The Best Gift of All

Christmas comes just once a year;
The calendar makes that fact quite clear.

For weeks and weeks we bake and shop;
Like busy beavers we never stop.

Friends and family gather near
To share the season and the cheer.

But all too soon Christmas is done
To the chagrin of everyone.
Oh, if only good will could remain
To neutralize worldly hate and pain.

When all decorations are packed away,
And life goes back to the everyday;
There still remains the best gift of all,
The birth of Jesus the Savior small.

The promise that His birth did bring
Fills my heart with hope to cling.
Believe in Jesus and you will share,
Eternity without a care.

Judith E. Both, Branch 27

Christmas!
Schloss Hornbeck needs OUR help!

Since 1960 Schloss Hornbeck 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 Hornbeck gives the Siebenbürger Saxons throughout the world a central location where Saxon artifacts, books and other historical documents can be collected and stored to preserve our ethnic history for many years.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 HORNBECK FUND**

**NAME**

**ADDRESS**

**CITY**

**STATE**

**ZIP CODE**

**AMOUNT DONATED** $ 

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

**BRANCH 27, NEW CASTLE By Dolores Both**

With bright and cheerful smiles, the Branch 27 ladies arrived at our Christmas party at Faraone Brothers Restaurant Thursday, December 1. The first task of the evening for the ladies was choosing a Christmas card and matching it to the card at their place setting. This ice breaker was quite a surprise, but resulted in much conversation and laughter throughout the evening.

President Marie Benedict warmly welcomed all to our party and raised her glass of sparkling wine and toasted all wishing everyone and their families and friends a loving and blessed Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Judy Both said grace before dinner and Men. thanked Carol Lang for driving in to attend our party. It was nice to be able to visit with her again. Our good wishes go out to Dan Both, Marie Kraus, Sara Augustine, Jim Jeffries and Tom Manning.

Men. thanked Dolores Both and Jean Kaba for arranging our Christmas party. Amelia Johnson swore in the officers for 2017. They are: Marie Benedict, President; Jane Fishovitz, Vice President; Jean Kaba, Recording Secretary; Gertrude Tizak, Financial Secretary; Helen Burick, Treasurer; Dolores Both, Linda Stoops and Glorie Geisel, Trustees; Judy Both, ATS Secretary.

Marie encouraged everyone to participate in the club activities the men have scheduled this month. They have been working hard making improvements at the club. The new lighting certainly made the club room brighter and more enjoyable.

Gertrude Tizak is collecting 2017 dues. Since we will not meet in January and February, leave your dues check at the bar in an envelope addressed to Gertrude or send your check to Gertrude Tizak, 241 Cambridge Street #401, New Castle, PA 16105

A suggestion was made to have a speaker at our next meeting after the winter break. We will look for someone interesting to address our group in March or April. Our next meeting will be March 2 at 3:00 pm at the club. Until then, a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

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**SAXON NEWS VOLKSBLETT December 16, 2016 - 2**

**SECRETARIES TAKE NOTICE:**

**THE DEADLINE DATE FOR ARTICLES IS WEDNESDAY - 12 NOON.**

You may either

MAIL: PO BOX 45198, Westlake, OH 44145

FAX: (440) 399-5339

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 21, 2016 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2016

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2017 FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2017 FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2017

Please have your articles in by 12 Noon.

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Did you miss the deadline?

Have you emailed your article past 12 noon?

Please call Hanz or Barb Hermann at (440) 892-0436.
SAXON NEWS FROM THE WEST COAST

As I was typing the date it came to mind Pearl Harbor. I was an usher in a movie theater in Girard, Ohio when the announcement was made of the attack on Pearl Harbor, then the somber address from President Roosevelt of the attack on our forces at Pearl Harbor. It was not easy to accept. Wouldn’t it be a wonderful gift and a welcome prayer if all wars would cease and all peoples would come together with Love and Peace? What a blessing to the world for all to work and see together what Peace is all about. With this I will wish all who reads this a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Love filled New Year 2017.

