

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

December 13, 2019

Issue 25



Wir Siebenbürger Sachsen können mit Recht stolz sein

Die Wiederwahl von Klaus Johannis zum rumänischen Staatspräsidenten ist nicht nur für uns Siebenbürger Sachsen eine großartige Nachricht, sondern vor allem auch für Rumänien und für ganz Europa. Ich gratuliere dem neuen Präsidenten Klaus Johannis herzlich zu seinem Wahlsieg, ich gratuliere aber auch ganz besonders der rumänischen Bevölkerung im In- und Ausland.

Wir Siebenbürger Sachsen können mit Recht stolz sein, dass sich unser Landsmann Klaus Johannis mit den uns auszeichnenden Tugenden Zuverlässigkeit, Nicht-Korruptierbarkeit, Leistungsbereitschaft und Zielstrebigkeit durchgesetzt hat und die Mehrheit der Rumänen überzeugen konnte. Seine Wahl zeigt daher auch das gute Verhältnis der rumänischen Bevölkerung zur deutschen Minderheit.



Klaus Johannis

Mit Klaus Johannis werden Rechtsstaatlichkeit und Demokratie in Rumänien gestärkt. Die deutsch-rumänischen Beziehungen werden mit ihm auf eine neue Ebene gehoben, der europäische Kurs Rumäniens hat mit ihm einen funktionierenden Kompass.

Rainer Lehni,
Bundesvorsitzender des Verbandes der
Siebenbürger Sachsen in Deutschland

We Transylvanian Saxons can be rightfully proud

The re-election of Klaus Johannis to the Romanian Presidency is not only a great news for us Transylvanian Saxons, but above all for Romania and for the whole of Europe. I warmly congratulate the new President Klaus Johannis on his election victory, but I also congratulate the Romanian people in Germany and abroad in particular.

We Transylvanian Saxons can be proud of the fact that our compatriot Klaus Johannis prevailed with the virtues of reliability, non-corruptability, motivation and determi-

nation, and was able to convince the majority of Romanians. His election therefore shows the good relationship between the Romanian population and the German minority.

Klaus Johannis strengthens the rule of law and democracy in Romania. The German-Romanian relations are taken to a new level with him, the European course of Romania has with him a working compass.

Rainer Lehni
Federal Chairman of the Association of
Transylvanian Saxons in Germany

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Joan Miller-Malue
ATS Nat'l President



On Saturday, November 23, the ATS Board of Directors held its third quarterly meeting. We reviewed the Third Quarterly Financial Statement that was filed with the State Insurance Departments and the NAIC and the Management Analysis and Discussion Report that was filed with the Ohio Insurance Department. The various Board Committees had meetings during the past quarter and gave their updated reports and recommendations. Our financials showed growth and strength. Our total admitted assets are over \$93.7 million. At the end of the third quarter our unassigned surplus was over \$12.2 million exceeding our year-end projection. The ratio of unassigned surplus to total admitted assets for the third quarter is 13.1%. This ratio creates a good safety net for protection of our solvency and future payments to our members. 3rd Vice President Randall Floyd reported that he conducted an Internal Audit and found financial, managerial and operating information was deemed accurate, reliable and timely.

Our one negative factor is our declining membership due to our aging members. We need your help in promoting our unique organization by inviting your family and friends to become an ATS member. We are looking for additional sales personnel and feel there are no one better to sell our products than our members who know and have experienced the advantage of belonging to our fraternal benefit society. Our sales personnel are licensed life and annuity agents in the state of their Local Branch. If any member is interested in becoming an ATS Deputy, please contact the ATS Home Office. The ATS will reimburse a member for their expenses in obtaining a license after joining our sales team. This can work out to be a full time or part time job with flexible hours. We are an organization that works to protect the financial future of our members and provide for fraternal benefits and activities. A quote from coach Vince Lombardi: "Individual commitment to a group effort: That is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work." Let's be proud of our past and present achievements and work together on new goals for the future.

