



THE SAXON NEWS

Volksblatt

Celebrating over 100 years of Saxon Fraternalism

Published by
The Alliance
of Transylvanian Saxons
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Tel: (440) 842-8442

ATS Founded in 1902

December 8, 2023

Issue 25

Greetings from Austria!

Liebe Landsleute, Freunde!

Gerne erinnern wir uns an die Tage, die unsere Gruppe aus Österreich beim diesjährigen Kulturaustausch bei Euch verbringen durften. Wie haben wir alle dieser Reise entgegengefiebert und uns darauf gefreut, kanadischen Boden sowie amerikanischen Boden betreten zu dürfen.

An allen Orten und Empfängen, die wir besuchen durften, kam uns eine Welle der Herzlichkeit und Fröhlichkeit entgegen, die wir nie mehr missen möchten. Es ist uns ein Bedürfnis, unsere Gedanken an Euch in Übersee zu richten und wir möchten uns im Namen Aller, die diese Reise mitgemacht haben, bedanken und die besten Grüße und Wünsche ausrichten.

Man kann die ganzen schönen Momente des Erlebten nicht in Worte fassen, es sind zu viele gewesen. Dass wir neben den vielen lieben Menschen, die wir kennen und schätzen gelernt haben, dazu noch so viele Sehenswürdigkeiten besichtigen konnten, hat zusätzlichen Eindruck hinterlassen.

Manche von Euch, liebe Landsleute und Freunde, wollen nächstes Jahr beim Sachsentreffen in Hermannstadt dabei sein. Wie schön wäre das?! Auch das werden wieder unvergessliche Stunden und eine große Wiedersehensfreude sein.

Die Weihnachtsfeiertage stehen bevor und viele von Euch sind mit dem Vorbereiten für Weihnachten, dem Kekse backen und ja, wie es siebenbürgischer Brauch ist, mit dem Einlegen von Kraut beschäftigt. Wie gerne wären wir jetzt bei Euch! Es war beglückend zu sehen, wie die siebenbürgischen Traditionen hochgehalten werden.

Auch wir in Österreich pflegen die Traditionen in allen Nachbarschaften und Vereinen. Wir sind stolz darauf, dass wir dieses Gut von unseren Eltern und Großeltern gelernt haben und pflegen können. Nächstes Jahr sind es bereits 80 Jahre, dass unsere Eltern und Großeltern ihre Heimat Siebenbürgen verlassen mussten. In vielen Orten in Österreich, wo sich Siebenbürger Sachsen niedergelassen haben, wird dies Anlass sein, Gedenkveranstaltungen abzuhalten und derer zu gedenken, die das Schicksal so hart getroffen hat. Die Heimat zu verlieren, ins Nichts aufzubrechen, muss fürchterlich sein, doch unsere Eltern und



Manfred and Ingrid Schuller

Großeltern haben es geschafft, sich eine neue Existenz aufzubauen, ob hier, in Übersee oder sonst wo in der Welt. Der Glaube war stets deren Begleiter, hat sie durch Höhen und Tiefen gebracht und ihnen über manch schwere Stunden geholfen.

Liebe Landsleute und Freunde!

Vielen Dank an John Werner, an Denise Crawford und an alle, die uns in diesen Tagen bei Euch so gut begleitet und umsorgt haben, dass diese Reise für uns unvergesslich geworden ist.

Wir wünschen jedem Einzelnen von Euch ein besinnliches Weihnachtsfest, ein gutes Neues Jahr, viele schöne Momente im Kreis Eurer Lieben und vor allem eine gute - so wie es unser Brauch ist - Siebenbürgische Gemeinschaft! Haltet die Traditionen wie bisher hoch und gebt Euer Wissen an die Jugend weiter, sie sind die Zukunft!

Gemeinsam sind wir stark! Der liebe Gott beschütze Euch!

Ingrid und Manfred Schuller
Bundesobmann der
Siebenbürger Sachsen
in Österreich
Bundesfrauenreferentin der
Siebenbürger Sachsen
in Österreich

Dear compatriots, friends!

We like to remember the days that our group from Austria was able to spend with you during this year's cultural exchange. How we were all looking forward to this trip and looking forward to being able to set foot on Canadian soil as well as American soil.

