

THE SAXON NEWS

# Volksblatt

Celebrating over 100 years of Saxon Fraternalism

Published by  
**The Alliance**  
of Transylvanian Saxons  
Home Office: 5323 Pearl Road  
Cleveland, Ohio 44129-1503  
Tel: (440) 842-8442

ATS Founded in 1902

March 31, 2023

Issue 7

## BRANCH 8, ALLIANCE

By Lesley Reed

We held our first meeting of 2023 on the evening of March 15<sup>th</sup>. This year we're switching things up by eating take-out pizza and socializing first and then commencing our meetings. Many thanks go out to the Esterlys for picking up the pizzas and providing dessert!

We had ten members present. There were two recipients of scholarships for the fall college semester, Evan Hertel and Sadie Zeedrich. Our president, Helen Aeling, acknowledged a Christmas card and monetary donation we received from the ATS Directors during the holidays. In April, we will gather for dinner at Chives restaurant in Alliance on the 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in lieu of our formal monthly meeting. May 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m., we will be back to our regular meeting place and time at the American Legion Hall in Alliance.

We had several items covered under the topic of "old business." Our three trustees, Mary Craven, Penny Zeedrich, and Karen Kinser will need to meet to between the April and May meetings



Dorothy Brunie

to prepare the 2022 audit. The Presidents' meeting will take place in Salem on May 20<sup>th</sup>. This year's Heimattag will be in New Castle on July 7-8. The band coming from Austria will perform in Salem on July 12<sup>th</sup> which includes a dinner. A motion was carried to reimburse the cost for any of our members who attend that event. We were also reminded that meetings will be waived for the months of June, July, and August.

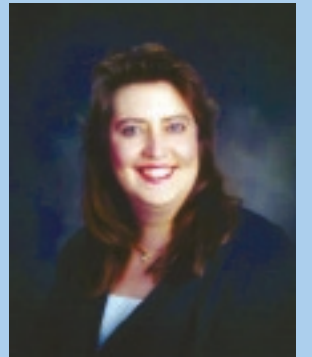
Under "new business," we were informed of the Eastern European dinner to take place at the Cleveland West club on April 27<sup>th</sup>. The cost for members is \$20 and a motion was carried that any of our members who attend will be reimbursed.

Lastly, we'd like to acknowledge member Dorothy Brunie who celebrated her 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>! Her fellow residents at Stone Creek senior residential home in Alliance gathered that day for cake and coffee in her honor. We hope you have a wonderful year, Dorothy!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Denise Aeling Crawford

ATS Nat'l President



The ATS Board of Directors met on Saturday, March 18 at the ATS Home Office. During the meeting, the Board discussed current interest rates in the market and the ATS investment portfolio yield. I am pleased to announce that the Board voted to increase the interest rate that is credited on members' annuities to 3.50%. The rate increase will be effective April 1, 2023.

Also, during the Board meeting, the year-end financials were discussed. Total Assets for the ATS increased to \$101,858,342. Our Net Income for the year was \$794,830. The Board, once again, approved the issuance of Branch Sharing checks to our local Branches. These checks will be distributed at the Branch Presidents Meeting that is scheduled for May 20 in Salem, Ohio. The ATS thanks our membership for their continued confidence and trust for all these years.

Did you know that March 27 marks the anniversary of the Japanese cherry trees being planted along the Potomac River? In Washington, DC, Helen Taft, wife of President William Taft, and the Viscountess Chinda, wife of the Japanese ambassador, planted two Yoshino cherry trees on the northern bank of the Potomac River, near the Jefferson Memorial. The event was the celebration of a gift by the Japanese government of 3,020 cherry trees to the U.S. government. Of course, it wasn't just a simple project to plant these two trees.

In 1909, socialite Eliza Scidmore, who raised money for the endeavor, first proposed the planting. Mrs. Taft, who had previously lived in Japan with her husband, welcomed the idea. The Japanese consul learned

Continued on Page 2



HIGHER ANNUAL INTEREST YIELD  
EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2023

**3.50%**

On Current Annuity and IRAs  
issued November 1, 1998 and after

**TIMELY - DO NOT DELAY  
MAILED WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2023**

Attention Postmaster: Send all Changes of Address to:  
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5323 Pearl Road Cleveland OH 44129-1503

**HELP  
WANTED!**



**Attend the  
monthly  
meetings  
of your Branch.**

**Help make  
your Branch  
a healthy Branch.**



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 donations 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, 5323 Pearl Road, Cleveland, OH 44129.

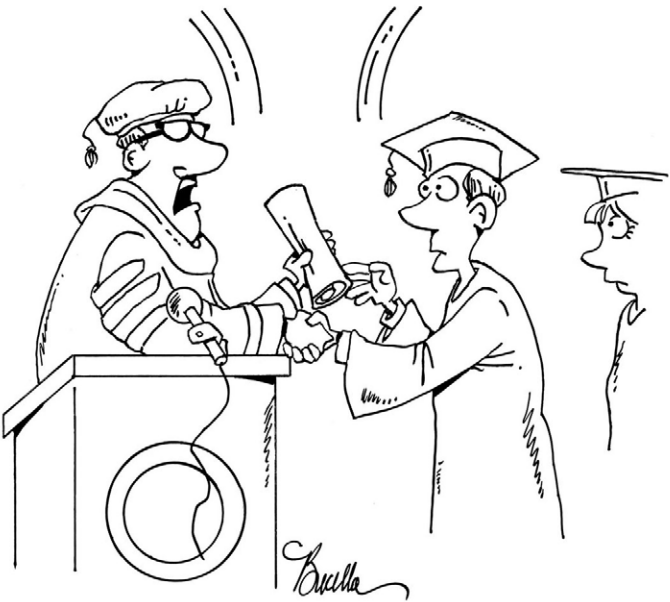
Please make your check payable to the ATS.

DONATION FOR SCHLOSS HORNECK

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Donated \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if donation is in memory  
or honor of someone  
\_\_\_\_\_



"I remember the good old days when you could  
get a useless degree for a lot less money."



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Cont'd from Page 1

of the First Lady's interest and suggested making a gift of the trees to the U.S. from the city of Tokyo. In January 1910, 2,000 trees arrived in Washington, DC from Japan. However, the inspection team discovered that they were infested with insects and disease. These trees were destroyed to protect local growers. Another set of trees, 3,020 specimens this time, were taken from the famous collection on the bank of the Arakawa River in Adachi Ward, a suburb of Tokyo. These trees arrived in March 1912. On March 27, 1912, the first two trees were planted along the Potomac River's Tidal Basin in a formal ceremony. The rest of the trees were then planted along the basin, in East Potomac Park, and on the White House grounds. The two original trees still stand today, marked with a plaque.

