



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 25, 2020

Issue 26

BRANCH 1, CLEVELAND By Robert Hanek

Our Sausage Sale on December 11th was a great success! I would like to thank everyone who volunteered their time and hard work to make this event happen. Due to Covid, we had fewer people and many new faces helping this year.

We were very short-handed, but we Saxoned Up and got the job done!

When our manager, Scott, and I decided to have our Sausage Sale we did it for many reasons.

Making a comfort food for Christmas and helping to raise funds to keep our Sachsenheim open were important. But also to let people know that the younger members were not going to let this tradition fade away. Thank you for supporting us!

In this year controlled by Covid-19, we must give thanks this Christmas for so many things. Our health care workers, teachers and volunteers who help us all. As we celebrate, take a moment to remember how things have changed and who has helped to make a bad situation better.

Fröhliche Weihnachten an alle!

BRANCH 27, NEW CASTLE By Dolores Both

As the evil presence of Covid 19 swirls all around us, we need to fight back by sheltering, wearing masks and changing our lifestyle as we know it. Our governor has issued shut downs of restaurants and social clubs making it necessary to change the way we collect our dues for 2021. Make your check payable to Branch 27 and mail it to either Marie Benedict or Gertrude Tizak. Their addresses are as follows: Marie Benedict, PO Box 25, Edinburg, PA 16116-0025 or Gertrude Tizak, 241 Cambridge Street Apt 401, New Castle, PA 16105. Marie and Gertrude will mail your membership cards to you.

Our next scheduled meeting will be March 4, 2021, 3:30 at the club. If it's necessary to cancel the meeting, it will be announced through the telephone tree. Until we meet again, best wishes to all for a Happy New Year. Stay safe

TIME FOR AN UPDATE?



If your family benefit status has changed during the last year please let us know:

ATS HOME OFFICE

(440) 842-8442

office@atsaxons.com



KEEP CALM
AND
WEAR A MASK!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Denise Aeling
Crawford

ATS Nat'l President



To all of our ATS Secretaries in our Branches: please contact the ATS Home Office when an ATS member from your Branch passes away. This is one of the duties of being an ATS Secretary. Other Branch Officers should feel free to call in a death, also. The Home Office phone number is (440) 842-8442. We would much rather have three or four phone calls on one person than not know of a death. Thank you.

The year 2020 was difficult for most of us. The pandemic has taken such a toll on so many facets of our life: traveling, eating out, visiting with friends and families, graduations, weddings, funerals and so on. I hear all the time that people just want 2020 to be done with and are ready to move on and start 2021 with a clean slate. Hopefully, we'll all be able to get back to monthly meetings as well as choir, dance and music practices at our local clubs before too long. We look forward to our usual ATS National events, as well.

I would like to wish everyone a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year! Whether you celebrate New Year's Eve among friends and family, watch the ball drop on TV, or sleep right through it, please stay safe!

Did you know that in order to realign the Roman calendar with the sun, Julius Caesar had to add 90 extra days to the year 46 B.C. when he introduced his new Julian calendar? Throughout ancient times, civilizations around the world developed increasingly sophisticated calendars, typically pinning the first day of the year to an agricultural or astronomical event. For instance, in Egypt, the year began with the annual flooding of the Nile, which coincided with the rising of the star Sirius. The first day of the Chinese New Year occurred with the second new moon after the winter solstice. The early Roman calendar consisted of 10 months and 304 days, with each new year beginning at the vernal equinox. A later king, Numa Pompilius, is credited with adding the months of Januarius and Februarius. Over the centuries, the calendar fell out of sync with the sun, and in 46 B.C. the emperor Julius Caesar decided to solve the problem by consulting with the most prominent astronomers and mathematicians of his time. He introduced the Julian calendar, which closely resembles the more modern Gregorian calendar that most countries around the world use today. As part of his reform, Caesar instituted January 1 as the first day of the year, partly to honor the month's namesake, Janus, the Roman god of beginnings, whose two faces allowed him to look back into the past and forward into the future. Romans celebrated by offering sacrifices to Janus, exchanging gifts, decorating their homes with laurel branches and attending raucous parties. In medieval Europe, Christian leaders temporarily replaced January 1 as the first of the year with days carrying more religious significance, such as December 25 (Jesus' birth date) and March 25 (the Feast of the Annunciation). Pope Gregory XIII reestablished January 1 as New Year's Day in 1582.

Until next time....

TIMELY - DO NOT DELAY
MAILED WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2020

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

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



The actual reason
for Christmas
stockings

Some people may claim that the tradition of hanging stockings comes from old Norse or European legends involving Father Christmas and reindeer.

There might be something to that, however irrelevant it is to parents today. Because the actual reason parents have Christmas stockings is sleep. A Christmas stocking, done well, is worth at least an hour of sleep on Christmas morning.

