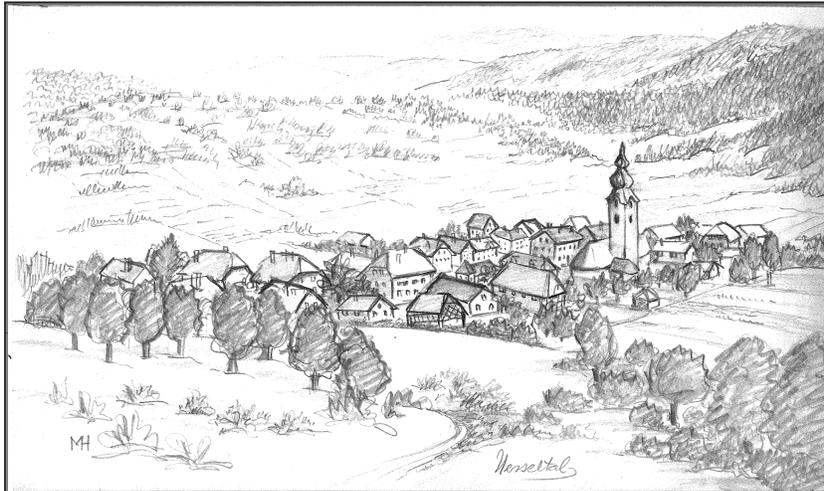
they may continue preserving and restoring select sights in Kocevje. As a member of the AG, the Gottscheer Relief Association of New York will participate in a worldwide agreement of Gottscheer organizations, which states that all such funds and future contributions to this cause will be allocated as promised, in writing, by the two Slovenian organizations. Also outlined in this document, memorial plaques recognizing the contributors will be placed at selected sites. What a great way for the Gottscheer community to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall!

We also continue to establish cherished memories in one of our resettlement regions of Ridgewood, NY. In November we honored Berta Kump, who made numerous memories for many of us. Mrs. Kump, together with her staff Hannie and Agnes Machin, did many of our weddings, birthday parties, condolence luncheons, etc., etc. They were always in the kitchen making sure our events went off without a hitch. And then there are also the things they did over and above their responsibilities at Gottscheer Hall, such as all the cooking they do

for the Gottscheer Picnic, Gottscheer Treffen trips, and other special events. It was our pleasure to give these ladies a memorable afternoon of praise and appreciation.

As the Christmas season approaches and we once again celebrate the greatest event in our Christian community, the birth of Jesus, let's treasure our own memories. The Gottscheer Relief and all the Gottscheer Clubs will continue to maintain our space at Gottscheer Hall, and produce the Volksfest, and this newsletter, plus much more, for our community of Gottscheer-Americans to cherish old memories and establish new ones.

William Osanitsch
President, Gottscheer Relief Assoc. NY



Drawing of the village of Nesselthal by Martha Hutter



Göttaisch Shegn tsə Bainochtn ünt düchalai!

God's Blessings at Christmas and always! Gottes Segen zur Weihnachtszeit und immerdar!

Erlebnisse, Erkundungen, Erinnerungen - Albert Belay

Das Gottscheerland war bekanntlich eine Karstlandschaft, mit Kalkgebirgen und wasserlöslichen Gesteinen. Charakteristisch waren die vielen Geländerinnen, Trichter, Dolinen, Gruben, Höhlen und Grotten. Die auf den Äckern vom Pflug ausgehobenen Feldsteine wurden eingesammelt und in die tiefen Gruben abgelagert. Viele von diesen Geländetrichtern waren tief und bodenlos, und die Kinder wurden wiederholt gewarnt nicht an den Rand dieser Gruben heranzutreten.

Aus den Jahren der Türkeneinfälle sind Höhlen und Grotten bekannt wo sich die Ortsbewohner vor den mordenden Horden versteckten. Alte Frauen wussten vieles zu erzählen was sich in diesen unterirdischen Gängen ereignet hatte, oft waren es grausame Geschichten. Doch uns Schuljungen heizten diese Geschichten unsere Neugier nur noch mehr an. Sonntagnachmittage waren besonders geeignet unserem Forschungsdrang zu folgen.

Zwischen den Ortschaften Grafenfeld und Lienfeld war in den Feldern am Bergrand unweit der Rinse eine von Stauden überwachsene steinige Fläche, das "Khövøle". In diesem felsigen Kofel war eine etwa haustiefe Grube. In deren Grund bildeten zwei türhohe, oben gegen einander lehrende überwachsene Felsblöcke einen spaltartigen Zugang zu einer Höhle, das "Taubenloch". Die enge Öffnung zu meistern war schon eine Mutprobe, die Älteren schafften es nicht. Innen war der Zugang wohl etwas breiter und höher, aber der lehmige Boden fiel steil in die Tiefe. Im Licht unserer Karbidlampe war das Ende nicht zu erkennen.