At all the places and receptions, we were able to visit, we were met with a wave of warmth and happiness that we would never want to be without. We feel the need to direct our thoughts to

Continued on Page 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Denise Aeling Crawford

ATS Nat'l President



I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Now we can get into the swing of things and start decorating and preparing for Christmas. Many of our local branches are having Christmas Dinners for their membership or Christmas Parties for their young members. Please remember to submit some pictures so that we can all enjoy your Party.

Not sure what to get your children, grandchildren or even great-grandchildren for Christmas? How about something that they will not outgrow, will never need batteries, and will last their lifetime? Purchase an ATS life insurance policy for them for Christmas! Do they already have an ATS life insurance policy? Then how about an ATS annuity? You can start one for them and then you can add to their account every Christmas, Birthday, or special occasion to give them a head start towards a strong financial future.

In reference to Christmas, here is a question for you. Christmas music – yes or no? Personally, I love Christmas music. While I am writing this, I have a Christmas channel playing. However, I do not start listening to Christmas music or put up our decorations until after Thanksgiving. I like my holidays separated, not all blended into one.

Did you know that the song "Jingle Bells" was really a Thanksgiving song? "The One Horse Open Sleigh" was the original name of the song. James Lord Pierpont composed it in 1850 for his Thanksgiving Sunday school class in Boston. The jingling bells refer to the New England sleigh races held on Salem Street that were popular in the early 1800s. Pierpont was allegedly at the Simpson Tavern in Medford, Massachusetts when Medford's famous sleigh races to neighboring Malden Square inspired him to write the tune. He picked out the tune on the piano belonging to the owner of the boarding house attached to the tavern. There is some controversy regarding this account, as research later showed he was in California during the Gold Rush. It is speculated that he perhaps wrote the song in a rooming house somewhere near downtown Boston at a later time. The song was copyrighted in 1857, when Pierpont was working at a church in Savannah, Georgia. Whichever version of the origins aside, the song lyrics make absolutely no reference to Christmas at all.

Here are some other Christmas song facts and trivia. Bing Crosby made "Jingle Bells" a hit in the 1940s, including it on his *Merry Christmas* record. What was the first song played in space? "Jingle Bells" - played on spaceflight Gemini 6A in December 1965. According to *Guinness Book of World Records*, what is the best-selling Christmas song of all time? "White Christmas" by Bing Crosby, with an estimated 50 million copies sold. (By the way, my Christmas channel just played Bing's version of "White Christmas" while

Continued on Page 2

TIMELY - DO NOT DELAY
MAILED WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2023

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

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

Greetings
Continued from Page 1

you overseas and we would like to thank you on behalf of everyone who took part in this journey and send our best regards and wishes.

One cannot put into words all the beautiful moments we experienced; there were too many. The fact that we were able to visit so many sights in addition to the many lovely people we got to know and appreciate made an additional impression.

Some of you, dear compatriots, and friends, want to be there at the Saxon meeting in Sibiu next year. How nice would that be?! These will again be unforgettable hours and a great joy of seeing each other again.

The Christmas holidays are approaching and many of you are busy preparing for Christmas, baking cookies and yes, as is the Transylvanian custom, pickling cabbage. How we would love to be with you now! It was heartening to see how Transylvanian traditions are being upheld.

We in Austria also maintain traditions in all neighborhoods and clubs. We are

proud that we learned and can care of this asset from our parents and grandparents.

Next year it will be 80 years since our parents and grandparents had to leave their homeland of Transylvania. In many places in Austria where Transylvanian Saxons have settled, this will be an occasion to hold commemorative events and to remember those who were hit so hard by fate. Losing your home and leaving for nowhere must be terrible, but our parents and grandparents have managed to build a new life for themselves, whether here, overseas, or anywhere else in the world. Faith was always their companion, brought them through ups and downs and helped them through many difficult times.

Dear compatriots and friends!

Many thanks to John Werner, Denise Crawford and everyone who accompanied and looked after us so well during these days that this trip was unforgettable for us.

We wish each and every

PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE
Cont'd from Page 1

I was writing this section!) How old was Brenda Lee when she recorded her "Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree" hit? Age 13. How long did it take Mariah Carey to write her hit "All I Want For Christmas is You"? 15 minutes. How many gifts in total does the singer receive in "12 Days of Christmas"? 364 gifts. Who sends those 364 gifts? The singer's true love. Who first recorded the Frank Sinatra hit song "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas"? Judy Garland. What Christmas song is known by two different names? The "Christmas Song (Merry Christmas to You)"/"Chestnuts Roasting On An Open Fire". Lastly, what Christmas song has the most movie appearances? "Jingle Bells" of course!

