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# A REAL *Wedding* STORY

## One Bride, One Groom Two Weddings



I was invited to attend the wedding of Ingrid Lemme's son Thorsten to his beautiful bride Simone on September 15th at Gurney's Inn. As most of you probably know, Ingrid is a Montauk Sun columnist. She writes 'Mon-talk' and is the host of the American Dream TV Show, which is produced in Montauk and aired on Hamptons TV. This wedding was different than any other wedding I have ever attended, and to be honest, I didn't expect anything else from her. Ingrid who came to America about 17 years ago, has most of her family living in Germany, including her older son Thorsten. Ingrid and Thorsten both knew that one wedding would just not do it, unless one can afford to fly 50 people roundtrip to Europe.



Dominic, Ingrid, Thorsten  
Photo Courtesy of Charity De Meer

Ingrid firmly believes America is a place where dreams are made to come true and anything is possible. So she flew to Germany just before Labor Day and celebrated a fairytale wedding in a real castle at the 'Burg Knipphausen in Wildhelmshaven with Thorsten & Simone's friends and families. Then the newly wed couple packed the wedding dress and suit and they and Simone's parents flew to New York. Ingrid and Sunshine Lemme and Thorsten's younger brother, Dominic, had simultaneously prepared a 2nd wedding here for their US family and friends.

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After all, Thorsten, who is 32, also has many friends here in states. Every time Thorsten came to visit his US family, he would stop at the Montauk Bakery, he loves the Blueberry Cheese Danish. Thorsten always looked for the owner, Alan Steil, and a friendship based on a few words and a warm handshake developed. Alan and his wife Celeste were invited to his wedding, too. When Simone was lead by her father Edmund down the aisle the 2nd time in 12 days in her wonderful white wedding gown she looked like an angel. So did the little flower girl. Thorsten's brother Nick was the best man and Ingrid was the maid of honor. The wedding ceremony was almost ready to go when Ophelia finally sent us some rain after a 4 week drought and so the actual ceremony was held in the Admiralty room overlooking the most dramatic ocean surf. Paul Sladkus, a friend of the family and President of Good News Broadcasting, performed the ceremony.

Paul has recently been ordained an Interfaith Minister and this was his first ceremony. It was short and sweet. (You find a Good News Column in every issue of the Montauk Sun).



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After the reception under the wedding tent we all went downstairs to the new banquet rooms, and these looked awesome. I have never seen a wedding table set as a 'T', like in the midlevel times, before. Each person found a page of good wedding wishes from a book that Marina Van had given Ingrid & Sunshine as a gift for their wedding at the World Trade Center many years ago. Every person got to choose from 10 advises for the newly wed couple. What fun that was, when each one of us got up one by one. Later the bride and groom danced a Waltz and the standing ovation we gave them was fit for any Pavarotti Concerto. The wedding cake, a creation by William Bertha of La Pasticceria, was a masterpiece, as were the decorations by Narcissa Torres. Chip Monte, the Executive Chef, outdid himself with the wedding menu. Besides chocolate covered strawberries and petite fours - trays of all kinds of German Chocolate were placed on plates on the long table. Nobody could resist, including me. Our own Jill Harth caught the bridal bouquet created by Strawberry Fields. Geri Tomitz of Keeshan Real Estate was

my wonderful dinner date, thank you Geri. I always wondered how people handle weddings when part of their family lives in another country. This is the solution. The bride's parents from Germany were very gracious and definitely seemed to enjoy themselves, as we all did - at this one of a kind 'American Dream Wedding'. ❁

