

ATS Founded in 1902

November 24, 2023

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

Issue 24

The ATS Youth Activities Committee would like to thank the following children for coloring and submitting the Halloween picture found in recent issues of the Volksblatt. They all did a wonderful job of coloring!

Happy (Thanksgiving)

Noah Murray Ethan Murray Maximus Fening Cora Hazel Elise Fogle Chelsey Cunningham Shepard Collier Alexandria Fischer Litschel

Quinn Murray Ava Fening Rose Hazel Jack Mc Cune Claire Cunningham Laurel Emerich Carina Cornell

Special entry from Charlotte in Germany

ARE YOU THANKFUL

TO BE SAXON?



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Denise Aeling Crawford ATS Nat'l President



The IRS recently announced the retirement plan limits for 2024. Traditional and Roth IRA contribution limits increased from \$6,500 for 2023 to \$7,000 for 2024 for taxpayers under age 50. For those 50 and over, the additional \$1,000 still applies. If you do not have an IRA, either Traditional or Roth, then consider opening one with the ATS. The main difference between the two types of IRAs is how the money you deposit into the accounts are taxed when you withdraw the funds.

For a Traditional IRA, you may be allowed a tax deduction for the amount you contribute on your tax return. Please consult your tax advisor. For the 2023 tax year, you have until April 15, 2024 to make this contribution. Since the maximum amount of your contribution is based on the income on your tax return, this gives you the time to complete your tax return and determine how much you can contribute. When you withdraw these Traditional IRA funds in the future, after age 59 ½, the entire withdrawal is taxable to you. The reason for this is that you received a tax benefit (reduced your taxes on your tax return) when you put the money into the account and now these funds are taxed, along with the earnings in the account, when you withdraw the funds. For a Roth IRA, you cannot take a tax deduction on your tax return. However, you should still wait until completing your tax return to determine that you are allowed to deposit funds into a Roth IRA. The funds deposited into the account are considered "after-tax" dollars. Since the amount you deposited into the Roth IRA was previously taxed, when you withdraw the funds, they are not taxed again. The extra benefit of the Roth IRA is that the earnings are also tax-free when you withdraw the funds, as long as your account has been open for more than five years.

TIMELY - DO NOT DELAY MAILED WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2023

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

TSBA BOWLERS

NEXT BOWLING SESSION DECEMBER 3, 2023

HOSTED BY LORAIN BOWLERS REBMAN RECREATION 5300 Oberlin Ave. Lorain, OH 44052 Bowling at 11:00AM

Luncheon to follow at the bowling alley

Cancellations by Tuesday, November 28 to Monica Gilles at (440) 309-7894

Continued on Page 2

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

It's never too early to start saving for your retirement years



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Cont'd from Page 1

The biggest factor in deciding which type of IRA to have is determining when you will get the biggest tax advantage. Of course, it is hard to determine what taxes will be like in the future, particularly if you have decades until you retire. If you expect a higher tax bracket while in retirement, then a Roth IRA with its advantage when you withdraw funds is for you. If you expect a lower tax rate in retirement, then you may want to have a Traditional IRA and take advantage of the upfront tax benefit. Either way, the ATS has an IRA for you.

Did you know that Macy's was not the first retailer to host a Thanksgiving Day parade? In 1920, Gimbels department store hosted a Thanksgiving Day parade in Philadelphia, four years before Macy's held its first parade. Following is some other Thanksgiving trivia. Did the Pilgrims refer to themselves as "Pilgrims"? No, they called themselves "Separatists". How many passengers were on the Mayflower? 102. When was the first Thanksgiving feast held? November 1621. Referred to as the "pumpkin capital" of the U.S., what town is home to the Libby's pumpkin canning plant? Morton, Illinois. What year did "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving" debut on television? 1973. Are pumpkins a fruit or a vegetable? Fruit. I hope everyone enjoys his or her Thanksgiving Day!

Until next time....

Ultraprocessed foods linked to depression

People who eat more ultraprocessed foods may face higher risk for depression, according to a new study in the journal JAMA Open Network. According to NBC News, researchers examined data about eating and mental health status for more than 31,000 women between the ages of 62 and 42, and found that those who ate nine servings of ultraprocessed foods per day were 50 percent more likely to develop depression than women who ate no more than four servings each day (Editor's Note: Eat more Speck).

Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons Home Office: 5323 Pearl Rd., Cleveland, Ohio 44129 Telephone: (440) 842-8442 FAX: 440-842-5442 E-mail: office@atsaxons.com Website: www.atsaxons.com **National Board of Directors** President -Denise Aeling Crawford Br. 8 (330) 257-0267 9415 Elsmere Dr, Parma OH 44130 **Honorary Past Presidents-**Thomas J. Manning Br. 2 (814) 864-6072 3909 Schaper Ave #203 Erie PA 16508 Joan Miller-Malue Br. 4 (216) 233-8631 17105 Hilliard Rd., Lakewood, OH 44107 First Vice President -Robert B. Cunningham III Br. 1 (216) 398-7520 9005 Memphis Villas Blvd., Brooklyn, OH 44144-2426 Second Vice President -Monica M. Weber Br. 4 (440) 356-5936 Third Vice President -Randall Floyd Br. 26 (219) 798-6908 1806 E 73rd Ave, Merrillville IN 46410 Secretary-

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Dr. Andreas W. Schuster, Br. 1 Cleveland

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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

Siebenburgen, süße Heimat, unser teures Vaterland! Sei gegrüßt in deiner Schöne und um alle deine Söhne schlinge sich der Eintracht Band.

Saxon News **VOLKSBLATT** November 24, 2023 - 2

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, NOVEMBER 29, 2023	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2023
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2023	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2023
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2023	FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2024

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 18, SALEM By Barbara Spack

The 50-year Dinner was held on October 7 with an appetizer table provided by Marcia Spack and Judy Drotleff, and a catered meal by member Chris Phillis. There were 39 members and guests in attendance. All the 50-year members were honored and received a carnation. Congratulations to this years' 50year members Norma Byers, Deborah Ulrich Emelo, Gaylene Kekel Englert, Kathryn Klein Vincent and Diane Kirchgessner, who received a 50-year pin from the ATS and a carnation corsage from Branch 18. Amelia Falk was recognized as our oldest 50-year member at age 103. Mums were donated by President Marilyn McNutt and given out by ticket drawing to Dawn Jackson, Marcia Spack, Ruth Herbert, Sharon Walker, Sheila Spack, and Doug Falk. The committee also included Katie Lederle who took reservations and collected money, Diane Kuttler who set tables, Joy Spack and Marilyn who made preparations and purchased corsages and flowers, Sue Weber who made the programs and Caroline Stone who made the certificates. Thanks also to Tom Drotleff who provided the photos for the Volksblatt.

Branch 18 would like to thank Darleen Drotleff Swartz who donated a German tapestry to the club. The ladies will have it displayed in the clubhouse.

Decorating of the clubhouse for Christmas will take place Sunday, November 26 at 2:00 p.m. and any able members of Branches 18 and 19 are asked to come out and help.

The ladies will be sponsoring 25 children in the Salvation Army Christmas program by purchasing an outfit of clothing for each child. Terri Spack will be doing the shopping and box-



Norma Byers and Br. 18 President Marilyn McNutt

ing of the outfits and bringing them to the clubhouse for the members to see at the December 11th meeting and the December joint social and Christmas party on the 16th.

Barbara Spack and Kirsten Sunderman are co-chairing the Christmas Party. A joint social will begin at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 16. Members, children and grandchildren (grands and greats!) are welcome to attend. Please bring a covered dish or side dish. The meat and table settings will be provided by Branch 18. There will be crafts for the children and special entertainment following the meal. Please RSVP with the number of children attending by phone call or text to Barbara Spack at 330.501.1491 to ensure that all children receive a Christmas stocking.

Our next meeting will be on Monday December 11 at 7:00 p.m. and there will not be meetings in January and February.



Christmas

Party

Salem Branches 18 and 19

December 16, 2023 4:00 pm

A joint social and family Christmas party will be held at the Salem Saxon Club Bring a side dish/covered dish Meat entrée and table setting will be provided by Branch 18 Children's activities and entertainment will follow the meal RSVP to Barbara Spack 330.501.1491

with number of children attending





CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

SATURDAY,

DECEMBER 16, 2023

2:00 p.m.

Westside Sachsenheim 7001 Denison Avenue Cleveland, OH

Santa to visit the Westside Sachsenheim on Saturday, December 16th to meet the Junior Members from Branches 1, 4, 5 and 33.

The party will begin at 2:00 p.m. with the making of a craft, followed by performances by our Junior members, and entertainment by TaDa and his Magic/Comedy Show. *SANTA CLAUS* will arrive following the entertainment. Refreshments will be served after Santa's visit.

We invite children to participate in the program by reciting a poem, singing a song, playing a musical instrument, etc. If you would like to be included in the program, please let Joan know when you make your reservation.

Make your reservations early by calling or texting:

Amelia Falk and Family



Kathryn Vincent, Debbie Emelo, and Gaylene Englert

Joan Miller-Malue at 216-233-8631 If you reach the answering machine leave your name and telephone number -Joan will call you back ...<u>OR</u> You can e-mail Joan at: <u>miller-malue@cox.net</u> Joan will need to know the name and age of each child attending the party.