Until next time....

Plan a
Christmas trip
wisely

- Arrange a relaxing trip and an easy schedule at your destination.
- Minimize jet lag by arriving close to your usual bedtime, according to your destination time zone.
- Carry your health insurance cards and the phone number of your doctor.
- Avoid wearing tight clothing.
- Check to be sure you carry all of your medications. Diabetics should take an appropriate snack in case of a hypoglycemic attack.
- Avoid traveling alone.

one of you a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, many wonderful moments with your loved ones and, above all, a good - as is our custom - Transylvanian community! Keep up the traditions as before and pass on your knowledge to the young. They are the future!

Together we are strong! May the good Lord protect you!

Ingrid and Manfred Schuller
Federal Chairman of the Transylvanian Saxons in Austria
Federal Women's Representative for the Transylvanian Saxons in Austria

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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, DECEMBER 13, 2023	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2023
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2023	FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2024
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2024	FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 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 4, CLEVELAND
By Joan Miller-Malue

At our November meeting our Branch 4 officers were re-elected to their respective offices: President – Monica Weber, Vice President – Stephanie Miller, Secretary – Joan Miller-Malue. Treasurer – Donna Jankow, Sgt.atArms/Archivist– Edith Hebrank, Trustees: Christine Roppelt and Diane Hum. We are thankful for their dedication to serve Branch 4. We want to thank Maria Fischer for her many years of servicing as an officer. She has been a hard worker for our Branch and the Sachsenheim.

We had decided not to hold a December meeting since so many of us our busy preparing for our Christmas celebrations. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, January 15, 2024 when we will hold installation of officers and a memorial service.

The Children's Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 16 at 2:00 p.m. Reservations have to be made by December 8th. Please call or text me at 216-233-8631 today if you have not made reservations or email at miller-malue@cox.net. Santa must know who is coming! ATS Junior members of Cleveland West, Cleveland East and Lorain have free admission, non-member children \$20 and adults \$5. We ask that the children bring a non-perishable food item to donate to a local food bank. (Please no expired food items) We

look forward to a fun afternoon at the Sachsenheim on December 16.

The Sachsenheim will host a New Year's Eve Bash on Sunday, December 31, 2023 from 9:30 p.m.– 1:30 a.m. Tickets are \$29.95 that includes a choice of entrees of 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.

The Officers and Members of Branch 4 want to thank our retired manager, Scott Lindell (better known as Grumpy) for his decades of hard work managing the Sachsenheim. He wore many hats and always worked for the betterment of our Sachsenheim. He is responsible for keeping the Sachsenheim open even through the Covid pandemic by his take-out orders. We cannot thank him enough for his dedication and hard work! Grumpy, we wish you well in your next endeavors and hope we will continue to see you at the Sachsenheim when you are back in town. You are a great part of the Sachsenheim's history!

We want to wish all our ATS members and friends a Very Merry Christmas! Ein gesegnetes Weihnachtsfest!

Give Your Children A Gift
That Will Last A Lifetime

Why not give a gift that will grow in value and last a lifetime? Consider purchasing life insurance or an annuity from the ATS. Contact your local ATS Deputy or the ATS Home office for detailed information on our insurance and annuity plans.

Salem Branches 18 and 19

Christmas Party

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:

Joan Miller-Malue at 216-233-8631
If you reach the answering machine leave your name and telephone number -
Joan will call you back . . . **OR**
You can e-mail Joan at: miller-malue@cox.net
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 food
Adults: \$ 5.00
Non-Member Children: \$20.00, plus a can or box of non-perishable food