The kids can wake up at the crack of dawn if they please, and they can unload their stockings on their bed, eat the candy, play with the simple toys and generally distract themselves for an hour before mom and dad have to haul themselves out of bed.

Some people put up fancy, decorative stockings, especially if they have a fireplace. This is totally understandable, especially if the stockings are lovely heirlooms.

But once again, this does miss some of the point.

Christmas stockings (and the search for them) make up one of the parent's prime tools for luring kids away from their presents and bestowing still another hour of calm in the home. On Christmas Eve, make the kids go on a hunt for the largest sock they can find. This takes up at least an hour that would otherwise be used for begging for presents. Then the kids can label their socks and leave them outside their doors or dangle them unattractively on the fireplace. In the morning, they awake to find some weary soul has filled the socks with treats. Tip for the weary soul in question: Don't forget to fill the toe of the sock with an apple or orange. It takes up a lot of space.

Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons
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The Saxon News Volksblatt (ISSN 0894-1165), the official publication of the Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons, 5393 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44129-1597, is published Bi-weekly.

Annual Subscription rate for non-ATS members
USA - \$15; Canada and Europe - \$50

Managing Editors HB Laser Communications,
29076 Fall River Dr, Westlake, Ohio 44145.
"Periodicals Postage Paid" at Cleveland, Ohio.
Postmaster: Send address changes to the Saxon News
Volksblatt, 5393 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44129-1597

YOUNGSTOWN SAXON RETIREES

By Ro Dundon

Hi Everyone: Seems as though winter is here—at least the cold weather has arrived.

Our group was small but happy. We again met at the Falcon Grille. Members not there were missed. Sooner or later the whole world will be back to normal, we hope. Until then we must keep the masks on and six feet from each other. No one wants to get infected or pass it on.

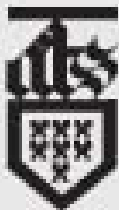
Diane was Santa and surprised each with a gift. Thank you so much, you are so thoughtful. Dom made us silverware holders shaped like Santa Clause and coasters that looked like ornaments. Notice to all: there will be No Meetings in

January or February of 2021. Notification of time and date will be passed on. Everyone stay safe so we can all be together again.

On a sad note, Jim Dundon passed away. He had been a 42 year member of the club and a long time member of the Retirees. Rest in Peace Jim. You will be remembered and missed. The many cards and wishes are very much appreciated by Ro and Dom.

To everybody: Please have a Very Merry Christmas (if this gets there in time} and a Happy, Happy New Year. Good Luck and Good Health in 2021.

Until we meet again,
As usual it's RO.



INVEST YOUR
SAVINGS
IN AN ATS
ANNUITY PLAN

SECRETARIES TAKE NOTICE:

THE DEADLINE DATE FOR ARTICLES
IS WEDNESDAY - 12 NOON.

You may either

MAIL: 29076 Fall River Dr
Westlake OH 44145
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, DECEMBER 30, 2020	FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2021
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021	FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2021
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021	FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2021

Please have your articles in by 12 Noon.

Did you miss the deadline?

Have you emailed your article past 12 Noon?
Please call Hanz Hermann at (440) 525-0020

CHURCHES



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. Barbara Holzhauser
Pastor**

10:00 Worship Service

*There are only two forces
in the world, the sword
and the spirit. In the
long run the sword will
always be conquered by
the spirit.*

Napoleon Bonaparte

*And is it true? And is
it true,*

*This most tremendous
tale of all,*

*Seen in a stained-glass
window's hue,*

*A Baby in an in ox's
stall?*

*The Maker of the stars
and sea*

*Became a Child on
earth for me?*

*Sir John Betjeman,
1954*

*I have always thought
of Christmas time as a
good time; a kind, forgiv-
ing, charitable, pleas-
ant time; the only time I
know of in the long cal-
endar of the year; when
men and women seem
by one consent to open
their shut-up hearts
freely.*

Charles Dickens

Low-carb diet? That New Year's Eve party could be dangerous

If you are on a low-carb diet and plan to drink at a New Year's party, here's some advice you may not hear often: Eat carbs.

The fact is that on a low-carb diet, you are intentionally depleting glycogen and since that high-priority nutrient isn't there, alcohol metabolism will speed up. According to Carb Manager, on a low-carb diet, you might find yourself drunk on half as much alcohol.

So it is best to eat all those carbs you haven't enjoyed for a while before a New Year's Eve party. Eat some bread and pasta before the party. Yes, you won't be in fat-burning mode any more, and, yes, you will be officially off your diet. But chances are that you won't unwittingly get too drunk too fast.

No one should drink on an empty stomach

If you plan to drink, make sure you eat a good dinner that includes bread, pasta, beans, or other carbohydrate-dense foods.

A standard drink has about 14 grams of alcohol. That equals a small glass of wine, a regular beer, or 1.5 ounces of spirits.

Every person's body absorbs that standard drink in a different way, depending on body size and age, with people who larger and older absorbing it slowest.