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: DECEMBER 8th

ATS Junior Members:Can or box of non-perishable foodAdults:\$ 5.00Non-Member Children:\$20.00, plus a can or box of non-perishable food



your relatives and friends to join the crowd at ATS. Tell them about our fraternal society!

FRATERNAL CALENDAR

NATIONAL EVENTS

December 3, 2023 **TSBA Bowling - Lorain** January 14, 2024 **TSBA Bowling - New Castle** February 18, 2024 **TSBA Bowling - Cleveland East** March 17, 2024 **TSBA Bowling - Youngstown** April 6 - 7, 2024 **TSBA Season End Tournament - New Castle** May 18 - 19, 2024 **ATS Convention** Host: Youngstown, OH July 12 - 14, 2024 North American Saxon Heimattag Kitchener, ON Canada July 27, 2024 **ATS Family Day at Waldameer** October 12 - 13, 2024 **ATS Open Bowling Tournament Host: New Castle Bowlers**

LOCAL EVENTS

December 2, 2023 Cleveland East Sausage Making and Sale December 3, 2023 Youngstown Children's Christmas Party December 10, 2023 **Columbus Br. 10 Christmas Party** Berwick Party House 12 - 4 p.m. **Youngstown Christmas Party** December 16, 2023 **Cleveland West Children's Christmas Party** December 17, 2023 Chicago Br. 9 Christmas Party December 31, 2023 **Cleveland Sachsenheim New Year's Eve Bash**

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



Our Homeland and Our Journey to America



SALEM SAXON RETIREES **By Norma Byers**

Salem Saxon Retirees met on November 1, 2023. Yep, Winter is here! Wading through 3" of snow (that surprised us), we met at the club with 20 present.

The night before was Halloween and I had 52 children at my door, but only about 6 were grade school age. However, their costumes were fantastic, I enjoyed! I wish I had taken pictures but my hands were full of Candy!!

Our amazing President, Lois has Whitacre was happy to see everyone who came through the snow, so she greeted us all.

Tony Rothbrust gave the invocation and we all said the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag!

We had a very good lunch, perfect for a snowy day. Sausage sandwiches, bake beans, cheesy potato salad and our choice of 2 kinds of cake! Yummy!

We had the 50-50 drawing which was won by our guest, Pat Farrell.

Dianne Kuttler, secretary, read the minutes from Oct. and Katie Lederle gave us the financial report.

Nancy Stumperth read off the birthdays for November as follows: our guest tonight Pat Farrell, Tony Rothbrust's on the 21st, his anniversary on 17th and Mary Lou Weingart's birthday on the 28th! Happy Birthday to all and happy anniversary!

Next month, our President reminded us, we will have our Christmas dinner for \$10.00 (with all the trimmings) because we will be off for January and February. We can hardly wait - our Christmas dinner is always spectacular!!

We ended our meeting by standing and bowing our heads and saying The Lord's Prayer.

Tony waltzed in with the Bingo box and we all had



Saxon Sausage Sale Branch 33 Cleveland East Annual Wurstmarkt Saturday, December 2, 2023

Price is \$4.25 per pound Available in Garlic / No Garlic Loose or in casing Call orders to Ema Litschel (440) 479-9334 (Order Deadline November 26th)

Pick-up 1 p.m.to 4 p.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church 5200 Mayfield Rd, Lyndhurst Ohio Half proceeds donated to local Food Bank



BRANCH 4, CLEVELAND By Joan Miller-Malue

The Sachsenheim has some fun events coming up. On Saturday, November 25 come watch the Ohio State vs Michigan game that starts at Noon. Enjoy some great food and a few drinks while you cheer on your team. (Hopefully OSU)

The Gemütlichkeit Cleveländer Musikanten is hosting Krampus Night at the Sachsenheim on Saturday, December 9 at 6:00 p.m. Included in the evening's entertainment will be a performance by the Cleveland Saxon Dance Group. And of course, the Krampus to handle those who have "strayed from the straight and narrow. The Krampus are the bad cops to Santa's good cops. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased @ Eventbrite.com. Tickets will be \$20 the day of the event. Invitations have been sent to the Junior Members to attend the Annual Children's Christmas Party that will be held on Saturday, December 16 at 2:00 p.m. We invite our Junior members to participate in the program by reciting a poem, singing a song or playing a musical instrument. Just let me know when you make your reservations. Reservations are a must by calling or texting me at 216-233-8631 or email me at miller-malue@ cox.net. Please make your reservations early so that Santa's helpers have time

to arrange for a gift for each child. Deadline for reservations is December 8th. Look in the Volksblatt ad for more information.