There had been Japanese cherry trees planted in various areas in the United States, but the official gift to the United States occurred during this period. Keep in mind that these are ornamental types of trees and should not be confused with cherry trees that produce fruit for eating. By 1934, the trees had become an established part of the nation's capital and the District of Columbia Commissioners sponsored a three-day celebration of the flowering cherry trees. The first "Cherry Blossom Festival" then became a national event in 1935. Interestingly, after World War II, cuttings from the Washington DC's cherry trees were sent back to Japan to help restore the Tokyo collection that was decimated during the war.

Today, the Cherry Blossom Festival is run by a not-for-profit organization and features a number of events, exhibits and performances related to the cherry blossoms and the U.S.-Japanese relations. The event lasts three to four weeks. Once the blossoms show their white and pink faces, they can last from one to three weeks. You can find these blooms almost everywhere now, not just in Washington, DC. They are truly a beautiful sign that Spring has arrived.

Happy Easter everyone!  
Until next time.....

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SECRETARIES TAKE NOTICE:

THE DEADLINE DATE FOR ARTICLES  
IS WEDNESDAY - 12 NOON.

You may either

E-MAIL: saxonvolksblatt@aol.com

POSTAL MAIL:

Saxon News Volksblatt  
29076 Fall River Dr  
Westlake, OH 44145

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, APRIL 5, 2023	FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 2023
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2023	FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023
WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2023	FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023

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

BRANCH 10, COLUMBUS  
By Donald Blum

**MONTHLY MEETING**  
HICKORY HOUSE  
550 Officenter Place  
Gahanna, Ohio 43230  
Monday, April 17, 2023  
Time 12:00 noon

Our meetings are the Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Monday of the month.

**Remember to bring a canned good item or other food item.**

**HEIMATTAG**

This was discussed at our March meeting. We need to have a commitment on who will be going before the April meeting. If you have not contacted anyone about you and any accompanying people, someone will be in contact with you. We need to make arrangements for lodging and transportation. Thanks.

**PRAYERS**

Please keep long time ATS member, Paul Schaible, in your prayers. Paul is facing physical challenges. We wish him the best. Paul's family was founding members of Martin Luther Church in Columbus.

**CELEBRATIONS**

Please join me in wishing Don Blum (April 22) a very happy birthday. Alles Gute zum Geburtstag!

**HUMOR**

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small.

The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale.

Irritated, the teacher reiter-

ated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible.

The little girl said, "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah".

The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to the other place, not heaven?"

The little girl replied, "Then you can ask him".

**FACEBOOK PAGE REACHED A MILESTONE-WE NOW HAVE 150 FACEBOOK GROUP MEMBERS!**

**Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons, Columbus Branch 10 (Facebook Group)**

Please invite people to join our Facebook Group, that is open to all people interested in sharing or reading about our Saxon Heritage. We will continue to modify and improve the Facebook page as needed. While we welcome you to join the Columbus Branch 10, you do not need to be a member to join the Facebook Group. You are invited to join our Facebook group and share your Saxon history or just enjoy what others post. If you are interested in becoming part of the Facebook group you can request an invitation or send me your email address (donaldblum@prodigy.net), and we will set you up.

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

**EASTER**

Easter is fun to gather with family and celebrate with a meal and go on Easter Egg hunts. We should not forget the true meaning of Easter.

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. We are blessed to have eternal life through Jesus Christ and Christ's Resurrection.

Because Jesus defeated death, we can have hope in this life and in eternity. And while your Easter may contain egg hunts, church services and chocolate candy, Christians around the world often celebrate Easter differently.

**PACIFIC**

The Pacific is home to thousands of islands with a variety of landscapes. You're probably familiar with countries in the Pacific like **Australia** and **New Zealand**. And since they're both in the Southern Hemisphere, Easter actually occurs during the fall instead of springtime there. And a lot of New Zealand residents (who are called "Kiwis") enjoy eating hot cross buns during Easter.

While we typically associate Easter with images of rabbits in the U.S., some Australians don't use rabbits for their Easter festivities because they're considered to be pests. Instead they use the holiday to celebrate an endangered Australian animal called a bilby. It has long ears and looks similar to a rabbit so they dub the animal the "Easter Bilby."

Easter week is full of church activities in Vanuatu which is an archipelago located in the South Pacific. These activities include a sunrise service on Easter morning and the observance of Good Friday and Easter Monday as official holidays.

**AFRICA**

Easter is widely celebrated in churches throughout Africa from the Thursday before Easter (called "Maundy Thursday") through Easter Sunday. Churches are often decorated with cloths that have butterflies, flowers and more on them. Church services are the most crucial parts of Easter throughout the region, and people attend Easter vigils to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

The night before Easter, Christians have a vigil that begins somber; but when morning comes, dancing and music breaks out.

In **Ethiopia**, Christian churches celebrate Faskia,

which is the 55 days leading up to Easter. Faskia is actually a bigger deal to people than Christmas, and that's why it's celebrated longer than our Easter in the U.S. During this holiday, people spend 55 days fasting from meat and animal products.

The night before Easter, Christians have a vigil that begins somber; but when morning comes, dancing and music breaks out. Families and communities spend Easter Sunday at church services and in homes, eating and celebrating.

In **South Africa**, the day after Easter was officially recognized as "Family Day" in the 1990s. Originally the holiday was called "Easter Monday" and was designed for people to recover from the Easter weekend's festivities. Today the holiday gives families the chance to spend time together.

**ASIA**

Asia is the largest continent on Earth, and contains a vast number of people groups, cultures and traditions.

Easter is a major religious holiday in **the Philippines**, which is home to more than 7,000 islands! In this country, two processions happen during Easter — the men are in one procession and follow an image of Jesus risen from the dead while the women make up another procession and follow Jesus' mother, Mary, who's wearing a black veil. The two groups meet at the church as a symbol of Jesus comforting Mary after he was raised from the dead. Then girls who are dressed up as angels for Easter take off Mary's veil (called a *lambong*) and people celebrate!

Not all countries throughout Asia celebrate Easter, a traditionally Christian holiday. But even though a small percentage of people in **India** are Christians, many people celebrate the holiday as a "spring festival." Egg dyeing and decorating isn't really celebrated in India but since people are still aware of the longstanding tradition, many purchase elaborately decorated eggs and give them as presents to their children.

**EUROPE**

In Orthodox countries throughout Eastern Europe like **Romania**, **Serbia**, **Greece** and more, Easter is celebrated about 1-2 weeks after other countries

because the Orthodox churches in these countries follow the Julian Calendar.

People in **Germany** love decorating for Easter! They even decorate tree branches for Easter with painted eggs in the same way that people decorate tree branches in December for Christmas. In addition to celebrating the holiday itself, Easter marks the kickoff of spring! Many people wear colorful traditional dress to celebrate the occasion.