Although, our meeting was in November, we were in the Christmas Spirit and voted to give a small gift to each Local Branch, Cultural Groups and Retirees Groups to show that our thoughts and best wishes are with our members as they enjoy their Christmas celebrations. Christmas is the celebration of Christ's birthday, a season of merriment, reunions, sharing and caring. I always think that a heartfelt message of love and support is the best Christmas gift that you can give to someone. Let's spread the love of the Season throughout our fraternal family. I wish everyone a Joyful and Blessed Christmas!

Continued on Page 2

TIMELY - DO NOT DELAY
MAILED WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2019

Attention Postmaster: Send all Changes of Address to:
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**Why not give
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and last a lifetime?
Consider purchasing
life insurance
or an annuity
from the ATS.
Contact your local ATS
Deputy or the ATS Home
office for detailed
information on our
insurance plans
and annuity plans.**

Schloss Horneck needs OUR help!



Schloss Horneck located in Gundelsheim, Germany is the international location for our Siebenbürger Sachsen to house Sachsen artifacts, books and other historical documents and records. It is important to our worldwide Sachsen community to help in the maintenance expenses of this historical facility that will preserve our Sachsen culture and heritage.

The Federation of Transylvanian Saxons requests donation to help in the funding of the facility. If you are interested in giving a donation, 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

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zipcode _____

Amount Donated \$ _____

Please indicate if donation is in memory
or honor of someone

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
Cont’d from Page 1

Transylvanian Saxon Trivia: I love to read about Transylvanian Saxon folklore. The following was documented in the 19th century by Bishop Daniel Teutsch and was in a collection written by Transylvanian Scholar Friedrich Wilhelm Schuster: According to a superstition, you hiccup when somebody somewhere speaks about you and your hiccups will cease if you can guess the name of the “speaker.” Supposedly, by mentally concentrating on the search for the name, you may forget to hiccup.

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Schlucke, schlucken! | Hiccup, Hiccup! |
| Wier riet fu mir? | Who speaks about me? |
| dier sâł erštâken | Whoever speaks badly, |
| | may he choke, |
| wier gâdet riet, | Whoever speaks well, |
| dier sâł God erkwâken, | May God reward him, |
| me schlucken sâł fergôn. | May my hiccup pass. |
| Âm numen &c. | In the name of, etc. |

So, my co-worker, Monica Gilles, who hiccups often is wondering why someone is speaking about her so much. She sure hopes whoever is speaking is speaking well of her. Which I am sure they are.
Ein gesegnetes Weihnachtsfest!



That jingling you
hear may not be bells.
Could be what’s left
in your pocket.

For those caught up in the buying frenzy of the holidays, Christmas Eve could find them with a handful of change in their pockets and little else.

Of course, every year you think you’ll avoid the rush by accumulating gifts throughout the year. That would be smart, but it doesn’t do much good in November and December and the shopping list looms.

A survey by The Wall Street Journal shows that more of us are controlling credit card debt by adopting new traditions that reduce the loot under the tree.

Women do most of the Christmas shopping, says Eileen Fischer of York University in Canada, who studies consumer behavior. They give gifts to reinforce relationships with spouses, kids, in-laws, co-workers, friends and helpers.

Here is some classic advice on keeping your holidays affordable:

1. If you have a multitude of relatives to buy for, talk with them about exchanging cards this year. They will be happy to do it in most cases.
 2. Decide in advance how much you will spend on gifts.
 3. Give gift certificates to teens. They keep you within your specific amount, and teens enjoy shopping.
 4. Skip the stocking stuffers.
 5. Shop with a specific list, especially online where easy clicks add up to big money.
 6. Don’t buy for yourself at the same time. Stick to the project.
 7. Financial advisor Jane Bryant Quinn says: Add up your consumer debt and write the number at the top of your shopping list or computer.
 8. An advantage of buying less: Less time spent opening gifts. It can drag on and on for a large group.
- The holidays are more joyful when you know you can pay the bills as they arrive in January.

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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

E-MAIL: saxonvolksblatt@aol.com

PLEASE NOTE: FAX SERVICE IS
NO LONGER AVAILABLE

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, DECEMBER 18, 2019 | FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2019 |
| WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2020 | FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2020 |
| WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2020 | FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2020 |

Please have your articles in by 12 Noon.