Langsam tasteten wir uns hinunter bis wir vor einer Wasserfläche in einem erweiterten Höhlenraum standen, deren Ausmaße wir wegen unserer begrenzten Lichtquelle nicht ersehen

konnten. Zur unserer großen Überraschung sahen wir vor uns im seichten Wasserrand uns unbekannte Lebewesen: Eidechsenartige, farblose Tierchen, mit einem langgezogenen Körperteil zwischen zwei schwächlichen Fusspaaren, einem flossenartigen Schwanz und hautüberwachsenen Augen. Das grösste etwa eine Spanne lang. Nach kurzer Besichtigung machten wir uns wegen unserer schwindenden Lichtquelle schnell zum Ausstieg. Mit grosser Aufregung erzählten wir unseren wartenden Helfern von unserer Entdeckung, und bald auch unserer Lehrerin. Sie erklärte uns, dass es "Laitn Vischlain" sind, Grottenolme (*Proteus anguinus*), die im Wasser in Karsthöhlen und Grotten leben und, je nach Umwelttemperatur, Eier legen oder Junge gebären. Weiters gab uns unsere Lehrerin den dringenden Rat keine unterirdischen Forschungen mehr zu machen. Gab es doch andere Dinge zu erforschen!

In der "Tankin", unserer großen mannstiefen Badelacke in der Rinse, erlernten wir schon in jungen Jahren das Schwimmen. Das führte dazu, dass wir in den Sommermonaten dann auch im weiteren Rinselauf nach Fischen suchten. Die Rinse, in der Regenperiode ein reißender Fluss, oft Anlass zu schweren Überschwemmungen der Gegend, war in der trockenen Jahreszeit ein stehendes Gewässer. Nicht oft tiefer als ein Zaunstock, im Sommer angenehm warm, da und dort mit einem Zufluss von einer nahen Quelle. Doch an einer Stelle, wo der Rinselauf nahe an die Strasse zwischen Grafenfeld und Lienfeld herankommt, gab es eine Ausnahme. Da war im Rinsebett eine bodenlose Vertiefung, das "Kalte Loch". Hin und wieder haben wir in das finstere Loch getaucht ohne lange in dem tiefen kalten Wasser zu verweilen. Wegen der geheimnisvollen Tiefe aber blieben wir lieber weg von der Stelle.

Das gruselige Gefühl das uns während unserer jugendlichen Wagnisse oft überkam, begleitet noch immer unsere Erinnerungen.

Advent



Vier Liichtlain, a Schtearn,
khamənt tsühar ans Häusch,
shai plaibentn gearn
viär Böchn grudaüs.
Shai mecht gearn plaibm
ünt Geschtə insch shain,
as Vinschtrə vərtraibm
mit an himmlischn Schain.

*Four lights and a star
come toward the house,
they would like to stay
four weeks to a day.
They would like to stay
and be our guests,
and brighten the darkness
with a heavenly glow.*

Landsleute,

kommt zur Weihnachtsfeier
der Gottscheer Relief Association
Göttscheabaschə Bainochtn
am **27. Dezember** um **2 Uhr** nachmittag
im Gottscheer Klubhaus!



GOTTSCHER CHÖRE

Wieder blicken die Mitglieder der Gottscheer Chöre auf ein arbeitsreiches Jahr. Schon am ersten Sonntag im Januar wenn die Chöre die deutsche Messe in der R.C. St. Matthias Kirche in Ridgewood gesanglich umrahmen, beginnt die gemeinsame Jahrestätigkeit der beiden Chöre, des Deutsch Gottscheer Gesangvereins und des Gottscheer Männerchores. Vorwiegend sind es alte religiöse und volkstümliche Weihnachtslieder, die dieser Messe eine besonders festliche Innigkeit geben.

Am vierten Sonntag im April veranstalten die Chöre das Frühlingskonzert. Im Juni arbeiten wir beim Volksfest mit und

präsentieren daselbst seit einigen Jahren auch eine Liederfolge für die Festbesucher.

Ende Juni findet der Sängerausflug nach Hawley statt. Nach einem Liedervortrag am Samstag umrahmen die Chöre dann am Sonntag dort eine Messe in der lokalen Kirche mit deutschen Liedern.

Bei der New Yorker Steubenparade sind wir ebenfalls dabei. Hier sind es vornehmlich Chormitglieder, die in der Gottscheer Tracht auftreten. Auch folgen wir oft dem Ersuchen bei anderen Kirchen im Stadtbezirk zur Messe zu singen. Zu landsmännischen Veranstaltungen wie Ehrungen und Vereinsfeiern machen wir auch unseren Beitrag.