Merry Christmas

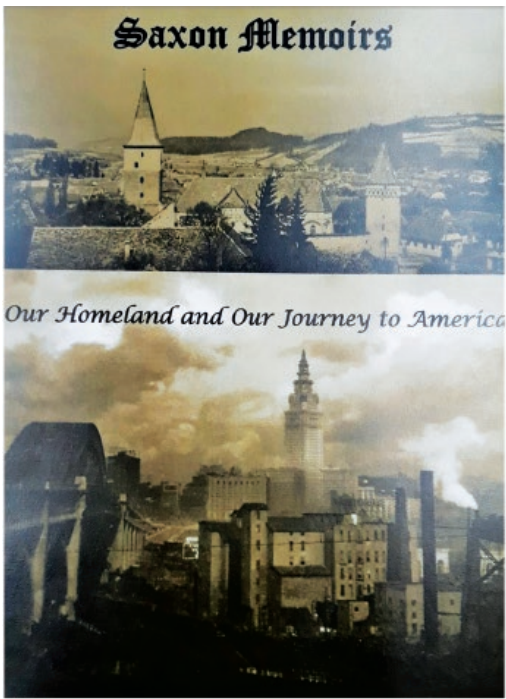
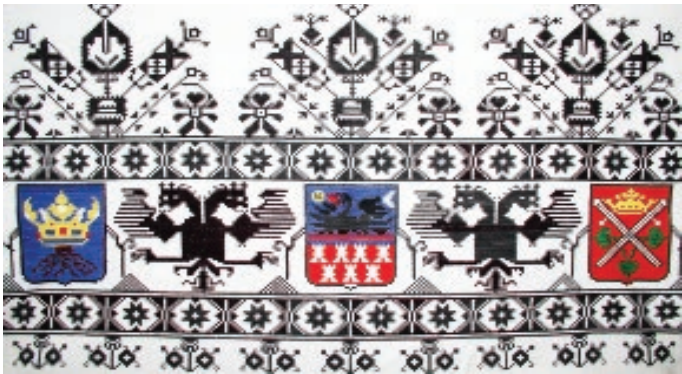
FRATERNAL CALENDAR

NATIONAL EVENTS

- 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 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



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.

First time hosting Christmas?
Here are tips for planning the day:

If you are hosting the family for Christmas for the first time, you might not realize that it is a bit like conducting an orchestra. For a harmonious result, you have to understand all the moving parts. It takes some planning.

Early on, everyone will ask what little Johnny wants for Christmas. Make sure you know and make sure you give everyone different ideas. If you tell each person that Johnny wants that one Lego set, then Johnny is going to get the same Lego set more than once. That doesn’t just disappoint Johnny, wastes your guests’ time and diminishes the gift-giving experience.

- About three days before, clean out your refrigerator to make room for holiday food and beverages. Arrange drinks a day or two before so the drinks will be cold and you don’t have to worry about it. The more the guests can serve themselves, the happier you will be.
- A day or so before the event, plan the guest seating and snacks. Everyone has to have a seat, so arrange the seats. Plan a designated area for coats, convenient places to offer drinks, and position some side tables to hold snacks.
- Carefully prepare your meal plan, including a timeline. If you are making turkey, for example, you will have to buy it about four days ahead of time to let it thaw if it is frozen. Plan your meal and shop early.

Tender care for your poinsettias

A little extra care can keep your poinsettia beautiful for months. Location is the first consideration. Place it near a bright indirect light source. If the pot is wrapped in decorative foil, punch holes in the bottom so the plant’s roots will not be standing in water. Place the plant in a saucer to collect extra water.

When watering, always use water that is room temperature so you don’t chill the roots. Slowly add water to the pot until it drains out the bottom. Discard the excess water. To determine the water needs of the plant, check the pot every day until you can determine just how much water it is using. Water only when the top quarter-inch of the soil is dry. When the water needs of



If it is your first Christmas dinner, consider not making those homemade rolls and maybe ask someone else to bring them. You’ll have plenty to do already.

- Even if you are not cooking a dinner, you still need food. If people are coming from out of town or even across town, they will need something to eat, even if it is just sandwiches. Stores and restaurants are often closed for Christmas.
- Count and organize the gifts. Make sure every kid has the same number of gifts. One thing you don’t want is for one child not to have a gift to open when the others do. All kids need at least one toy, even teenagers. Make sure the adult guests all have gifts. All the gifts don’t have to be expensive. Socks or a muffler will do. Adults don’t really need the same number of gifts as the kids. But each adult should have about the same number of gifts.
- Have a plan for gift opening. If you’re expecting out-of-town guests who went to some time and expense to attend, think hard about making an organized plan so gifts are opened one at a time. That way, all your guests will be able to enjoy seeing their gifts opened and appreciated.



the plant are determined, it can be watered every two or three days. Too much water will make the leaves turn yellow and drop. Not enough water will cause the plant to wilt and drop its leaves. Fertilize your poinsettia once a month with water-soluble fertilizer according to manufacturer’s instructions.

