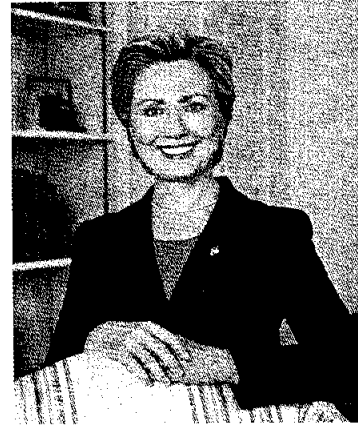




October 11, 2003



Dear Friends:

I am delighted to have this opportunity to send greetings to each of you celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Schlierachtaler Stamm.

I am grateful for the dedicated volunteers of Schlierachtaler Stamm who promote and preserve the culture and traditions of Bavarian music, folk dancing, art, costume and German language. This weekend's celebration is a wonderful testament to Bavaria's rich cultural heritage. We cannot improve the quality of life without improving the soul of life – and culture is the soul of life. Culture is what gives us roots, gives our lives meaning, and binds us to each other. It is important to take this unique moment to ensure that we pass on to future generations both the symbols and the gifts of liberty and creativity that makes us who we are.

I also commend each of you on your efforts to raise awareness of the contributions the German American community has made for the benefit of New York and our nation. New York thrives on its diversity and the German American community has made, and continues to make, many positive contributions to the State's greatness and prosperity.

Please accept my best wishes for a wonderful celebration and many more years of success.

Sincerely yours,

Hillary Rodham Clinton
United States Senator