That means young and small people feel the alcohol quickest. That can be dangerous.

Food slows down the absorption of alcohol. Alcohol quickly moves from your mouth to nearly every part of the body. The stomach, bloodstream, liver, kidneys, brain, lungs and skin are all affected by alcohol, according to Healthline.

About 20 percent of a alcoholic drink is absorbed by the stomach into the blood. The rest goes to the small intestine, where food makes the biggest difference and can slow down absorption.

Michael Gierscher † 1941-2020

Michael Gierscher was born in the village of Schorsten, Romania in 1941 to Transylvanian Saxon parents who were farmers. Michael's father served in WWII and was killed in the war, and his mother was taken away to a forced labor camp in Russia. Michael lived with his grandmother and attended school through the eighth grade.

Michael emigrated to Cleveland, Ohio in 1965, sponsored by his mother and stepfather, Regina and Andreas Groffner. He married his childhood friend Regina Hihn (who was also a Transylvanian Saxon born in Schorsten) in 1968, adopted Regina's daughter Malwine, and had 2 sons (Michael, Jr. and Martin) with Regina.

Michael worked as a tool and die maker for many years, and owned his own successful business - Albion Machine & Tool Co., Inc. - which was his pride and joy. Michael and his family lived in the Cleveland area for his entire life. Michael sold his business in 2007 and retired in 2012.

Michael was President of the Cleveland Saxon Dance Group for approximately 15 years and tirelessly promoted the Saxon culture in the Cleveland area. He organized numerous cultural exchanges with the Donauschwaben and Schuhplattler dance groups at their respective clubs. Through his efforts, the Cleveland Saxon Dance Group performed at numerous Saxon Heimattags in Cleveland, Detroit, Salem, and Canada, as well as cultural festivals at other venues such as the Polynesian Garden Center in



Hawaii and Epcot Center in Walt Disney World, Florida. Michael also assisted his lifelong friends Stefan Bell and Steve Bencic numerous times in organizing the annual Cleveland Oktoberfest.

Michael was a lifelong member of Branch 1 of the Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons and was an active member of the Eintracht Germania choir for many years. He also served on the Board of Directors for the Cleveland Sachsenheim for approximately 5 years.

Michael contracted COVID-19 and peacefully passed away on December 9, 2020 at age 79, leaving Regina, his spouse of 52 years; 3 children: Malwine (Edmund), Michael, Jr. (Cheryl) and Martin (Theresa); and 9 grandchildren: Erik, Kevin and Alex Kauntz; Audra, Cecilia, Isaak and Charles Gierscher, and Katherine and Emily Gierscher. He enjoyed spending time with his family and grandchildren.

His family will miss him dearly. Michael was laid to rest at Sunset Memorial Park on December 14, 2020 following a private funeral service.

Social Security Administration announces 2021 cost-of-living adjustment



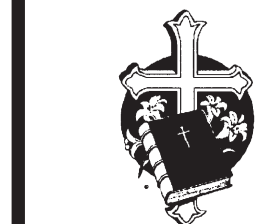
The U.S. Social Security Administration (SSA) announced its cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for 2021: 1.3 percent, one of the lowest increases in the program's history, according to CNBC. The increase affects benefits for more than 64 million recipients, according to Forbes.

That means that the average retiree receiving \$1,519.07 per month will see an increase of about \$0.65 per day, or a little more than \$237 per year, according to the Greensboro News & Record.

Other changes include an

adjustment to the maximum earnings subject to the Social Security tax. Americans will pay the 6.2 percent Social Security tax on all earnings up to \$142,800, a 3.7 percent increase over the previous maximum of \$137,700.

If you receive Social Security benefits and continue to work, you will be able to earn up to \$50,520 in 2021, up from \$48,600. For every \$3 you earn over the limit,



**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.**

John M. Thalgot

Age 77

Died: November 10, 2020
Branch 37, Detroit, MI

Elizabeth Josef

Age 84

Died: November 17, 2020
Home Branch

Hannelore Hendel

Age 86

Died: December 1, 2020
Branch 10, Columbus, OH

Martin Ordosch, Jr.

Age 86

Died: December 2, 2020
Branch 1, Cleveland, OH

Lee Sawyer

Age 91

Died: December 3, 2020
Branch 30, Youngstown, OH

Anneliese Hausmann

Age 82

Died: December 5, 2020
Branch 4, Cleveland, OH

Michael Gierscher

Age 79

Died: December 9, 2020
Branch 1, Cleveland, OH

William Cavender

Age 65

Died: December 10, 2020
Home Branch

your benefits will be reduced by \$1.

Retirees also need to factor in Medicare Part B and Part D premiums. According to an interview in Forbes, Mary Johnson, a policy analyst with the Senior Citizens League says that the increase is disappointingly low compared to 2019's 2.8 percent increase.

