



THE SAXON NEWS

Volksblatt

Celebrating over 100 years of Saxon Fraternalism

Published by
The Alliance
of Transylvanian Saxons
Home Office: 5393 Pearl Road
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Tel: (440) 842-8442

ATS Founded in 1902

February 5, 2021

Issue 3

BRANCH 37, DETROIT

By Susi Fleischer

It's been a long time since I wrote an article, but now I need to get back into a regular routine of every day living. I would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year and hopefully you are all doing well.

2020 has been a struggle for our family, since we are going through a health issue every day, and still coping with it every day. Sometimes I feel as if I am living in a bubble and not being a part of every day existence. Just taking one day at a time, hopefully this will come to an end soon, and we will be able to see family and friends under more enjoyable circumstances.

It's also been a sad time for Br. 37, during 2020 we lost 5 members. Sara Schneider, Trudy Klein, Marion Shelton, Pat Schemmel, and Al Doud. These members will be missed but they will not be forgotten and our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

With God's blessing, hopefully in a couple of months, we will be able to have our regular monthly meetings, which I am sure everyone is looking forward to, because it has been a very long time since we have been able to meet and greet our family and friends in person.

A special thank you to the ATS Board for the generous monetary gift to Br. 37 for the holiday season. We plan on having a picnic in the summer months where the membership will be able to enjoy food and refreshments, and meet and greet members and families.

All the officers of Br. 37 have volunteered to keep

their positions for 2021. Following is the list of officers:

Pres. Susanna Fleischer
1st VP/Finc. Secy. Ingrid Weihs Ferguson
2nd VP Debbie Ferguson
3rd VP Katie Moody
Secy. Janet Nelson
Treas. Susanna Wilburn
ATS Secy. Susanna Fleischer
Trustees: George Breckner, Katharina Breckner, and Trudy Calvin

If you have any questions or comments, please call the President, or one of the officers.

Have a great day, and God's blessings to each and everyone.

BRANCH 25, NEW CASTLE

By Jacob Holzhauser

The Eintracht Singing Society Branch 25 held its monthly meeting on January 14th. At the meeting new officers for 2021 were elected and sworn in. David Miller was elected and sworn in as President. Former President Detlif Seeger was recognized for his dedication and service.

The trustees reported on capital improvements. A budget for the kitchen remodel is being developed. Updates and progress will be reported.

Additionally, the society is looking for bartenders. Anyone interested should contact an officer about the application process.

Finally, all members are reminded to pay their annual dues. Dues can be mailed to 108 Taylor Street, New Castle PA, Attention: Doug Schafer.

The officers of Branch 25 would like to thank the ATS for all of their continued support.

Stay Safe.

**KEEP CALM
AND
WEAR A MASK!**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Denise Aeling Crawford

ATS Nat'l President

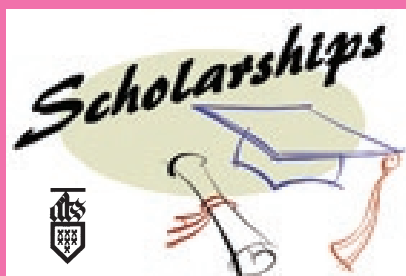


To those of you who are reading this issue of the Volksblatt, congratulations! We have received numerous phone calls and messages at the ATS Home Office from people who have not received their papers or have received them very late. One day I received Issue 26, the December 25th issue at home. The very next day I received Issue 2, the January 22nd issue! We understand your frustration, but we can't do anything about it. The papers are all taken to the Post Office on the same day. From there, it's all up to the Post Office and your local delivery person. The Post Office has been backed up for a while now. We're still receiving mail in the office postmarked December. I want to remind everyone that you can read the Volksblatt on-line with your computer or smart phone. Just go to www.ATSaxons.com and click on the header that reads Volksblatt. We have over four years of issues posted there.

The ATS Home Office is a very busy place in January. Over 1,400 Form 1099s are mailed out each year. A good portion of these tax forms go to members who earn interest on their dividends. As I've explained in the past, most of the ATS Life Insurance plans earn a dividend each year. You have three ways of receiving this dividend. The first option is in cash. You receive a check, usually each year or after the amount reaches five dollars. The second option is to leave these dividends on accumulation. The yearly amount is accumulated in your account. You can pull these funds at any time. If the funds are left to accumulate, they will be paid to your beneficiary after you pass. The money that is accumulated earns interest. This interest income is taxable. If the amount is over ten dollars, you will receive a Form 1099-INT and this amount will need to be reported on your income tax return. To avoid receiving the 1099-INT Form and reporting the amount on your tax return each year, you can choose the third option. This is the Paid-Up Additional Insurance option. Instead of receiving cash or accumulating it, your dividend can purchase a little bit more life insurance each year. This additional amount is paid out to your beneficiary when you pass away. This additional insurance amount is not taxable to your beneficiaries. If you wish to change your dividend option and stop receiving the 1099 form, you can notify the ATS Home Office and request your option be changed. Another type of 1099 form that is sent to members is the Form 1099-R. This form is sent to those who received withdrawals from their Annuity and IRA accounts during the year.