In **Poland**, families get together to celebrate the holiday and eat a filling Easter Sunday breakfast. But the most famous part of a Polish Easter is the *babka*, a bread that traditionally has raisins and a thin glaze on top of it.

On Easter Monday in **France**, something unique happens. Volunteers in the French town of Bessières gather to cook a giant omelet. Thousands of eggs are cracked and cooked to create this huge dish. So why in the world do they do this?

Well, tradition says that Napoleon and his army were traveling through the south of France one day and stopped in this small town. They ate omelets there, and Napoleon liked them so much that he ordered the townspeople to gather their eggs

**AMERICAS**

Since the Americas contain North, South and Central America, there are a lot of different Easter traditions and celebrations.

In **Bermuda**, people like to fly kites on Good Friday. The tradition started one year when a teacher wanted to help his students learn about Jesus ascending to heaven. So he took a kite decorated with Jesus' face on it, and let it soar into the sky. It was like Jesus ascending!

In **Colombia**, Easter Sunday itself isn't celebrated with lots of fanfare. But Holy Week is celebrated widely throughout the country, with many people having off work part of the week or the entire week! Many people go on vacation during Holy Week, while some travel from bigger cities to smaller Colombian towns for traditional Holy Week processions and to observe decorations in churches.

And of course, in the **United States**, Easter is traditionally celebrated with church service, plastic egg hunts, dyeing real eggs and eating lots of sweets. Like... a lot of sweets. Americans actually spent \$2.6 billion on candy in 2018 according to the National Retail Federation. We certainly love our sugar, don't we?



Eastern European Month Celebration Dinner

Saturday, April 22, 2023

Sachsenheim Hall

7001 Denison Ave

Cleveland, OH 44102

6:00 pm

\$20 per person

Traditional Saxon Dinner

The Cleveland Saxon Dance Group will perform

Silent Auction and 50/50 Raffle

Call the ATS Home Office for Reservations

(440) 842-8442

Deadline for reservations is Friday, March 31

FRATERNAL CALENDAR

NATIONAL EVENTS

- May 20, 2023  
Branch Presidents Meeting - Host - Salem
- June 10, 2023  
66th Bowlers Convention Host Cleveland West
- June 25 - 30, 2023  
Saxon Summer Camp  
Camp Frederick in Rogers, OH
- July 7 - 8, 2023  
North American Heimattag  
Host: New Castle Branch 25
- July 22, 2023  
ATS Family Day  
Waldameer Park, Erie PA
- October 21 - 22, 2023  
ATS Open Bowling Tournament  
Host : Merrillville, IN

LOCAL EVENTS

- April 1, 2023  
Cleveland West  
Children’s Breakfast with the Easter Bunny
- April 8, 2023  
Salem Bramches 18 & 19 Easter Egg Hunt  
Saxon Club Grounds 1:00 p.m.
- April 22,2023  
Cleveland Sachsenheim  
Eastern European Congress of Ohio Banquet
- May 7, 2023  
Cleveland East Br. 33 Membership Banquet
- May 13, 2023  
Cleveland Saxon Dance Group Trachtenball
- July 9, 2023  
Youngstown Br. 30  
Saxon Day Picnic  
with Traun Austria Cultural Group
- July 10, 2023  
Cleveland West - Traun Austria Cultural Group  
Dinner and Concert
- July 12, 2023  
Salem - Traun Austria Cultural Group  
Dinner and Concert
- July 13, 2023  
Detroit - Traun Austria Cultural Group  
Dinner and Concert
- July 23, 2023  
Chicago Br. 9 Annual Picnic, Morton Grove IL
- August 26, 2023  
Cleveland Sachsenheim Summer Oktoberfest
- September 19, 2023  
Chicago Br. 9 Banquet, Lone Tree Manor
- October 14, 2023  
Cleveland Saxon Dance Group Traubenfest
- October 27, 2023  
Cleveland West Children’s Halloween Party
- November 12, 2023  
Cleveland West Veterans Day Dinner
- December 2, 2023  
Cleveland West Sausage Sale
- December 16, 2023  
Cleveland West Children’s Christmas Party
- December 17, 2023  
Chicago Br. 9 Christmas Party



BRANCH 18, SALEM  
By Barbara Spack

After a two-month winter break, the ladies resumed their meeting on March 13. Our president Marilyn McNutt was excused as she is recovering from a hospital stay and is now at Blossom for rehabilitation. We wish her well and along with her, look forward to her return to home.

Marilyn saw Mary Ann Roth who sent her regards to the ladies and says hello to everyone. Mary Ann has been a trustee for the ladies for the last 25 years serving recently as head trustee. She stepped down from the position at the end of December. Thank you, Mary Ann, for your years of service and we will miss you!

The slate of officers for 2023 includes Marilyn as president, Chris Phillis 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Terri Spack 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Recording Secretary and ATS Secretary Barbara Spack, Treasurer Sharon Walker, Financial Secretary Helen Aeling, Trustees Trudy Ehrhart, Marcia Spack and Mary Lou Weingart, and Sergeant at Arms Kate Lederle. Thank you, ladies, for accepting these roles for 2023.

Our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Chris conducted the March meeting in Marilyn’s absence and there was some catching up to do since there were no meetings in January and February.

Terri Spack gave the report of illness and need and our condolences go out to Lois Stanton on the passing of her husband Jonney, to Anne Lutz on the passing of her husband Donald, and to Dawn and Dick Jackson on the passing of Dick’s mom. The ladies made memorial donations to Emmanuel Lutheran Church for Jonney and Donald. Terri also reported on a visit to Flo Spack at the nursing home and said she is still showing some of that spunk we remember. We sure do miss her at the club!

Special committee reports were given. The Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday April 8 at 1:00 p.m. Dawn Jackson is the chairperson.

The family bowling party and Bowl Where You Are for the juvenile members of Branches 18 and 19 was held on March 5 at Hunt Club Lanes. There were 16 members attending and

11 bowlers including three of the Bowl Where You Are participants, Ray Appleby, Alex Spack and Catie Best. Barbara Spack was the chairperson. Dawn Jackson baked cookies and Kurt Jackson helped with setting up the bowlers on the alley lanes. Thanks to Dawn and Kurt for their help and to the families who attended.

Kitchen cleanup that was scheduled on January 21 was not completed. Those who showed up helped take down the Christmas decorations and the Christmas trees, but there was not enough help to start the kitchen cleanup. Thanks to Robert Vogt, Mary Lou Weingart, Joy Spack and Marilyn McNutt for coming out and helping.

The kitchen cleanup has been rescheduled for two dates in April – April 15 at 10:00 a.m. and April 29 at 10:00 a.m. Please give some thoughtful consideration to coming out and helping on either of those dates. We will need to sort our inventory, clean out the cupboards, and clean some of the equipment. Everyone’s help is needed and welcomed. If you are able to come on either or both dates, please inform Chris Phillis at 330.853.8834 and let her know.