The 1.3 percent increase is the third lowest in the last decade, ranking higher than 0.3 percent in 2017 and no increase in 2016. The highest increase of the past decade was 2011, with a 3.6 percent increase.

FRATERNAL CALENDAR

NATIONAL EVENTS

March 7, 2021
TSBA Spring Tournamant
Host Youngstown Bowlers
July 9-11, 2021
North American Saxon Heimattag
Host: Salem Saxon Club

ATS Masks for Sale



The ATS has face masks for sale.
ATS Secretary, Monica Gilles, modeled
the mask while working at the ATS Office.

Masks are \$5.00 each. Send checks payable to
ATS Home Office
5393 Pearl Road
Cleveland, OH 44129

BRANCH 4, CLEVELAND
By Joan Miller-Malue

We wish to thank our members and friends who volunteered to make sausage this year. Even COVID-19 was not going to stop our traditional sausage making at the Sachsenheim. There is wisdom that comes from experience and we are thankful to Adolf Fischer for advising in the preparation of the sale and Horst Hebrank who supervised that the recipe was followed and all makings were in order. Branch 1 President, Rob Hanek, was so grateful for their input. We thank all that supported the sale. It made a nice profit which is needed to help defray expenses at our clubhouse.

Santa was so happy to see and talk with some of our junior members at the drive-up Christmas event. It was disappointing to me that we could not use our decorations due to the winds that day but I don't think the children minded, they were thrilled to see Santa and receive a gift and treat bag. Hopefully, next year will permit us to have our typical Christmas Party. We do miss seeing our

young members throughout the year. It is so rewarding to observe how they change throughout the years.

We have been in this unusual lifestyle for almost a year now. Work, studies, and leisure are all done from home. No parties, no big gatherings, no Christmas shopping at crowded malls. Jobs were lost, businesses closed shop. Some dear family and friends were also lost in this COVID-19 pandemic. And we don't know when this will really end. But now there is hope and a light at the end of the tunnel with the release of the vaccine. This Christmas we will be having smaller family gatherings but the real reason for this season will not change. The true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of God's incredible act of love by the birth of Jesus, our Savior. We celebrate Christmas each year out of gratitude for what God did for us, we remember His birth by giving each other gifts, worshipping Him, and being especially conscious of the poor and less fortunate. We wish all members and friends a blessed Christmas!

YOUR
STORY

The Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons is looking for members to share their family's personal story of life in Transylvania and their journey to America.

The ATS is hoping to gather enough stories that we can publish a book that will be valuable to future generations on learning from personal memoirs on how our Saxons lived in Transylvania and their travels from their homeland.

Individuals submitting their stories can also include photos.

Submit your story to the ATS Home Office, 5393 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44129. Include your full name, phone number, email and local Branch No.

We hope that we can collect enough stories within the year that we can publish a book of Transylvanian Saxon Memoirs.

BRANCH 18, SALEM
By Barbara Spack

Election of officers for 2021 took place at the November meeting and they are President Marilyn McNutt, 1st Vice President Chris Phillis, 2nd Vice President Terri Spack, Recording Secretary Barbara Spack, Financial Secretary Helen Aeling, Treasurer Sharon Walker, Trustees Mary Ann Roth, Marcia Spack, Trudy Ehrhart,

Mary Lou Weingart, ATS Secretary Barbara Spack, and Sergeant-at-Arms Kate Lederle. Congratulations to the new slate of officers and thank you for serving your positions. The officers were installed at the December meeting.

Many of our regular events have been cancelled including the 50 Year Dinner to

honor those who are members for fifty or more years. This year's inductees include Cathy Sudol from Branch 18 and Jim Weber from Branch 19. Both were recognized at the monthly meetings and given their certificates, a 50-year ATS pin, and a gift card to Boneshakers Restaurant in Salem.

Terri Spack was chairperson for the Salvation Army Christmas Clothing event and the ladies sponsored 30 children again this year.

Donations from Branch 18 were sent to the ATS Saxon Relief Fund, Winona Volunteer Fire Department, Hospice of the Valley, and the Salem Food Pantry.

The merger committee will meet after the first of the year to start the process for merging Branches 18 and 19.

The January and February meetings have been cancelled at this time and the March meeting will be decided later depending on the health and welfare of our members.



Cathy Sudol receives her 50-year member certificate from Branch 18 President Marilyn McNutt.



Jim Weber receives his 50-year member certificate from Branch 19 President George Spack.



**CHRISTMAS:
Celebration, Legends and Stories**

There are so many stories, Saxon and others, that I would like share some of them with you. I have heard the stories of Kris Kringle, putting brightly shined shoes out for placing gifts in them, stockings, gifts of oranges, tangerines, not putting up the Christmas Tree (der Tannenbaum, der Weihnachtsbaum, der Christbaum) until Christmas Eve, ribbon candy, special chocolates, etc. Here are some of the traditions and how they came about. They may not be exactly how you celebrated but they may touch on some of your memories.