The Sachsenheim will host a New Year's Eve Bash on Sunday, December 31, 2023 from 9:30-1:30 a.m. Tickets are \$29.95 that includes a choice of entrees: Prime rib, pan-seared salmon or champagne chicken plus a champagne toast at midnight. Tickets must be purchased in advance by calling the Sachsenheim at 216-651-0888 or buying the tickets at the Club's bar.

We hope that you will be able to join us for one or all of these events.

We want to congratulate our member Katie Hermann and her husband Craig Murray on the birth of their baby boy, John Stephen. Oma and Opa, the Volksblatt editors, Barb and Hanz Hermann, are "over the moon" with their precious addition to the family. Advent season is about to begin. Advent is all about reflecting on how we can prepare our heart and home for Christ's birth as it is in today's world. It is a time for reflection of our faith and for the four Sundays during Advent a candle on the Advent wreath is lite to designate Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. These are the messages we need to hear and honor.

Get your copy of the Saxon Memoirs!

Written by your fellow Saxons. Copies are \$25 each. Send checks payable to ATS 5323 Pearl Road Cleveland, OH 44129 Call the ATS Home Office at (440) 842-8442 for more information.

a fun time (and I did get my second cup of coffee!) Thanks Tony!

Everyone stay warm, eat healthy, sleep well and we'll see you on December 6th! TOODLE-OO





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



Make a wish: the story of the wishbone

Only two kids even get to take a crack at it, and a winning side promises good luck and a wish granted. It's the wishbone, more formally known as the furcula -- the point where turkey, duck, or chicken clavicles fuse above the sternum.

Ancient Etruscans prized the furcula and removed it whenever they slaughtered chickens. After drying it in the sun, the holder would stroke it while making a wish -- thus the name "wishbone." The wishbone tradition carried over to the Romans, who passed it to the British. The tradition jumped the Atlantic with the Pilgrims, who were chronically low on good luck after their arrival at Plymouth Rock. Luck may have been in short supply, but wild turkeys weren't, and their wishbones became a popular good luck charm. For modern American celebrations, here's how it usually goes: After you salvage the wishbone from the turkey, let it dry for a couple of days and become brittle. When the wishbone is ready, each person hooks a pinky around one side of the bone and pulls until the wishbone breaks, leaving just one lucky person with the bigger piece.

BRANCH 33, CLEVELAND EAST By Arline Krestel-Suts

Branch 33's most recent meeting was on Wednesday, November 8. We started the evening with a Schnitzel/ potluck supper. Mike Bretz brought Schnitzel from the restaurant at the Westside Sachsenheim and it was truly delicious, and filling. In addition, members brought various side dishes to share and it seemed like a Branch family/ friends Thanksgiving dinner.

We welcome our newest member, Erica Tully, sponsored by Maria Phillips. Correspondence read included a thank you cards from the Westside Donauschwaben Club and Maria Adam for our Branch Memoriam in honor of George Adam. Branch 33 meeting attendees mentioned and send greetigs to all members who have birthdays in November, and to all our members who have not been able to attend meetings and events - Kathie Brusk, Jean and Dorothy Schneider, Joan Blaha, Evelyn Keefer, Inge Mahn, Don & Nancy Mahter, Bette Schmidt, Don Weber, Mike Svajhart (also has his 98th November birthday) to mention a few.

November is election of officers month. The following is the slate of Branch 33 officers the members elected for 2024: President: Margie

Should you trust your gut?

You have a big decision to make and you have to make it right now. Your stomach is in knots and you feel nauseous. Is your gut telling you something?

Maybe. There is a direct link between the brain and the gut. There are 100 million neurons lining your digestive tract, according to Harvard Business Review -- more than in the spinal cord. About 95 percent of serotonin and 50 percent of the body's dopamine is processed in the gut, so the gut has the chemistry. So your gut may well be worth listening to.

Ziegler, Vice President: Maria Phillips, Recording Secretary: Arline Suts, Treasurer: Lisa Deaton, Financial Secretary: Mike Bretz, ATS Secretary Karyn Schmidt, Trustees are Wayne Suts, Nick Ziegler, Sue Guip and Barb Hum. We are grateful to outgoing officers Jeff Krestel and Kathie Brusk who have served our branch so diligently. Sharon Volpe has volunteered to take the Membership Chairperson position, with Cindy Schneider's help and expertise.

Charitable donations for the month of November will go to Salvation Army and the City Mission. We also received a letter of gratitude from Lake Metro Parks for our donation to their "Gift that Grows" program.