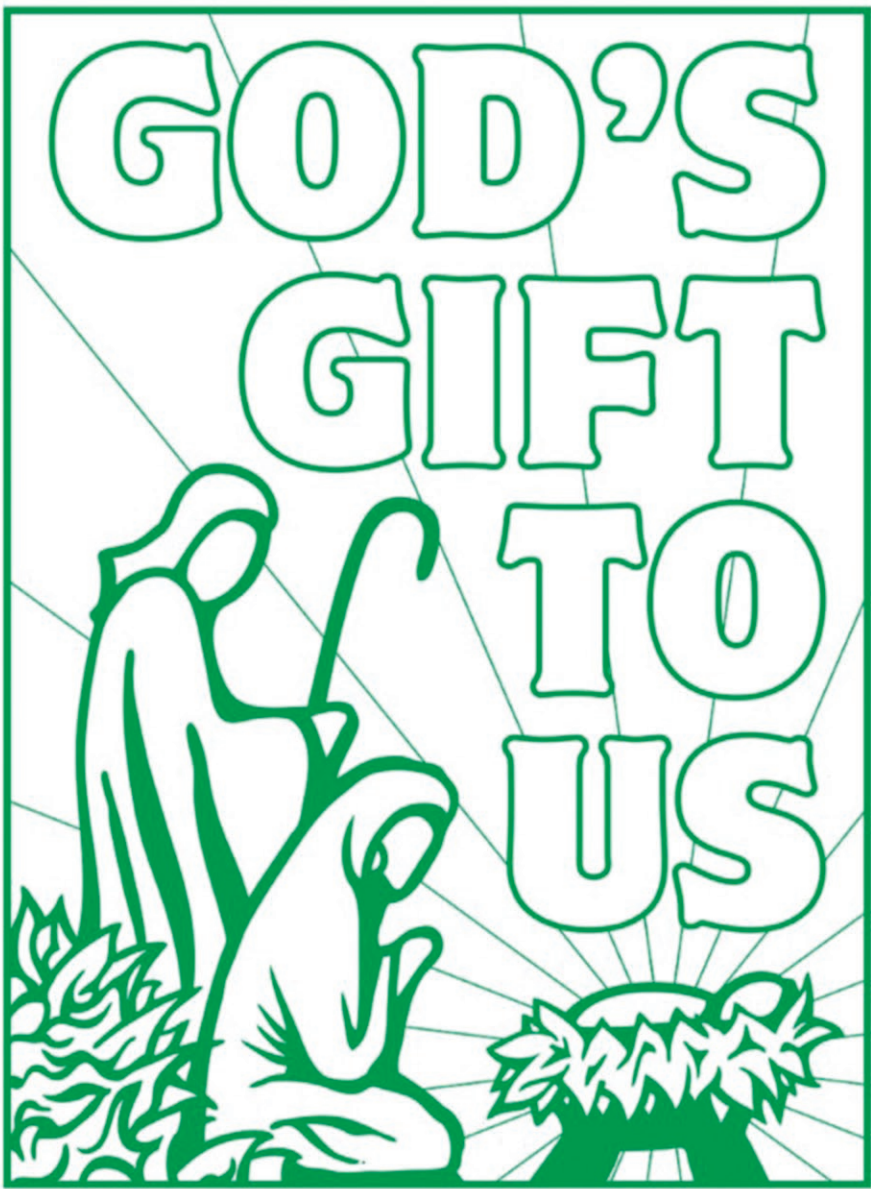
Did you miss the deadline?

Have you emailed your article past 12 Noon?

