



# CORNFLOWER PETAL

The official newsletter of the German-American Steuben Parade of New York and the German-American Friendship Month  
Editor: Elisa Lagos, Tanja Ohlson

## BACK TO THE ROOTS

Deborah Sasson talks about her upcoming concert at Carnegie Hall



Opera legends Deborah Sasson and Günter Emmerlich will perform *It Takes Two* at Carnegie Hall, sponsored by the German-American Steuben Parade Committee. It is a story about the relationship between a modern woman and a 'macho' man.

"It's a program that we've been doing for twelve years," Ms. Sasson said. "Günter plays a total macho and I play a liberated woman from the States."

Mr. Emmerlich and Ms. Sasson have worked together for nearly 20 years. Their working relationship began in East

Germany where Mr. Emmerlich had a popular television show. He invited Ms. Sasson, an American soprano, on as a guest, a revolutionary move at a time when Western artists were not often allowed to perform in East Germany.

"We liked each other right off and we said 'Gee, if only the wall wasn't here. We could do something together,'" Ms. Sasson said. Then the wall fell and the two began work on their program. "We really spent a lot of time going through our repertoire that fit the theme of either a macho man and a

liberated woman or the problems between the genders."

For Ms. Sasson the New York production of the show is a way of bringing her talent to where her career began. After studying at the Oberlin Conservatory, Ms. Sasson's first major role was with the New York Metropolitan Opera and then in the Broadway musical *Showboat*. It was during this time that she met legendary composer Leonard Bernstein and he quickly cast her as Maria in the original production of *West Side Story* in Germany.

"I haven't sung in New York in twenty years, so of course I'm very excited about it," Ms. Sasson said. "I think the New York audience is a very critical one because you have a tremendous choice of concerts by top rate people. So I'm coming very well prepared. I think American audiences are a very nice audience, very enthusiastic, when they like something they really go for it."

The show will be at the Weill Recital Hall, in Carnegie Hall, on Wednesday, September 17. Tickets can be ordered at 212-247-7800.

ELISA LAGOS

## HIGHLIGHT YOUR CALENDAR

September is official month of German-American friendship

You can celebrate the friendship between Germany and the USA in different ways, but one month is special to all New Yorkers. Many different events highlight the various levels of the relationship between Germany and the United States during September, the month that New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg officially declared German-American Friendship Month. In order to learn more about the individual events, please read up on them in the official Steuben Parade brochure or on the website at [www.steubenparade.com](http://www.steubenparade.com). You will also find the ticket hotlines there.

This year's highlights include:

### A Taste of History



Experience how Baron von Steuben felt when he enjoyed a meal in this historic place! Friendship Month will kick off on September 5<sup>th</sup> with a colonial-style dinner in New York City's oldest restaurant where George Washington addressed his generals with his famous Farewell Speech. In addition to five delicious courses in one of the best eateries in town, Hofbräu will pair a beer per course to your meal. Professor

Jeffrey Gaab from Farmingdale University will tell you about the history of the refreshing drink and, in order to find out more about the very place you are dining in, a member of the Sons of the Revolution will speak about this historic site. Before dinner you will have the opportunity to visit the museum on the second floor of the building. Please note:



**Reservations must be made by August 28<sup>th</sup> by calling 914-439-7638!**

### Movies

Movie fans will be able to indulge in their passion twice during German-American friendship Month and at the same time immerse in the German-American culture. On September 10<sup>th</sup> "Making their Mark" will tell you more about three important German-Americans. Did you know that Brooklyn Bridge was designed by a German architect? Oscar-winning director Pepe Danquart will then end Friendship Month when he introduces his latest movie "To the Limit" on September 30<sup>th</sup>. It features the "Huber Buam", two



speed climbers from Bavaria who try to break the world record at "The Nose" in Yosemite National Park. The thrilling events and the amazing view will take your breath away.

### Reading- Der eiskalte Himmel

Bookworms should make their way to Deutsches Haus at NYU on September 12<sup>th</sup> because Mirko Bonné, a young German author and this semester's Writer-In-Residence, will read from his latest book "Der eiskalte Himmel". Afterwards you will have the opportunity to ask him about the book and get your copy signed.

### New York Mets

Say Goodbye to Shea Stadium on September 24<sup>th</sup> during German Day at Shea on one of the last games in the historic stadium. When the Mets face the Chicago Cubs, German Alpine Rock from the successful band "Die Schlauberger" will make

the fans go wild and German dancers will be eye-candy.

Other events are:

September 13: German Pub Crawl- a tour through German bars and restaurants

September 19 - October 17: Exhibition:

Eisenhüttenstadt/Positions“  
September 25: German Life and Song in Yorkville- a fun lecture about the history of Kleindeutschland, the predominantly German area on the Upper East Side.

26. September: Michaela Leon-Trance Atlantic- concert of the German singer who often is compared with Greta Garbo

27. September: German-American Walking Tour- tour through New York trailing historic German landmarks

## **FOX 5 REPORTER LINDA SCHMIDT TO HOST STEUBEN PARADE BANQUET**

After her successful gig at the 50th Anniversary Steuben Parade in 2007, renowned New York TV personality Linda Schmidt will be back this year. The Fox 5 reporter, who is of German descent herself, will be the MC at the Parade's Gala Benefit Banquet on Friday, September 19, at the New York Hilton. She will also be a commentator on Parade day and interview participants and spectators live on Fifth Avenue.



