

THE SAXON NEWS

# Volksblatt

*Celebrating over 100 years of Saxon Fraternalism*

Published by  
**The Alliance  
of Transylvanian Saxons**  
Home Office: 5393 Pearl Road  
Cleveland, Ohio 44129-1597  
Tel: (440) 842-8442

ATS Founded in 1902

January 12, 2018

Issue 1

## BRANCH 2, ERIE

By Lee Wolfe

Our regular meeting and our Chi Party was held Sunday, December 17, 2017 at 2:30 P.M. We had no reports of deceased members and that's always welcome news.

We received a nice letter and pictures from Donnalee Morschhauser who, along with Bill, was at their camp. Family members were visiting and I believe they were celebrating their 61st Anniversary. Donnalee mentions celebrating at the "Double D" Bar and Grill. She says they have the best Prime Rib and waitresses. Unfortunately Bill's Parkinsons has advanced to the point where he is in a wheel chair and has 2 scooters to get around. To top it off Donnalee fell and broke her breast bone. We send our very best wishes to them and a New Year that brings them all good things. If you want to send a card to the Morschhausers their address is 1266 Boyer Road, Erie 16511.

The Home Office generously sent the branches a monetary gift to help with their Holiday celebrations. We send our sincere thanks for this nice gesture. At our January meeting and dinner the members decided we will have the Schnitzel again (because it was so good) with all the trimmings plus Cherry Pie a la mode. There will be NO CHARGE to members and non-members will have a fee of \$8.00.

Please contact Val Pinczewski at 898-0494 to make your reservation. At our January meeting we will also hold Election of Officers. Anyone wishing to run for an office should inform George Cook at 833-7217.

At this our December meeting we held our Chi Party. And even though there was just a few of us we had a nice time. The Subs the Club made were very tasty and delicious. Plus we had a ticket for a free drink and cookies, cheese and crackers the members brought. The nicest part of the evening was that we all sat at the same table AND ENGAGED IN CONVERSATION, AND NOT A CELLPHONE IN SIGHT. Do you suppose that our younger generation does not know how to speak

to each other face to face? Or for that matter what cursive writing is?

The members voted to send a monetary gift to the Saxon Relief Fund. Please pay your Erie Branch 2 annual dues of \$6.00 for 2018. Remit your payment to Liz Manning, 3909 Schafer Ave., Building #203, Erie, Pa. 16508. Be sure to put the number 203 in the address as there are numerous apartments in the Mannings' building. Thank you.

Congratulations to the Ladies Auxiliary for doing such a beautiful job decorating the Club. Thank you, it really looks so festive.

At our January meeting we will take up a collection, which will be voluntary if you want. We ask for at least \$3.00 or more and the money collected will be donated to a charity of the members' choice,

Congratulations to Char Manning who won the Club's Dinner Gift Certificate.

A very Happy Birthday to our January celebrants some of whom are Debra Ryan, Ann McLaughlin, Jadel Cordero, Katelyn Griffith, Samantha Comi, Donnalee Morschhauser, Bradley McLaughlin, John Mantsch, Keith L. Crocker, Esther Ann Neilsen, Elaine Crandall, Charlene Michael, Lois M. George, and Lawrence Howanitz.

A very Happy Anniversary to our January Couples: Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Montie, Albert & Gail Webb, Joseph & Kathleen Koscielniak, and Tom & Liz Manning.

Well, 2017, was over with pretty fast-time just goes by too fast. We hope you all had a wonderful joyous and Blessed Holiday Season. And we send our Best Wishes that the New Year brings you much happiness and good health. God Bless you all.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Joan Miller-Malue

ATS Nat'l President



With 2018 having just arrived and a full stock of calendar days ahead of us, it is a good time to wring our hands free from the previous year and gain some new inspiration for the coming year. I am hoping that our members are will be enthusiastic in participating at the Local Branch and National events as well as attending their monthly meetings. Every member is an important part of our fraternal family and certainly have some talents that they can share to make our society stronger and more appealing in recruiting new members. We are so proud of our cultural groups that are dedicated to keep the Transylvanian Saxon culture alive in the USA. These groups need our support throughout the year.

Our Local Branches need volunteers to serve as officers or to help on committees in organizing their various activities and charitable projects. We must be dedicated in promoting our fraternal organization within our own families, among our friends and neighbors and throughout our communities. Dedication is a key to success.

It is very important that we motivate our young members to get involved by showing them that they are able to make a difference. Make them feel needed and important in organizing events and working on charitable projects within your Local Branches. Listen to their ideas and try to implement them within your realm of events. Teach them to volunteer and make them feel that they are a valued part of our fraternal family. Also, engage your very young members to participate in the national youth activities. Participating in these events do earn them points when applying for an ATS scholarship. Let's make 2018 a year of working as a team to build on the growth of our society while enjoying many hours of Saxon Gemütlichkeit.

The ATS Board of Directors wants to congratulate our Local Branch Officers and Cultural Group Officers who were elected to serve in 2018. These members are willing and able to fulfill the duties but need their membership to be behind them to support them and assist them in developing and executing their various duties. We wish them luck in their future endeavors to engage their membership in a rewarding and meaningful year of fellowship.