In addition to the Form 1099s that are mailed out, the Home Office sends out an Annuity Summary Report to all annuity account holders. This report shows your account balance and any activity that occurred during the year. Another mailing is the Required Minimum Distribution notice. This mailing notifies members who have a Traditional IRA account how much they

Continued on Page 2



SEE PAGE 3 FOR
2021 ATS SAXON SCHOLARSHIP
INFORMATION
AND APPLICATIONS

**TIMELY - DO NOT DELAY
MAILED WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2021**

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

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
Cont’d from Page 1

are required to withdraw from their account before the end of the year. While the whole office works together to get all of these mailings out to our members, the majority of the work is accomplished by Monica Gilles. Thank you, Monica, for a job well done!

Did you know the sentence “the quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog” is an English-language pangram? That means it is a sentence that uses every letter in the English alphabet. I remember typing this sentence in typing class in high school. You know, back in the “old days” when we used typewriters! I recall typing it, but never understood the reasoning for it. Since we were learning to type on manual typewriters, knowing that all of the keys worked and didn’t stick was important. My, how times have changed!

Until next time....



BRANCH 30,
YOUNGSTOWN
By Rosemarie Kascher

Dear Members,
In suggested compliance with state and federal laws, we ask all members, upon entry into the Saxon Club, to go directly to the bar to have your temperatures taken.

When not directly eating, we ask that you keep your masks on at all times.

We want to keep our Club open as well as keep all of you safe while there, and in good health.

My wish for each of you is to remain safe. 400,000 deaths is too great a toll for America.

Stimulus payments
won’t increase tax

The second stimulus payment is not taxable income and for Social Security recipients, taxes on benefits will also not increase.

The top level tax for Social Security is 85 percent of the total benefit. But not everyone is taxed that much. People with few sources of income other than Social Security aren’t taxed on their benefits and may not even have to file a tax return.

Tax on Social Security is calculated through base income. Base income is equal to the combination of 50 percent of Social Security benefits, tax-exempt interest income (from such things as municipal bonds) and adjusted gross income (not including the student loan interest deduction.)

For single people with a base income of less than \$25,000, no Social Security benefits are taxed. If a single person makes from \$25,000 to \$34,000, then 50 percent of their benefits are taxed.

For married people filing jointly, no benefits are taxed if their base income is \$32,000 or less. Joint filers are taxed 50 percent on a base income of \$32,000 to \$44,000.

The 85 percent rate comes in if a single filer is more than \$34,000 or a joint filer is more than \$44,000.

Usually, any additional taxable income increases the adjusted gross income and that increases the base income. So with enough additional income, Social Security beneficiaries may move to a higher tax bracket.

However, since the COVID-19 payments are not taxable income, no part of the base income calculation will rise.

Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons
Home Office: 5393 Pearl Rd., Cleveland, Ohio 44129
Telephone: (440) 842-8442 FAX: 440-842-5442
E-mail: office@atsaxons.com Website: www.atsaxons.com

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Michael Bachinger, Br. 30 (330) 540-5168
3134 Neosho Rd, Youngstown OH 44511

Chief Medical Examiner-

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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, FEBRUARY 10, 2021	FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2021
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021	FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 2021
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021	FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 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

FRESHMAN ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS

To be eligible for a Freshman Academic Scholarship Grant you must be a high school senior with an accumulated grade point average in high school of 2.8, or better.

Twenty-one Scholarship Grants will be awarded to freshmen in undergraduate study at an accredited college or university in the United States and three renewable grants to present recipients of the Victor Deptner Scholarship.

\$1,000	Four Year Renewable Grant from the Victor Deptner Memorial Scholarship
\$1,000	Past ATS Officers' Memorial Scholarship
\$1,000	Henry Schindler Scholarship
\$1,000	Michael W. Schassburger Memorial Scholarship
\$1,000	Jon Weber Memorial Scholarship
\$1,000	ATS Branch 33 National Scholarship Endowment Award
\$1,000	Julia & Martin Konnerth Memorial Scholarship
\$1,000	Julia & Martin Konnerth Memorial Scholarship
\$1,000	Branch 10 – Columbus Scholarship
\$1,000	Branch 14 – Canton Scholarship
\$1,000	Davidson-Schuller Appreciation Scholarship Award in honor of ATS and Branches 33 & 34
\$1,000	Rev. & Mrs. John Foisel Memorial Scholarship
\$1,000	John F. Spack Memorial Scholarship
\$1,000	John and Mary Guip Memorial Scholarship
\$1,000	Branch 5 – Lorain Scholarship
\$1,000	Dale & Rose Segedi-Kaufman Memorial Scholarship
\$1,000	Dale & Rose Segedi-Kaufman Memorial Scholarship
\$1,000	Dr. David E. Schuller Appreciation Scholarship in honor of his parents Elsie and Daniel S. Schuller
\$ 750	Niles-Branch 20 National Scholarship
\$ 750	New Castle Branch 27 Scholarship
\$ 400	Donzella Herman Scholarship

Applicants for the Scholarships listed must be ATS Members in good standing with a minimum of two years continuous membership prior to the scholarship application deadline of April 15th. High School Seniors must have maintained a 2.8, or better, grade point average in high school.