YOUNGSTOWN
SAXON RETIREES
By Ro Dundon

I’m sorry this will be a short report as Dom and I couldn’t attend the meeting due to the passing of my Sister. Diana called to filled me in. It was a nice meeting. RoseMarie kept her promise to make it to Eat and Park in Austintown and she did. The meeting was held on November 9th. Bev also was able to attend. I’m sure it was good to see both of them. RoseMarie was very gracious to arrange a booking for our Christmas Meeting/Luncheon. It will be on December 14th at Ruby Tuesday in Austintown. We should all know where that is as we have been there before. The time will be 11:30. As usual if anything changes, Diana will be on the phone to everyone. By the time this gets to the Volksblatt it will be December—time to do the Holiday shopping for the near and dear, decorating from top to bottom and planning the cookies and kolachi. I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving, good food and drinks and lots to be thankful for. Everyone have a most wonderful Christmas and New Year. See you next year Until we meet again. As. Usual ...It’s RO P.S. Congratulations to the newly elected Officers.

With Thanksgiving past, Christmas is on the horizon, and soon another year will have passed by. Branch 19’s election of officers will have taken place at our December 4 meeting. Officers serving for the past year are, President: Glenn Spack, also serving our Vice President duties and 2nd Vice President, Secretary: Robert Vogt Sr., Financial Sec.: Richard Vogt Sr., Treasurer: Art Maroscher, Sergeant-At-Arms: Francis Schleuter, Trustee’s Richard Spack and George Spack Jr. Thanks to all officers for serving through the 2023. Starting March 2024 Br. 19 meetings will move from the first Monday of the month to the second Monday of the month. Upcoming Branch 19 meetings: No January 2024 meeting. Meeting resumes February 5 and again, the March 11 meeting will be on the second Tuesday. Wishing you all a healthy and joyous holiday season. Bis zum nächstenmal.

BRANCH 19, SALEM
By Robert P. Vogt, Sr.



**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



**How to display your
holiday collections**

If you have collected many holiday decorations over the years, it could be difficult to make your displays show off items to their best advantage. Some tips from decorators:

First, unwrap everything so you know what you have to work with. You don't have to use everything. If something doesn't work with a collection, leave it out.

Think in terms of themes: Arrange different collections in separate areas, such as Santas, angels, and nutcrackers.

Create a base for each collection: Put something attractive on the table or shelf. You could use a runner, wrapping paper, foil, or fake snow.

Decide on a focal point: Put the largest item in the middle or slightly off center.

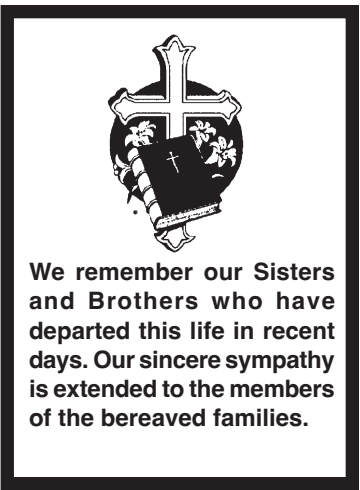
Make groups. A clustered group gives the objects more impact. Avoid placing items in straight rows.

Group items of a similar size and color. For a grouping of packages, overlap them so they look spontaneous.

Vary the heights: Look for objects to elevate. Use wrapped boxes, wooden boxes, or new candles as pedestals. Higher pieces should be on either side of the focal point.

Drape garlands around the collection for impact.

**Youngstown Branch 30
Children's Halloween Party**



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.

Stephen G. Dovala
Age 63
Died: November 6, 2023
Branch 5, Lorain, OH

Josef Heini
Age 93
Died: November 12, 2023
Branch 30, Youngstown, OH

Adolf Kralj
Age 81
Died: November 15, 2023
Branch 30, Youngstown, OH

Carol A. Eberts
Age 88
Died: November 20, 2023
Branch 30, Youngstown, OH

Freda Tucker
Age 89
Died: November 22, 2023
Branch 18, Salem, OH

Judith A. Riddle
Age 81
Died: November 23, 2023
Branch 5, Lorain, OH

Regina Braden
Age 90
Died: November 27, 2023
Branch 4, Cleveland, OH



**The first
Nativity scene**

Some of the Christmas customs and imagery we have come to us from Saint Francis of Assisi. Saint Francis himself is said to have made the first creche, a representation of the Nativity scene, at Greccio, Italy, in 1223.



