



CORNFLOWER PETAL

The official newsletter of the German-American Steuben Parade of New York and the German-American Friendship Month
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**Steuben Parade
This Saturday at Noon**

GREETING FROM MISS GERMAN-AMERICA

Hello friends and welcome to German American Friendship Month!

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the various events that have been set up throughout the month of September and of course at our wonderful parade on the 20th. Feel free to come and join me along with the German American community on 5th Avenue in New York City to celebrate our magnificent culture. I cannot express how proud I am to be a part of this year's Steuben Parade, nor the honor of being the Steuben Parade Queen.

As German Americans, we are the largest ethnic group in the United States. There is so much we have to be proud of by



calling ourselves German; the art, songs, people, and foods of our Germany have become world renowned. The German culture has become such a notable part of not only the American culture, but other cultures around the world as well. Let's show New York City and the world that the German American community is still as strong as ever, and come join me in a celebration of our German culture! Bis 20. September!

Melissa Gratzl
Miss German America 2008
German-American Steuben
Parade Queen

SEPTEMBER IS FRIENDSHIP MONTH

Why a girl from Queens needed a picture with Mayor Bloomberg



Left to right: Andrea Kruzynski, princess, Col. Gail Halvorsen, Grand Marshall, Kathryn Pando, princess, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Chairman Lars Halter, Miss German-America Melissa Gratzl

When Mayor Michael Bloomberg proclaimed September to be German-American Friendship Month on Monday, one girl in the audience was hoping for a nice picture of her and the Mayor.

Kathryn Pando, a resident of Glendale and a Princesses for the German-American Steuben Parade, the organization behind German-American Friendship Month and the reception for Mayor Bloomberg, was that girl. Kathryn, a sophomore at Fordham University, had to leave class early in order to get to the reception on time. "When

I told my professor I had to leave early in order to meet the Mayor he did not believe me. So now I have to bring a picture of me with the mayor. That picture will count as my excuse just like a doctor's note normally would," she explains.

Kathryn stood only a few steps away from Mayor Bloomberg when he made the proclamation. The Mayor remarked, in a melting pot like New York, although every culture adapts to the American way of living these groups also infuse the American culture with their own traditions, customs or at least food, just as

Germans have all over the city. He also told the audience of over 100 leaders of the German-American community about some of his own experiences with Germans and their language. Kathryn agreed with him, because although her neighbourhood has changed, she can still find many traces of her heritage. She explained that new cultures have moved there and brought their own ethnic flare to the area and as Mayor Bloomberg pointed out, it does not have to be something bad, it's just what makes New York so unique.

FRIENDSHIP MONTH STARTED WITH 'GEMÜTLICHKEIT'

German-American Friendship Month kicked off last Friday with a colonial feast and beer tasting sponsored by the German/Bavarian brewery Hofbräu at New York's oldest Restaurant Fraunces Tavern.



CEO of Hofbräu Dr. Michael Möller and Chairman Lars Halter

At the restaurant where George Washington had bid farewell to his Continental generals, the guests of the sold-out event could experience a bit of the Munich Hofbräuhaus, the original location of the brewery Hofbräu and now one of the

most famous restaurants in the world.

Professor, Dr. Jeffrey Gaab from Farmingdale University, is himself a fan and published writer of the world-renown Hofbräuhaus, and explained what makes it so special: "When you sit in the Hofbräuhaus and have a beer there, it does not matter who you are or where you're from, you and your neighbour are friends" explains Gaab, who spent a year pursuing his doctorate in Munich the year the Berlin Wall came down. "I saw American officers, people from East Germany and Russian soldiers sit with each other. There you really feel what is meant by the German term 'Gemütlichkeit'—a general feeling of sharing with others in something fun!

Gaab is an expert in the history of beer and the sponsoring brewery of that night. Originally starting out with only a white

and a brown beer, Hofbräu was the first brewery ever to offer the popular drink to the general public—not just to monks or royalty. The duke who found the brewery also was a marketing expert and established a monopoly on his favorite brews. Today, this is not the case any more. Hofbräu offers a variety of ten different brews. The guests at Friday's dinner were able to try five of them, light and dark, some surprisingly hoppy, starting with a wheat beer accompanying the salad, and ending with the slightly sweet Maibock served with a choice of Apple Pie or Bread Pudding.