Das Herbstkonzert im November steht im Zeichen des Deutsch Gottscheer Gesangvereins, heuer zum 72sten Male. Kurz vor Weihnachten sind die Chöre Mitgestalter bei "Göttscheabaschə Bainochtn". Jedermann ist eingeladen wieder die deutsche Messe am 3. Januar 2010 in der St. Matthiaskirche zu besuchen. Auch laden wir herzlich ein, das Frühjahrskonzert der Gottscheer Chöre am 25. April 2010 in der Gottscheer Halle zu besuchen und mit uns das 110te Bestandsjubiläum des Gottscheer Männerchores zu feiern.

(Albert Belay)

The **63rd Gottscheer Volksfest** took place on June 7 at the Plattduetsche Park in Franklin Square, New York. About 1800 visitors attended this popular outdoor festival, enjoying a day full of sunshine, oompah music, good food and great company among their fellow Gottscheers.

A new Miss Gottschee was crowned. She is **Andrea Morscher**, the daughter of Glendale residents Joseph and Fran Morscher. The Long Island University student comes from a family that is very involved with the Gottscheer organizations; her father heads the Gottscheer Rod & Gun Club, her sister Jeanette was Miss Gottschee in 2003. Andrea's Gottscheer grandparents, Josef and Olga (nee Pitzel), came from Langenton and Neuberg.

Both the Volksfest Chairperson, Elfriede Parthe, and the President of the Gottscheer Relief Association, Will Osanitsch, welcomed everybody, and thanked the many that assisted in the preparation of this great event. A special *Thank You* goes to our talented and hard-working Gottscheer choir and folk dance groups, whose performances make the Volksfest such a uniquely Gottscheer celebration. We invite all our readers to attend our **next Gottscheer Volksfest on Sunday, June 6, 2010!**

Winners of the 2009 Volksfest CASH RAFFLE: \$500 - Alfred Fink (Glendale, NY), \$250 - Mr. & Mrs. Henry Schauer (Huntington, NY), \$200 - Herman Rueb (Ridgewood, NY), \$150 - Norbert Lackner (Toronto, Canada), \$100 - Erna Matzelle (Middle Village, NY), 10 prizes at \$50 each - Gottscheer K.U.V. (Ridgewood, NY), Donna Buchbauer (Syosset, NY), Adolf Petsche (Malverne, NY), W.

Kaczmarek (Crystal Lake, IL), Henry Mische (Rhinebeck, NY), Richard Rom (Ridgewood, NY), Eduard Trabi (Glendale, NY), Walter Sterbenz (Glendale, NY), Fred W. Sbaschnig (Ridgewood, NY), W. Schiller (Melville, NY).

The **Miss Gottschee Committee** would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. **We are looking forward to hearing from applicants interested in being Miss Gottschee 2010!**

Join us for the **Miss Gottschee MASKENBALL!**

On January 30, 2010 Miss Gottschee will be hosting a ball at Gottscheer Hall to kick off the Mardi Gras season! Featuring a live DJ mixing today's biggest dance hits and classic German favorites, along with Gottscheer Hall's famous tap room and kitchen specialties, it's sure to be an event you won't want to miss. All former Miss Gottschees and

Gottscheer Relief Association ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, January 17, 2010
12:00 pm (please note earlier start time)

Gottscheer Hall, Ridgewood, NY

All Landsleute and Friends
are invited to attend!

Princesses will be half price. For more information be sure to check Gottscheer Hall's website.

Attention all past Miss Gottschees and Princesses! The Miss Gottschee Committee is interested in hearing from you! We would like to hear what you have been up to since your year as the reigning Miss Gottschee or a Princess. Please tell us a little about yourself now, including your contributions or involvement in the many Gottschee clubs and organizations, and your current contact info so we can stay in touch! We can be contacted via email at missgottschee@gottscheenewyork.org.

We are looking forward to hearing from applicants interested in being Miss Gottschee 2010!

Please visit www.gottscheenewyork.org to view the requirements and application process. For more information, e-mail: missgottschee@gottscheenewyork.org

Gottscheers Go to the Steuben Parade

On September 19, 2009, Gottscheers came together to participate in the German American Steuben Parade. The Gottscheer Division looked wunderbar in the 52nd Parade down Fifth Avenue in Manhattan with Nicole Radske leading the group. This year the division also included two groups, one from Austria and the other from Bavaria. Second Vice President Anita Radske represented the Relief Association. Once again Blau Weiss Gottschee Soccer Club with President John Krische and young boys on the soccer team stole the show with their smiling faces while they waved their flags and showed off some moves. The Relief Association, Maennerchor, Memorial Chapel Representatives, Vereinigung, Bowling Club, Deutsch Gottscheer Gesangverein, Kranken Unterstuetzungsverein, Rod and Gun Club, Central Holding Corp., and the Gotscheer Zeitung were all well represented in the parade.