Upcoming Branch events: Annual Christmas Party will be on Sunday, December 10 at Pine Ridge Country Club from 12-4 p.m. (Dinner at 1:30 p.m.) in Willoughby Ohio. Price is \$10 for members, children ages 4 to 10 is \$5, and non-members \$25. We are excited that Santa will be joining us as well! Please call Cindy Schneider (216) 410-8851 to make your reservation.

Branch 33 Annual Saxon Sausage Sale is Saturday, December 2 at Messiah Lu-

self is whether you are feeling fearful. Fear pushes you to avoid threats or punishment. Fear may be the impulse to flee or escape. Fear can also distort the messages of the environment. If you aren't fearful, are you feeling pulled toward something, even if it is a risk? Do you feel excitement or anticipation? Or maybe you feel comfortable and at ease. Stay aware of your physical gut reactions at important moments. You might be able to see how these hints can help you make decisions over time.



New Br. 33 member, Erica Tully, being sworn in by Br. 33 President Margie Ziegler

theran Church in Lyndhurst. Sausage is \$4.25/pound, available as garlic or no garlic, loose or in casing. (Half of proceeds will be donated to a local food bank) Ema Litschel is taking orders until November 26, phone (440) Please pick 479-9334. up your order at Messiah Lutheran Church between 1 - 4:30 p.m.

We have no meeting in December, taking a Christmas break. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 10, 2024. Meeting will start at 7 p.m. with sausage and sauerkraut supper. Yes, it will be our homemade Saxon sausage!

"This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24.

Thanksgiving is noted as the most popular American Holiday. It's an appreciation for all that life brings, good and bad. I believe it is truly the most important holiday, more than Christmas or the summerholidays. It is a day when families (and friends) reunite and express gratitude for one another and for life itself. A time to reminisce, share life stories, share a meal with traditional family recipes (I have learned not to try any new on Thanksgiving!), old and young share time, play



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.

Adam J. Polchies Age 45 Died: April 27, 2023 Branch 30, Youngstown, OH

William E. Shoaff Age 85 Died: August 9, 2023 Branch 30, Youngstown, OH

Jeremy A. Holden Age 46 Died: August 22, 2023 Home Branch

Irene N. Carlon Age 88 Died: November 5, 2023 Branch 30, Youngstown, OH



Poinsettia stories

Legend has it that long ago, a poor Mexican girl picked weeds from the roadside to place before the nativity scene in her small church. When she placed the bouquet on the altar, the weeds burst into brilliant red blooms. The child ran back to her village, exclaiming that she had witnessed a Christmas miracle.

The miracle lives on, though it's mainly in the variety of colors that have been developed. Millions of poinsettias are sold each year in November and December. Red is the most popular color, but they now come in white, pink, rose, and peppermint. The flower was named after Joel Poinsett, a U.S. ambassador to Mexico who sent the plants to his hothouse in South Carolina in the early 1800s. The rest is history. Contrary to popular belief, poinsettias are not poisonous unless you (or your dog) eat a peck of leaves. But they are sensitive. When carrying poinsettias home, be sure to protect them from wind and cold. Keep them out of temperatures below 50 degrees.



But what is your knotted gut telling you? That's the problem.

Your brain is scanning your environment and analyzing thoughts faster than your awareness and that information might be going right to your gut. The key may be listening to your gut, or intuition, and learning over time what signals your body is sending you.

The first thing to ask your-

games, and of course share opinions- hopefully on football, not politics.

This Thanksgiving day is also special in our family, it is my father's, Fred Krestel, 90th birthday. Our family is truly thankful, grateful and blessed to have such a loving and awesome patriarch. A more admirable gentleman you could only hope to ever meet! And so, surrounded by the people who matter most, remember to pause on this day to reflect on how Blessed we all are, and give Thanks. Happy Thanksgiving!

BRANCH 10, COLUMBUS By Donald Blum

MONTHLY MEETING NO DECEMBER MEETING – **CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 10** 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. Paul has said that a highlight for him is to continue reading news and stories about various Saxon activities in the Volksblatt.

Please keep Steve Lassel in your prayers. Steve is undergoing major medical procedures. Steve can use the encouragement and prayers to help him through this difficult time.

SANKT NIKOLAUS VS **KRAMPUS**

"The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food and bounty with the poor."

So this Christmas Season who will you be in this season of giving? Sankt Nikolaus or Krampus?

SAXON MEMOIRS

Get your copy of the Saxon Memoirs! Written by your fellow Saxons-Copies are \$ 25 each-Send checks payable to ATS-5323 Pearl Road-Cleveland, Ohio 44129-Call ATS Home Office at (440) 842-8442 for more information. Must have, Must read Book! - I got my book and it's a good read!