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

FROHE WEIHNACHTEN

Merry Christmas

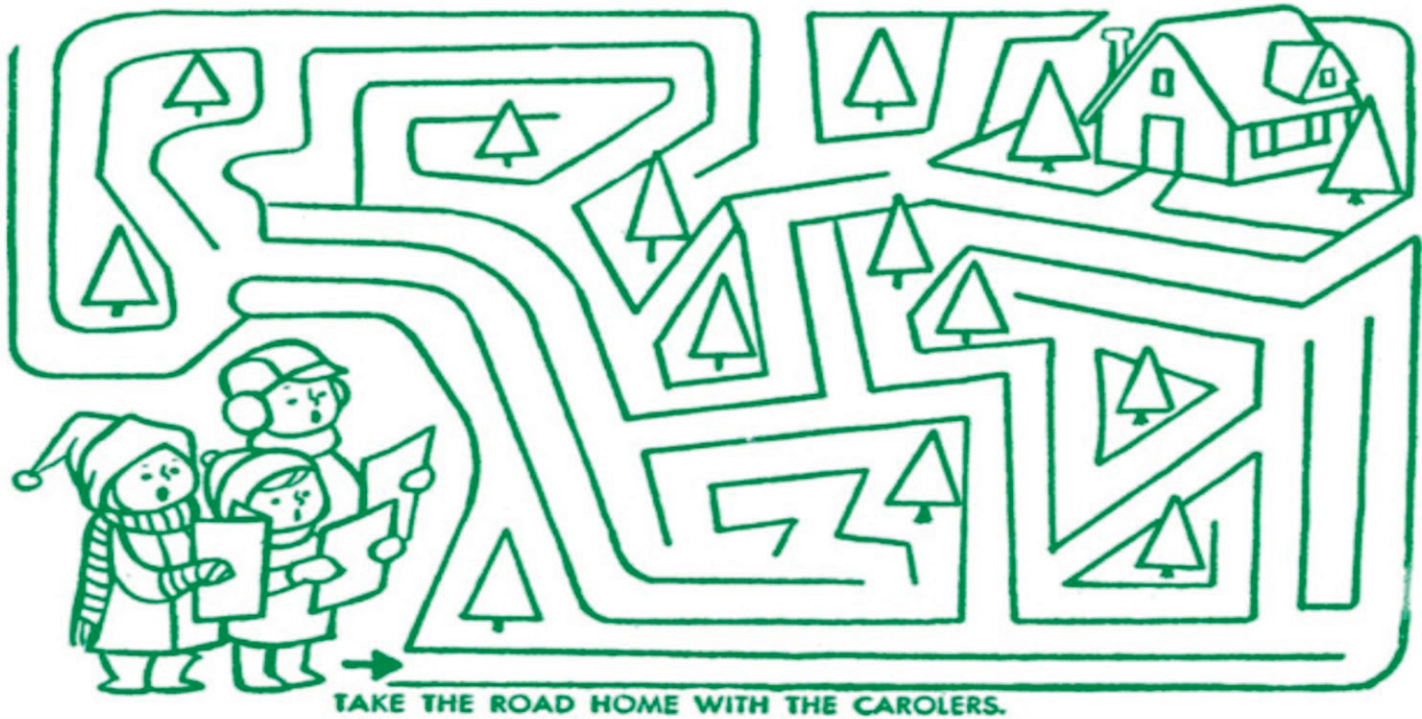


"Stille Nacht" in German

*Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,
Alles schläft; einsam wacht
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!
Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,
Hirten erst kundgemacht
Durch der Engel Halleluja,
Tönt es laut von fern und nah:
Christ, der Retter ist da!
Christ, der Retter ist da!
Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,
Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht
Lieb' aus deinem göttlichen Mund,
Da uns schlägt die rettende Stund'.
Christ, in deiner Geburt!
Christ, in deiner Geburt!*

"Silent Night" in English

*Silent night, holy night
All is calm all is bright
'Round yon virgin Mother and Child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace
Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born
Christ the Savior is born
Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth*



FRATERNAL CALENDAR

LOCAL EVENTS

December 14, 2019

Cleveland West, East and Lorain Children's Christmas Party
Salem Joint Social Christmas Party
Ellwood City Children's Christmas Party
Youngstown Children's Christmas Party

December 15, 2019

Chicago Br. 9 Christmas Party
Cleveland East Br. 33 Christmas Banquet

December 24, 2019

New Castle Tom and Jerry Party 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

December 31, 2019

New Castle New Year's Eve Bash
Youngstown New Year's Eve Comedy and Magic

January 19 2020

TSBA Cleveland East, Northwood Lanes

February 9, 2020

TSBA New Castle, Pa. Colonial Lanes

March 8, 2020

TSBA Youngstown, OH

March 28 -29, 2020

TSBA Tournament Youngstown, OH

BRANCH 10, COLUMBUS

By Donald Blum

CHRISTMAS

We want to invite everyone to our Christmas Party/Luncheon. A fun Event of food, celebration, wine and Saxon gathering.