New window blinds were installed in the clubhouse and they look great. Thanks to Marilyn and Joy for accomplishing this project.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 10 at 7:00 p.m.



One small economy  
that saves time  
and money

What is more useless than random socks of different colors and patterns?

Here is tip for a small economy that saves a lot of headaches: Buy just one kind of sock.

Find a sock type and color that you like and will be useful under pants and only buy that sock. Throw everything else away. Never buy special colors or patterns, especially for kids.

One sock. They always match. You never have to match them. No one ever notices anyway.

BRANCH 4, CLEVELAND  
By Joan Miller-Malue

We sadly report the death of our dearly beloved member, Maria Botsch who passed away on March 16, 2023. She was loved by all that knew her. She shared her talents throughout the Saxon community with the many Saxon shirts, ties and aprons she stitched with the beautiful Saxon designs. Every one of these items were made with loving hands. She supported all events at the Sachsenheim, and was always there with her beautiful smile. She was so proud of her family and told me at the Cleveland Saxon Dance Groups’ 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary how proud she was that her three sons and several grandchildren were members of the group. This was the last event she was able to attend at the Sachsenheim and we were all so happy that we were able to talk with her that evening. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to her family. She will be truly missed but never forgotten.

Spring has arrived and that means it is time for the 2023-2024 Saxon 250 Club to begin with the first drawing to be held on April 17, 2023,

We invite our members and friends who are not present members to join us for the fun of possibly wining \$25 in a 50 week drawing and year end top prizes that will be drawn at the banquet while showing support of the Sachsenheim. To join send a \$50 check made payable to the Saxon 250 Club and send to Stephanie Miller, 23500 Wingedfoot Dr, Westlake, OH 44145.

The month of April has been designated as Easter European Month. The Eastern European Congress of Ohio works to educate unite those ancestry and heritage are from Eastern Europe. The non-profit organization works to show the importance of our heritage in our daily lives and in governance of our country. This year the Eastern European Congress of Ohio will have its celebration banquet at the Sachsenheim on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Cleveland Saxon Dance Group will perform at this event to share our Transylvanian Saxon culture with the various other ethnic groups attending this celebration. We are so thankful and proud of the Dance Group.



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

**10:00 Service**  
**Nursery**  
**Coffee following service**  
**Senior Circle**

**BRANCH 33, CLEVELAND EAST**  
By Arline Krestel-Suts

Branch 33 meeting was on March 8. We started the evening playing Bingo. We welcomed our newest member Sharon Volpe, sponsored by Bill Maurer. Congratulations to the Foisel family; Eric and wife had a baby boy (their third) Beckett Theodore. We encourage members to attend upcoming events including Westside Sachsenheim Chili Cook-off, Eastern European Conference dinner to be held in April, Transylvanian Heimattag July 7-8, and the Siebenbuergen Treffen upcoming in August 2024 In Hermannstadt, Romania. Branch 33 did donate two glass beer Steins and a tote bag for the Chili cook off raffle/fundraising. Congratulations to the winners! Member Elva Keefer passed away and we made a donation to the Hospice of the Western Reserve in her name. Additional charities we donated to this month were Habitat for Humanity and Osterlein Youth Services. On March 18 Branch 33 had a Bowl Where You Are pizza party. Bowling is definitely a social sport... Sure you can bowl alone but so much more fun with others! Junior and Senior members had an opportunity to share laughs, conversation, Gemuetlichkeit— and the pictures here prove an environment of “casual competition” amongst participants. And we helped Hilda Siffin (Ziegler) celebrate her birthday. Things to Cindy Schneider who did a fantastic job planning, arranging, organizing the Bowling event. Good turnout but we always hope to see more members next year. Branch 33's next social event will be our annual Member-

**Study: Laxative use may increase dementia risk**

A new study published in the journal Neurology found that people who regularly use over-the-counter laxatives may increase their dementia risk by 50 percent or more. Researchers found that risk rose among study participants who used two or more types of laxatives. The use of osmotic laxatives, which attract water and keep it in the colon, was associated with even higher risk.

**BRANCH 37, DETROIT**  
By Susi Fleischer

**Janet Nelson**  
1940- 2023

Janet passed away peacefully after a short bout with cancer.


Janet Read and John Nelson met in Canada and got married at the Transylvanian Club in Kitchener in August of 1977. Thereafter Janet immigrated to Michigan and worked as a librarian at the Burton Historical Collection in the Detroit Public Library for 19 years. Janet and John were blessed, with son John D., but in 1998 they were divorced.

Janet had been an active member with ATS Br. 37 of Detroit since 1977 for 46 years and had been the



**Janet Nelson**

Secretary for 17 years. Janet recorded her last meeting minutes at our November 6th General Meeting. Janet will be missed by everyone who came in contact with her and will be remembered for ever.

  
**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.**

**Darwin W. Emerson**  
Age 88  
Died: February 25, 2023  
Branch 30, Youngstown, OH

**Maria Botsch**  
Age 85  
Died: March 16, 2023  
Branch 4, Cleveland, OH

Schneider, Joan Blaha; and those who are living outside of Northeast Ohio. We hope Austin Bonnett is doing well down in Texas guarding our southern border- his parents Bob and Pam went to visit for his birthday.

Holy Week and Easter will soon be upon us. Happy Easter to all... as we think about Easter bunnies, chocolate and colorful eggs, also remember it is a time to celebrate Jesus Christ's resurrection - a time for renewal and a celebration of His gift for eternal life. Have a wonderful spring break, stay safe if you are traveling.



**Vice President Maria Philips welcoming new member Sharon Volpe.**



**Vice President Phillips presents Arline Suts with a 50 year membership pin.**

**BRANCH 30, YOUNGSTOWN**  
By Rosemarie Kascher

Upcoming events at the Youngstown Saxon Club:

April 9, 2023	Easter Sunday Brunch
April 10, 2023	Officers' Meeting 5:30 p.m.
April 16, 2023	General Meeting 2:00 p.m.
May 14, 2023	Mothers' Day Brunch
May 15, 2023	Officers' Meeting
May 21, 2023	General Meeting
July 7, 8, 2023	Heimattag, New Castle
July 9, 2023	Saxon Day Picnic with Austrian Guests

(Please note April and May meeting dates changed due to national holidays).