Last November, the ATS Home Office sent out the Branch Officers Roster to be completed and returned to us so that we can update our records as well as the information that we print in the Volksblatt. Please if your Branch or Cultural Group has not returned this form, have your secretary complete it immediately so that we have the current information.

Continued on Page 2

**TIMELY - DO NOT DELAY  
MAILED WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2018**

**Attention Postmaster: Send all Changes of Address to:  
The Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons  
5393 Pearl Road Cleveland, OH 44129-1597**

**OUR  
SAXON  
COMMUNITY  
IS INCOMPLETE  
WITHOUT "U"  
"SAXON UP"  
AND  
BECOME  
INVOLVED!**

# Schloss Horneck needs OUR help!

Since 1960 Schloss Horneck has housed the Siebenbürger Museum, the Siebenbürger Library and Archive, the Siebenbürger-Institut and is the base for many Saxon organizations. A seniors home is also located on the property. Last September the Verband der Siebenbürger Sachsen in Deutschland purchased the property for one million Euro.



Donations were received from individuals and organizations to help fund the purchase of the property. The purchase of Schloss Horneck gives the Siebenbürger Saxons throughout the world a central location where Saxon artifacts, books and other historical documents can be collected and stored to preserve our ethnic history for many years.

The Federation of Transylvanian Saxons is asking for donations from all Saxons and Saxon organizations to help in funding of this historical facility. If you are interested in giving a donation to help fund this project please complete the form below and send to the ATS Home Office, 5393 Pearl Road, Cleveland, OH 44129. Please make your check payable to the ATS.

### DONATION FOR SCHLOSS HORNECK FUND

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
AMOUNT DONATED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

You can indicate if donation is in memory or honor of someone:

\_\_\_\_\_

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Cont’d from Page 1

TheATS Youth Activities Committee does provide various projects or events for our junior members. On the back page of this issue you will find the winners of the Christmas coloring contests and several photos of contest participants. Winners of the contests were sent art kits and all participants were sent a letter of recognition and a coloring/activity book. Also, in this issue is a Valentine’s Day coloring project for our young members. All members submitting a colored picture will receive a Valentine treat. We thank the parents who encourage their children to participate in these projects and then take the next step to submit the entries to the ATS Home Office. We send kudos to both the children and parents!

Transylvanian Saxon Trivia: The town of Mediasch is located 25 miles from Schässburg and 55 miles from Hermannstadt. It has been the second largest industrial center in the county after Hermannstadt. It has one of the best preserved historical centers in Romania and well preserved Medieval Fortifications that were built by the Transylvanian Saxons. In 1438 the Ottoman Empire invaded

Transylvania. As a result, to be able to protect the town from other possible attacks, the Saxons built the first set of defense walls around St. Margaret Evangelical Church. The second string of fortification was built between 1490 and 1534 which consisted of 22-foot high defense walls, numerous towers and bulwarks. On the inside walls of the church there are 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century frescoes and the beautiful treasures of historic Anatolian carpets, donated by parishioners in centuries past. The collection includes Holbein, Lotto, Selendi and so called Transylvanian rugs. The magnificent altar was made in 1480 and portrays the sufferings of Jesus. One icon of the town is the Trumpeters Tower which is about 230 feet tall. It was constructed in the 13<sup>th</sup> century as a defense tower where a trumpeter was stationed and his job was to play the trumpet in case of approaching enemy. In 1880, a huge clock, showing the phases of the moon, was set up in the tower. One more beautiful Transylvania town you need to visit!

Ich wünsche allen einen schönen Tag.

*Bist du ein Sachs, und sag's mit Stolz?*

**Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons**  
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### President - National Board of Directors

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**Ingrid Weihs-Ferguson** Br. 37 Detroit (586) 264-6136  
**Brianna Mueller** Br. 10 Columbus (614) 834-1060

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## SECRETARIES TAKE NOTICE:

THE DEADLINE DATE FOR ARTICLES  
IS WEDNESDAY - 12 NOON.

You may either

**MAIL:** PO BOX 45198,  
Westlake, OH 44145  
**FAX:** (440) 399-9339  
**E-MAIL:** saxonvolksblatt@aol.com

Articles e-mailed will receive an e-mailed confirmation by Noon Thursday. If you did not receive a confirmation, please give us a call.

### DEADLINE DATES FOR ARTICLES:

DEADLINE	ISSUE
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2018	FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2018
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018	FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2018
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2018	FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2018

Please have your articles in by 12 Noon.

Did you miss the deadline?

Have you emailed your article past 12 noon?

Please call Hanz or Barb Hermann at (440) 892-0436.