This year's Miss Gottschee, Andrea Morscher, looked spectacular as she waved to the people along Fifth Avenue in a convertible. Die Erste Gottscheer Tanzgruppe Adult, Junior, and Children's Groups with President Dorothy Neubauer also were a crowd pleaser. The dancers truly reminded the people of their heritage in their traditional dress. The parade lucked out with a beautiful day and a great turn out. Many people came out to view the parade and cheer us on as we marched by.

Please note the new date for next years parade is September 25, 2010.

Please contact Nicole Radske if you would like to march with us next year or get further information, or e-mail gra@gottscheenewyork.org.

(Nicole Radske)



Sunday, December 27, 2009 - 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

GOTTSSCHEER ROD & GUN CLUB

Our year begins with turkey season, when the weather begins to warm in the spring. The members look forward to traveling up to the hunting camp located in Herkimer, NY. At this time we also clean up and maintain our lodging for the upcoming fall deer hunting season. This year, John Pantaus and Werner Klun were successful turkey harvesters.

Then in June, our members enjoy working the Wurst Stand at the Volksfest in Franklin Square, which is always very busy. Also in June, the club holds its annual fishing trip off the coast of Long Island. Once again, the club was blessed with good weather and plenty of fish.

In September, the club held its annual shooting competition in preparation for the hunting season. The winner for the second year in a row was Joe Morscher, Jr.

We are optimistic for this year's deer hunting season, which began in October. This year's season was jumpstarted with a doe harvested by Jim Schwerdt during bow season. The success continued in black powder muzzle season with a 4-point buck by Joe Kikel and a doe by Joe Morscher, Jr. We hope as the season continues there will be more good news.

Join us to celebrate another successful year at our annual dinner dance, "**Jaegerball**", on **January 16, 2010**. The traditional sauerbraten will be served along with other options. The price to attend is \$50. We wish you a wonderful holiday season and we hope to see you all in January. (*Joe Morscher*)

GOTTSSCHEER BOWLING CLUB

This was our fifth year at Jib Lanes. Although first place was held by many teams during the first half of the season, coming down the stretch, three teams battled down to the last two weeks of the campaign. On the last night, Freddy Luscher's team of Oscar Eppich, Walter Sumprer, and Dave Koehler overtook John Petrovits' team of Conney Krische and Pepi Morscher to win the season crown. The winner of the annual Gottscheer Open Tournament was Ernst Schemitsch. Then, in the "Top Ten Tournament", John Petrovits kept the hard charging Steve Meditz at bay to win the individual title.

Besides the bowling, we also had other functions during the year, including our Annual Awards Dinner in October and our Christmas Party. At the Volksfest in June, the Bowling Club was tasked with selling over 900 roast beef sandwiches. It was a beautiful fun-filled day. In July, we had our day trip to Lukan's Farm Resort in Hawley, PA. Our picture perfect day started with a 7:00 a.m. departure from Karl Ehmer's. At Lukan's, we all enjoyed our continental breakfast, roast beef luncheon, use of pool, tennis, ball field, basketball, and beach volleyball. Some of us were fortunate enough to extend our stay through the weekend or longer. Non-bowlers are always welcome to join us for this great annual event. Looking forward to a great 2010! Prosit!! (*Matt Guile*)

DIE ERSTE GOTTSSCHEER TANZGRUPPE

started 2009 with their annual performance in March with music by Die Adlers. This years performances included the Gottscheer picnic, Sacred Heart Oktoberfest, St. Margaret Oktoberfest, and the Austrian Day Schlachtfest. We once again performed at Die Ehrennachmittag, this year honoring Berta Kump. We had a beautiful day this year as we marched down 5th Avenue at the Steuben Parade. Our dance season wrapped up October 25 at our annual Bierfest with music by the Heimat Klänge. The music and food were excellent! We had a great time at our annual bowling night held in April and are looking forward to our Christmas party on December 18.

We hope you join us at **our annual performance on March 20, 2010** when our adult group will perform again along with our children groups. Frohe Weihnachten und ein Glückliches Neujahr 2010. (*Dorothy Neubauer*)

THE GOTTSSCHEER CHOIRS remain dedicated to the beautiful art of preserving the Gottscheer culture through song. We appreciate your support at our events throughout the year.

Do you have a song in your heart? New members are always welcome. Why not consider attending a rehearsal at Gottscheer Hall on a Wednesday evening to see what it's like? We know you'll enjoy the special times that we share, and it's a wonderful

opportunity to actively participate in the Gottscheer community.