Complete the Request Form below to receive your Application. Please note: upon our receipt of the Request Form, an official ATS Scholarship Application Form will be mailed to you. The completed official ATS Scholarship Application Forms from the applicant and school must be received at the ATS Home Office before April 15th.

REQUEST FOR ATS HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP

Name
Address
City, State, Zip Code
Tele: _____
E-Mail: _____
Br. No. _____ Cert. No. _____

Request must be received by March 15th

MAIL SCHOLARSHIP REQUEST FORM TO:
ATS Home Office
5393 Pearl Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44129-1597

Request Forms must be received by March 15, 2021

Please note:
Only official ATS Scholarship Application Forms will be accepted for consideration.

UNDERGRADUATE CONTINUING ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS

The ATS is offering Fifteen Academic Undergraduate Continuing Education Scholarship Grants to our members who are not current year high school graduates and are not entering college in their freshman year of study but are in an undergraduate program.

\$1,000	Award in memory of Marie Stirner
\$1,000	Award in memory of Marie Stirner
\$1,000	Award in memory of Marie Stirner
\$1,000	Award in memory of Marie Stirner
\$1,000	Award in memory of Gertie & Ernie Gottschling
\$1,000	Lorain Saxon Ladies Branch 11 Scholarship
\$1,000	Joan Miller-Malue Scholarship
\$1,100	Memory of Elmer P. Schneider
\$ 750	Award in memory of Donald G. Miller
\$ 500	ATS Branch 34 Cleveland East Scholarship
\$ 500	Award in memory of Karl & Charlotte Klamer
\$ 500	Farrell-Branch 7 Scholarship
\$ 500	ATS Scholarship Award
\$ 500	ATS Scholarship Award
\$ 500	ATS Scholarship Award

Applicants must be ATS members in good standing, with continuous membership for a minimum period of two (2) years. They must have a grade point average of at least 2.8. They may be any age; however, they cannot be a current year high school graduate or entering their freshman year of college.

Applicants must be enrolled in an undergraduate program as a full-time student at an accredited college or university in the United States.

Requests for official ATS Undergraduate Continuing Academic Scholarship Applications may be made by calling the ATS Home Office (440) 842-8442, or by completing the Form printed below by March 15, 2021.

Completed official ATS Applications for scholarship grants must be received at the ATS Home Office before April 15th. Undergraduate Continuing Academic Scholarship winners will be chosen in a random drawing conducted by the ATS Scholarship Committee

REQUEST FOR ATS UNDERGRADUATE CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

Name
Address
City, State, Zip Code
Tele: _____
E-Mail: _____
Br. No. _____ Cert.No. _____

Request must be received by March 15th

MAIL SCHOLARSHIP REQUEST FORM TO:
ATS Home Office 5393 Pearl Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44129-1597

Request Forms must be received by March 15, 2021
Please Note: Only official ATS Scholarship Application Forms will be accepted for consideration

•• Scholarship winners will be notified by mail. ••

A Valentine or love letter you create yourself

A surprise of flowers, candy or a card, might be just the ticket for your love on Valentine's Day, and that's the way millions of people celebrate the day for lovers.

The key to a great Valentine's gift is that it conveys the giver's love and appreciation for the recipient. You can find all sorts of designs and card projects online to decorate and create a personalized card. But, beware: It's easy to get so carried away with the art project that the card becomes more about our own art skills than it is about the recipient. On the other hand, something too plain and simple might seem insincere.

If you are going to create your own card, consider putting a good photo of you and your love



on the card, especially one that evokes memories or times spent together. Choose a photo from a shared vacation, or an old photo to spark memories. You could find a photo that neither of you have seen for a while to make a special surprise.

For a playful card, try to create a rebus. Rebus valentines have a verse with small pictures replacing some of the words. A picture or drawing of an eye, for example, could be used for the word

BRANCH 5, LORAIN
By Michael Johnson

Our first meeting for the year 2021 took place on January 18th at the American Slovak Club with enough members to conduct the business postponed by not having met in either November, or December of last year. The minutes read from October 2020's meeting seemed so long ago, but the Treasurer's report was very much up to date. Sister Ginger Romes has done a superb job at keeping the receipts and expenses in order despite the challenges of the last year. We did however table the business of elections until next month due to the illness and absence of our president and one of the trustees. That meeting is scheduled to take place on February 15th, 2021 at the American Slovak Club starting at 7:00 PM. If you are a dues paying member, please come prepared to pay your dues by either cash or check payable to: **ATS Branch 5, Lorain, OH.** If you are not going to be attending, you can submit your dues by mailing your check to: *Michael W. Johnson, 41868 Earlene Ct., Elyria, OH 44035.* If you do not know the amount you owe for dues you can call me at 440-324-2534 and leave your name and phone number and I will return your call as soon as I am able.

