



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

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Issue 26

Merry Christmas! Frohe Weihnachten!
Mer wenschen en hieschen Chråstdoch!



ATS Office
will be closed on
Monday and Tuesday,
December 25 & 26
and
Monday and Tuesday,
January 1 & 2

TIMELY - DO NOT DELAY
MAILED WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2023

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JANUARY 1, 2024

4.00%

On Current Annuity and IRAs
issued July 1, 1996 and after

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Denise Aeling Crawford
ATS Nat'l President



Merry Christmas everyone! The ATS Board of Directors and Home Office staff wishes everyone a wonderful Christmas and a very healthy and prosperous New Year!

Thank you Columbus, Branch 10, for the invitation to attend your Branch Christmas Party. What a fantastic event! It was good to reconnect with members who attended, and to meet new people and their families. The committee did a wonderful job of setting up the venue, the menu, the program, and the visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. An accordion player played Christmas songs and helped with the sing-along. There was a wonderful display of our Saxon heritage, as well. I thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon. Again, thank you!

The ATS Board of Directors met on Saturday, December 9th at the ATS Home Office. As part of that prosperous New Year wish mentioned above, the Board of Directors is announcing that we will be raising the interest rate on our ATS Annuities to 4.0% effective January 1st, 2024. Any of the annuity contracts that were issued after July 1, 1996 will have this new 4.0% interest rate. This rate also applies to new contracts.

Did you know that December 25th might not be the date that Jesus was actually born? No one really knows the real birthday of Jesus. The Bible does not give a date. In addition, the birth of Jesus probably didn't happen in year 1. It was probably somewhere between 7 and 2 B.C. According to WhyChristmas.com, the first "official" recorded date of Christmas being celebrated as the birth of Jesus on December 25 was in 336, during the time of the Roman Emperor Constantine (the first Christian Roman Emperor).

There are a couple of theories as to why the 25th of December is the date we celebrate. One is the early Christian tradition that says Mary was told on March 25th that she would have a very special baby and his name would be Jesus. This was called the Annunciation. It is still celebrated on March 25th. Nine months after March 25th is December 25th. March 25th was also the day that some early Christians thought the world had been made, the day that Jesus died when he was an adult, and they thought he was conceived and died on the same day of the year. Jesus died on Nisan 14 (first month of the Jewish calendar), which is the date of the Jewish festival of Passover. The Jewish calendar is lunar (based on the moon, rather than fixed dates) so it moves around compared to dates on a "fixed" calendar like the Gregorian or earlier Julian calendars. The main source for the date of the conception of Jesus being on March 25th was an early church historian called Sextus Julius Africanus who's quoted as suggesting this in the year 221. Saint Ephrem the Syrian taught that Jesus was conceived on Nisan 10. Therefore, March 25th became a "fixed" date to mark these "movable" dates on the Jewish calendar.

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

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
Cont’d from Page 1

The second theory of December 25th comes from the Winter Solstice. This is the day with the shortest time between the sun rising and the sun setting. After this, the days get longer. It happens on December 21 or 22nd in the Northern Hemisphere. To pre-Christians and pagans, this marked a change in the seasons. The people had a mid-winter festival to celebrate the sun “winning” over the darkness of winter. The Roman Festival of Saturnalia took place between December 17th and 23rd and honored the Roman god Saturn. The Romans also thought that the Solstice took place on December 24th/25th. Because of the dates, some people say that the Christians “took over” December 25th from these Roman festivals or the old Yule days of Scandinavia and northern Europe.

Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, starts on the eve of the Kislev 25, which is the month in the Jewish calendar that occurs about the same time as December. Hanukkah celebrates when the Jewish people were able to re-dedicate and worship in their Temple, in Jerusalem, again following many years of not being allowed to practice their religion. As Jesus was a Jew, this could be another reason that the early Church chose December 25th for the date of celebrating the birth of Jesus or Christmas. Christians believe that Jesus is the light of the world, so the early Christians thought that this was the right time to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Merry Christmas!

Until next time....



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

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9415 Elsmere Dr, Parma OH 44130

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38047 Parkway Blvd., Willoughby, OH 44094-7543
Michael Bachinger, Br. 30 (330) 540-5168
3134 Neosho Rd, Youngstown OH 44511

Chief Medical Examiner-

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
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 27, 2023	FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2024
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2024	FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2024
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2024	FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 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

YOUNGSTOWN SAXON CLUB
710 S. Meridian Rd

PORK & KRAUT DINNER

JANUARY 21, 2024

11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

\$12.00

TAKE OUT AND EAT-IN

PUBLIC WELCOME

O du fröhliche, o du selige

O du fröhliche, o du selige,
gnadenbringende Weihnachtszeit!
Welt ging verloren, Christ ward geboren:
Freue, freue dich, o Christenheit!

O du fröhliche, o du selige,
gnadenbringende Weihnachtszeit!
Christ ist erschienen, uns zu versöhnen:
Freue, freue dich, o Christenheit!

O du fröhliche, o du selige,
gnadenbringende Weihnachtszeit!
Himmlische Heere jauchzen dir Ehre:
Freue, freue dich, o Christenheit!

Johannes Falk Str. 1 (1768 - 1826);
Heinrich Holzschuher Str. 2+3 (1798 - 1847);
Weise aus Sizilien

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,
Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht
Lieb’ aus Deinem göttlichen Mund,
Da uns schlägt die rettende Stund,
Christ, in Deiner Geburt!
Christ, in Deiner Geburt!

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,
Hirten erst kund gemacht!
Durch der Engel Halleluja
tönet es laut von fern und nah:
Christ der Retter ist da!
Christ der Retter ist da!