When: Sunday, December 22, 2019

Time: 1:00-4:00 pm

Where: HICKORY HOUSE

550 Officenter Place

Gahanna, Ohio 43230

COST: Guests/Non-Members of the Columbus Branch 10 - \$ 30.00

You should contact **SARA ALZNER-BROWN** about attending this event. She will be taking reservations. You can contact Sara by calling her at **614-829-2380**. We welcome everyone to our Fun Christmas Luncheon. Come help us celebrate!

MONTHLY MEETING

NO DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING, WE ARE HAVING THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

HICKORY HOUSE

550 Officenter Place

Gahanna, Ohio 43230

Monday, January 20, 2020

Our meetings are the Third (3rd) Monday of the month. Perhaps you have not been to a Saxon Club event in quite a while. Maybe you used to attend activities, or perhaps you attended activities with your parents and even grand parents. Recently, while not under the most pleasant circumstances, we have talked with many of you at funerals for loved ones and friends, about memories of a special Saxon Club event(s). Come share those memories at our next Luncheon. We hope to renew those memories with you and possibly create new memories through becoming involved with the Saxon Club.

Remember to bring a canned good item or other

food item that will not need to be preserved to our next meeting.

FACEBOOK PAGE

Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons, Columbus Branch 10

We will continue to modify and improve the Facebook page as needed. You are invited to join our Facebook group and share your Saxon history or just enjoy what others post. If you are interested in becoming part of the Facebook group you can request an invitation or send me your email address (donaldblum@prodigy.net), and we will set you up.

We are happy to say, we continue to add Saxon/German heritage individuals to the Facebook Group. Some of the new members include people from Europe. We encourage you to spread the word about our group.

HUMOR

Woman's perspective

My husband and I both have a cold.

The only difference is I'm cleaning the kitchen and he's dying on the couch watching TV.

From the Columbus Branch 10, we wish that you have a wonderful Christmas, celebrating the Glorious Birth of Christ with family and friends. God Bless!



Americans still love Christmas

Christmas is still a favorite holiday in America, even though the religious observation of it is slipping a bit.

According to the Pew Research Center, nine in 10 Americans celebrate Christmas. For Christians, it is still a major holiday, with 95 percent of Christians celebrating it.

Far fewer Americans observe it as a religious day, in which they celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, or Jesus the Savior. Just 46 percent of Americans say they keep Christmas as a religious, rather than a public, holiday. Still, 66 percent believe the Christmas story is an actual historic event.

The percentage who believe the four main points of the Christmas story has shrunk somewhat. In 2014, 65 percent of Americans believed the four points of the Christmas story: Jesus was born of a virgin; laid in a manger; wise men were guided by a star to Jesus; and an angel announced the birth to shepherds. Today, that number is 57 percent.

ASK ...

ASK YOUR DEPUTY HOW A CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE ATS CAN HELP YOU TO SAVE!

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NEW YEAR'S EVE AT THE SAXON December 31, 2019

STARRING THE
COMEDY & MAGIC
OF ERIC THOMPSON

5:30 Doors Open
6:00 VIP Seating
6:30 Dinner
7:15 Comedy Show

Pre-order choice of three entrees, salad and dessert

**Tickets at Saxon Club Box Office
or by calling (330) 792-7973.**

**General Admission \$25
VIP Tickets \$50**

A limited number of VIP tickets are available at \$50 each. In addition to dinner, the VIP Experience includes preferred seating for the show, a backstage pass, a private show, a photo session, meet and greet.