We encourage junior members who are seniors in this year's graduating class of 2021, to make an application (see details in this *Volksblatt*) for one of the many scholarships offered through the ATS if they are planning on attending college. There are

also undergraduate scholarships for those young adult members who are seeking grants for their continuing education.

Congratulations to junior member Piper Simon who was a winner in the 5 - 6 year old division of the ATS Christmas Coloring contest. We recognize Addison Long and Jenna Peters for their participation earning honorable mentions for their work. It's always good to see the junior members taking part in these events and we thank the parents for their encouragement.

Happy Birthday to our members who celebrated birthdays in January; Sister Carolyn Mroski and brother Russell Gilles as well as junior members Abigail Case, Chloe Zgola, and Kylie Weber. Hope your day was a special one!

The COVID-19 vaccine has recently become available for distribution. To see which phase you qualify for, and get put on a list for receiving your shot, contact the Lorain County Public Health between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. M - F. You can also sign up and keep up to date by logging into <https://loraincountypublichealth.com/signup>

They currently are vaccinating people 80+. If you are in this age group, now is the time to act quickly and get the first of two shots before their supply runs out or they move on to the next category of the population needing their vaccine.

Until next month, stay safe and stay healthy.

"T" and a heart can be used for the word "love."

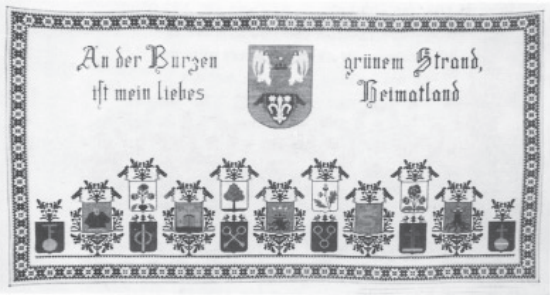
If you like to write, try to create a verse in acrostic using the name of your beloved. The first letter of each line, in large type, uses one letter of the name of the recipient. For the name Mary, for example, one could write:

May each day bring my
Adoring thoughts closer to you.

Remember, you are the one I love,

You are the one for me, forever.

If none of those ideas work, you can always buy a card and write your own note. Tell how your love enhances your life and how much he or she means to you. A good message is a keepsake to be cherished.



FRATERNAL CALENDAR

NATIONAL EVENTS

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



INVEST YOUR
SAVINGS
IN AN ATS
ANNUITY PLAN

**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 33, CLEVELAND EAST By Arline Krestel-Suts

We've rounded the corner into a new year, 2021, and heading into February already. Here's to hoping that 2021 is a kinder gentler year.

We continue to have business meetings via Zoom. Our last meeting was on January 13th, with 21 in virtual attendance. We were very happy to see a longtime member (who now lives in Delaware) join us, Mr. Ray Montsch. We started the meeting with installation of officers for 2021. Former president Ema Litschel read the oath of office to President Margarete Ziegler, Vice president Maria Phillips, Treasurer Jeff Krestel, Recording secretary Arline Suts, Financial secretary Michael Bretz, ATS secretary Karyn Schmidt, trustees Barb Hum, Austin Bonnett, Nick Ziegler, Wayne Suts, and membership chairperson Cindy Schneider. President Ziegler thanked outgoing officers Ema Litschel and Bette Schmidt for their dedicated service. Ema was president of Br 34 from 2001 until 2011, and then of Branch 33 with the merger of the men and ladies branches as Branch 33, that's a total of 20 years as President. We learned so much having a president who grew up in Romania. Always prepared, thoughtful, a great organizer, and frequently took so much into her own hands to keep our branch strong. She will continue on as a deputy for Branch 33,

and works diligently to bring in new members.

Bette Schmidt became Vice President of Branch 34 in 1998; she also moved in to Branch 33 as Vice President in 2011. She has boundless energy; she did such a great job as our chaplain and keeping in touch with our Shut-in members. The officers look forward to continue working with them in the general membership. Always appropriate to the times, Bette's final prayer as V.P. was dedicated to strength and deliverance from this pandemic.

We hope that the monthly meeting membership increases every month. We have restarted the two \$10 attendance drawings for each meeting as well. Let us know your email address and Maria Phillips will send you an invite to our next meeting February 10th.