Who was this Kris Kringle, St. Nicholas, Santa Claus, Father Christmas, Sinterklass, ChristKind, etc. and how did he become part of the Christmas celebration?

Saint Nicholas was a Bishop who lived in the fourth century. He was a rich man, as his parents died when he was young and left him a lot of money. He was a very kind and enjoyed helping the poor and needy by giving them secret gifts to the people that were in need. In addition, there are many legends about St. Nicholas and it is not known if they are all truth or myth.

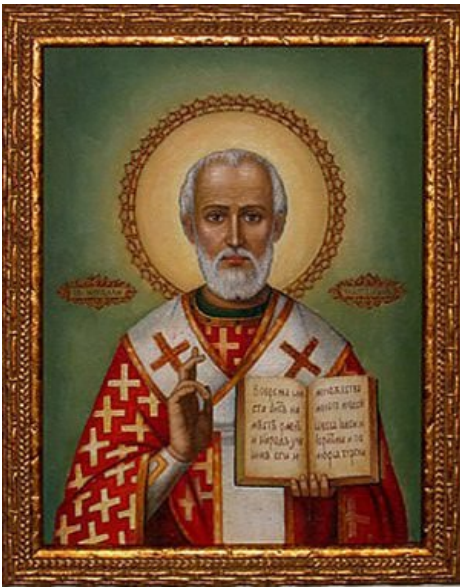


Image from the St. Nicholas Center
www.stnicholascenter.org

One famous story of St. Nicholas explains how the custom of hanging stockings, to put presents in them, first came about. There was a poor man who had three daughters. He was so poor that he did not have the money to offer as a dowry (this is the money paid to a bridegroom by the bride's parents on the wedding day). This is probably how the Bride's parents even today, foot expensive bill for weddings. So, one night Nicholas, knowing the situation, became a secret donor. Nicholas would drop a bag of gold down the chimney and into the house. This would enable the oldest daughter to have a dowry and be able to get married. Rumor has it that the gold was dropped into a stocking that had been hung by the

fire to dry. Again, this happened for the second daughter. The father, curious of what was happening, hid by the fire every evening until he caught Nicholas dropping a bag of gold. Nicholas would beg the man not to tell anyone what he had done because he wanted his good will and gesture to remain anonymous. The father could not keep this kind gesture secret and it became known to everyone. So after that whenever someone received a secret gift, it was thought that it had come from Nicholas. Because of his kindness, Nicholas was made a Saint. I am sure that all fathers of brides today would love to have a St. Nicholas help them out with the huge costs of weddings. I remember a TV show when I was young, called "The Millionaire." A wealthy man would anonymously gift one million dollar, tax free, to an individual. The only restriction was that he could not divulge how he came about receiving the money. If he did he would have to repay the money back to the donor. Nicholas should have had the father sign a document like this. The Millionaire sounds like a variation of the story of Nicholas.

St. Nicholas was not just kind to children only, but to also to sailors. There's a story of some sailors that were caught in a bad storm. The storm was raging around them and everyone was terrified that their ship would be sunk by the tremendous waves battering the ship. They prayed to St. Nicholas to help them. St. Nicholas ordered the sea to be calm, the storm died away, and they were able to sail their ship safely to port. This sounds very familiar to Jesus calming the seas during the storm but in this scenario St. Nicholas gets credit from the sailors.

Was St. Nicholas real? Yes, he definitely was real. Unfortunately, the story does not end well for St. Nicholas. St. Nicholas was exiled and later put into prison during the persecution of Christians by the Roman Emperor Diocletian. No one knows when he died, but it was on December 6th, in either 345 or 352. In 1087, some Italian merchant sailors stole his bones from Turkey. The bones are now kept in the church named after him in the Italian port of Bari. On St. Nicholas day (December 6th), sailors of Bari still carry his statue from the cathedral out to sea, so that he can bless the waters and give them safe voyages throughout the year.

So is it just coincidence that on December 6th, the same day St. Nicholas died, that there is a celebration of the Feast of St. Nicholas occurs in parts of Europe. On the preceding evening, December 5th, Krampus Night or Krampusnacht, the wicked hairy devil appears on the streets. Sometimes St. Nicholas

accompanies him and sometimes he appears on his own. Saint Nicholas on his visits is only concerned with the good children while Krampusnacht (Krampus) is responsible for the bad children. Nicholas gives nice gifts to the good children, while Krampus provides coal and Ruten bundles (birch branches) that he uses to swat the bad children. If that is not scary enough for bad children to be worried about, the picture of Krampus should be. He is described as "half-goat, half-demon, hairy, cloven hooves, long pointed tongue and fangs." And, if that still doesn't scare the bad children, Krampus has a large bag and possibly cart, that he would put the bad children in, to be taken away for drowning, to be eaten or taken to hell. Well if that had been added to the story of naughty or nice lists you wouldn't have had to tell me to be good a second time. I am glad they kept that celebration in Europe.