**NOW  
HIGHER  
INTEREST**

**2.40%**

ANNUAL INTEREST YIELD  
effective October 1, 2017

On Current Annuity and IRAS  
Issued 10/1/2012 and After

**JANUARY 2018  
SALEM OHIO**

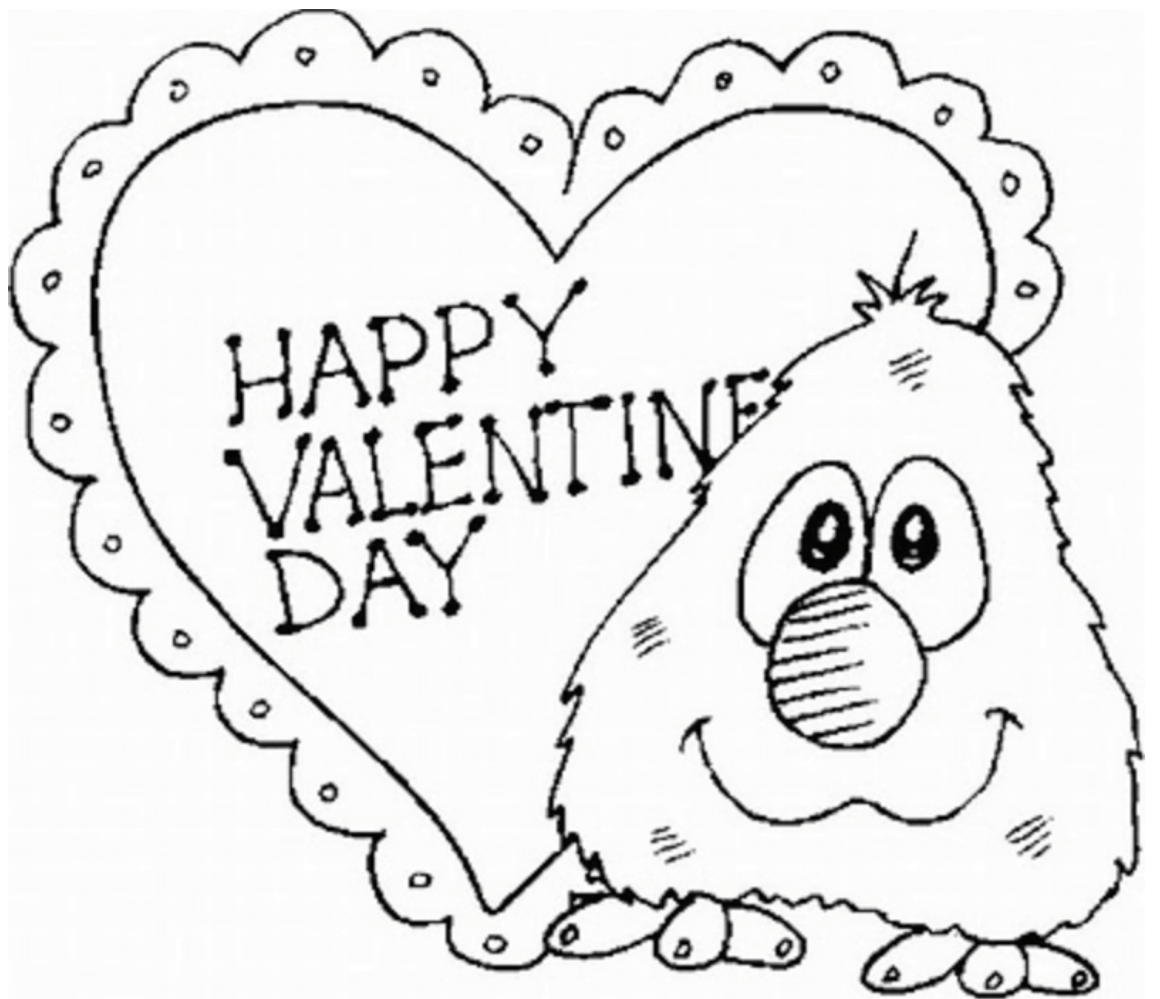
**NO BRANCH 18 MEEETING**

**No Retirees  
No Drive Thru Dinner  
No Joint Social  
No Breakfast  
No Bar  
JUST KEEP WARM!**



Notice to  
Salem Branch 19 members:  
As of January 1, 2018 local dues  
will be raised  
to \$4.00 a month.

Notice to  
Youngstown Branch 30 members:  
Fraternal dues of \$50 per year  
are now due.  
Checks need to be made out to  
Youngstown Branch#30.  
Please forward payment to  
Don Hoelzel c/o  
Youngstown Saxon Club,  
710 S. Meridian Rd.,  
Youngstown OH 44509



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Branch No. \_\_\_\_\_ Cert. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to ATS Home Office; 5393 Pearl Road; Cleveland, OH 44129

Before February 14, 2018



**ATS BRANCH 4 - 2018 FUND RAISER  
27th ANNUAL CHINESE AUCTION/  
SAUSAGE DINNER**

Sunday, February 18, 2018

Cleveland Sachsenheim  
7001 Denison Avenue

Dinner at 1:00 pm

Auction of items to follow dinner

**ADMISSION BY PREPAID RESERVATIONS ONLY!**

\$10.00 - Adults

Children 10 & Under - \$5.00

Auction Tickets Sold at the Door - \$7.00

**Chinese Auction / Sausage Dinner  
Sunday, February 18, 2018  
By Prepaid Reservation Only**

Send to: Donna Jankow  
7663 Ragall Parkway  
Middleburg Hts., OH 44130

_____	Adult Dinners @10 .00 each	\$ _____
_____	Children's Dinners @ \$5.00 ea	\$ _____
_____	Total Amount Enclosed	\$ _____

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tele No. \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Meal Tickets will be held at the Door.