I would like to send out several birthday greetings. We have multiple members celebrating ABOVE 90 birthdays in January: The youngest is Dorothy Schneider, next is Ingeborg Mann, then Bette Schmidt and Eleanor Keefer. An extra SPECIAL 100th Birthday we send out to Peg Maurer! Peg is a past officer of branch 34 and was our social events coordinator for many years. Always active in the ATS, we miss seeing her at meetings and events. Peg, we hope you are well, enjoy your birthday, we are keeping you in our thoughts and sending best wishes for your next century!

The Lord has called two of our members home. Michael Thellmann passed away in December. Born in Siebenbuergen, immigrating to Austria and then America as a teen. He served in the US Army, then worked as a machinist for many years in the Cleveland area. Married to Maria for 60 years, devoted to his children Rosemarie and John. He was ever present at ATS and Branch 33 functions. We will all remember his friendship, thoughtfulness, and hand-hewn walking sticks.

Eleanor Krew also passed away this January. Born in 1925, she became a member of Branch 34 in 1941 as Eleanor Drotleff. She did leave Branch 34 for a few years and re-joined in 1995. Always quite proud of

her family, our sympathies to her sons David and Michael. Her grandson Jack is an ATS Scholarship recipient, attending Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. A prayer was said during the meeting in their honor.

We also have several new members. Two junior members: Elise Fogel, who is about seven months old now and granddaughter of Bob and Pam Bonnett, and Great-great niece of Bette Schmidt. Welcome to Alexandria Litschel, also just under a year old who is granddaughter of Dolf and Ema Litschel, and daughter of their son Eric. We welcome to the adult membership Darla Keefer, wife of Bill and daughter-in-law of Eleanor Keefer. Everyone knows her, frequently at picnics and banquets as a guest, so we are happy that she has joined Br. 33 membership.

I want to remind all members to get their dues in to Mike Bretz. It is more difficult during a pandemic you're probably having to mail them in. It is \$12 for the year. And I want to remind junior members and their relatives and sponsors, that when you are a junior member you do need to apply to become a regular adult member at age 16 and older. It is not automatic to be moved from junior to adult-senior. An application must be filled out and there are yearly dues to be paid (\$1 per month). And by joining at age 16, you would be eligible for the Branch college scholarship by age 18.

Social events for Branch 33 have been quite sparse because of the pandemic. No bowling, no ball games, no banquets. But we are planning for the future when the pandemic breaks. Please mark your calendar for Sunday, August 8 as we are aiming to have our branch picnic at Penetentiary Glen. We are also going to be scheduling the Christmas banquet as well for December 2021. Our Branch will be hosting the ATS national convention next year, May 2022. Yes it seems a long way off but so much to plan. The convention committee is always looking for help so please let us know if you can participate in the planning.

Remember our next Zoom meeting will be Wednesday, February 10 at 7:30 PM. We will be discussing the budget for 2021; officers have already met so we promise to keep the proposal brief & painless.

It has been so long since we have seen everyone. We hope all are well; we keep everyone in our thoughts and prayers.

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

BRANCH 10, COLUMBUS

By Donald Blum

RELIGIOUS HISTORY OF TRANSYLVANIA

So Why Are So Many Transylvanian Saxons Lutheran-Part 1?

We will focus on the times when Saxons entered into the picture when King Geza II of Hungary invited Germans to come, settle in and defend a relatively sparsely populated of Transylvania. The land given to these settlers was primarily considered a wasteland that had been a highly wooded area inhabited mostly by bears, wolves and lynx. The settlers were granted special privileges of governess of the lands in freedom of choice of government, form of rule and religion. Additionally, the settlers would basically be left alone to rule themselves. This seemed like an unusual and generous provision to be granted. The autonomy was not without ulterior motives. In return, the settlers would provide a tax base to Hungary and more importantly, a buffer if you will, a military strategic buffer for Hungary against neighboring coun-

tries and empires to have direct access to Hungary. The settlers would defend this territory from these warring intruders.

There were many different groups that helped to determine or could have determined the religious beliefs of the people of Transylvania. We have the Ottoman Empire (Islam), Holy Roman Catholic Empire, Martin Luther, the Calvinist, Unitarian Movement and influence of Germany.

First group we will look at is the Ottoman Empire and their Islamic religion.

The Ottoman Empire was founded in the 13th century. It was a fast growing empire that quickly formed into a transcontinental empire. They were an empire that eventually controlled South-eastern Europe, Western Asia and Northern Africa. Shortly after 1354, the Ottomans entered into Europe. Mehmed II was the Sultan leader that brought an end to the Byzantine Empire when he conquered Constantinople (today Istanbul).

He was educated in Muslim beliefs that it was religiously imperative of fulfilling his Islamic duty to overthrow the Byzantine Empire. There had been a truce between Hungary and Ottoman Empire by the Peace of Szeged agreement, where Crusader campaigns would be ended. A cardinal representative of the Pope convinced Hungary to continue incursions into Ottoman Empire territory. The Crusaders were defeated.