You may not know that Rich Maurer is ill, he was in the hospital and may be home now. Jim Dudon was in the hospital and is now home. Dr. John Boehm is in the Alliance Hospital doing some rehab. At Community Care, Tom Hahn is home recuperating from his hip surgery doing rehab and anticipating knee surgery. The best I can say is listen to your doctor or therapist and get well soon. Take it easy, guys.

December 6th the Saxon Club served a dinner to about 200 mentally and physically challenged children from our area. If you ever want to be challenged to assist volunteer for this dinner, it’s a joy to be able to help.

Programs of interest coming up: The Culture Group Christmas Party on December 18th, the Youngstown Saxon Club will close early on Christmas Eve December 24th and will remain closed on Christmas Day, December 25th. If you look closely I had the wrong dates, last issue. The bar and lounge will close early on Saturday, December 31st. Tickets are being sold for the Annual New Year’s Eve Dinner and Dance. There is a great ad, on page 4. in the December 2nd issue of the Volksblatt. I am sure it will reappear in this issue. The Sunday Pork and Kraut dinners will be back in January 2017

Sunday Bingo does a great job for the Youngstown Saxon Club. Regardless, there is a need for workers, helpers, volunteers, whatever you call it, just say relief help. We are looking for a Bingo caller for Sunday Bingo. If 48 were to volunteer for assistance at Bingo, no one would work the game more than once a month. There are 12 people needed for each night. The time required about 6 hours each time. This would give the present workers some needed relief. I can’t help any other, call the Club office 330-792-7973 or Barry Garhammer at 330-788-4274. You would be in for many thanks.

Branch 30 nominations for officers and trustees in 2017: President-No Nomination, 1st VP Barry Garhammer, 2nd VP - No Nomination, 3rd VP Dave Stryffeler. Treasurer Don Hoelzel, Recording Secretary Jim Mauch, Financial Secretary Don Hoelzel, Ass’t Fin Sec’y, Mike Markey, Corresponding Secretary (not official) Tom Fizez, volunteer, Librarian, Matt Reardon, Sgt @ Arms Tom Hahn, ATS Secretary Jim Mauch, Trustees (7 named) Garland Dunkel and Dick Huebner. These men were elected to serve in 2017 by a unanimous ballot. Ernie Roth, the outgoing President, offered to serve as Assistant Pro Tem in 2017, until the office is filled by volunteer/appointments by the officers. All vacant positions can be filled this way.

Jim Mauch is the ATS Deputy. (Life Insurance and Annuities) for Branch 22030. Call Jim at 330-792-8484 or email jmauch@zoominternet.net. Read the Volksblatt for all information.

So Goes the News.

“May you have the gladness of Christmas which is hope:
The spirit of Christmas, which is peace:
The heart of Christmas which is love:
I have a list of people
All written in a book
And every year at Christmas time
I go and take a look
And that is when I realize
That those names are all a part
Not of the book they’re written in
But of my very heart
For each name stands for someone
Who has crossed my path some time
And in that meeting they’ve become
A treasured friend of mine
And once you’ve met some people
The years cannot erase
The memory of a pleasant word
Or of a friendly face
So when I send an email
That is addressed to you
It’s because you’re on that “Special list.”
Of folks that I am indebted to
And you are one of several folks
In times past that I’ve met
And happen to be one of those
I don’t want ever to forget
And whether I have known you
For many years or few
In some way you have had a part
In giving things I do
So this is the Spirit of Christmas
That forever still endures
May it leave its rich blessings in the hearts of you and your.
Submitted by Andy Schiller
Branch 9, Chicago
(Get well soon, Onzi!)
The Public Is Welcome
The Youngstown Saxon Club
710 S. Meridian Road Youngstown, OH 44509

New Year’s Eve 2016
Celebrate & Dance To The Music!
Jim Frank Trio @ 8:30pm
Doors Open @ 6:30pm,
Dinner @ 7:30pm
Cash Bar.
Pop, Coffee, Tea & Favors Provided.
$30.00/Person, $55.00/Couple
For Tickets, call Barry at 330-788-4274
The Saxon Club Office at 330-792-7973

The members and friends of Br. 37 celebrated the annual Christmas party at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, December 4th. Everyone who attended had an enjoyable afternoon, especially the children.