BRANCH 10, COLUMBUS

By Donald Blum

**MONTHLY MEETING
NO DECEMBER MEET-
ING – 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 story
Sankt Nikolaus or Krampus in
this season of giving?

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
Marlene Betts (December
25) a Happy Birthday. Alles
Gute zum Geburtstag!

HUMOR

Two brothers who loved baseball wondered whether they could play the sport when they went to heaven. So, they swore that whoever went to heaven first would find some way to let the living brother know.

The older brother passed away a week later. And, on the night he was buried, he reappeared at the foot of his brother's bed.

“Is there baseball in heaven?” asked the younger brother.

“Well, I’ve got good news and bad news,” the older brother said. “The good news is that there is baseball in heaven.”

“That’s great!” said the younger brother. “What’s the bad news?”

“The bad news is you’re pitching on Sunday.”

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 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

HoHoHo
Sunday, December 10th
Berwick Party House
3250 Refugee Road
Columbus, Ohio 43232
PLEASE NOTE A
CHANGE

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.

In this edition of the History of Martin Luther Church, we will see how Martin Luther Church was affected by the 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.

There were so many events that set about change in Saxon community. The Saxons, the Germans and the Lutheran Church experienced dramatic change. Coupled with political, economic and sociologic changes/transitions, the Saxon community became intertwined in the changes in America, which continue still today. We became the victim, or if you will the model for assimilation or victim to the disassembly of the Saxon community.

The Saxons were a hard working group of individuals but a strong group no less. The hard work would reap rewards of success in business and personal lives. The Martin Luther Church would continue to thrive, even brining into the church community, non-Saxon and non-German members. The Saxon Club, which was extremely influential in the creation of Martin Luther Church, had outgrown its humble and small beginnings on Woodrow Avenue. The Saxon Club would move to a new location on Front Street in order to accommodate the growing membership. A substantial amount of the Saxons attended South High School, just outside of German Village. Capital University



Seminary experienced dramatic changes. Martin Luther Church benefited from and was used to getting pastors from the seminary that could speak and hold German and American services.

The earlier wave of Saxons had already gone through a lot of the assimilation/disassembly of the German/Saxon community. They had arrived in the 1910 to 1928 era. There was resentment against Germans from the war. Many of these people would be reluctant to demonstrate their heritage to avoid retribution and discrimination. Many of the families would only speak German in the confines of their homes and in many circumstances would not continue speaking and passing along the German language to their children. After the recession and lessening of animosity towards Germans, the German/Saxon community saw a resurgence of the model of the hard working German/Saxon communities. There were a number of German schools created. Again, people saw

that the German schools were extremely successful and many non-German parents began sending their children to these schools and learning the German language. There was still a disconnect with the families exposed to previous discrimination and had all but abandoned the German language.

Then came that third wave of Saxon/Germans from post World War II and until the late 1950's. The different waves melded together extremely well because they were not only Saxons but also family. Still there was a little bit of a disconnect between the groups. The first wave experienced discrimination in the form of closing down the German schools, not teaching German in school, destruction of German books, changing the German named streets, buildings, parks and gathering places.

Getting back to Martin Luther Church. The congregation had grown. The members had been successful in their

Continued on Page 7

endeavors. They began to move out of the smaller houses in the German Village and surrounding areas. They would move to what was becoming the newly coined phrase of the suburbs. Many of the members could walk to Martin Luther Church or a short drive of minutes. Now the drive became a half hour or more. The Lutheran Church began opening more and more churches in these surrounding communities. Many of the Saxons tried out these new Lutheran Churches and found them very welcoming. They lacked the German services but it became a convenience. While Martin Luther Church was a hub for Saxon activities, the Saxon children made friends with the children of the suburban Lutheran Churches. It was now more convenient and the children wanted to attend church where their friends were attending church.

Somewhere in this time-frame the Saxon Club would sell the Front Street Saxon Club building. The Saxon Club would find different places for meetings. And for a while Catalpa Park would serve as a sight for spring, summer and early fall events. This would suffice but it just wasn't the same as having our own Saxon Club building.