We will have assigned seating...Please indicate if you wish to sit with  
specific individuals \_\_\_\_\_

Deadline for Reservations is February 8th

# FRATERNAL CALENDAR

## NATIONAL EVENTS

June 2- 3, 2018

ATS Convention Youngstown, Ohio  
Host Branches 22 and 30

June 9, 2018

TSBA Convention, Cleveland Sachsenheim

June 22 -24, 2018

North American Heimattag, Cleveland Sachsenheim  
Hosts Branches 1 and 4

July 6 -8, 2018

Revival of ATS Teen Weekend, Salem Saxon Club

July 15 – 20, 2018

Saxon Summer Camp at Camp Frederick

July 28, 2018

ATS Family Day at Waldameer Amusement Park  
and Water World

October 20-21, 2018

ATS Open-Bowling Tournament, Merrillville, Indiana,  
Host Branch 26

## LOCAL EVENTS

January 21, 2018

Youngstown Pork Kraut Dinner

January 28, 2018

Cleveland West Sachsenheim Winter Schnitzel Fest

February 13, 2018

Cleveland West Sachsenheim Mardis Gras Buffet

February 18, 2018

Cleveland West Br. 4 Chinese Auction/Sausage Dinner  
Youngstown Pork Kraut Dinner

April 15, 2018

Youngstown Pork Kraut Dinner

## BRANCH 4, CLEVELAND

By Joan Miller-Malue

Our first monthly meeting will be held on Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. We will hold our Annual Memorial Service prior to the start of the meeting. The Eintracht-Saxonia Sachsenchor will perform several songs in honor of our departed.

Our Branch Officers were re-elected to serve in 2018: President – Monica Weber; Vice President – Stephanie Miller; Secretary – Joan Miller-Malue; Treasurer – Donna Jankow; Sgt-at-Arms – Maria Fischer; Trustees – Maria Tellman, Maria Botsch, Christine Roppelt; Archivist – Erika Botsch. These ladies have worked hard for our fraternal and ask for your support especially this year when we will be hosting the North American Saxon Heimattag.

We wish to thank our members who donated Christmas gifts for the Children's

Gift Program at Westside Ecumenical Ministry Community Corners. We donated a total of 70 Christmas gifts for children ages 8 and up. They were truly grateful for our contribution to their holiday program. The needs for unfortunate families has sky-rocketed in the past year. We are grateful that we could help bring some Christmas cheer to seventy children. Winston Churchill said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

The Sachsenheim will host Onkel Grumpy's Winter Schnitzel Fest on Sunday, January 28 at 1:00 pm. You have your choice of Wiener Schnitzel at \$14.95; Pork Schnitzel or Chicken Schnitzel at \$9.95 with choice of two sides (plus you can purchase extra sides). It will be served buffet-style. Choice of sides include German

potato salad, potato pancakes, Spätzle, Sauerkraut, red cabbage, cabbage and noodles, mashed potatoes, mushroom gravy and more. Call the Sachsenheim at (216) 651-0888 to make your reservations. Deadline for reservations is January 24<sup>th</sup>.

We ask for your support in attending Branch 4's Annual Fundraiser, the Chinese Auction and Sausage Dinner on Sunday, February 18th at 1:00 pm. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children age 10 and under. We only take prepaid reservations. Please send your reservations to: Donna Jankow, 7663 Ragall Parkway, Middleburg Hts. OH 44130 by February 8<sup>th</sup>. We will have assigned seating; so please indicate to whom you wish to be seated with. This event helps us defray expenses at the Sachsenheim, so please give us your support. Members or friends making a new item donation may bring it to the Branch Meeting on January 15 or drop it off at the Sachsenheim. It is a fun afternoon for the entire family. Please invite your friends to join us for a delicious meal and have fun taking chances on winning some lovely items.



## Quark fusion releases eight times the energy of nuclear fusion

The dream of a near-limitless source of clean energy through nuclear fusion has been the dream of many scientists for years, but practical application has remained out of reach. The huge selling point of nuclear fusion is that it has been proven to produce an incredible amount of energy with a relatively small input. According to Engadget, a new theory similar to nuclear fusion involves fusing quarks together instead of whole atoms.

Quarks are the incredibly tiny particles that make up the protons and neutrons inside each atom and researchers have found that they have the potential to release up to eight times more energy than the hydrogen fusion that powers hydrogen bombs. Although these numbers can only be proven in theory and scientists cannot yet create these quark fusions in a laboratory setting, these experiments continue to push the boundaries of how humanity could provide itself with energy long into the future.