So what were the beginning consequences of the Crusader defeats and the fall of Constantinople? This would enable the Ottoman Empire to extend its empire and gain control of areas of Europe.

Mehmed II built massive armies and navy contingents. The empire continued to grow and become more powerful. There seemed to be not end to military conquests and subjugating countries to the Ottoman Empire. So what was the intentions and end game to the continuous conquest? Mehmed II could have easily installed not only governmental control but also expanded the Islamic religion in the conquered areas of Europe. As with any large empire and war machine, Mehmed II needed money, supplies and soldiers to continue military aspirations and conquests. He was content to make the countries vassals of the Ottoman Empire. They would continue to function independently, as long as the countries paid large tributes, provide foods and military supplies to the armies and even provide men to join his military machine. He was not interested in exercising governing responsibilities and imposing his Islamic religious beliefs. In the case of Transylvania, Moldavia and Wallachia he was content with their operating as vassals supplying tributes, supplies, men and providing a buffer from Austria, Hungary and Poland. In order to make sure that Wallachia and Moldavia were serve only as a buffer he demanded that all fortified structures be destroyed and they were prohibited from building any new fortifications. This would enable him to freely put down any insurrections by easily entering into these vassals and crushing resistance to paying the tributes and adhering to his demands, as well as making it difficult for enemies to mount attacks into Ottoman territories on the other side of the Danube. Transyl-



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.

Wanda Kowalczyk

Age 96

Died: December 1, 2020

Branch 2, Erie, PA

Eleanor A. Krew

Age 95

Died: January 15, 2021

Branch 33, Cleveland, OH

Ralph L. Pugh

Age 98

Died: January 16, 2021

Branch 25, New Castle, PA

Lynne K. Heffner

Age 79

Died: January 19, 2021

Branch 18, Salem, OH

Mary T. Laret

Age 92

Died: January 21, 2021

Branch 30, Youngstown, OH

Marie Remner-Stacy

Age 79

Died: January 23, 2021

Branch 30, Youngstown, OH

How to make a perfect snowman (or snow-woman)

We never gave it much thought -- pack a good, firm snowball and roll it around the yard until big enough for a base. Repeat two more times. Stack one on top of another.

Boom. Snowman.

But that doesn't fly in the modern world, where you can find YouTube videos and 14-step how-to articles on snowman-building. And if you were interested in such things, snowman-building does involve a bit of science.

Case in point: Snow needs to contain three to five percent liquid water in order to be malleable and gluey enough to hold shapes, says the New York Times. The perfect snow can be found around 32 degrees Fahrenheit in regions closer to an ocean, like the Northeast or the



Sierra Nevada.

Then there's a concept called sintering, or patting. If you pat the snow as you go, you compact it and squash individual snowflakes, causing melting around the edges. As they refreeze, they bond. This makes the snow a lot more solid — and your snowman a lot more sturdy.

A few more tips:

- Remember to face your snowman away from the sun, unless you were going for the melted face look.

- Pack extra snow around the base to give it more stability.

- Flatten the tops of the bottom snowballs so they're easier to stack. Spheres are also a good shape to help prolong melting because less surface area is exposed to the sun.

- Try to roll the snowballs around the area you plan to place the snowman, then stick him in the middle. Avoid building a snowman on a driveway, which absorbs heat (does that even need a reminder?).

- Aim for a diameter ratio of 3:2:1 from bottom to top — like three feet, two feet, one foot.

Happy Valentine's Day!



Dorothea and Martin Hesch

Martin and Dorothea were married on February 11, 1961. There were a lot of things going on the world in world from the Space Race to the Berlin Wall construction and Barbie getting a boyfriend, as Ken was introduced. We think the most important thing occurring in 1961 was the marriage of Dorothea and Martin Hesch. Please join me in congratulating them on the tremendous accomplishment of 60 Happy years of marriage.

FACEBOOK PAGE

Our Facebook page continues to draw interest from Saxons in many places. We are now at 102 Facebook members and growing weekly. Many of the new Facebook members are sharing interesting stories of their Saxon family background. This is just another way on keeping the Saxon history alive and relevant today.

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 (donalddcblum@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 and Canada. We encourage you to spread the word about our group and invite others to join.

SPECIAL MENTION

Please keep Jill Blum in your prayers. She will have had shoulder surgery the first week of February. We wish her a full and speedy recovery.

Vaccinations are occurring. By the printing of this newsletter, we hope many of you will have had your first vaccination and we all will be on the road back to the new normal in this world. We all look forward to when we are vaccinated and return to Saxon Club meetings and get together again.

HUMOR

I went to the barber today. He asked what will it be today. I said you decide, just do something to make me look better. The barber proceeded to pull out a bottle of whiskey and begin drinking. Sometimes you get what you ask for.