I encourage adults and students to take advantage of both the ATS Scholarships and the Br. 30 Scholarships that are available. Education has become expensive so these opportunities provided by your Saxon heritage are wonderfully helpful to those of you who are members for two years locally and/or ATS membership. To apply for a Br. 30 Scholarship, contact Julaine Gilmartin, 330-799-5171, 4173 Timberlaine Trail; Canfield, OH 44406. The deadline for applications is April 14, 2023

Dues are \$40.00 for regular members and \$50.00 for social members, half price to honor members and college students and the military. In effect for 2024 year, honor members will be requested to pay \$20.00 per year for current membership. Thank you.

The constitution has been updated to make a change with absentee ballots in 2024; check with your officers for details.

We welcome Corey Pauley and Anthony Maley into membership.

Students who want to earn two hours of credit both at their high school and at YSU, for community service, are invited to apply at our office for experience, work, at the Youngstown Saxon Club. This helps both ways.

Please volunteer to help with special events as well as maintenance; it's fun! Just notify the office when you can. If we all pitch in a little, it's great!

**Easter Egg Hunt**



**Salem Branches 18 & 19**  
**Saturday, April 8**  
**1:00 p.m.**  
**Saxon Club Grounds**

## Youngstown Saxon Club honors its Woman and Man of the Year

The Youngstown Saxon Club, 710 S. Meridian Road, recently honored its Woman and Man of the Year during its 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Presidents' Goulash Dinner that took place March 25. Chrissy Fotiuk and Harry Clay were honored by Branch 30 of the Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons. In addition to the Woman and Man of the Year, nine 40-year, eleven 50-year, and three 60-year members were also recognized at the event. Since the 2020 Presidents' Goulash Dinner was cancelled because of the Covid Pandemic, Branch 30 took this opportunity to also honor the 2020 Woman and Man of the Year, June Hoelzel and Donald Hoelzel.

If you have ever attended an event in the Saxon Club Pavilion, had dinner in the Member's Lounge, enjoyed a wedding party in the Saxon Ballroom, or enjoyed a multitude of member social events, then Chrissy Fotiuk is no stranger to you. She has been a fraternal member of the club since 1987. From her first time working at the Club at age of 15 to this current day, she has and continues to serve the club in both employee and volunteer roles. She has worked for Mahoning County Jobs and Family Services since 2000 and additionally, she bartends at the Youngstown Eagles (3298). Her volunteer efforts with the Club include 25+ years chairing the Children's Christmas Party, Transylvanian Saxon Bowling League, 5+ years serving as the Saxon Ladies Bocce Commissioner and multiple construction, cleaning, catering opportunities to support the club. She follows in her mother, Helen Fotiuk's, example who was the 2001 recipient of this award. Her Contribution to her Club and her community is immeasurable and unmatched.

Harry Clay graduated Austintown Fitch High School in 1960. In 1962 he attended a machinist school in Chicago. Upon returning home, he worked for a company in Niles. The day that President Kennedy was shot, he and the other employees were sent home early. On the table, when he got home, was a letter marked U.S. Selected Service System. Three weeks later, he was carrying a rifle at Fort Gordan Georgia.

After completing military service, which included 16 months in Frankfurt Germany, he returned home

to work at McKay Machine-Wean United. He got married and had 2 children, Tracy and Greg. Around that same time, he decided to change careers and go into the construction industry. He spent 55 years as a member of the Operating Engineers Union. He worked on the tallest building in Cleveland at 640 feet, pumping concrete to the top floor. He also worked on the Interstate 79 bridge west of Pittsburgh over the Ohio River at ¾ of a mile long, at the nuclear power plant near Shippingport Pa, of which over 100,000 yards of concrete was placed and many other construction sites in the tri-state area.

He married his second wife, Cookie, in 1984 and his family grew by two more members, Chris and Dea. He now has 10 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. Harry joined the Saxon Club in 2012. Instead of going to a gym, he has assisted Dan Richards, Tom Hahn, and the late Mike Teutsch Sr. maintaining the building and setting up the Ballroom for different activities. He changes light bulbs, batteries, furnace filters, fixes chairs, works on drains, shovels snow, cuts down trees and works on the roof. Basically, whatever is on the To-Do list, Harry and the crew will get it done.

Selected for the 2020 Saxon Woman and Man of the year were husband and wife June and Donald Hoelzel. They were both widowed, met at the Canfield Fair, and have been married for 15 years. June is the daughter of Naomi and Clifford Endress and the mother of Anthony Sertick, Jr., Esq. (Kara) and Andrea Bosnjak (Ivan). She is the grandmother of Ivan, Alec, and Ava Bosnjak. June is a graduate of East High School and attended Kent State University. She was employed at and retired from Austintown Local Schools as a bus driver and a cashier. She served as Union President of Local Union #194-The Ohio Association of Public School Employees. June also was the owner of A-1 Driving School in Austintown. She has been an active member of the Saxon Club for 15 years and has served in numerous positions: ATS Secretary, Recording Secretary, and past President of Saxon Branch 22. She has volunteered with catering, pork and kraut dinners, Saxon Day Picnic, craft show, newsletter, car cruise, bingo,



**Chrissy Fotiuk**



**Harry Clay**



**June and Donald Hoelzel**

scholarship fundraiser, New Year's Eve Party, ATS Convention, and Heimattag German Celebration.

June was a previous member of the Austintown Community Church where she served as an Elder, cooked for the Kiwanis, was Dorcas Circle President, and volunteered at the Canfield Fair Colonial Inn for thirty years. She is currently a member at St. Charles Church. June was recognized in 2019 as Saxon Club Branch 22's Mother of the Year.

Donald Hoelzel is the son of Edwin and Bernice Oberlander Hoelzel. He is a graduate of South High School and obtained a degree in Industrial Management for YSU. Don is the father of three sons: Donald Jr. (Marilyn), Neal, and Garrett (Kim). He has four grandchildren: Mark Hoelzel, Connor Hoelzel, Colin Hoelzel, and Lori (Joe) Shelby and a great grandson J.J. Shelby.

Donald was employed by MacKenzie Muffler as a time study tech. Thereafter, he worked at Youngstown Steel

Door as their employment manager. Upon their closing, he relocated to Dayton, Ohio and worked for Wright Patterson Air Force Base as an Industrial Specialist for the Department of Defense. Donald served in the United States Army, was stationed in Korea, and was discharged as a Sergeant. Donald has been a member of the Saxon Club for 53 years. He has served as Treasurer and Financial Secretary of Branch 30. Don has volunteered for catering, Saxon Day Picnic, pork and kraut dinners, car cruises, and was chairman of the Saxon Newsletter. He has also volunteered for bingo and New Year's Eve celebration. He is a member of the Austintown Lions Club for 26 years and received the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award in 2012. He is a member of VFW #1423 and American Legion #301. Donald has volunteered for St. Charles in the soup kitchen and participated in community. Donald is an avid golfer and has sunk 2 holes in one in his 80's.

## Joyful Easter: He is risen!



Christians around the world will be celebrating the most important event of the church year on April 9: Easter Sunday, the Christian Passover.

They celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the most joyful event in the Christian calendar, on that day. It signifies the promise of everlasting life for all who believe.

In fact, the entire week leading up to Easter Sunday has days of significance, though some days are observed more or differently throughout the many Chris-

tian traditions.

The Sunday preceding Easter is called Palm Sunday, honoring Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The next day, Holy Monday, traditionally honors the day Jesus cleansed the Temple. On Holy Tuesday, Jesus predicts his death. Holy Wednesday, also called Spy Wednesday, is when Judas arranged the betrayal of Jesus. Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper. Finally there is Good Friday, marking the day Jesus was crucified. Why is the day called Good? Some say the word originally meant Holy or Sacred. On Holy Saturday, the church is in waiting since, as Saturday was the Jewish Sabbath day and observant Jews could not complete his burial. Easter Vigil begins after sundown on Saturday, when liturgical churches have a service of light, reading of the Bible, baptisms, and communion.

Finally, Holy Week culminates with Easter, and it is said the sun jumps for joy as it rises. The legend may be one of the reasons that many churches hold sunrise services on Easter Sunday.

On Sunday as the sun rose, Mary, the mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, and others hurried to the sepulcher where Jesus was laid. They worried that they would not be able to roll away the great stone that closed it, but then they saw that the grave was already open.

Upon entering, they saw an angel and were very much afraid. According to the gospel of St. Mark, the angel said to them:

"Be not afraid. You seek Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here: behold the place where they laid him.

"Go your way. Tell his disciples and Peter that he has gone before you into Galilee. There you shall see him, as he said."

They went out quickly. They trembled and were amazed.

# Youngstown Bowl Where You Are



Jordan and Madison



Jordan



Lily, Jordan, Madison and Owen



Owen and Lily



Lily



Owen

## Of mice and cheese..

It seems like from the earliest days of our childhoods, we have known that mice like cheese. In fact, Western civilization, from the time of the Romans, has known that mice like cheese. But it's not exactly true.

What we all really know is that a house mouse will eat pretty much anything -- but do they have a preference? According to Live Science, mice prefer things with high protein and strong smells, like peanut butter. Drexel University biologist Megan



Phifer-Rixey says the smelly mixture of protein and fat in peanut butter is a mouse's dream.

Still, the idea that mice love cheese is ancient. First century Roman philosopher Lucius Annaeus Seneca wrote about mice and cheese. But lots of references exist to recent times. The 1820 children's song, The Farmer in the Dell, contained the verse: The mouse (or rat) takes the cheese; The mouse (or rat) takes the cheese; Hi-ho, the derry-o!; The mouse (or rat) takes the cheese. And the pizza parlor for kids, Chuck E. Cheese, has a mouse right in the logo.

# Lorain / Cleveland Bowl Where You Are



## BRANCH 9, CHICAGO By Rose-Marie Hauer

The meeting was held on March 6, with great attendance. President Thut brought the meeting together and all reports were accepted. The Sip and Paint event was held on March 5, with six people in attendance. Sister Claudia Schmidt brought appetizers and some drinks while we painted. We painted beautiful poppy flowers. Our Bowling event was held on March 12, at Arling-

ton Lanes with twenty people in attendance. We bowled three games and enjoyed pizza. On our Sick List we have Sister Rosemarie Morgen. We are sending you many prayers to a speedy recovery. Our next meeting will be on April 3, at the Donauschwaben Club at 7 p.m. I want to wish you all a very Happy Easter.



Chicago Bowling Party



Chicago Sip and Paint

INVITE

your relatives and friends to  
join the crowd at ATS.

# Cleveland East Family Bowling Party



## Exhausted after a family vacation?

Here’s a secret: Going on vacation with the kids is a lot of work.

Parents are often exhausted after being full-time nannies, swim or snow board instructors, drivers, and entertainment directors. And they have spent a lot of money.

Family vacations can be defeated by expectations that are too high. One kid gets sick, another gets testy, and everyone decides they don’t really like the resort.

All that having been said, it’s time to plan your annual vacation with the family.

- Don’t go far, especially with small kids. It’s misery for a one-year-old to fly for 12 hours to Paris, transfer, walk through the airport, and so forth. And they are going to make you miserable too. According to Meredith Gordon, writing in



Mom.com, this is a rookie mistake. Kids can’t tell the difference between a beach in Florida and one in Bali. Choose something close.

- Go someplace the kids will love. Forget the museum. Just go to that splash park and let the kids frolic.
- Let the kids eat cake and burgers. Don’t expect the kids to enjoy that great sushi restaurant you heard about. Just let them stay up late and eat stuff they can’t eat at home.
- Let them use their devices.

It’s a journey. So what if they want to watch the same movie 400 times.

- Travel somewhere you can afford. Nothing is worse than being stressed about money. Stuff will come up. Give yourself enough room to afford that expensive trinket or treat that the kids are begging for.

Branch 1 Saxon 250 Club

The Branch 1 Saxon 250 Club is inviting current and new members to join us for the 2023-24 club year.

The cost to join will again be \$50.00 for an annual membership. This is a great opportunity to support our club while taking a chance on some great prizes.

Beginning on April 17, 2023, we will draw numbers for 50 consecutive weeks and each winner will be awarded \$25.00. At week 25, a special drawing will be held for \$100.00 and at the end of the club year, each member will be entitled to one ticket to our year end banquet and will be entered into a grand prize drawing where twelve cash prizes ranging from \$50.00 - \$1000.00 will be awarded (winner need not be present).

It is not necessary to be a Branch 1 or 4 member to join – membership is open to all adults ages 18 and older.

If you are interested in joining, please make checks payable to Saxon 250 Club and mail to:

Stephanie Miller  
23500 Wingedfoot Dr  
Westlake, OH 44145

Should you have questions, please email us at [saxon250club@gmail.com](mailto:saxon250club@gmail.com).

BRANCH 5, LORAIN  
By Michael Johnson

Spring at last! We were fooled a couple of times with a bit of snow this past month but I believe we've seen the last of it. Time to start thinking about all those summertime things we love.

The audit committee met early before our monthly meeting to go over the books, and everything looks to be well in order. We'd like to thank Sister Ginger Romes for the time she puts into keeping our financial records up to date and painstakingly documented. We also want to remember to appreciate each officer's role from the President to the trustees in helping to maintain our Lorain Branch 5 in the Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons.

The 'Bowl Where You Are' party hosted by Branch 5 for our junior Saxons was held at Rebman Recreation on Sunday, March 12. The event was attended by 2 from our branch and 6 from our Cleveland branches. Many thanks go out to President Monica Gilles who organized the event which

was enjoyed by all those who attended. (See group photo on Page 7. Ed.)