## Snow Global Warming

**YOUNGSTOWN SAXON CLUB  
PORK-KRAUT DINNER  
JANUARY 21, 2018**

**11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

**\$9.50**

**Children \$5.00**

**includes coffee/tea/pop and dessert  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**

**TAKE OUTS AVAILABLE!**



## ONKEL GRUMPY'S



## SCHNITZEL FEST

## SACHSENHEIM

**7001 Denison Ave  
Cleveland OH  
Sunday, January 28, 2018**

Wiener Schnitzel	\$14.95
Pork Schnitzel	\$ 9.95
Chicken Schnitzel	\$ 9.95

Includes your choice of two sides:  
German potato salad, mashed potatoes,  
Potato pancakes, cabbage and noodles,  
mixed vegetables, Sauerkraut,  
red cabbage, plus more!



**Make your reservation at the bar  
or call the Sachsenheim  
at (216) 651-0888.**

**Deadline for reservations is  
January 24, 2018**

**It's never too early to start  
saving for your retirement years**



**St. Peter's  
German and Saxon  
Lutheran Church**  
11423 Chicago Rd.  
Warren, Michigan 48093  
(586) 979-3850  
stpeters\_church@sbcglobal.net  
www.stpeterswarren.or

**10:00 Bilingual Service**  
**Nursery**  
**Coffee following service**  
**Senior Circle**  
**Sunday School**  
**Church Choir**  
**Bell Choir**

**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
1000 Ford Road  
Highland Hts., Ohio  
(440) 449-1334


**Rev. Paul Stork  
Pastor**

**10:00 Worship Service**



**SALEM SAXON CLUB  
BAR IS OPEN  
EVERY THURSDAY.  
PLEASE CHECK  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
FOR TIMES.**

**Food cravings**



Dieters who are serious about losing weight should do one thing first: Clean out the fridge.

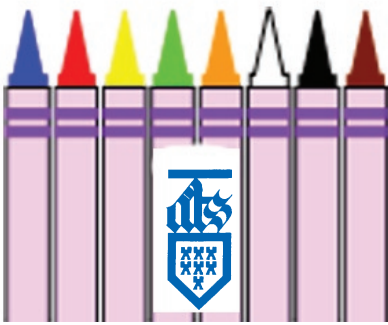
Writing in the journal Obesity, researchers from Louisiana State University reported that food cravings derail diets. However, studies say it doesn't work to try eating less of craved foods. Abstain completely.

2017 Christmas Coloring Contest Honorable Mention:

What a great job everyone did in the Christmas Coloring Contest. All participants were sent an activity/coloring book with a letter of appreciation. We thank the following for their colored pictures:


- Ages 3-4**  
Joseph Blount, Br. 2  
Alexander Burick, Br. 25  
Kendall Emerich, Br. 27  
Katie Hanek, Br. 4  
Amelia Italiani, Br. 2  
Carson Mshar, Br. 30  
JR Mshar, Br. 30  
Caiden Phillips, Br. 33  
Alex Poehler, Br. 1  
Kyle Preble, Br. 30  
Dominick Salinas, Br. 30  
Allie Shroll, Br. 4

- Ages 5-6**  
Lilliana Bachinger, Br. 22  
Colby Cunningham, Br. 29  
Elizabeth Foisel, Br. 33  
Hannah Hoover, Br. 9  
Amanda Hudak, Br. 27  
Kendall Kaba, Br. 27  
Annabelle Kloos, Br. 4  
Angelina Krafft, Br. 7  
Margarita Padilla, Br. 9  
Dylan Schaefer, Br. 1  
Cole Sergeant, Br. 5  
Cooper Shroll, Br. 1  
Bill Smith, Br. 33  
Adriana Vidal, Br. 4  
Sadie Weaver, Br. 22  
Jenna Westland, Br. 17



- Ages 7-8**  
Cathryn Best, Br. 19  
Brayden Boyle, Br. 30  
Addison Houser, Br. 22  
Ella Izenour, Home Branch  
Dean Kloos, Br. 1  
Cailen Lawrence, Br. 17  
Grayson Lawrence, Br. 14  
Allison Phillips, Br. 33  
Lexi Seiler, Br. 4  
Carsen Sergeant, Br. 5  
Alex Spack, Br. 19  
Sophie Stryffeler, Br. 8  
Martin Turk, Br. 1  
Jaycie Westland, Br. 17


- Ages 9-10**  
Lauren Badertscher, Br. 27  
Payton Boyle, Br. 22  
Cameron Burns, Br. 22  
Brooke Hudak, Br. 27  
Jacob Phillips, Br. 33  
Justin Preble, Br. 30  
Paul Runnals, Br. 1  
Joseph Turk, Br. 1  
Kasen Weaver, Br. 30



We remember our Sisters and Brothers who have departed this life in recent days. Our sincere sympathy is extended to the members of the bereaved families.

- Frederick S. Tucker**  
Age 66  
Died: December 11, 2017  
Branch 19, Salem OH
- Garland P. Dunkel Jr.**  
Age 66  
Died: December 22, 2017  
Branch 30, Youngstown OH
- Marie M. Bokesch**  
Age 96  
Died: January 3, 2018  
Branch 22, Youngstown OH

**Cinnamon and blood sugar**



Researchers are studying the spice cinnamon to see if it helps control blood sugar, as folk treatments suggest.