Eric Thompson has been performing stand up comedy and award-winning magic for more than three decades. In addition to many TV and radio appearances, Eric has shared the stage with comedians Jay Leno, Drew Carey, Gallagher, Sinbad, and musician Kenny Loggins, The Spinners, Engelbert Humperdinck, Peter, Paul & Mary, and many others. He has performed sold-out shows in comedy clubs and theaters across North America and more than two dozen countries around the world.

WITH SPECIAL GUEST COMEDIAN GREG SMRDEL
Greg performs in comedy clubs, theaters and casinos across the United States. He has authored 13 books and is a sought after guest on radio talk shows. He has performed with some of the biggest comedians in show business over the last twenty years.

EXPECTED TO SELL OUT
PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS EARLY

**The Magic & Comedy of
Eric Thompson** www.ericthompsonmagic.com

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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



Did You Know: Poinsettias December 12th is National Poinsettia Day.

The flowers of the poinsettia plant, called cyathia, are the yellow clustered buds in the center. The red, pink, or white colored parts are actually the leaves.

Poinsettias have also been called the "Lobster Flower" and "Flame Leaf Flower."

Red poinsettias account for about 75 percent of all sales nationwide.

There are more than 100 varieties of poinsettias available.

More than 65 million poinsettia plants are sold each year, accounting for one-third of sales of all flowering plants year round and 85 percent of potted plant sales at Christmas.

YOUNGSTOWN SAXON RETIREES

By Ro Dundon

Our meeting was held in the Ballroom Annex on Thursday, November 10th. The weather co-operated. Had the weather been like Tuesday's, we all would have stayed home.

Our theme was "Thanksgiving" so we had pumpkins, scare crows and a pair of pilgrims on the tables and buffet. Our menu was sliced Turkey, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Green Beans Almondine, Salad and homemade Pumpkin Pie w/ Whipped Cream. (What a time I had with the pie.) We almost had the same menu as the original Thanksgiving.

Kay and Eileen are our checkers in and sellers of the 50/50. Always a job well done.

Our President, Diana Kommel, started the meeting before the luncheon was ready. We began with the Pledge of Allegiance, sang "God Bless America" gave thanks for the members, the cook, John, the servers, the great food to come and everything else.

The meeting continued after everyone had finished eating. We had no birthdays or anniversaries. The financial report and October's minutes were read by Ro and accepted. Diana reminded us of the Club's Christmas Dinner scheduled for December 8, 2019 at 4:30 after the regular meeting. There will be a cookie table and all are asked to bring some.

The officers for 2020 will be President Diana Kommel, vice president Lucy Sccka and secretary and treasurer Rosemary Dundon.

The next meeting will be Thursday, December 12th at

same time, same place as always. The officers will be the hostesses for the Christmas Meeting Luncheon. The members were asked for suggestions for the menu. It was agreed we would have stuffed pork chops, cheesy potatoes, candied sweet potatoes, and applesauce. The dessert will be the cookies we all are bringing. (Sam's Club here I come.)

Eileen and Dom handled the 50/50. Winners were Diana, Kay and Betty.

Good job Eileen and Dom as always. What would we do without you?

We said goodbye to Lisa and Roger who will be going down south to Florida until April. Why would they want to leave the coming snow, ice and wind to sit on the beach, enjoy the sun, ocean and cabana bar? We will think of them, often. Don't imagine they will think of us here in Ohio.

Please call Diana @ 330.799.1738, Lucy @ 330.799.6129, or Ro @ 330.726.6851 to reserve or cancel.

Watch out for the snow and ice coming our way. When it's bad, stay home.

All members, fraternal or social, if you have nothing to do around 11:30 on the second Thursdays of the months come to our meetings. Our buffet is very good @ \$12.00, our conversations and members are delightful.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

Till we meet again as usual it's Ro.

Unless we make Christmas an occasion to share our blessings, all the snow in Alaska won't make it 'white'.

— Bing Crosby, famed for his rendition of the song, White Christmas.

The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other.

— Burton Hills

Like snowflakes, my Christmas memories gather and dance — each beautiful, unique, and gone too soon.

— Deborah Whipp



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.