Sisters Arlene Gilles and Betty Ralph are currently on the sick list and we hope for a speedy recovery for each of these ladies. Remember if you are ill, and are, or soon to be under a doctor's care, you need to contact Sister Jane Mowery at (440) 246-3004 to see if you're eligible to receive the benefits your paid dues membership qualifies you for. Oftentimes we forget about this privilege that is ours as a Branch 5 member when it can be of help when we need it most.

Birthdays being celebrated by our members this month of April are Sisters Debbie Tomusko, Ginger Romes, Barbara Gilles, and junior members Sofia Ali and Mackenzie Smith. May you each celebrate in your most favorite way. Happy Birthday!

Our next meeting will be held at the Lorain Slovak Club on April 17, 2023 beginning at 7:00 p.m. Hope to see many of you we've not seen in a while. Until then, have a Happy Easter and stay healthy.

SAXON SUMMER CAMP

Ages 7 - 15

June 25 - 30, 2023  
CAMP FREDERICK  
ROGERS, OHIO



Summer is rapidly approaching and the ATS Youth Activities Committee is once again sponsoring Saxon Summer Camp, for our Junior Members and friends, ages 7 - 15, the opportunity to spend a week together in fellowship. We are offering four camp programs for the different ages. The programs are designed to allow campers to continue to grow, every time they move to a new age group, the type and level of activities increase to meet the needs of that age group.

**New Adventurers – Completed K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade** Songs, creek stomping, hiking, swimming, crafts, discovery time, camp fires and more.

Cost: ATS Junior Member \$150 and \$350 for non-member children

**Discoverers – Completed 3<sup>rd</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade** Traditional camp activities plus climbing tower and archery.

Cost: ATS Junior Member is \$170 and \$370 for non-member children

**Journeyers – Completed 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade** Includes traditional camp activities plus canoeing, high rope courses and zip line.

Cost: ATS Junior Member is \$225 and \$425 for non-member children

**Ultimate Challenge – Completed 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade** Includes camping out at Ohio pyle, PA, go whitewater rafting and caving at Laurel Caverns.

Cost: ATS Junior Member is \$295 and \$495 for non-member children

The one-week camp will be held at Camp Frederick, a beautiful camp located in Rogers, Ohio on 144 acres of forest, rambling streams, rolling hills, glacial rocks and meadows. Camp Frederick is an organized camp center located at the Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia borders. The camp is located 1 ½ miles east of Rogers, Ohio off SR 154. The address is 6996 Millrock Road. The camp is staffed with trained and experienced counselors.

At Camp Frederick, our campers will be housed in cabins which accommodate eight persons.

One evening will be devoted to Saxon folk dancing and folklore.

We welcome our members to bring along one friend who is not a member. Also, ATS members may send their children or grandchildren (who are not yet ATS members) to the camp at the non-member cost. Each camper will receive a free Saxon Summer Camp T-shirt.

If you wish to attend please complete the Registration Form and send it along with a \$100.00 deposit for ATS Junior Members and \$150.00 for non-member children to the ATS Home Office by May 1, 2023. Upon receipt of your registration fee we will send you a Camper's Health Examination Form and Personal Information Form that must be completed by you and returned to this Office by June 1, 2023, along with the balance of your camp fee. We will mail you a map and detailed information as to arrival and departure times, and what to bring along.

SAXON SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Tele. No. ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Member Br. No. \_\_\_\_\_ ATS Cert. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Enclosed is an ATS Registration Form & deposit of \$100.00 for myself

☐ Enclosed is a Registration Form for my non-member friend and deposit of \$150.00

Friend's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

This Form and deposit must be received at the ATS Home Office by May 1, 2023.  
Balance will be due by June 1, 2023.

Make check payable to ATS (Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons)

Mail Check and Form to: ATS, 5323 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44129-1503

Signature of Parent or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

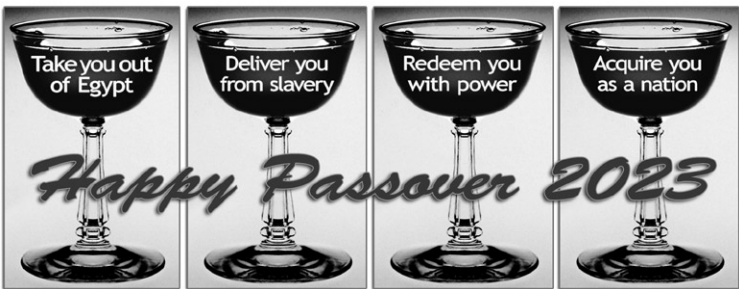
Passover: The Time of Our Freedom

The celebration of Passover within the Jewish community begins after sundown on April 5 and continues for eight days. This is a time for family, rejoicing, and the retelling

of Hebrew history. In Israel, the celebration lasts seven days and signals the beginning of the harvest season.

This feast, also known as Pesach, is the first of three major festivals. Pesach in Hebrew means 'passing over,' in reference to how God passed over the houses of the Jews in Egypt while punishing their captors.

The name Pesach is also said to have been the name



of the sacrificial lamb offered in the Temple before the Exodus of the Jews. Another name for this observance is Z'man Cherutenu, which means 'the Time of Our Freedom.'

The Fast of the Firstborn is observed on the day before Passover. Firstborn Jewish males fast to commemorate that the firstborn sons of the Israelites were spared in Egypt.

Seders are observed on the first two nights of Passover. At Seder dinners, the youngest child of the household traditionally recites or sings the Four Questions. The teaching exercise begins with asking, "Why is this night different from all other nights?" If there are no children in the household, anyone may ask the questions.



## 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) 816-6866  
jonathanbaisch@gmail.com

#### SECRETARY

Paul Garmon  
2305 Highland Ave  
New Castle PA 16105  
(724) 674-7491  
paulgarmon1@gmail.com



## Cultural Groups

### CLEVELAND SAXON DANCE GROUP

Rehearsal: Fridays  
6:30 p.m Children  
7:30 pm Adults  
Westside Sachsenheim  
csgd7001@yahoo.com

#### PRESIDENT

Christine Roppelt  
8905 Fernhill Ave  
Parma OH 44129  
(216) 773-9375

#### SECRETARY

Stephanie Miller  
23500 Wingedfoot Dr  
Westlake OH 44145  
(216) 647-3229

### YOUNGSTOWN SAXON CULTURE GROUP

Meets: 2nd Sunday of Month  
Youngstown Saxon Club

#### PRESIDENT

Erna Weber  
525 Quarry Ln  
Warren OH 44483  
(330) 509-9421  
Saxnera@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

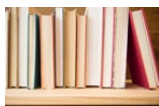
Jenny Miller King  
25321 Conover Dr.  
Bay Village, OH 44140  
(216) 551-1728  
jmill411@yahoo.com