A review of 11 trials of cinnamon supplements in people with type 2 diabetes found that people using the supplements -- while taking prescribed diabetes medications -- showed some small improvement in blood sugar levels.

However, researchers stress the findings are not conclusive since other factors, such as exercise, cinnamon quality, and adherence to medications were often not accounted for.

The researchers concluded that the spice deserved more research but stressed that there is no evidence that cinnamon alone can control type 2 diabetes.

The review was published in the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

New Year's Resolutions: Break out into something new

So, everyone resolves to lose weight and stop procrastinating.

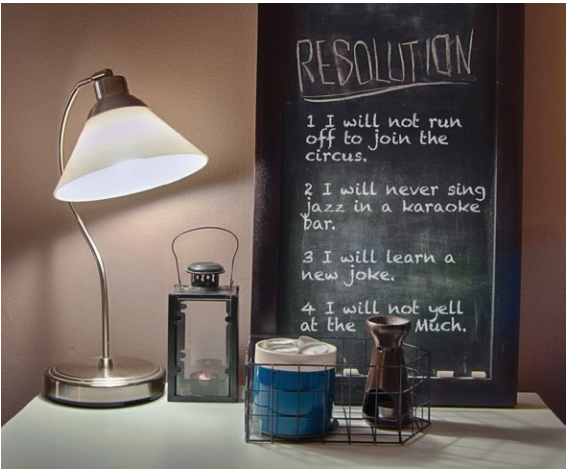
Why stick with the obvious? Here are some resolutions that will make 2018 a little more interesting.

1 Master some jokes. Why resolve to be more social if you don't know what to do when you get to the party? Try to find a selection of one-liners that will work in a variety of situations. Find a longish joke that will be suitable to tell at lunch with a friend. Maybe a spicy joke to tell a really good friend. But always have a sweet joke to tell someone's mother.

2 Learn a useful phrase in three languages. Hey, you want to be debonair? Here's your chance. Go for Arabic and Mandarin if you are adventurous. If you want laughs, learn something silly. With one resolution, you tick off 'learn something new.' Done.

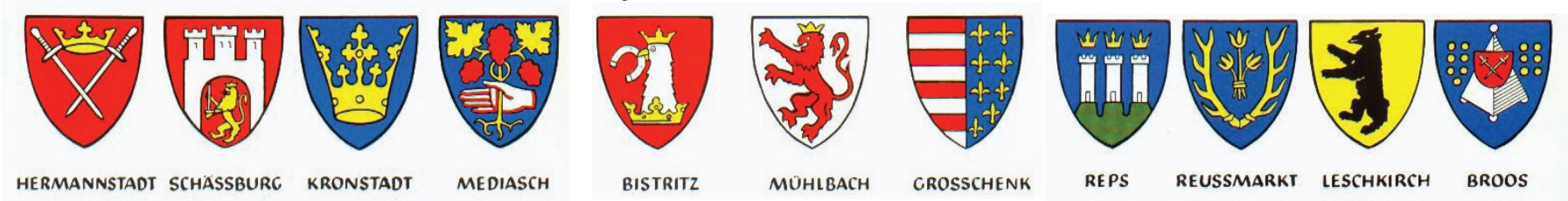
3 Learn to juggle. A good party trick that will get everyone else involved and keep you busy while listening to YouTube videos. Hey, you aren't wasting time.

4 Give yourself a big win. The problem with New Year's resolutions is that only 8 percent of resolvers keep their resolutions. That leaves 92 percent feeling like failures. They are resolving the wrong things. Instead, try something



- that you have a good chance of accomplishing:
- Always drink beer during a football game. If you break this resolution, you've probably quit drinking. Win.
  - Spend more money on fun. If you break this resolution, you are saving more money.
  - Never buy another organizational basket. So, if you do break down, you are getting organized.
  - Never go to a gym. No sweat. But if you find yourself sweating, more's all the better.
  - Never become a circus acrobat. Unless you are one now, this is a resolution you can keep.

Die elf sächsischen Stühle und Distrikte



HERMANNSTADT SCHASSBURG KRONSTADT MEDIASCH BISTRITZ MÜHLBACH GROSSCHENK REPS REUSSMARKT LESCHKIRCH BROOS

## Film “Hermann Oberth – Flucht von der Erde” erinnert an den Raketenpionier

*Denkt man an Raumfahrt, dann bestimmt nicht zuallererst an Mediasch. Schon eher an Huntsville, Alabama (USA), wo 1970 das größte Raumfahrtmuseum der Welt eröffnet wurde. Oder an „Star Trek“, die beliebte US-Serie, die Generationen von Science-Fiction-Fans begeisterte. Tatsächlich sind alle drei mit dem Namen Hermann Oberth verbunden, dem „Vater der Raumfahrt“ aus Siebenbürgen.*

Geprägt haben den 1894 in Hermannstadt geborenen Raketenforscher, der zuerst Medizin studierte und später Physik, nicht nur Forschungsaufenthalte in Deutschland, sondern auch Siebenbürgen: In Klausenburg wurde Oberths in Heidelberg als „unbeurteilbar“ abgewiesene Doktorarbeit anerkannt. In Mediasch erhielt der aus Deutschland zurückgekehrte Physiker auf Geheiß König Carols II. Unterstützung für seine Raketenexperimente. Dort erschien auch 1929 sein Hauptwerk, „Wege zur Raumschiffahrt“.