Did you know that Rudolph and the other tiny reindeer were probably female? In the story all the reindeer had antlers. Only female reindeer keep their antlers during the winter, while male reindeer shed their antlers in order to save their energy and grow a new pair in the spring.

No matter what story, legend or myth that has been told to you, one thing in common is that Christmas is the Season for Giving. God gave us the greatest gift we will ever receive. He gave us His perfect Son, Jesus Christ. Just as God gave us Christ, God expects us to be giving and generous, not only at Christmas as we celebrate Christ's Birthday, but every day of the year.

In keeping with the Christmas Spirit, the Columbus Branch has its own legend. To all the good Saxons, and aren't all Saxons good, the Saxon Santa spreads good will and gifts to all the good Saxons. With that there is nothing more to say than Merry Christmas and Happy



May your blessings be many,
May your troubles be few,
May your health be blessed,
May your ills be few,
May your happiness be plentiful,
May your sadness be few,
May your days be wonderful,
May your troubles be few,
May each day let you know
you are loved and cherished!

ANNIVERSARY

Please join me in wishing John

Things to try this winter

**New Year's resolution:
Don't be bump on log
this winter.**

Ha. Easy to say.

But let's suppose we get the spirit, just when the knees cooperate and the stars are aligned. What to do?

Here are some ideas to stay active, physically and mentally, during these peak winter months:

- Chair yoga classes, tai chi or resistance band exercises. Lots of options out there and all free if you use YouTube.
- Try Kahoot! This game-based learning platform is used in classrooms, offices and at home. Families and friends can play together via video conferencing. A basic plan is free while a Family plan is about \$7.50 a month.
- Join an online book club. Any number of book clubs are open, from Oprah's Book Club to one hosted by NFL quarterback Andrew Luck (appropriately named "Andrew Luck Book Club") and one from the AARP called The Girlfriend Book Club, with more than 14,000 members. Search "on-line book club" to find more.
- Join a real-life book club. One trend is a conversation club in which everyone gets a chance to tell something about the book they read, the movie they saw, or the television show they watched during the month. It can have an theme, such as self-help books, politics, or even romance books. Or it can have no fixed subject.
- Learn a language. Or at least learn to say hello in a bunch of languages! Try duolingo.com for free language lessons.

and Sara Kalwiener a very Happy Anniversary. On January 22nd, they will be celebrating the 71st Wedding Anniversary. Happy Anniversary and wish you many more.

BIRTHDAYS

Please join me in wishing the following people a very Happy Birthday:

Hedy Fleischer, a New Year Baby, January 1st

Olga Hesch, January 12th

John Gellner, January 23rd

We wish them many, many more birthdays and good health. We hope you have a wonderful celebration.

PotPourri

Your Horoscope

January 2021

ARIES: It's a new year and a new future. Don't settle for whatever you think your fate is. Make a plan to get better.

TAURUS: The stars predict a lucky year for you. Get in a happy mood and set the stage for progress.

GEMINI: Making resolutions? One you may not have considered: Resolve not to do anything that furthers conflict. Peace brings you what you need this year.

CANCER: You will be able to handle it all, though it might not seem so right now. Try a few minutes of silence to calm your mind and clarify your goals.

LEO: After the decorations are put away, recharge and renew your energy. You can be satisfied with your efforts during the holidays. Claim your peace.

VIRGO: No need to fret about that gift that didn't go over that well, or the small details of the holidays that could have been better. Stow away your 'should haves' with the ornaments. Relax.

LIBRA: Reject fear now. Even if the worst happens, it won't be as bad as you think. Remember, danger will be exaggerated and wellbeing must be cultivated.

SCORPIO: You may be in a forgiving mood this month. Stars say the reason is your success at handling recent stresses.

SAGITTARIUS: The hectic pace you've kept recently may have put you out of touch with friends. But stars say they are your most important contacts. Get together.

CAPRICORN: Stars say it's back to a sense of normalcy after a difficult few months. You'll enjoy smooth sailing for a while.

AQUARIUS: Keeping one of your New Year's resolutions becomes important during the next few months. Focus on your goals and results.

PISCES: Stars say you have a change of heart and realize that something you despised is not as bad as you thought. Take time to examine how you can repair the damage.

BRANCH 9, CHICAGO By Rose-Marie Hauer

On behalf of the Board we wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Frohe Weihnachten und ein glückliches Neues Jahr!

We understand that the ongoing COVID-19 situation is an unprecedented challenge for everyone. Our hearts and thoughts go out to our Saxon members, colleagues, and families and any infected with the virus.

The impact of COVID-19 is forcing organizations from all fields and industries to reconsider their all-important events in 2020/2021, and our club has been no exception.

The Board members of Branch 9 met on Zoom December 6 and discussed keeping all the Officers in their same positions due to the pandemic and they all agreed to keep their positions.