The Music Messengers, Rob and Dennis, entertained everyone with music and accompanied the audience in the singing of Christmas songs. The singing of Jingle Bells prompted Santa Claus to enter and bring joy to everyone, especially the children.

The children were delighted with their gifts and, after visiting and taking pictures with Santa, they bid Santa farewell, since he had other stops to make.

A very special thank you to Santa for taking the time to visit the children at Br. 37.

As President of Br. 37, I would like to thank everyone who made this afternoon possible. Either by preparing food, buying gifts, cleaning up or just helping out wherever it was needed. Katie Moody prepared and served the food. Debbie Ferguson was a great help to Santa, by assisting in purchasing the gifts for the children. Susie Leprich for decorating the tables. Mike Rehner, Rob Schneider and Dennis for entertaining us with Christmas music. Without the dedication of these people, none of these activities would take place. Thank you to all the members who brought cookies, which were enjoyed by everyone after the delicious meal.

Also a special thanks to all the officers who dedicate their time in keeping our Branch going throughout the year. Without the dedication of these people, none of these activities would take place. Thank you to all the members who brought cookies, which were enjoyed by everyone after the delicious meal.

Also a special thanks to all the officers who dedicate their time in keeping our Branch going throughout the year. Without the dedication of these people, none of these activities would take place.

A new marriage or a new house, your first child -- and suddenly it’s time to start creating your personal Christmas memories.

Of course, after the next 20 Christmases, you’ll have gathered lots of memorable ornaments. By then unpacking the boxes of carefully wrapped treasures will bring a rush of happy remembrances. A kindergarten ornament of colorful chenille stems stuck bethelskeller in a styrofoam ball or a papier mache angel.

What to do now? Start with some good lighting for your tree. Ornaments change throughout the years, but light-endures.

Next, be creative. Don’t blow your budget on trendy ornaments. Try popcorn strands, paper chains, and even flour-paste cookie cutter ornaments. Spray pinecones with gold and glitter. If you have a stash of old Christmas cards, a great way to reuse them is for decorations. Cut out the pictures, or hang the cards in tact.

Spend a day outdoors gathering pieces of nature to use in wreaths and for table decor. Hang a fallen tree branch over the table. When you do buy, remember that even cheap bulbs look great when the tree lights turn on.

The Salem Saxon Club, will not be serving its Breakfast Buffet in December but may resume in January 2017. Thank you for your support!

HOLIDAY ORDER FORM

NAME: ___________________________  ADDRESS: ___________________________
EMAIL: ___________________________  CITY/STATE/ZIP: ________________________
PHONE: ____________________________

How Many  Price  How Many  Price

Saxons Through Seventeen Centuries  $15.00  Saxon Apron - *  $15.00
by Rev. John Foslie  ____________________________  by Barry Oker Webber  ____________________________
Electing to the Friendly Society  $14.00  Saxon Apron w/picture of Saxons  $35.00
by Barbara Oker Weker  ____________________________  ______________________________________
Christmas Songs [German Text]  $20.00  Desktop Flag Set [American & Saxons]  $7.00
by Monika Cong/Marie Schneider  ____________________________  ______________________________________
Art People: Children’s book  $8.00  AT$ Baseball Cap  $30.00
by Anne Jaunich  ____________________________  Black T-shirt w/Saxon Wappen  $20.00
Saxon Cookbook [3rd edition]  $32.00  Navy Sweatshirt w/ATS Logo  $25.00
Why Can’t Somebody Just Die Around Here?  $24.95  $15.00/Person, $25.00/Couple
by Gerhard Maasschier  ____________________________  CD “Glick Auf!”  $5.00
DVD “Journey Through History”  $20.00  ____________________________
Producer/Director: Charles Avener
________________________________________

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED $ __________________________
Make Check payable to: ATS

ATS Home Office, 5399 Pearl Road, Cleveland, OH 44129

Salem Saxon Club Breakfast Buffet is taking a break
The Salem Saxon Club, will not be serving its Breakfast Buffet in December but may resume in January 2017. Thank you for your support!