Be My Valentine

Name: _____ Branch No. _____ Cert. No. _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Please color and mail to ATS Home Office;
5393 Pearl Road; Cleveland, OH 44129
Before February 15, 2021

Heart-healthy roasted butternut squash with red onion and tahini sauce

This heart-healthy, vegetarian-friendly recipe, adapted from Jerusalem, by Yotam Ottolenghi and Sami Tamimi, features roasted butternut squash, which is naturally rich in potassium to help regulate blood pressure.

Butternut squash is also high in insoluble fiber, which helps control blood sugar and promote fullness. Tahini-based sauce, made from sesame seeds, is rich in heart-healthy monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats. Olive oil is used to roast the squash and contains omega-3 fatty acids to reduce inflammation and improve cholesterol. The result is a sweet, flavorful, warm side dish, perfect for a simple, healthy, filling meal. Za'atar spice is available in the international section of many grocery stores or Middle Eastern specialty grocery stores.



- Ingredients
- 1 large butternut squash, peeled and sliced (discard seeds and pulp)
 - 2 red onions, cut into wedges
 - 3 tablespoons olive oil
 - 3 1/2 tablespoons light tahini paste
 - 1 1/2 tablespoons lemon juice
 - 2 tablespoons water
 - 1 small clove garlic, crushed
 - 1 tablespoon za'atar spice
 - 1 tablespoon coarsely chopped parsley (optional)
 - Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

Preheat oven to 475 degrees Fahrenheit.

Toss squash and onion in a bowl with olive oil, 1 teaspoon sea salt and some black pepper. Spread on a baking sheet and roast for 30 to 40 minutes, until the vegetables have taken on some color and are fully cooked. The onions may cook quicker and need to be removed earlier than the squash. Remove the sheet from the oven and let cool.

For the sauce, whisk the tahini, lemon juice, water, garlic and 1/4 teaspoon salt until you have a liquid consistency of honey. Add more water or tahini as necessary.

To serve, spread the vegetables on a serving platter and drizzle with the tahini sauce, followed by the za'atar and parsley.

Băgaciu / Bogeschdorf



The fortified church is located on the main street of the village. In the village center a church existed around 1420, which was secured with a ring wall, a gate tower, and three defence towers in the course of the 15th century. Beside the gate tower, the north-eastern tower has also been preserved until today. At the end of the 15th century the church was enlarged with a bell tower, which shows a seven-fold staggered funnel-shaped portal. Shortly afterwards the church was fortified. Above the hall of the church and above the bell tower a defence level rests on buttresses. In the 18th and 19th century it was gradually removed, but the bell tower was rebuilt in 1973. The existing pew in the chancel dated 1533, is one of the most valuable of its kind in Transylvania.

Place and surroundings

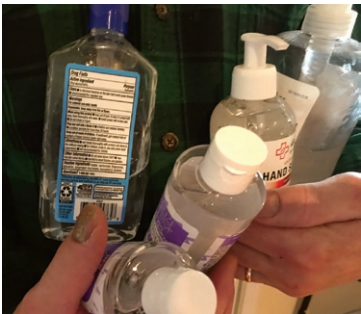
Regardless of the moment in which the fortress is looked at, in the fresh morning light, under the bright sunlight in the middle of the day or in the soft fog of dusk, its walls seem to have been made of history and legends. Built on the location of an old basilica, the church impresses due to its dimensions and rich ornamentation. Both west and south portals adorned with high quality stone carvings are counted among the best-made stone art works in Transylvania. Fragments of the once lush mural paintings inside the church, a representation of the Apocalypse, were revealed on



the northern wall. An organ built in 1804 by Samuel Metz rests on its wooden gallery. Impressive are the eroded drolleries on the chancel, strange masks that have been interpreted both as saints and as demons.



Fortified Churches Foundation
www.kirchenburgen.org



Alternative uses for hand sanitizer

Got buckets of hand sanitizer around? You’re not alone. And while it’s useful to have around, most of us (thankfully) don’t need our 2020 supply levels.

But what can we do with it aside from sanitizing our hands?

Here are some ideas from around the internet:

- Clean your glasses.
- Start a fire. A disaster survival website says you can dab a small amount on your kindling or tinder and light it with a spark, and that it works in rainy or windy weather.
- Remove stains. The alcohol works well at removing blood, ink, or drink stains. Remember to dab, not rub. You can also pre-treat stains with a bit of sanitizer.
- Clean your table or desk. Use a clean cloth and wipe down the surface. Do the same for your filthy keyboard.
- Remove stickers. Price tags are notorious for leaving a sticky substance behind. Hand sanitizer to the rescue!
- Ease the itch of mosquito bites.
- Clean your phone’s screen using a soft cloth and a bit of sanitizer.
- Polish silver. Now that company’s coming, squirt some hand sanitizer on a soft cloth and polish the silver.
- Try it in place of deodorant. Kill the bacteria, kill the smell. We’ll leave it at that.
- Use as a dry shampoo. Squeeze a little onto your fingertips and massage into your roots.
- Clean your flat iron. Ditto for the hairspray on your mirror.
- Remove permanent marker from a whiteboard.
- Remove nail polish.