Even German Village would experience changes. Schiller Park was always the site for Oktoberfest. The German Village Community experienced changes in the residents. Many of the German/Saxons had left the community. It became an attraction for young professionals that would work in downtown Columbus, as well as starting their own businesses. These residents, while they liked the charm of the German Village housing, were not as thrilled with the Oktoberfest Event overwhelming their streets and community even for a long weekend. Eventually, Oktoberfest would be relocated to the Ohio State Fairgrounds. What was once a gathering for Saxons/Germans at Schiller Park was now a full-fledged drinking event. Many of the German businesses bought into the Ohio State Fairgrounds but it did take the charm out of the event.

Other subtle things were occurring. Many members of the Saxon Club had become members through purchasing either an annuity or insurance policy for themselves, their children and grandchildren. A



competing insurance/annuity provider out of Pennsylvania started gaining traction in the Lutheran Community. It had a broader appeal by calling itself, Lutheran Brotherhood. It appealed to the Lutheran and larger German Community. It became very successful but it would see a further change was necessary. In order to expand its attraction it would change its name from Lutheran Brotherhood to Thrivent Financial Services.

It is said that our first friends in life are our brothers and sisters. Then our cousins, people that had a common language, people in church, neighbors, schools, organizations, work and the general social network of our community and the general populations.

So what happened? Did something go wrong? What changed? Life changed. Martin Luther Church and the Saxon community became part of a story of success and change. Our German Lutheran Church, who Martin Luther founded, became less German. The Saxon members of Martin Luther Church became successful in personal and business life. The smaller homes that sometimes were home to two or three families no longer accommodated the larger families. Saxons began to move to outlining communities. The Lutheran Church continued to open new churches in the growing suburban communities. Saxons began to get baptized, become confirmed, married and hold celebrations of life at other Lutheran Churches that had become more convenient and homes for the new community where the Saxons moved and the children gained new friends. We no longer were just going to church with close family members. Our new Lutheran

Churches no longer had German speaking services. The successful Saxon businesses began hiring non-Saxon/German employees. Saxons began marrying non-Saxon/German spouses. In many instances, the Saxon language was spoken less in the family. The Saxon Club, which had been the initiative of creating Martin Luther Church, would lose its home on Front Street. There was no longer a permanent meeting place for Saxons. Some Saxons would continue as members of the Saxon Club, while others would have dual memberships or join other German/Swiss organizations. All of the wave of Saxons that came in the early 1900's have gone on to be with their Saxon families in heaven.

What the Saxons and Martin Luther Church would experience is assimilation into the very fiber of the American life. We did not say we were Saxon/American, we would say we are Americans. We still hold dear Saxon traditions and heritage. We belong to Saxon/German organizations, try to continue the Saxon language and attend Saxon events like Heimattag and hold our Saxon group meetings and events. We try to keep our heritage alive in teachings and vital newsletters like the Volksblatt and the recently published Saxon Memoirs. We cannot forget to teach our children how the Saxons faced unbelievable obstacles in bringing the Saxon community to the U.S. and Canada. The challenges exist and we continue to strive to maintain an extremely important message of our Saxon Heritage.

So where does that leave Martin Luther Church? Due to dwindling attendance Martin Luther Church would hold its final service in 2004. You can see pictures of the hymnal board posting the years of existence of 1929 to 2004. Also, there are pictures of the final service and celebration. You can say it was a sad day but in reality it was a celebration of the heritage of the Saxon community, the Saxon way of life, the many wonderful baptism, confirmations, marriages and the celebrations of life that Martin Luther Church provided. They will always be a cornerstone of the transitions of Saxons coming to America and Columbus.

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.