Our next performance will be on December 27th at 2:00pm at the Relief *Gottscheabasche Bainochtn* in Gottscheer Hall (free admission). We will also sing at the German Mass in St. Matthias Church on Sunday, January 3rd at 8:45am. Other major events for 2010 include our Spring Concert on Sunday, **April 25th** at which time we will also be celebrating the **110th Anniversary of the Gottscheer Maennerchor**, our performance at the Gottscheer Volksfest on June 6th, and our Fall Concert on Sunday, November 14th. (*Therese Kump*)

GOTTSSCHEER VEREINIGUNG - This past year was a busy one as usual for the club. Our annual dance in January was postponed due to snow. The rescheduled dance held on March 23rd was a success with a full hall and dance music by the Kapelle Fellas. At the Gottscheer Volksfest in June, the club once again ran the wurst raffle booth and managed to raffle off approximately 140 Jaegerwurst and Cervelat. Since this year's Gottscheertreffen was held in Milwaukee and the Club did not organize a bus, we decided to take a bus ride to the Alpine Oktoberfest in Honesdale, Pennsylvania in mid-August. We had a full bus and also met several of our members & friends at the festival.

As winter approaches, our annual Christmas Dinner will be held December 6th at Gottscheer Hall and Werner Goebel will provide the Christmas music. Our next annual Dance is scheduled for Saturday, **January 9, 2010** with music by John Schwab and the Kapelle Fellas. For tickets (\$10) and table reservations, please contact Daniel Kikel at (917) 771-2110. It's guaranteed to be a night of fun and dancing. Please also save the date of **Sunday, May 16, 2010**, as the club will celebrate a milestone - our 75th Anniversary - with a banquet. The cocktail hour will begin at noon. We hope to see you there. (*Robert Hoeflerle*)

GOTTSSCHEER KUV

2009 kicked off with our "Hauptversammlung" in January and a monumental change in our organization's

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On Education in Gottschee

At the start of the First World War in 1914, when Gottschee was still part of the Austrian Hungarian Monarchy, there were 33 German language elementary schools with a total of 65 classes and teachers in the Gottschee district, which then consisted of about 170 villages and hamlets over an area the size of 1/3 of Long Island, with a German (Gottscheerisch) speaking population of about 17,000.

The mandatory public school system of the Monarchy came to Gottschee in 1869. All children, boys and girls, were thereafter required to attend eight grades of elementary education. School law in the Monarchy called for classroom instruction to be “in the language of the region”, which was German in most of the Gottschee district. Four to five villages or hamlets shared one school, which meant that schoolchildren had to walk considerable distances. They did so in groups, the children of a village walking together, the older girls and boys looking after the younger ones. Wintertime especially posed many hardships, as rain, sleet and snow made the dirt roads and paths difficult to walk on.

There was one high-school in Gottschee City. A few years before the First World War, it was expanded to include junior college level. There was also a trade school that taught spe-

cial woodworking skills, a *Kindergarten*, and the *Marienheim*, a better school for girls that was run by strict nuns.

But in the villages of the district, most of the schools that opened after 1869 were one-classroom elementary schools with one resident teacher. A few – those at Lienfeld, Morobitz, Obermoesel, Obergras, Rieg and Stalzern – had two classrooms and two teachers. Altlag, Nesselstal and Tschermoschnitz had three classrooms, and Mitterdorf and Gottschee City had five-classroom schools.

The teacher in a one-classroom school taught at least three grades (a grade was called *Abteilung*) and every grade included a one-year repeat term. In the typical two-classroom school, *Class One* included grades 1 through 3, while grades 4 through 6 were in *Class Two*. As children grew older, parents often took them out of school to work on their farm full-time. Thus grades 7 and 8 usually consisted of a “repeat” class only (called *Wiederholungs Schule*) that met once or twice a week. Grades were taught individually; every day the teacher worked with them one by one while the rest of the class did writing assignments or exercises from the number tables. There were very few books available; most lessons needed to be written on the blackboard and copied by the children, which required a great deal of writing. Penmanship was thus highly regarded. Many among us have marveled at our parents’ or grandparents’ beautiful handwriting!

- Martha Hutter

(Continued from page 4)

traditional sick benefits program. With over 90% of the members voting in favor, the changes offered members hospitalization benefits instead of the traditional sick benefits.

The 108th Bauernball was celebrated by almost 200 guests in March with many of the past traditions — Button Box Jamboree, Gottscheer Auction, and the \$1,000 College Scholarship award (won by Claudia Hoefflerle, daughter of Fin. Secretary Fred W. Hoefflerle). Join us at our next **Bauernball**, to be held on **March 13, 2010!**

The December Kinderbescherung will take place on Sunday Dec. 20, 2009 with a live puppet show and the traditional visit from Santa. The Kinderbescherung has traditionally been supported with donations from the Gottscheer Relief, Gottscheer Vereinigung, Gottscheer Maennerchor and members of these organizations dedicating their time to pack the gift bags that Santa distributes to the children.

The Gottscheer Kranken Unterstuetzungs Verein offers men and women between the ages of 18 and 55 who are interested in preserving the Gottscheer heritage and tradition, the opportunity to join their

organization. Founded in 1901, the KUV works with the other Gottscheer organizations through the Gottscheer Relief Association, and is an active participant in the annual Gottscheer Volksfest.