Alles gute zum Namenstag!

Brigitte	1. Februar
Maria	2. Februar
Blasius, Wiltrud	3. Februar
Veronika	4. Februar
Agathe, Bringfriede	5. Februar
Theoderich, Dorothea	6. Februar
Richard	7. Februar
Wolfram	8. Februar
Apollonia	9. Februar
Armgard, Irmgard	10. Februar
Diethelm	11. Februar
Rothild	12. Februar
Benignus	13. Februar
Valentin	14. Februar
Kurt, Siegbert	15. Februar
Juliana, Julie	16. Februar
Dagmar, Konstantia	17. Februar
Konstantin	17. Februar
Konrad	18. Februar
Susanne	19. Februar
Herbert, Jutta	20. Februar
Eleonore	21. Februar
Gundhard	22. Februar
Egon	23. Februar
Matthias	24. Februar
Viktor	25. Februar
Gotthilf, Gotthold	26. Februar
Leberecht	27. Februar
Berta	28. Februar

Surging Snowflakes

Across

1. Droop

4. Wrinkly citrus fruits

9. Lennon's Yoko

10. One of the Judds

11. Barnyard sound

12. Wood nymph

13. Response

15. Northeasternmost st.

16. Lets up

18. Alright, for short

20. Publisher's list

23. Crew member

25. Not at home

26. Job

27. Miner's find

28. Adhesive resin

29. Half a cheerleader's prop?

Down

1. "Brave New World" drug

2. In the near future

3. Barnyard honker

4. Not wanted

5. Attic

6. Myrna of "The Thin Man"

7. Muslim leader

8. Entree go-with

14. Diluted, as a drink

17. Single-masted vessel

18. Sea World attraction

19. Oriental mascara

21. 100 cents

22. Plant part

24. Stir-fry pan

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8
9				10				
11				12				
13			14				15	
		16				17		
18	19		20				21	22
23		24				25		
26						27		
28						29		

W	O	D		D	A	K	T	V
E	R	O		E	R	O	H	C
I	U	O		R	E	W	O	R
S	E	T		I	L	K	O	
	S	E		S	A	E		
E	M			R	E	W	S	N
D	V	A		R	D	O	M	
I	M	O		V	A	N	O	N
S	I	T		G	N	G	V	S

The headline is a clue to the answer in the diagonal.

February Sudoku

How to solve sudoku puzzles

No math is required to solve a sudoku. You only need logic and patience.

Simply make sure that each 3x3 square region has only one instance of the numbers 1-9. Similarly, each number can only

8	3	7	4	1	5	9	2	6
1	6	4	3	2	9	8	7	5
2	9	5	6	7	8	4	3	1
5	8	2	9	4	7	1	6	3
3	1	6	5	8	2	7	9	4
7	4	9	1	3	6	5	8	2
6	7	1	2	9	4	3	5	8
4	2	8	7	5	3	6	1	9
9	5	3	8	6	1	2	4	7

				1				
1				2	9			5
2					8	4	3	
5		2					6	
3	1						9	4
	4					5		2
	7	1	2					8
4			7	5				9
				6				

appear once in a column or row in the larger grid. The difficulty on this puzzle is easy.



ARE YOU READY FOR YOUR RETIREMENT SUPER BOWL?

It's Super Bowl time. Two teams have practiced and played through their regular season, advanced through the playoffs, and will now play each other in the Super Bowl Game with the goal of being named a Champion!

You can compare this big game to life and retirement. You worked hard your entire life; saving and investing for this moment. Are you ready? Did you practice and plan enough to get you to the big game? Are your assets in strong enough shape to endure the entire length of your retirement?

Here are some plays that you may want to study for your Retirement Super Bowl:

- How much income will you need? Don't just guesstimate; create a retirement budget.
- What will you be receiving from Social Security?
- What other income will you be receiving? Do you qualify for a pension? Do you have an ATS Annuity, an ATS Traditional IRA or an ATS Roth IRA?
- How much can you safely withdraw from your retirement savings each year?
- How much will you owe in taxes?
- Do you have a plan for healthcare costs?

Saving for your retirement with an ATS Tax-Deferred Annuity can provide for a "touchdown" to a financially secure settlement. Your money will compound faster because you earn interest on dollars that likely would have been paid to the IRS with a different type of investment. The result is greater financial growth.

An ATS Annuity also provides you with the flexibility at your retirement to choose when you begin withdrawals, as well as the choice of how:

- As a lump sum
- As an income for a specific number of years
- As an income for as long as you live
- As an income for as long as you and your spouse live

Start your "kickoff" to a championship financial retirement today!

Contact your local ATS Deputy or the ATS Home Office for information on an ATS Annuity retirement savings plan.



Current APR
3.0%