In order for our members to keep their benefits all members must continue to pay their \$15 per member yearly dues. **Please make your check out to Transylvanian Saxon Benefit Society. Mail all checks to: Claudia Schmidt 8550 Niles Center Road Skokie, IL 60077 by January 31, 2021.** In the memo of the check write: Dues Branch 9 2021.

As soon as things open up we can get back together. We have tentatively scheduled the Picnic for July 18, 2021. Continue to watch articles in the Volksblatt for further information.

Branch 9 extends its deepest sympathy to the family of Rosa Kroner. Rosa Kroner was 98 years old. Rosa was the mother of John and Frank Kroner. She had five grandchildren and many great grandchildren. May she rest in peace.

The Board made a charitable donation to the Advocate Lutheran General Hospital Child Life Program to purchase gifts for the children for Christmas.



Ațel / Hetzeldorf

The importance of the village of Ațel in the Middle Age results from its Gothic basilica which was built in several phases, boasting a transept, a sacristy, and a western tower. The impressive stone carvings on the pillars of the middle nave originate from the first building phase in 1380, while the rich decorated western portal might have been added in the second building phase at the beginning of the 15th century, when the fortification wall was built. In 1499 the third building phase was completed with the construction of the vaults above the naves, the heightening of the chancel and the building of the upper floors on the tower. Inside the church, beside the magnificent capitals of the pillars one can admire, the late Gothic sedilia and the finely crafted portal of the sacristy are very remarkable. The chancel boasts a pew with carvings and inlay work dating back to 1516.

Place and surroundings

Johannes Klatt, better known as Hansi, has been for many decades the castle guardian of Ațel. He rings the bells three times every day. His job is particularly hard if one of the villagers dies. The bells have to be rung for a full hour, which is strenuous work, while the bell ropes in the tower will pull Hansi up and down. If a storm is approaching he will rush to the tower and ring the bells until the threatening clouds have passed. In his way Hansi is protecting the village from many dangers. Once in a while he will climb the steep wooden stairs to the top of the tower, passing Gothic windows, which were bricked up many years ago when Ațel was still threatened by the so-called "runners" and "burners". From the height of the defense platform he will let his eyes wander over the red and brown roofs of the village, then follow the bends of the road, which disappears between the vineyards to the north. No enemies are to be seen nowadays, only tourists from time to time.



Fortified Churches Foundation
www.kirchenburgen.org

Alles gute zum Namenstag!

Dietmar, Horst	2. Januar
Daniel	3. Januar
Isabella	4. Januar
Egbert, Simon, Simeon	5. Januar
Isidor, Raimund	7. Januar
Dieter, Erhard	8. Januar
Beatus	9. Januar
Wieland	10. Januar
Hilda	11. Januar
Reinhold	12. Januar
Herwig, Vigilius	13. Januar
Walburga	14. Januar
Selma, Senta	15. Januar
Thusnelda	16. Januar
Anton, Ulfried, Widukind	17. Januar
Wieland	18. Januar
Sara	19. Januar
Sebastian	20. Januar
Agnes, Agneta	21. Januar
Dietlinde, Vincenz	22. Januar
Hildebrand	23. Januar
Timotheus	24. Januar
Ella	26. Januar
Karl	28. Januar
Roger, Rüdiger	29. Januar
Adelgunde	30. Januar
Vigilius	31. Januar



Choruses

**CLEVELAND, SECTION 1
EINTRACHT SAXONIA
SACHSENCOR**
Rehearsal:
Tuesdays 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

PRESIDENT
Horst Hebrank
26148 Kennedy Ridge Rd
No Olmsted OH 44070
(440) 734-2584
SECRETARY
Christa Herbert
4703 West Ridgewood Dr.
Parma, OH 44134
440-888-6094

**NEW CASTLE, SECTION 6
EINTRACHT MÄNNERCHOR**
Rehearsal:
Every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

PRESIDENT
Jonathan Baisch
3336 Plank Rd
New Castle PA 16105
(724) 519-0519
newcastleintracht@gmail.com

SECRETARY
Samuel Audia
635 Moffatt Rd
New Castle PA 16101
(724) 651- 3354
eintrachtmaennerchor@gmail.com

**ERIE
SIEBENBUERGER SINGERS**
Meet Monday at
Siebenbuenger Club

PRESIDENT
Tim Clint
5805 West Road
McKean, PA 16426
(814)572-6639
Email: tjclint@verizon.net



Cultural Groups

**CLEVELAND SAXON
DANCE GROUP**
Rehearsal: Fridays
6:30 p.m Children
7:30 pm Adults
Westside Sachsenheim
PRESIDENT
Stephanie Miller
23500 Wingedfoot Dr
Westlake OH 44145
(216) 647-3229
Samiller55@sbcglobal.net

SECRETARY
Bryan Sizemore
4510 W 145th St
Cleveland OH 44135
(216) 314-3828
Bsize650420@gmail.com