Über das Leben und Wirken des visionären Pioniers, der bereits mit elf Jahren – fasziniert von Jules Vernes Science-Fiction-Romanen „Von der Erde zum Mond“ und „Reise um den Mond“ – Raketen in seine Hefte kritzelte, berichtet der Film „Hermann Oberth – Flucht von der Erde“ („Hermann Oberth – Evadare de pe Terra“, TVR2, Regisseur Cristian Amza), am 24. Oktober im Kulturhaus „Friedrich Schiller“ gezeigt. Im Anschluss fand eine Diskussion statt, mit der siebenbürgischen Drehbuchautorin Dr. Anneli Ute Gabanyi, dem rumänischen Astronauten Dumitru Prunariu und Robert Adams, stellvertretender Leiter des Hermann-Oberth-Museums in Feucht.

Der Film vermittelt Meilensteine aus dem Leben des Genies: seinen Einfluss auf die heutige Raumfahrt, die es ohne ihn in dieser Form nicht geben würde. Aber auch, wie aus visionären Plänen, gedacht, um die Menschheit weiterzubringen, im Handumdrehen vernichtende Waffen werden können: Die V2-Rakete, entwickelt in Peenemünde unter Oberths Meisterschüler Wernher von Braun, an deren Konstruktion Oberth zwar keine entscheidende Rolle mehr spielte, basierte auf seinen Berechnungen.

Als Geheimnisträger mit Reiseverbot belegt, kam Oberth erst 1982 zum ersten Mal nach Moskau. Prunariu erinnert sich an die Begegnung. Er hielt eine Rede über Oberth und bemerkte auf zunehmende Unruhe im Saal: Wie? – Hermann Oberth sei aus Rumänien? Ist er denn kein Deutscher? Das Gemurmel verstummte, als der Genannte spontan auf die Bühne trat, Prunariu ergriffen die Hand schüttelte und ihm auf Rumänisch dankte. Der offizielle Oberth-Biograf, Hans Barth, verriet: Der Raumfahrtpionier, der 1955 auf Einladung Wernher von Brauns sogar an dessen Raketenforschungsinstitut in Huntsville, Alabama, forschte, und dessen Skizzen später als Vorlage für die Serie „Star Trek“ dienten, hat seine Heimat nie vergessen. Er betrachtete sich zeitlebens als Siebenbürger Sachse.

### Vergessene Hürden

Vergessen wird oft, wie mühsam der Weg eines Genies sein kann, bis es als solches anerkannt wird. Dies ging auch Hermann Oberth nicht anders: Kläglich gescheitert am starren deutschen Universitätssystem und dessen Mangel an Interdisziplinarität, öffneten ihm dort erst viel später Stipendien Türen und Tore. Als schlichtweg utopisch hatten die Heidelberger Professoren seine 1922 eingereichte Doktorarbeit über den Raketenantrieb bezeichnet – und zurückgewiesen. Man könne die Arbeit nicht beurteilen, so der Mathematiker, es enthielte zu viel Physik; der Physiker beklagte die ausufernde Mathematik. Oberth veröffentlichte seine These daraufhin als Buch, „Die Rakete zu



**Robert Adams, stellvertretender Leiter des Hermann-Oberth-Museums in Feucht, Politologin Anneli Ute Gabanyi, Astronaut Dumitru Prunariu und Regisseur Cristian Amza im Bukarester Schillerhaus. Foto: George Dumitriu**

den Planetenräumen“, das auch in der Presse Kontroversen auslöste. 1923 kehrte er nach Rumänien zurück, wo die Doktorarbeit anerkannt wurde: An der Klausenburger Universität war man in der Lage, den interdisziplinären Spagat zu leisten.

Interessant auch, dass Oberth lange Zeit als einfacher Gymnasiallehrer gearbeitet hat. Anerkennung und Erfolg ließen auf sich warten. Seine ungebrochene Begeisterung führte schließlich doch zum Ziel. Das Strickmuster mag jenen bekannt vorkommen, die auch Cristian Amzas Film über den Banater Physiker Stefan Hell kennen. Wieder und wieder wurden diesem in Deutschland Fördergelder für Forschungen versagt, die ihm schließlich 2014 den Chemie-Nobelpreis für die Entwicklung eines revolutionären Mikroskops einbrachten. Schließlich waren es die Biologen an der Universität Turku (Finnland) gewesen, die der Finanzierung zustimmten: Sie verstanden zwar das zugrundeliegende Prinzip nicht, erkannten jedoch, dass das in Aussicht gestellte Mikroskop ihr Forschungsfeld revolutionieren würde. Noch eine Parallele gibt es im Leben von Oberth und Hell: Die entscheidende Idee kam beiden bereits in jungen Jahren. Studium und Forschung dienten nur dazu, Wege zu finden, die vorhandene Vision umzusetzen.