Virginia L. Hess

Age 86

Died: November 12, 2019
Branch 2, Erie, PA

Dolores A. Kolesar

Age 85

Died: November 26, 2019
Branch 30, Youngstown, OH

Charles A. Piano

Age 80

Died: November 27, 2019
Branch 2, Erie, PA

Mistletoe winds its way through human history

Being kissed under the mistletoe has been a Christmas tradition for more than a thousand years. But mistletoe is not only associated with a gentle kiss, it has a lore all its own.

Mistletoe is a parasitic plant that lives off trees. It has attracted human attention for thousands of years because, in the depth of winter, it is green. That made it a natural for legend and ritual, especially fertility rituals.

The actual kissing under the plant may have begun with the Greeks in their agricultural festival, according to The Wall Street Journal, but its kissing properties continue to this day where, as the old song puts it, we can see mama kissing Santa Claus.

To the ancient Scandinavians, mistletoe symbolized peace. Enemies meeting under the mistletoe declared a truce until the following day. On a more domestic note, disgruntled spouses kissed and made up under the greenery.

The Druids believed mistletoe possessed magical powers. Their priests cut the plant with golden sickles and gathered the trimmings on white cloth so the plant would never touch the earth and lose its enchantment.

The French didn't like it. They said mistletoe was cursed because it grew on the wood from which the



cross of Christ was made and that it was doomed to be a rootless parasite forever.

In the Middle Ages, mistletoe was hung from ceilings in Europe to ward off evil, or it was dangled over doors to prevent the entrance of witches. If mistletoe was suspended over a crib, the child was said to be safe from kidnapping.

Viking lore describes the goddess of love, Frigga, who made each plant and animal promise not to kill her son Baldur. She forgot the mistletoe plant and Baldur was killed by a spear made from it. The white berries on the mistletoe are said to have been created from her tears.

When her son returned to life, Frigga proclaimed the mistletoe to be sacred. She kissed everyone who passed under it and decreed the plant should henceforth bring love. This is said to be the origin of kissing under the mistletoe.

So go ahead. Kiss under the mistletoe, have fun doing it, and give a nod to Frigga for starting a very enjoyable custom.



“Chrästdoch” - Weihnachtsgedicht
in sächsischer Mundart

Chrästdoch

Än Bethlehem äm Jordanlund
äs et longhär schiun geschahn;
wot de Schräft söngt older Zekt
prophezuat hot ollen Lekt.

An der Kräp iun Niut uch Elend
kom der Hilund än de Wealt.
“Friden sol hiea ollen bringen”,
hiurt em do de Oingel soingen.

Und de Hirten lefen schnial,
wa der Oingel än befiihlen,
am de Kräp uch’t Kängd ze sahn
voller Gluwen uch Vertran.

Oingel, Hirten, Stern uch Keneng
säcken än der Kräp det Kängd;
und sa folden stall är Hoingd,
biaden: “Härr, vergäf eas Soingd!”

Lot uch eas än desen Dajen
knan uch biaden für der Kräp,
dot der Härrgott uch eas ollen
Friden schinkt uch Wiuhlgefallen.

Hochdeutsch:

Christtag

In Bethlehem im Jordanland
ist es lang schon geschehn,
was die Schrift seit alter Zeit
prophezeit hat allen Leut.

In der Krippe in Not und Elend
kam der Heiland in die Welt
“Frieden soll er allen bringen”,
hört man dort die Engel singen.

Und die Hirten liefen schnell,
wie der Engel ihnen befohlen,
um die Krippe und das Kind zu sehn,
voller Glauben und Verstehn.

Engel, Hirten, Stern und Könige
suchen in der Krippe das Kind,
und sie falten still ihre Hände,
beten: “Herr, den Sünden mach ein Ende. “

Lasst auch uns in diesen Tagen
knien und beten an der Krippe,
dass der Herrgott auch uns allen
Frieden schenkt und Wohlgefallen.

Pfarrer Michael Seiverth



Zwei Neppendorfer Christleuchter vor dem Altar in der Neppendorfer Kirche (fotografiert in den 80er Jahren).