Saxon News VOLKSBLETT December 16, 2016 - 4
As you read this article most likely will be the week of Christmas where we will be writing Christmas cards, busy baking, getting last minute gifts and of course wrapping presents. Then those two magical days begin with the birth of our Lord, precious time with family and the arrival of Santa Claus. Remember Christmas is all about love, family and children we hold so true and dear. It does not matter what we eat or what presents we get, what matters is how the holidays are spent with our loved ones.

The meeting with elections was held on December 5, 2016, at the DANK Haus. President Thut began the meeting by thanking all the committees for a job well done for the 75th Celebration of the Stiftungsfest. Picknic and the Christmas Party. Without all our committee tees these events would have not been successful. She also lit a candle for a moment of silence for all our members that passed away this year. These include Brother George Fleps, Sister Sara Kleisch, Sister Hilda Linz, Sister Irma Linzing, Brother Hans Salmen, Sister Regina Salmen, Brother Wilhelm Salmen, and Sister Katharina Wagner. Deepest sympathy to all these families and may their souls are at peace with the Heavenly Father.

It is with a heavy heart that I must share the passing of Sister Katharina Wagner on November 10, 2016. Sister Wagner was a loyal member of member of Branch 9, and the choir for many years. She was very helpful in always assisting in many functions and a fun person to be around. Branch 9 extends their deepest sympathy to family on their loss. She was the beloved wife of the late Wilhelm E. Wagner. Loving mother of Elli (the late Ronny) Sanderson, Kristina Wagner, Hubert (the late Ronny) Silvas, Hilda (David) Wald) Sanderson, Hilde (David) Kuprich, Brother Fritz Roth, Brother Andy Schiller, and Sister Katharina Thut. Please remember these members with a phone call or greeting card.

On November 26, several of our teenagers (Amanda Schmidt, Stephanie Schmidt and Karina Thut) participated in the Donauschwaben Rosenball. We were very fortunate to have one of our Saxon ladies Karina Thut as Rosenkoenigin 2015-16. Karina was escorted by Tomas Botsch from Cleveland. Karina gave a beautiful speech at her de-crowning. Branch 9 was very proud of her.

The meeting then continued with the elections. Thank you to Brother Bill Blatter and Brother Walter Drechsler for performing such a smooth election.

New Officers for 2017 are as follows:

President Diethild Thut

Vice President: Herwig Schmidts
Secretary: Ellie Sanderson
Treasurer and Financial Secretary: Hildegard Schmidts
Public Relations: Rose Hauer
Sergeant at Arms: Rick Hartig
President Thut ended the meeting with a poem by Evelyn Schütz called “Advent.”

The members then socialized by drinking and have cake. “Please note: We will be changing our meeting location for January and February. Please watch your mail for further details!”

Happy Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families!

Katharine Wagner

the love of each of you, I can live my life in the hearts of all of you.”

On our Sick List we have sister Maria Fandi, Sister Maria Huprich, Brother Rick Opperman, Brother Fritz Roth, Brother Andy Schiller, and Sister Katharina Thut. Please remember these members with a phone call or greeting card.

Das Fest der Hoffnung und des Lichtes

Das Fest der Hoffnung und des Lichtes, Es rückt nun näher Tag für Tag, Geborgenheit und Glück verspricht es, Vertrauen, was auch kommen mag.

Legt ab die Hast, besinnt euch wieder, Was dieses Fest im Ursprung war, Im jedes Erdenmenschen Leben, Vergegen wir die Botschaft nicht.