Linda Schmidt is a reporter at Fox 5 News and has been reporting news for over 15 years. Her hard-hitting investigative and consumer-related reports have earned her seventeen Emmy nominations and five Emmy Awards. Schmidt's work has also been recognized with awards from the Associated Press, the New York State Broadcasters Association, The New York Press Club and the Newswomen's Club of New York.

## **KING OF POLKA MEETS QUEEN OF PARADE**

The court of the Steuben Parade, Miss German-America Melissa Gratzl and the two princesses Kathryn Pando and Andrea Kruzynski, have met the king of Polka, Jimmy Sturr at Hunter Mountain. Sturr does



not only have 17 Grammys, he and his band were also named the number One Polka group of the United States. They not only made the court smile, but also Nicole Radske, Co-Chairwoman for the Steuben Court, during the 25<sup>th</sup> German Alps Festival he rocked the house as well!

You can meet the Steuben Parade Queen and her court at the following events during the upcoming month:

Aug. 23	2 PM to 6 PM	Kolping Oktoberfest	Kolping on Hudson, Montrose, NY
Aug. 30	1PM to 11 PM	Danbury Sing Society Oktoberfest	Danbury, CT
Sep. 13	7 PM	Peekskill Oktoberfest	Peekskill/Putnam Valley, NY

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

### **Poster Day**

Date: Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>

Time: 11.30 AM

Where: Outside Heidelberg Restaurant

We will put up posters in shops near the Parade route and urgently need support for that. The more people show up, the faster we are done and can enjoy lunch at Heidelberg Restaurant, courtesy of Michael Rabus from the PR-Committee.

### **Annual German-American Steuben Parade Benefit Banquet:**

Date: Friday, September 19, 2008

Time: 7pm -12am

Where: New York Hilton & Towers

We will have a two-tier seating. Prime seating, close to the stage and the Grand Marshalls will be available at \$300 per seat, standard seating will be \$150.

Please RSVP by September 5, 2008;

Contact Info: Ms. Geraldine Brand at 917-929-6260

### **2008 German American Steuben Parade**

The tickets for the Grandstand and Friendship Party are now available for purchase by credit card from the Online Store

in our Website: [www.germanparadenyc.org](http://www.germanparadenyc.org) . Club and Organizations can obtain Consignment Tickets by contacting Herb Seeff at [herbseeff@rcn.com](mailto:herbseeff@rcn.com) or by phone at 845-628-7638 at which time details of the Consignment purchase will be explained.

## **MEET OUR GUESTS**

### **A short introduction to the groups from Germany visiting the German-American Steuben Parade 2008**

#### **Fanfarenzug Fränkische Herolde Neubrunn**

This group from Neubrunn near Wuerzburg won several German Championships and is currently the best group of its kind in its home country. The group of 39 with their flags, drums and trumpets lead the Carnival



Parade in Wuerzburg every year and will leave a permanent impression on spectators.

#### **Trachtenkapelle Hohenmirsberg**

The group from Pottenstein in Franconia has an average age of 27 and, therefore, is one of the youngest groups at the parade.

Of the 25-member group, 19 of them will participate in the parade, and they have just released their first CD. Not all of the musicians are teenagers and tweens, though. They call themselves a family business because several generations of their families play together.

Fanfarecorps St. Martin Bedburdyck

This group from Bedburg near Cologne started as a Spin-Off from the Schlossstadlbläser Grevenbroich in their neighboring town. The 25 members practice marching while playing their instruments on local streets now, which originally made residents think that the local Volksfest was going on!

Bedburger Ritter "Em Ulk"



The second group from Bedburg is a Carnival group that named itself after a group of knights. The group of knights did not

come back from WWI, though, but the residents of Bedburg decided to let their traditions live forth in their name, while at the same time bringing fun to- and making fun of- the locals. This year, they want to make the citizens of New York and the guests of the parade laugh.

Spielmannszug Cadenberge

It's the second time that this group of musicians march up 5th Avenue. They already participated in the Steuben



Parade in 2000 and instantaneously were a hit when they played songs like "Anton" and "Die Hände zum Himmel". This year they might even be the favorite group of the court, who list these songs among their favorites.

Yeti Guggenmusik Stockach

While Bigfoot is found in the US, the Germans have had the Yetis since 1987. Ever since then this



Guggemusik group has been a staple of the Carneval in Stockach in the southwest of Germany. This year, they send 28 of their members up 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, where they will be a hit themselves while playing the hits in the typical off-key way that makes them so special.

Mainzer Ranzengarde

This group has existed since 1837, which makes them the oldest group in the carnival in Mainz. The word Ranzen is dialect for big belly and was taken into the name because members of the group originally had to fulfil some physical standards: they had to be at least 100 kg heavy and the waistline had to be 6 feet wide! This number was not chosen coincidentally, the goal was to make fun of the Lange Kerle of Potsdam, where you had to be 6 feet tall to become a member!