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 by calling him at (917) 601-7524. (*Fred Hoefflerle*)

BLAU WEISS GOTTSCHEE - Currently at 24 men’s, boys’ and girls’ teams, BW Gottschee is continuing in its goal to become one of the elite Clubs in the entire USA. It still maintains its US Soccer Federation status with five squads now competing in the US Academy Program. This Program takes the kids all across the country, hopefully catching some scout’s or college coach’s eye. The balance of the squads are still participating in the Cosmopolitan & Cosmopolitan Junior Soccer Leagues. In the last two years, Gottschee has also put a team together that competes in the u-23 Long Island Soccer Football League Summer Tournament. Coached by John Krische & Edwin Silva,

this team went to the finals this summer losing 1-0 in a very entertaining match. This summer the team looks to go to the u-23 State Cup which hopefully will lead to bigger and better things.

With the weather getting colder all teams are gearing up for the short but very competitive indoor season. We are also getting ready for our own 22nd Annual BW Gottschee Indoor Tournament coming in January. This Tournament is one of Gottschees main Fundraisers, without which it would be difficult to keep things going. This Tournament is well run and managed by a volunteer staff. Without these volunteers, the Tournament could not take place. BW Gottschee will be holding its soccer player **BW Christmas Party on Saturday December 19th** 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 website for additional information at: www.bwgottschee.org. Information is updated weekly. (*John Krische*)



World News that Speaks to Us

- Martha Hutter

This year the free world celebrates the 20th anniversary of the falling of the Berlin Wall. As we recall the event we are reminded of the world that we knew before it happened, and of the monumental changes that came about in its wake. Millions were directly affected by the collapse of the Iron Curtain, and millions more around the world were in some way touched by it. Gottscheers too rejoiced at the collapse of the Wall. But did the events of twenty years ago affect us in a special way? It may seem unlikely, but they did.

The last Gottscheers born in the homeland have gone through the Resettlement process of 1941/42. Along with other ethnic Germans in several European countries, they were swept up by the tidal wave of the *Third Reich* and carried along on its path of self-destruction. Forever faithful to their German heritage, they traveled down the one-way street that had opened up before them. After the Second World War the survivors established new roots in Austria, Germany, the United States, Canada, and a score of other countries, where the painful process of coming to terms with their disastrous journey and the loss of their land needed to take place.

For those who settled in Austria and in Germany, coming to terms with the subject of the Resettlement and the role it played in the loss of the Gottscheer homeland was somewhat made easier by the fact that their new countries were undergoing a similar process at large. Germany and Austria were recovering from the Nazi legacy and a lost war; the rebirth of their nationhood, done in a climate of growing openness and mutual understanding, made it possible for the small group of Gottscheers in their midst to examine their own history against the backdrop of the larger events, and evolve from there to find a position of dignity for themselves.

Those who came to America after the War found a different atmosphere. In the media and heavily exploited by Hollywood reigned the ugly image of an evil wartime enemy, tainting most all that was German, and overshadowing the remarkable role that citizens of German descent have been playing in the growth of America ever since the earliest settlements were established. Saddled with the burden of being dispossessed, unwanted, and persecuted at war's end, the last Gottscheer immigrants withdrew into their own communities. Instead of moving with confidence into the mainstream of their new land they often preferred isolation of their group, engaging strongly in the preservation of their own culture but staying largely clear of public life.

Two specific factors contributed to bringing this trauma-affected group out of the shadows. One was the increasing participation of American descendants of Gottscheers in researching and preserving their ancestor's heritage. All over the country interest in one's roots was growing. American Gottscheers were part of the movement, reaching out to their ancestral compatriots, and inviting conversation about all aspects of the homeland history. As contact between those who emigrated from abroad, and descendants of families that had established roots here long ago deepened, the uneasy feeling of alienation gave way to a new trust and confidence, fed by the enthusiasm of those who were finding and cherishing their roots in the small Gottscheer homeland.

The second factor was the falling of the Berlin Wall and the reaction it caused around the world. For millions the event ended decades of fear. For German speaking people it brought, among other things, a change in how they see themselves. As the ice melted, people found their voices. The last generation of Gottscheers finally ended their silence. Personal survival stories and accounts of war-related and resettlement experiences began to appear one by one. The first such stories were told and were listened to with tears shed, as pent-up emotions started to break loose, and subjects painfully avoided for years came to the fore. Sharing the suffering was the first step in dealing with the past. When the new country of Slovenia opened up and the old homeland could be revisited, the new climate of asking questions and seeking answers was begun and continues to this day.