Er will uns wärmen, Hoffnung geben, Er leuchtet seitdem immerdar.

Und Herrlichkeit in die Herzen bringen, Er leuchtet seitdem immerdar.

Vor lauter Jagd nach den Geschenken, Im Unlust und Geschäftigkeit,

Vor lauter Gedanken, Dazu denken wir, Vor lauter Lärm und Heftigkeit.

Vor lauter Flaschen und vor lauter Flimmer, Vor lauter kurzen Alltagsdenken, So um zu verzeihen, Erleuchtet seidem immerdar.

Vor lauter Glanz und lauter Flüster, Verheimlichen Kerzenschimmer, Vor lauter Fernsehschaff beim Bier.

Gedenken jener hier auf Erden, Der auf der Schattensite sind.

Vor lauter Jagd nach den Geschenken, In Unlust und Geschäftigkeit.

Vor lauter Gedanken, Dazu denken wir, Vor lauter Lärm und Heftigkeit.

Das Fest vor allen Dingen, Ein Fest euch der Besinnung sein, In Gedanken, schwachen, aufgewacht.

Durch die auf der Schattensite sind.

In Gedanken, schwachen, aufgewacht.

Das Fest vor allen Dingen, Ein Fest euch der Besinnung sein, In Gedanken, schwachen, aufgewacht.

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In Gedanken, schwachen, aufgewacht.
Advent Hilde Fürstenberg

Im Tale sind die Blumen nun verblüht
Und auf den Bergen liegt der erste Schnee.
Des Sommers Licht und Wärme sind verglüht,
In Eis verwandelt ist der blaue See.

Adoration of the Magi, 1488
by Domenico Ghirlandaio

Des Sommers Licht und Wärme sind verglüht,
Im Tale sind die Blumen nun verblüht
Und auf den Bergen liegt der erste Schnee.
Der Nikolaus geht durch die Gassen
die älteste der drei Leuchter
behangen.

Maria und Jesuskind. Fertigung und Bilderschmuck des Leuchters: W. Förderreuther

So tief sind die Blumen im Tal verblüht,
The Saxon Cook Book - Third Edition
Over 400 Saxon/American Recipes $12.00 per copy (postpaid)

Fleeing to the Friendly Enemy by Barbara Oiler 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)

DVD: “Leaving Transylvania” producer/director Dieter Auner
A documentary on an elderly Saxon couple from Arbegen that had chosen to stay in Transylvania during the massive exodus of Saxons in the 1990’s and now after a decade of loneliness and disorientation is faced with abandoning their home and emigrating to Germany to be with family. $20 per copy (postpaid)

Note: All books have English Text. Proceeds from book sales go to the Saxon Orphan Fund Program.

Order From: The Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons
5333 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44129
Make Checks/Money Orders payable to ATS ORPHAN FUND

ATS Member, please indicate Branch number.
I like Christmas because it sparkles & glows.
It comes only once a year, and still its
radiance warms the child's heart and
fills his mind with pleasant dreams
of joy and happiness
I like Christmas because Christmas is Christ
I see the beauty of the gospel unfold within
my heart, which began in Bethlehem of Judea
when HIS spirit glorified that little town, and
HIS coming sanctified a lowly manger
Christmas bears Christ's name, symbolizes
His love, proclaims his truth, and showers
His gifts upon the world.
Although Earthly Kings ignored him,
and the proud could not understand him,
the common people heard him with
with hungry hearts, and gladly received him
May Christmas time mean more to you
Then gifts on Christmas morn
May you feel the peace the whole world knew
When Christ the Lord was born
May you know the special gladness
And hope that came to men
And may it thrill your heart just now
As Christmas comes again
God bless our friends.

Author unknown

The ATS Board of Directors sends special thanks to all
our members and friends who have supported our
fraternal benefit society. We hope that your Christ-
mas holds one special blessing after another. We ex-
tend our warmest wishes for a Joyous Christmas and
a Happy New Year!

Joan Miller-Malue
ATS National President