CELEBRATIONS

Please join me in wishing Liz Lassel & Marlene Mueller (November 8) and Christine Oehlman (November 15) Happy Birthdays. Alles Gute zum Geburtstag!

HUMOR

Pastor conversation with parishioner. "What's wrong, son?" The pastor asked. "I need you to pray for my hearing," says the parishioner. The pastor put his hands on the man's ears and praved. When he was done, he asked, "So how's your hearing?" "I don't know," said the man. "It isn't until next Tuesday."

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 (donaldcblum@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.

CHRISTMAS PARTY NOTICE НоНоНо Sunday, December 10th **Berwick Party House** 3250 Refugee Road Columbus, Ohio 43232 PLEASE NOTE <u>A CHANGE</u> TIME OF THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

IS NOW 12 - 4:00 PM

Looking forward to seeing you celebrate the holiday with us.

HISTORY OF MARTIN LUTHER CHURCH

The records indicate that the Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Congregation was organized on January 2, 1927, under the leadership of Student George Schuster of the Theological Seminary of Capital University. This information is part of the minutes of the first official gathering of a group of individuals that had a desire to have a church, as well as the beneficial society, which they had organized in its "Sachsenhiem" at 323 Woodrow Avenue.

Third Wave of Immigration of Transylvanian Saxons to America, from 1949 to 1955.

The growth of Martin Luther Church and the Saxon Club went hand-in-hand. The number of members at Martin Luther Church increased and so did the numbers of the Saxon Club. While the numbers increased in parallel, something different was happening. The war was over and there was resurgence in America in many industries reverting back to post war activities and the return of soldiers from the war. Families that had put a pause on expanding the family began to see an increase to family size.

That brings us back to Columbus and Martin Luther Church. Columbus already had German immigrants, and specifically Transylvanian Saxon groups. Martin Luther Church had German/English services, which provided a familiar language to assist in the transition. The Saxon Club provided friendship and association to migrating Saxons. Martin Luther Church would see a substantial growth due to the welcomed influx of the new Saxons.

Something else was happening at Martin Luther Church. The 'South end Columbus' experienced a tremendous growth in population, industry and businesses. The surrounding area of Martin Luther Church benefited immensely from this activity. The church saw an unexpected growth in non-German/Saxon members.

People liked the atmosphere, family friendly environment and had ties to the Lutheran Religion. I have talked with many people that attended the church, Sunday school, Catechism, were Baptized and even married in the Church and were not German/Saxon. German/Saxon or not, I am sure they thoroughly enjoyed the sausage making and

picnic events. The base-

Transylvanian Saxons occurred from 1949 to 1955, the undertaking of expanding the Martin Luther Church would not occur until the mid 1960's.

In the years 1964, 1965 and 1966 Martin Luther Church had flourished in population and enthusiasm. That Third Wave of Transylvanian Saxons provided new and young blood to the church community. Many of these new members had brought their construction skills and/ or had acquired skills since their arrival to the U.S. I am sure the older Saxons provided moral support for the church expansion but it was time to pass on the torch to the younger Saxon group. Men and women together made plans and executed the plans to the excitement and enthusiasm of the entire Martin Luther Church organization. The final addition occurring in 1966, more than doubled the physical capacity of the church building. The additions would serve the church for years to come. Not only did the church serve the Saxon parishioners, many non-Saxon individuals found the church very welcoming and would join this thriving church community. Many of the people involved in the addition/expansion graciously donated their time. The original façade of the church would be replaced with brick; which was fitting considering all the skilled masonry craftsmen members. I would like to mention the individuals that were involved in the additions and growth but there were so many participants that I would not want to leave out any of the important people involved in this coordinated effort and labor of love. Some of the pastors that served the congregation and church were Pastors' Dave Schick, Fred Weber and Henry Oestreich.

Martin Luther Church had regular set services of an English service at 9:00 a.m., Sunday school at 10:00 a.m. and the German service at 11:00 a.m. It was not uncommon for non-German/ Saxons to attend the German service. They were intrigued by the German service and would periodically join the Saxons in worship. The church would be the sponsor for numerous sausage making and sausage sales, picnic celebrations, not to mention the numerous church, Sunday school participants, baptisms, confirmations, marriages and funeral celebrations of life. Something interesting that occurred from the undertaking of the additions is that some of the construction businesses and individuals gained recognition in the accomplishment of the project. From this experience and reputation, many would go on to be involved in larger construction projects and even becoming known for building a number of churches in the Central Ohio community.