#### 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  
gillemo76@hotmail.com



## 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  
5323 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  
6000 Lake Rd W Apt 112  
Ashtabula OH 44004  
(440) 536-4661

### 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

THIS CHANGE IS FOR:

☐ HOME OFFICE RECORDS & VOLKSBLATT  
☐ VOLKSBLATT ONLY

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Person Making Change \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons, 5323 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44129-1503

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

## The custom of Easter splashing (Bespritzen)

*Schöne Mädchen zu begießen  
ist des Knaben Freudentag,  
darum woll'n wir Dich begießen,  
heut' am zweiten Ostertag.*

*Douching beautiful girls  
is the boy's day of joy  
that's why we want to water you  
today on the second day of Easter.*

### Easter spray walking (By Heinrich Zillich).

A long time ago, back home in Transylvania, there were all sorts of strange Easter customs that only the learned gentlemen know about today, or the old people in the remote villages. During Holy Week, which was dedicated to silence, one was not allowed to hit the wooden mallet while washing the clothes at the stream, because whoever did it would attract the hail; At first it was a long time coming, but in the summer it came murderously across the field with locks the size of a nut, right up to the point at which the blasphemous noise of the mallet had been heard. On Easter morning, before daybreak, the youth went up to a hill to see the Easter lamb in the rising sun; it had to be an uncovered sky, of course. In the midst of the fiery ball sat the heavenly Lamb; Boys and girls had such good eyes that they could see him in his sweetness, how he gently bowed his head to the ground, leaned the cross-staff somewhat awkwardly on his breast, for he had no hands; in color and shape it was confusingly similar to the tiny waxy lambs that the village grocer offered for sale. And afterwards, at the morning service, the women held the bouquet in folded hands, without which they never went to church, and each had on her lap a knotted handkerchief full of red-dyed eggs for the godchildren. Do you also know why it had to be red eggs? Well, because once, on Good Friday, when the Lord hung on the cross, the hens of the world laid bloody eggs out of sorrow. Elsewhere that was soon forgotten, but here in the secluded valleys we had a better memory, we knew what had happened on the first Good Friday in chicken yards all over the world.

When I was a kid before WWI, most people didn't respect the old customs; I don't believe, by the way, that our eyes could easily have spotted the lamb in the glowing ball of the sun. But there was one custom we strictly and happily followed; it is not dead today and makes young people happy wherever a small group of Transylvanians live together, whether at home, where many, many thousands of us live, or in Germany or America and wherever fate may have scattered us.

On Easter Sunday we went to church, we then sanctified the festival

with huge meals and drank wine, but only on Monday did the delicious and funny things come, the most beautiful joy. You could – to reveal it right away – get a little close to the girls, with honor, of course, but it made our hearts beat faster for us youngsters, and the youngsters probably no less, because their faces glowed with laughter and rejection again sun ball.

Even the smallest boy was allowed the same freedom. Toddlers who could hardly walk on their feet dared to approach the female sex like grown-up boys. From this you can see that it wasn't a bad thing. A weapon was part of it, a bottle with fragrant water with a permeable cap on top. This was wonderful spray. And for that purpose it was there, the bottle. Some filled it with perfume, good or bad, some added a little water, which made the liquid look like milk, and so armed they sneaked into the sisters' chambers early in the morning and sprayed them from their sleep. Oh how they screamed and crawled under the covers! The servants did it rougher with the maids, they poured a bucket over their heads. It wasn't very Christian, but the custom had nothing in common with Christianity. Scholars agree that a pagan fertility charm lived on, certainly, and it lived on very vigorously, nay it was rewarded with eggs and oranges, which the splattered girls handed to the males, small and large. That was just as much a part of it as the schnapps that the womenfolk served to the grown men for being treated like this by them.

In the morning you could see in every village the youngest boys up to the mature bachelors, the bottle

in the hand aggressively, going in turn to the houses where girls were known to them. One saw fathers walking with their little boys; the more distinguished even used a carriage. Also, everyone carried a basket or other container to pack the eggs or oranges. Some had to rush home several times to put down supplies, after which they continued the round trip. It was customary to knock politely, enter demurely, shake the bottle to ask if it was allowed, to which the girls and their mother nodded, ducked their necks, turned away, and received the wet blessing. You sat around the table for a while, nibbled pastries, drank a glass and said goodbye. At midday, however, the boys' heads reddened, as if something living were about to be born of them, though not a little lamb, of course; the next day it was a monkey.

The poor little women had it worse there, not because they had to give away so many eggs and oranges - that came back if they had brothers - and how much did eggs cost here! But the mixture of differently scented waters stuck in hair and clothes for days. You had to pour a few buckets over your head to smell like yourself again.

My mother and sister were not only made happy on Easter Monday by my father's employees, all the young and even the fat old bachelors; one sprayed violets, the other cologne, the next lavender; oh, the farmhands, coachmen, day laborers and workers, together a hundred or more, also rushed into the house, and there were some who dissolved raspberry candy in water and splashed it with it. It only smelled a little, but it was very sticky.



Resurrection depiction, Mediascher Altar.  
Foto: Martin Eichler

## Ostermorgen

*Kaum graut der Morgen,  
hört man schon,  
den Glockenklang vom  
nahen Dom.  
Er ruft es in die Nacht hinein:  
„So kommt, oh kommt,  
von fern und nah,  
und seht was heute  
Nacht geschah!“*

*Der Engel, der am Grab gewacht,  
verkündet es am End der Nacht:  
„Der Herr, ist heute auferstanden!  
Verbreitets schnell in  
allen Landen!“*

*Die Frauen könnens  
kaum verstehn,  
als sie das leere Grab nun sehn.  
Von Furcht und Freude  
fast benommen,  
verstehn sie kaum,  
was hier begonnen.*

*Ja, Jesus hat den Tod besiegt!  
Das Böse nun gefangen liegt,  
die Sünden, sie sind  
uns vergeben,  
von nun an gibt's  
das ew'ge Leben.*

*Drum ziehen wir am Ostermorgen,  
schon früh um fünf,  
in Gott geborgen;  
und loben Jesus, unsern Herrn.  
Ja, er ist unser Morgenstern.*

*Du schenktest uns  
ein neues Leben,  
hast unsre Sünden uns vergeben.  
Gern ruf ich's in  
den Ostermorgen:  
„Bei dir, oh Herr,  
bin ich geborgen!“*  
Christina Telker



These men and boys and lads had merry eyes, afterwards slightly glazed, one accepted it. It was beautiful, it was the highlight of Transylvanian Easter. And when the lamb is really sitting in the sun, it has certainly done something, looking down at the colorful, fragrant villages and towns, which lambs usually cannot manage, it has smiled and its cross-staff waved as it blessed our feast.

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