Foto: Fr. Hassfurther

Der Christleuchter -
Ein Licht-
und Hoffnungsträger

In vielen siebenbürgisch-sächsischen Kirchen erfreuten zu Weihnachten „Christleuchter“ die Herzen der Menschen. Ein mit viel Freude von Kindern und Erwachsenen verbundener Brauch, der nicht fortzudenken war aus dem Verlauf eines Weihnachtsfestes in Siebenbürgen. Ein Brauch, der zögernd auch hier Wurzel zu schlagen versucht.

Die geschmückten Christleuchter waren die Lichtträger am Heiligen Abend in vielen ehemals dunklen Dorfkirchen in Siebenbürgen. Sie, die Leuchter der verschiedenen Dörfer, waren unterschiedlich in Form und Größe, unterschiedlich gefertigt und geschmückt. Doch alle waren Lichtträger, Hoffnungsträger.

Sieben große Kerzen steckte man vielerorts als „Siebengestirn“ oben auf den Leuchter. Die Kerzen am Lichtergestell, dem Christleuchter, scheinen uns ans Licht der Welt zu erinnern: „Ich bin das Licht der Welt, wer mir nachfolgt, der wird nicht in der Finsternis bleiben, sondern wird das Licht des Lebens haben“ (Johannes 8/12). Ein Lichtertchen, aufgenommen 1954 im Burghof in Draas. Nach der Flucht (1944) wurde der Brauch in diesem Jahr wieder aufgenommen. Die drei Männer (von rechts) Johann Paulini, Martin Paulini und Johann Meburger kamen aus sowjetischer Kriegsgefangenschaft zurück. Freude glänzt zu Weihnachten beim Kerzenschein in den Augen der Kinder, Tränen schimmern im Auge der Alten, doch ein Glanz der Hoffnung lässt die Menschen beim Lichterglanz hoffnungsvoller in das Morgen sehen.

Rose Schmidt
SBZ Online
23. Dezember 2007



Christi Geburt. Weihnachtsdarstellung am Marien-Altar der Kirche vom Malmkrog (Malincrav). Der gotische Flügelaltar stammt aus der Zeit um 1495. Das Jesuskind ist von Engeln umgeben, Maria und Josef beten es an, dahinter sind Ochs und Esel zu sehen. Von rechts kommt ein Hirte, der ins Horn bläst, mit seiner Herde von den Bergen, während ihm ein Engel vom Himmel die Geburt verkündet. Foto: Martin Eichler



O Tannenbaum

O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum, wie grün sind deine Blätter! Du grünst nicht nur zur Sommerzeit, nein, auch im Winter, wenn es schneit. O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum, wie grün sind deine Blätter!

- 2. O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum, du kannst mir sehr gefallen. Wie oft hat nicht zur Weihnachtszeit ein Baum von dir mich hocheifert. O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum, du kannst mir sehr gefallen.
- 3. O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum, dein Kleid will mich was lehren: Die Hoffnung und Beständigkeit gibt Trost und Kraft zu jeder Zeit. O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum, dein Kleid will mich was lehren.

Text: Ernst Anschütz 1824 nach einem Gedicht von August Zarnack 1820 - Melodie: 1820 nach einer seit 1790 bekannten Weise.





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A CHRISTMAS GREETING

*It's a time to send our greetings...
To Those who are far and near...
To wish you the blessings of the season...
Not just today but throughout the year...
Believe in the magic of the season...
May the love of God warm your hearts...
May you forever cherish the memory...
And what this season imparts...
It is not the gifts that are wrapped...
And placed under the Christmas Tree...
But the Christmas that lives within our hearts...
That is special to you and me...
For unto us a child was born...
He is our Savior and King...
It's time we celebrate the day of his birth...
And the blessings his loves does bring...
May the magic and wonder of the season...
Bring joy and happiness to you...
May it be a season you will always remember...
And stay with you, your whole life through.*

Author unknown

With Christmas comes, faith, hope and love. The Board of Directors and Home Office Staff wish all these things for you and your family during This Christmas Season and throughout the year.

Joan Miller-Malue, ATS President