That was not the only notable achievement. Susi Mueller (pictured next to the actual baptismal bowl and pedestal) was Godparent to countless children. My sister and me were personally baptized in that bowl. A funny story is that Susi and Marlene Mueller had gone by the church (no longer Martin Luther Church) and some of the people talked with them and invited them to attend a church service. At the church service they were recognized. After the service, they were talking with Susi and Marlene about some of the items that were left at the church. The subject of the baptismal bowl and pedestal was mentioned. They were not sure what it was or how it was used. They thought it was for donation collection. They had painted it white and had not been using it. They offered it to Susi. Susi would return to pick up the baptismal bowl and pedestal. They would strip off the paint and restore to its beautiful natural wood appearance.



Susi Mueller alongside

FACEBOOK PAGE

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



ment of the church served as a playground for the many children, running around and having a good time. The growth of the church necessitated the consideration for expanding the church. Fortunately, the church already had skilled craftsmen and

the new migration provided additional skilled craftsmen with a group that would undertake the expansion of the church. Heck, some of the non-Saxons would pitch in on the expansion.

While the Third Wave of

Baptismal Font from Martin Luther Church

I don't know if any records exist but literally hundreds, possibly a thousand babies were baptized, same with confirmations, hundreds of marriages and hundreds of celebrations of life funerals occurred at Martin Luther Church.

Many fond memories were created at Martin Luther Church. In our final story about Martin Luther Church we will see how this history of the church was memorialized in a celebration of the church.

BRANCH 9, CHICAGO By Rose-Marie Hauer

The meeting was held on November 7, 2023 with fair attendance.

The meeting was brought to order and all reports were read and approved by the membership.

Some of our members attended the Bowling Tournament in Merrillville, IN and came back as winners. Congratulations to Brothers Georg Thut, and Marcus Thut.

At the Donauschwaben Schlachtfest on October 28, many of our members who are also members of the Chicago Donauschwaben, received a great honor. They all received a gold pin from Donauschwaben Landesverband for all the leadership and volunteer services over the years. Congratulations to Elizabeth Hauer, Erica Hauer, Claudia Schmidt and Dede Thut.

*Christmas Party December 17, from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. at the Donauschwaben Club. Please watch your mailbox for the flyer. Food and desserts will be served. Santa will be there so bring all your kids and grandchildren. *Please bring canned food items for the food pantry as your admission into the event*.

Next meeting with elections will be on December 3, at 7 p.m. at the Donauschwaben clubhouse. Please try and attend. Have a blessed Thanksgiving to all of you.

BRANCHES 14 AND 17, CANTON By Cheryl Schnebelen

We are wishing everyone a great holiday season! To that effect, the Canton Saxons will be having our next luncheon on Sunday, December 3, at 1:00, so please join us to celebrate this time of year. We will again be meeting at Meyers Landing Bar and Grill in Meyers Lake Plaza. We understand that there is still a need of financial assistance for many people, so if you know of any current, past, or direct descendants of the ladies lodge who are in need, please let us know. You can contact me by email at sherlee5@aol.com, text or phone at 330-312-5112, and I will forward your request on to others in the branch. We are looking forward to hearing from you and please join us at Meyers Landing on Sunday, December 3, at 1:00.



Saxons honored by the Chicago Donauschwaben: DeDe Thut, Claudia Schmidt, Erica Hauer, Rose Hauer and Elizabeth Hauer.



Chicago Saxons at Donauschwaben Schlachtfest.

BRANCH 30, YOUNGSTOWN By Rosemarie Kascher

Upcoming events at the Youngstown Saxon Club: December 3 Children's Christmas Party 1:30 p.m.

in the Ballroom December 4 Officers Meeting 5:30 p.m. December 10 Branch Meeting 2:00 p.m.

with Branch Christmas Party thereafter 2024

May 18 & 19 ATS Convention held in Youngstown.

The Club will be closed Thanksgiving Day and the day after, also, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

There will be NO Pork/ Kraut Dinner in December; they will resume in January.

We invite you to bring your children to our December 3rd party especially for them. It begins at 1:30 p.m. so see you there!

In the future, there will be

We ask that members bring a dozen cookies for the cookie table at the Christmas party, please.

The way is open if you would like a job at the Saxon Club. There are openings for bartenders and servers. Check at the office if you are interested.

Our new officers for 2024 are the following: Ernie Roth, President; June Hoelzel, Vice President; Rosemarie Zamary, Second Vice President; Fran Hinerman, Recording Secretary; Rosemarie Kascher, Corresponding Secretary; Treasurer, Mike Bachinger; Eugene (Gene) Thomas, Assistant Treasurer; Patricia (Val) Thomas, Financial Secretary; Kathleen (Kiki) Eberth, Assistant Financial Secretary; Julaine Gilmartin, ATS Secretary; Tammy Hahn. Sergeant at Arms; Dan Richards, Robert (Bo) Rutkowsky, Rick Spencer, Kevin Miller, Trustees. HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

BRANCH 27, NEW CASTLE By Dolores Both

Branch 27 ladies met on November 2, 2023, at Soni's Restaurant for our regular monthly meeting. It was reported that Helen Burick is home recovering very nicely from surgery. Great goin' Helen!