### Vom unmöglichen zum unendlichen Traum

Meilensteine: 19 Jahre nach der Ablehnung von Oberths Doktorarbeit, 1942, überwindet erstmals eine Großrakete, an der dieser mitgearbeitet hatte, die Erdatmosphäre, erreicht 82 Kilometer Höhe, fliegt 200 Kilometer weit und gilt als erstes von Menschenhand gemachtes Objekt, das in den Weltraum gelangte. Weitere 27 Jahre später, 1969: Erstmals betritt der Mensch den Mond. Der Traum, der einst als unmöglich galt, ist seither Realität. Millionen Menschen träumen ihn weiter: Raumstationen, die Kolonisierung des Mars, Erzabbau im Planatoidengürtel – nichts scheint mehr unmöglich, alles nur eine Frage von Geld.

Doch wer hatte den Funken der Begeisterung in dem kleinen Hermann gezündet? Woher hatte er mit elf Jahren Zugang zu Vernes Romanen? Kurios, dass bereits dessen Großvater, der Mühlbacher Arzt und Schriftsteller Friedrich Krasser, überzeugt geäußert haben soll, der Mensch werden in hundert Jahren zum Mond fliegen. Ist Begeisterung in einem Alter, in dem man sich spielerisch und ohne fachliche Scheuklappen mit einer Idee

befasst, der Schlüsselfaktor für Erfolg? Welche Rolle spielen andere Eigenschaften?

Beharrlichkeit ist sicher eine davon: Robert Adams, der Oberth seit den 80er Jahren gut kannte, erzählt: Der junge Physiker wollte auf dem Berliner Patentamt eine Erfindung einreichen. Vergeblich versuchte er, den Prüfer zu überzeugen, dass diese patentwürdig sei. „Ich bin zweimal so alt wie Sie und muss es besser wissen“, entgegnete ihm dieser. Oberth erwiderte: „Die Papageien im Zoo sind viel älter als wir – und versuchen nicht, uns zu belehren.“

1989 besuchte Prunariu Oberth zum letzten Mal in Feucht, etwa sechs Monate vor seinem Tod. Wer heute auf Oberths Spuren wandeln möchte, kann dies nicht nur im dortigen Museum, das noch zu Lebzeiten des Raketenpioniers entstand, sondern auch im Hermann-Oberth-Gedenkhaus in Mediasch, das 1994 – 100 Jahre nach dessen Geburt – eröffnet wurde. Denkt man an Raumfahrt, denkt man daher am besten zuerst an Mediasch – als Wiege der Raketenforschung.

Nina May  
SBZ Online 6. Januar 2018

Hermann Julius Oberth was born 25 June 1894 in Sibiu (called Hermannstadt by the Germans), Transylvania. He was a ‘Saxon Romanian’ of German descent. There are very few ‘Saxon Romanians’ left in Romania today, but at one time they were a sizeable minority in Transylvania. Oberth died 28 December 1989, at Nuremberg in Germany.

Oberth was one of the three pioneers of rocketry and space flight who are responsible for bringing to birth the Space Age. The others were the Russian Konstantin Tsiolkovsky and the American Robert Goddard. A crater on the Moon has been named after Oberth.

Oberth collaborated with the German film director Fritz Lang to design the rockets for his famous film, “Woman in the Moon”, released in 1929. (The film is available on DVD with English subtitles from King Video in the USA.)



Bust of Oberth in the town centre of Sighișoara (Schaessburg) where he is a celebrated figure.  
Photo H. Hermann

Oberth was a visionary, and he was one of the first advocates of generating electricity by wind power, but in his case he wanted to harness not just any old wind, but the Jet Stream. (That was in 1973.) As early as 1958, Oberth published his theories of lunar exploration, including a design for a lunar catapult. He also worked on muffling the sounds of aircraft and helicopter engines at that time. Oberth was perhaps the boldest and most original thinker ever to come out of Romania, and he was certainly one of the greatest visionaries in the world during the 20th century.



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Margaret Hoover - Br. 9 - Chicago  
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Landon Weaver - Br. 30 - Youngstown

### Ages 7 - 8

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Chloe Schaef - Br. 4 - Cleveland West  
Catherine Spor - Br. 27 - New Castle

### Ages 5 - 6

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Gianna Italiana - Br. 2 - Erie  
Ava Salinas - Br. 22 - Youngstown

### Ages 9 - 10

Jonathan Malue - Br. 1- Cleveland West  
Payton Leunis- Br. 7 - Farrell  
Travis Griffith - Br. 2 - Erie

## A Few of the ATS Coloring Artists



Chloe Schaef  
Age 7



Dylan Schaef,  
Age 6



The Phillip Family  
Caiden, Age 3; Allison, Age 8; Jacob, Age 10



Ella Izenour  
Age 8



Jaycie Westland  
Age 7



Jenna Westland  
Age 5



Katie Hanek  
Age 4



Carsen Sergent  
Age 7



Cole Sergent  
Age 5



Kendall Emerich  
Age 3



Bill Smith  
Age 5