Groups as small as the Gottscheers are do not likely have the clout in any nation to influence higher decisions regarding their fate. But all people have voices that can be heard, no matter what their numbers are. Stories told and published, experiences recorded, autobiographies written are all voices that will be heard long after they are gone. Those who have been telling their survival stories to a world they thought was not listening will take encouragement from this year's recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature, an ethnic German named Herta Mueller. The subject of her prized literary work is the plight of a German minority in a country in communist Eastern Europe.



Greetings from Miss Gottschee

It has always been an ambition of mine to become Miss Gottschee and serve the Gottscheer community. As we welcome the holiday season, I am happy to say I am enjoying every moment of this limited time. I am thankful for this opportunity to celebrate my rich heritage. While attending the Volksfest, Treffen in Milwaukee and Steuben Day Parade, I have met so many amazing people and heard hundreds of wonderful stories. These experiences are contributing to my understanding as a Gottscheer and providing me with insight I would not be able to acquire anywhere else. I plan to take these experiences and insights with me into the new year, where I can attempt to share them with others.

It is with great pleasure that I join the Gottscheer community next year to celebrate our heritage and success over the years. Through meeting new people, mingling with peers and reconnecting with friends, I hope I can contribute to our community. My experience in Milwaukee was one I will never forget. I was able to meet Gottscheer's from all over the country and abroad. The Steuben Day Parade allowed me to see and feel the support and pride we find in our heritage. I can only hope to inspire people as the Gottscheers have inspired me.

Currently, I am a senior at Long Island University, C.W. Post. I will be graduating in the spring with a Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy, with plans to achieve status as a certified public accountant. I also work part-time at Chili's Grill and Bar in Glendale while I finish my Bachelor's Degree. I'm an avid Yankee fan and love attending games during the season. I also enjoy snowboarding and shopping.

It has been a pleasure to serve as Miss Gottschee 2009 so far and I would like to thank everyone for making this experience special for me and my family. I am looking forward to what lies ahead in the coming year. I wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and hope to see you next year.

Miss Gottschee 2009
Andrea Morscher

The Gottscheer Gedenkstaette (Memorial Chapel) - Thanks to all those who support us to make our Gemuetlicher Nachmittag an annual success by donating money, prizes, labor, and most importantly, by attending our affair every Palm Sunday. The profits are used solely for the upkeep of the Chapel in Mariatrost, Austria. All money is deposited and managed by the NY representatives in banks here in NY.

The Gottscheer Chapel was built for all Gottscheer people. 1300 names of people who died during the world wars and during displacement are immortalized on marble tablets. The chapel holds a Gottscheer Archive, a Gottscheer Museum, and a typical farm room (Bauernstube). Our children, grandchildren and progeny may someday wonder, "Who am I — from where do I come?" Let them go to Mariatrost to find all the answers in the Chapel which was built on its own land. It will be there for all to see in the future.

Some readers of the August newsletter were confused about the wording of the letter written by our new chairman (Obmann) in Graz, Albert Mallner. He created a nightmare (Albtraum) scenario in order to stir up all Gottscheers as to what could happen if we fail to strive to keep the chapel alive. Rest assured, we are in good financial standing with reputable representatives both in Austria and in New York. The Gottscheer Chapel will be around for ever.

Our next Gemuetlicher Nachmittag will be held on Palm Sunday, March 28, 2010, once again with hundreds of prizes! In addition, the Dr. Gerber Scholarship will be awarded to one or two students of Gottscheer descent. The 2010 Calendar is available for \$16 at Gottscheer Hall or from Elfriede Hoeffler 718-386-6863. US postage, add \$3. (*Robert Anschlowar*)



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

featuring music by:
THE EMIL SCHANTA BAND
Thurs., Dec. 31, 2009

**Carving Station & Hors d'oeuvres,
Choice of Entrees: Prime Rib,
Pork Fillet, Stuffed Filet of Sole
Open Bar, Midnight Champagne,
and Our Famed Viennese Table!**

\$120 per person
Doors Open at 7 p.m.