German beer, according to Gaab, is the best in the world because of the first and oldest food regulation in the world, the German purity law from 1516. Although it was replaced in 1987, most German breweries follow it to this day. Originally, it was installed to avoid sickness

caused by dirty water. According to the new law, only fresh water directly from the Alps or a spring should be used for brewing. Today, it's not only the purity law that makes German beer so special. Drinking beer with friends expresses the concept of Gemütlichkeit like nothing else. This spirit could be experienced at Fraunces Tavern last Friday. The guests cheered, laughed and



An atmosphere like in the Hofbräuhaus with Paul Toebelman, Joe Grieco and Eric Hoffman

sang together. Some were in typical Bavarian attire, Lederhosen and Dirndl-dresses. Dr. Michael Möller, CEO of Hofbräu, who had flown in from Munich for this evening, did not miss the Hofbräuhaus, but many New Yorkers are determined now to once in their lives visit the famous restaurant at the Platzl in Munich.

MISS GERMAN-AMERICA AND HER COURT

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

19.09.	11 AM to 2 PM	City Hall Reception	City Hall Park, NYC
19.09	7 PM to 11 PM	Banquet Dinner	Hilton Hotel & Towers, NYC
20.09.	all day	Various Parade events	5 th Avenue and Central Park
21.09.	12 PM to 6 PM	Oompahfest	Plattduetsche Park, Franklin Squ.
26.09.	7 PM	Banquet Philadelphia Parade	Philadelphia, PA
27.09.	12 PM to 6 PM	Steubenparade Philadelphia	Philadelphia, PA

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Friendship Month

Please don't forget our various events of German-American Friendship Month.

NOTE: For the concert on Wednesday Sept. 17th featuring Gunther Emmerlich and Deborah Sasson are a few more tickets left! This is a one-night-only event, so order your tickets now at 212-247-7800.

For more information on the other events please visit our website www.steubenparade.com.

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

MEET OUR GUESTS

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

Schützenverein St. Hubertus

The shooting club St. Hubertus comes from Effelder, a village near Mainz. The name Effelder means Apple tree town. Maybe the shooters from St. Hubertus take after Wilhelm Tell, who shot through the apple on the head of his son. That would explain why the Schützenfest is the highlight in the event calendar every year.

Spielmanszug Radeberg

One of the best music groups of Germany will come from Radeberg in Saxony. The



musicians won the title “Best Spielmanszug” in Saxony five times straight! Their high-quality music and the uniforms that are designed like ones from the Napoleonic wars make them favorites at parades all throughout Germany.

Spielmanszug Oderberg

The group from Brandenburg is supported by the highest official of the Bundesland: Prime Minister Matthias Platzeck supports the trip of the 27 musicians and is sure that they will represent their home very well. In order not to disappoint Mr. Platzeck, the group will not only play great music but also introduce their home state with a

banner carried ahead of the group.

Schülerblasorchester St. Ottilien

The average age of 15 makes this the youngest German group of the parade 2008. But the young



musicians have a lot of experience as the group tours through the world on a regular basis. The last visit to the Parade was 2004, but they also played for Pope Benedict in Munich. And just like during their last visit they will play during the service at St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

Uracher Schäferlauf

The group is from Bad Urach, a health resort in Baden-Württemberg. The group are dancers for the Schäferreigen, a special dance during the festival “Schäferlauf”. During this festival the male and female shepherds from the area run with bare feet over a mowed field. The winners are crowned king and queen of the shepherds. The festival happens only every two years, the next time in 2009.

Musikcorps Bickenbach 1919 (Lead Band)

This music group will be the lead band of the Steuben Parade 2008. The group is a modern

brass band with members between the ages 5 and 60. They originated from a sports club and were founded to offer some fun and distraction from the hard life after WWI. Today they are still responsible for the fun and distraction, but also for the musical training of children and teenagers.



Große Karnevalsgesellschaft Bad Kreuznach

This carnival group was founded in 1846, which makes them one of the oldest groups at this year’s parade. Over 30 marriages started in the club, but this is not their greatest achievement. They also made Bad Kreuznach near Mainz one of the biggest carnival towns of the area.