**YOUNGSTOWN
SAXON CULTURE GROUP**
Meets: 2nd Sunday of Month
Youngstown Saxon Club
PRESIDENT
Erna Weber
525 Quarry Ln
Warren OH 44483
(330) 509-9421
Saxnerna@aol.com

SECRETARY
Kevin McCarty
1901 Oakwood
Youngstown, OH 44509
(330) 883-7162
mccartks@gmail.com

TRANSYLVANIAN SAXON BOWLING LEAGUE



PRESIDENT
Glenn Spack
943 Stewart Rd.
Salem, OH 44460
(330) 332-8174
sspack2@neo.rr.com

VICE PRESIDENT
Tom Simon
538 S Schenley Ave
Youngstown, OH 44509
(330) 720-7988
ts112063@gmail.com

SECRETARY-TREASURER
Jenny Miller King
25321 Conover Dr.
Bay Village, OH 44140
(216) 551-1728
jmill411@yahoo.com

**STATISTICAL SEC'Y.
(Men & Women)**
Carl J. Schmitz
26652 Redwood Dr.
Olmsted Falls, OH 44138
(440) 799-1940
cjsaintrite@aol.com

TRUSTEES AUDITORS
Rich Baker
232 Reiber Road
Hermitage PA 16148
(724) 854-0149
Karen Kinser
13626 Beech St. NE
Alliance, OH 44601
(330) 581-5049
Monica Gilles
3520 Beavercrest Dr Apt 107
Lorain, OH 44053
(440) 309-7894
gillmo76@hotmail.com



Are your
children,
grandchildren,
nieces and nephews
members of the ATS?
Let them benefit from
our fraternal program
and be a part of
our history!



BOOKS

The Saxon Cook Book - Third Edition
Over 400 Saxon/American Recipes \$12.00 per copy (postpaid)

Fleeing to the Friendly Enemy by Barbara Ohler Weber
A true story of the author's experiences during World War II
and her immigration to America in the 1950's.
\$14.00 per copy (postpaid)

Flucht aus Siebenbürgen by Monika Görig/Maria Schneider
Memoirs of Maria Schneider written in German describing her
family's hardships when they had to flee from their home in
1944 and start a new life in Austria.
\$20 per copy (postpaid)

Saxons Through Seventeen Centuries, author Rev. John Foisel
A paperback which provides a romantic account of the customs
and phases of intellectual development of the Transylvanian
people. Not intended to be a history of Transylvania, rather a
story of our people based upon seventeen centuries of history.
\$15 per copy (postpaid)

Why Can't Somebody Just Die Around Here?, author Gerhard
Maroscher. Tells the story of how his family was impacted by
World War II. His mother fled Transylvania with two young
sons and his father reluctantly served in three Axis armies
and was a prisoner of war by the Russians. Family immi-
grated to the USA to live the American dream.
\$24.95 per copy (postpaid)

All books unless noted have English Text.

Proceeds from book sales go to the Saxon Orphan Fund Program.

Order From:
The Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons
5393 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44129
Make Checks/Money Orders payable to
ATS ORPHAN FUND
ATS Member, please indicate Branch number.

SAXON SENIORS

**YOUNGSTOWN
SAXON RETIREES**
Meets 2nd Thursday 11:30 a.m.
Youngstown Saxon Club
(March - December)

PRESIDENT
Diana Kommel
666 N. Schenley
Youngstown, OH 44509
(330) 799-1738
SECRETARY
Rosemary Dundon
7637 E Parkside Dr
Youngstown OH 44512
(330) 726-6851

SALEM SAXON RETIREES
Meets 1st Wednesday
of the month
Noon at 1980 NewGarden Rd

PRESIDENT
Lois Whitacre
15425 Lisbon St.
Minerva, OH 44657
(330) 813-0400
SECRETARY
Dianne Kuttler
4282 McCann Rd
Salem OH 44460
(330) 428-1723

USE ONLY THIS FORM FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND CANCELLATIONS CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Branch No. _____

Certificate No. _____ SS# _____

All information in the form
to the right and below must
be correctly typed, or
legibly written.

- ☐ CHANGE
☐ CANCELLATION
☐ NEW to receive paper

Date of Birth _____

Name _____

Old Street Address was _____

City/State/Zip _____

New Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

THIS CHANGE IS FOR:

- ☐ HOME OFFICE RECORDS & VOLKSBLATT
☐ VOLKSBLATT ONLY

Date: _____ Signature of Person Making Change _____



Happy New Year Wish

My Happy New Year wish for you

Is for your best year yet,
A year where life is peaceful,
And what you want, you get.

A year in which you cherish
The past year's memories,
And live your life each new day,
Full of bright expectancies.

I wish for you a holiday
With happiness galore;
And when it's done, I wish you
Happy New Year, and many more.

By Joanna Fuchs

Happy New Year
from the ATS Board of Directors