K words

T E M S I K O P E C K S Y
K H A K I L L J O Y A U L
K I N F O L K B C X R Q D
N O V L K W K I N S M A N
E Z R C L I T K N E A D I
E N A U A E N O K N O C K
L N D N N I N G W D Y A S
K V O I G A B K D A Z K D
N R K H C T E K V O R K I
K I T T Y Y O J O O M I K
N A L K N O W I N G K N S
O W P O K K G E K A K D O
L U T U A R K V R A E L I
L E L Y T K W A G D B E K
L A A R K H T N O G A O C
K K E R N E L K A L B K B

KABOB	KILLJOY	KNELL
KAOLIN	KINDLE	KNIGHT
KAPUT	KINDLY	KNOCK
KARAT	KINETIC	KNOLL
KARATE	KINFOLK	KNOWING
KARMA	KINGDOM	KOPECK
KAYAK	KINSMAN	KORUNA
KAZOO	KIOSK	KOWTOW
KEBAB	KISMET	KRAAL
KERNEL	KITTY	KRAUT
KETCH	KNACK	KRONA
KEYNOTE	KNAVE	KRONE
KHAKI	KNEAD	KULAK
KIDSKIN	KNEEL	

Pets top Santa's 'nice' list

People love spoiling their pets for the holidays. And dressing them.

According to a survey by Chewy, a whopping 94 percent of pet owners include their pets in the holidays and 58 percent plan to buy their pet two or three gifts.

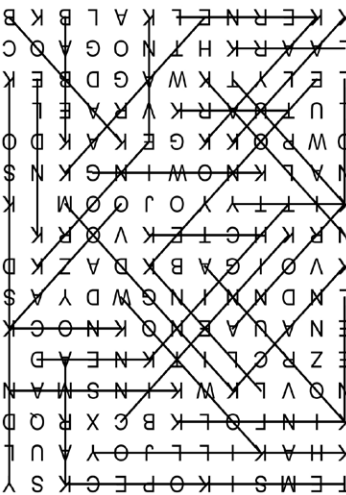
Another survey revealed that 78 percent like to dress up their dogs, which may be less fun for the dog who can get skin irritation and stress from the costume.

Cat owners know that cats love Christmas, or at least the Christmas tree. What's not to like? A tree inside. Dangling ornaments. Shiny stuff. Cat heaven. By the way, it's heaven to pet birds, too. Be careful with both.



Dogs, meanwhile, are notorious for unwrapping presents, and not just their presents. Christmas can pose a hazard to dogs if they tend to bite wires.

**I have an open
mind—it's just
closed for repairs.**



What happens to my ATS Annuity when I die?



The answer to this question depends on what you have done with the annuity account while you were living. You have various options available to you during your retirement years. You can opt to “annuitize” the account or leave it as is. When you annuitize your account, you will select a distribution option. Once you make that selection, it cannot be changed. The alternative to annuitizing is to leave the account alone, allowing you to continue adding funds or withdrawing funds from the account.

If you annuitized your account and are receiving a distribution, it is possible that your beneficiary could continue to receive your payments. This depends on what option you chose and how long ago you chose it.

If you have not annuitized your account, then your beneficiary will choose a distribution option that suits them. **Beneficiary options** include: Lump Sum, Straight Life, Joint and Survivor Life, Specified Period or Dollar Amount, or Life with a Specified Period. If your beneficiary is your spouse, they have the option to put the account into their name and everything stays as is. Unlike your beneficiary, your spouse is not required to liquidate your account.

Depending on the dollar amount of your account and the taxable portion of the balance, your beneficiary may choose the **Lump Sum** option. In this case, your beneficiary would receive the entire account in one lump sum.

All other options available to your beneficiary are “payout” options. The account is paid out over time, and the account continues to earn interest even as the account balance decreases. The **Life Annuity** option offers a payment for your beneficiary’s entire lifetime. No matter how long they live, they will receive a payment. A Life Annuity can be Straight Life (beneficiary’s life) or a Joint and Survivor Life. The beneficiary’s spouse is the most common person, but not required for the Joint and Survivor Life. A different option for your beneficiary is a payment for a **Specified Period or Dollar Amount**. With this option, a payment is made for whatever specified period your beneficiary sets up (ex: 5, 10, 20 years, etc.) or a set dollar amount. If your beneficiary passes away prior to the specified time frame, their beneficiary would receive the remaining payments. Another option combines both the Life Annuity and Specified Period options. A **Life Annuity with Period Certain** guarantees that your beneficiary will receive a payment for life. Unlike the Straight Life option above, this option guarantees that the payments will continue to their beneficiary if he or she passes away prior to the end of the set time frame (ex: 5, 10, 20 years).

It is important to update the beneficiary or beneficiaries listed on your account. Do you have an ex-spouse still listed? Are your parents still listed even though you are married and have children? If you do not know who you have listed on your accounts, please call us to find out.



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