The plans for the children's Christmas party are in full swing. November 29th at 6:30 p.m. is the date and time volunteers will meet at the club to decorate the dance hall for the holiday festivities and begin preparations for the party. Come one, come all to "deck the hall' on November 29th.

Our thanks to Ingrid Both-Hoesl for donating the profits from her baked goods sale at the Oktoberfest to the children's Christmas party.

With regard to Branch 27's Christmas party, the set-up committee will meet at the Hunters Woods clubhouse on Wednesday, December 6, at 10:00 a.m. Our party is December 7, at 6:00 p.m. at the clubhouse in Hunters Woods, off Mitchell Road. Don't forget to send Katy Hudak your \$10 reservation check for each meal made payable to "Saxon Ladies Branch 27". Her address is 4097 Countyline Road, New Castle, PA 16101. Deadline for reservations is November 27.

Instead of exchanging gifts, we are asking those attending to make a \$5 donation for ARISE, the women's shelter. Our treasury will match the donated amount. We have so much to be thankful for, hopefully, we can help others less fortunate have a brighter Christmas.

Judy continues to research having a Wendell August Christmas ornament made that will showcase the Eintracht.

Ballots for the election of officers for 2024 was included in the October letter sent

to members. Please return the ballot by November 27 so that the officers can be announced at the Christmas party.

The \$7.00 dues for 2024 is now due. All dues must be paid by January 1. Please remember, dues must be paid in order to be eligible for benefits and to participate in the Eintracht drawings. Please include a stamped self-addressed envelope for sending the membership card to you. If you prefer, Judy can email the card to you and you can print it. Please include your email address clearly printed.

Please send your email address to Judy at jboth1512@ comcast.net so she can communicate with you about club activities and concerns. The Branch 27 officers are working hard to revitalize Branch 27.

Ingrid Both-Hoesl, chairwoman of Youth Activities, is looking for suggestions of activities for our children. Any ideas or suggestions on what activities children enjoy doing would be very welcome.

Judy had a Pumpkin True or False Quiz for all of us. The lucky winner was Linda Stoops and she won a cute candy-filled gnome. If you have any pumpkin questions, Linda is the person to ask!

TO DO List: Send Judy your email address. (jboth1512@comcast.net) Think about activities our youth might enjoy.

November 27: Deadline for \$10 reservation for Br. 27 Christmas Party and ballot for election of 2024 officers.

You might want to include the \$7 for 2024 dues that must be paid by January 1.

November 29: 6:30 p.m. Volunteer to "deck the hall" for holiday festivities and the children's Christmas Party.

December 7: 6:00 p.m. Br. 27 Christmas Party.

Happy Thanksgiving!

a 3% discount for those who pay cash and a 3% fee if paid by credit card. Please check if you used a debit card in the past.

Dues of \$40 for fraternal members and now, as stated in the Constitution all honor members are to pay half price dues of \$20. All dues are to be paid by January 1, 2024, please. Cash or checks, made out to the Youngstown Saxon Club, can be paid at the Club, or sent to the Financial Secretary, Val Thomas at 5947 Tippecanoe Rd, Canfield, Ohio 44406.



The Genie of the Smart Phone



When you count your blessings this Thanksgiving, count being a member of the ATS Family as one of those blessings. Being a member of our Fraternal Benefit Society entitles you to an exclusive and valuable combination of financial values, social activities and fraternal fellowship.

ATS Life Insurance Plans provide you and your family guaranteed protection at low premium rates. ATS Annuity plans provide you with a safe way to save for your retirement. Our Life and Annuity plans can fit the individual needs of everyone in your family.

The extra benefits provide you and your family a lifetime of caring concern through our non-contractual fraternal benefits like scholarships, orphan benefits, the Volksblatt, and fraternal fellowship.

- Cultural Activities
- Scholarship Awards
- Fraternal Benefits
- Orphan Benefits



- Youth Activities
 - Life Insurance Program
 - Retirement Savings
 Program
 - Saxon News Volksblatt
 - Least Dranch Astivition



Local Branch Activities

The ATS welcomes new members to join and share in our cultural and social events, as well as benefit from our insurance and annuity plans. Please invite your relatives and friends to join our Fraternal family and enjoy the benefits of belonging to an organization that cares about its members.

> Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons 5323 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44129 (440) 842-8442 www.ATSaxons.com Office@ATSaxons.com