For reservations call
718-366-3030

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. **\$100:** Joseph Flack (Maryland), Joseph Eppich c/o Ericka & Clint Walker in Memory of John Roethel (Wilmington, DE), Josephine Eppich in Memory of John Roethel (Ridgewood, NY), Integration Tech Group, Inc. (Falls Church, VA). **\$50:** Joseph & Paula Goebel (Walden, NY) in Memory of John Roethel, Eleanore & Edward Eppich in Memory of John Roethel (Glendale, NY), John & Mary Tschinkel. **\$40:** Herbert & Hartwig Koenig (Howard Beach, NY), Philip Martin (Kansas City, MO), Eric & Michelle Zielinski (Glendale, NY), Joseph Schober (Chesapeake, VA), Eric & Hilda Kostner (Long Island City, NY) **\$25:** James & Anne Roberts (Kansas, City, KS), Maria Papiro (New Hyde Park, NY), Norbert & Hedwig Koenig (Queens, NY), Mary Ann Smith, Oakland, CA. **\$20:** Eleanor & Frederick Krisch (Aiken, SC), Frank W. Samide (Glendale, NY), Frank & Erna Juran (Ridgewood, NY), Gustav Fink (Castro Valley, CA). **\$15:** Steve & Marianne Schell (Mt. Laurel, NJ), A.M. Curl (Concord, NC), Frank Juran, Joseph & Lois Kofler (Brevard, NC), John & Galina Vogrin (Hawley, PA), Adelheid Wolf (Middle Village, NY), M. Dorothy Grill (Clermont, FL), Harold & Barbara Hoferle (Palatine, IL), Ronald & Erna Honigmann (Ellington, CT). **\$10:** Eric Jaklitsch (New Smyrna Beach, FL), Eleanor Hochreither (Honesdale, PA), Mary Ann Schager (Glendale, NY), Hilde Schemitsch (New York), Lilli Betsch (Middle Village, NY), Alan & Bonnie Petsche (Ft. Worth, TX), Nancy Thurber (Prescott, WI), Eugene & Marilyn Palmer (Cortland, NY), Reinhold & Elsbeth Ruppe (Valatie, NY), Ronald Rauch (Throgs Neck, NY), Philip & Bernadette Kump (Middle Village, NY), August & Gertrude Loschnig (Patchogue, NY), Paul & Elfrieda Bugos (Hugo, MN), Robert & Brigitte Crispino (Watertown, CT), Bruno & Margit Schadinger (Ontario, Canada), William & Dolores Schneller (Lakewood, NJ), Anna Nick (Middle Village, NY), Otto & Albina Gaster (Spring Hill, FL), Kenneth & Gerlinde Mayer (Middle Village, NY), Anna Jonke (Spring Hill, FL). **\$5:** Irene Lackner (Ridgewood, NY), Frank A. Rieger (Kansas City, MO), Karl & Rosemarie Petschauer (New Fairfield, CT), Henriette Eisenzopf (New City, NY), Herta Lobisser (Alameda, CA).

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT
OF THE
GOTTSCHER
VOLKSFEST!**

Please buy
our
**CHANCE
BOOKS**
each Spring.

**THANK
YOU!**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 2009

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

JANUARY 2010

- 3 German Mass with the Gottscheer Chöre, 8:45am
St. Matthias Church, Catalpa Ave., Ridgewood, NY
- 3 Gottscheer Männerchor General Meeting & Dinner
- 9 Gottscheer Vereinigung Annual Dance
- 16 Rod & Gun Club Dinner Dance — *Jaegerball*
- 17 **Gottscheer Relief Annual General Meeting – 12:00 pm**
- 30 **Miss Gottschee Maskenball – Masquerade Ball**

FEBRUARY

- 7 Deutsch-Gottscheer Gesangverein General Meeting & Dinner

MARCH

- 7 Gottscheer Bowling Club Dance
- 13 KUV Bauernball with Button Box Jamboree, Auction
and College Scholarship Award Presentation
- 20 Tanzgruppe – Spring Performance & Dance
- 28 Gottscheer Memorial Chapel Gemütlicher Nachmittag

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

APRIL

- 11 Cozy Corner Fishing Club Dinner Dance
- 25 Gottscheer Chöre Frühlingkonzert - Spring Concert & Dance
& 110th Anniversary Gottscheer Maennerchor

MAY

- 9 Mother's Day Dinner Dance
- 16 Gottscheer Vereinigung 75th Anniversary Banquet

JUNE

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

SEPTEMBER

- 25 **Steuben Parade – "Come & march with us on Fifth Avenue!"**

OCTOBER

- 2 Gottscheer Bowling Club Dinner Dance
- 24 Tanzgruppe Bierfest

NOVEMBER

- 14 Gottscheer Chöre Herbstkonzert – Fall Concert & Dinner Dance



Potato Pancakes (Earpfl Loiblain)

*This recipe by Resi Belay appears in
Albert Belay's Gottscheer cookbook,
"Hoimischai Khöscht".*

2 cups grated raw potatoes
2 eggs
2 tbs flour
1 tsp salt

½ tsp finely chopped onion
fat or butter for frying

Mix beaten eggs, flour, salt and onion into potatoes. With a large spoon scoop up mixture and place it into hot fat in frying pan, flattening it slightly. Fry both sides until golden brown. Tastes good with apple sauce.

In a similar version, an old Slovenian

recipe for this popular dish calls for 3 large raw potatoes to be grated and squeezed free of water, then mixed with two egg yolks, salt, a little minced onion and 1 tablespoon of flour. Last, fold in two stiffly beaten egg whites. Drop with a spoon into hot lard, or fry in pan with half lard and half butter until potatoes are cooked and pancakes are brown.

Enjoy!

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