Text: J. Mohr (1792-1848)
Weise: F. Gruber (1787-1863)

Es ist ein Ros’ entsprungen

Es ist ein Ros’ entsprungen
aus einer Wurzel zart.
wie uns die Alten sunen,
von Jesse kam die Art.
Und hat ein Blümlein bracht
mitten im kalten Winter,
wohl zu der halben Nacht.

Das Röslein, das ich meine,
davon Jesajas sagt,
hat uns gebracht alleine
Marie, die reine Magd.
Aus Gottes ew’gem Rat
hat sie ein Kind geboren
wohl zu der halben Nacht.

Text: geistlicher Dichter, 15. Jhdt.
Weise: 15. Jhdt.

Alle Jahre wieder

Alle Jahre wieder,
kommt das Christuskind
auf die Erde nieder,
wo wir Menschen sind.

Kehrt mit seinem Segen
ein in jedes Haus,
geht auf allen Wegen
mit uns ein und aus.

Ist auch mir zur Seite
still und unerkannt,
daß es treu mich leite
an der lieben Hand.

Wilhelm Hey (1837)
Weise: Friedrich Silcher (1842)

Deutsche
Weihnachtslieder



Am Weihnachtsbaum
die Lichter brennen

Am Weihnachtsbaum die Lichter brennen,
wie glänzt er festlich, lieb und mild,
als spräch’ er: “Wollt in mir erkennen
getreuer Hoffnung stilles Bild!”

Die Kinder stehn mit hellen Blicken,
das Auge lacht, es lacht das Herz,
o fröhlich seliges Entzücken!
Die Alten schauen himmelwärts.

Zwei Engel sind hereingetreten,
kein Auge hat sie kommen seh’n,
sie gehn zum Weihnachtstisch und beten,
und wenden wieder sich und geh’n.

“Gesegnet seid, ihr alten Leute,
gesegnet sei, du kleine Schar!
Wir bringen Gottes Segen heute
dem braunen wie dem weißen Haar.

Zu guten Menschen, die sich lieben,
schickt uns der Herr als Boten aus,
und seid ihr treu und fromm geblieben,
wir treten wieder in dies Haus.”

Kein Ohr hat ihren Spruch vernommen,
unsichtbar jedes Menschen Blick
sind sie gegangen wie gekommen,
doch Gottes Segen blieb zurück.

Ihr Kinderlein kommet,
o kommet doch all’

Ihr Kinderlein kommet, o kommet doch all’!
Zur Krippe her kommet in Bethlehems Stall.
Und seht, was in dieser hochheiligen Nacht
der Vater im Himmel für Freude uns macht.

O seht in der Krippe im nächtlichen Stall,
seht hier bei des Lichtleins hellglänzendem Strahl
in reinlichen Windeln das himmlische Kind,
viel schöner und holder, als Englein es sind.

Da liegt es, das Kindlein, auf Heu und auf Stroh;
Maria und Joseph betrachten es froh.
Die redlichen Hirten knien betend davor,
hoch oben schwebt jubelnd der himmlische Chor.

O beugt wie die Hirten anbetend die Knie,
erhebet die Händlein und danket wie sie.
Stimmt freudig, ihr Kinder - wer sollt’ sich nicht freu’n? -
stimmt freudig zum Jubel der Engel mit ein!

Was geben wir Kinder, was schenken wir dir,
du bestes und liebstes der Kinder, dafür?
Nichts willst du von Schätzen und Reichtum der Welt,
ein Herz nur voll Demut allein dir gefällt.

“So nimm uns’re Herzen zum Opfer denn hin;
wir geben sie gerne mit fröhlichem Sinn;
und mache sie heilig und selig wie deins,
und mach’ sie auf ewig mit deinem in eins.”

Vom Himmel hoch,
da komm ich her.

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her.
Ich bring euch gute, neue Mär.
Der guten Mär bring ich so viel,
Davon ich sing’n und sagen will.

Euch ist ein Kindlein heut geborn,
Von einer Jungfrau auserkorn,
Ein Kindelein so zart und fein,
Das soll eur Freud und Wonne sein.

Es ist der Herr Christ, unser Gott.
Der will euch führn aus aller Not.
Er will eur Heiland selber sein,
Von allen Sünden machen rein.

Er bringt euch alle Seligkeit,
Die Gott der Vater hat bereit’t,
Daß ihr mit uns im Himmelreich
Sollt leben nun und ewiglich.

So merket nun das Zeichen recht:
Die Krippen, Windelein so schlecht.
Da findet ihr das Kind.gelegt,
Das alle Welt erhält und trägt.

Des laßt uns alle fröhlich sein
Und mit den Hirten gehn hinein,
Zu sehn, was Gott uns hat beschert
Mit seinem lieben Sohn verehrt.

Merk auf, mein Herz, und sieh dort hin.
Was liegt doch in dem Krippelein?
Wes ist das schöne Kindelein?
Es ist das liebe Jesulein.

Sei willekomm, du edler Gast!
Den Sünder nicht verschmähet hast
Und kommst ins Elend her zu mir
Wie soll ich immer danken dir?

Ach Herr, du Schöpfer aller Ding,
Wie bist du worden so gering,
Daß du da liegst auf dürrer Gras.
Davon ein Rind und Esel aß!

Und wär die Welt viel mal so weit,
Von Edelstein und Gold bereit’t,
So wär sie doch dir viel zu klein,
Zu sein ein enges Wiegelein.

Der Sammet und die Seiden dein,
Das ist grob Heu und Windelein,
Darauf du Kön’g so groß und reich
Herprangst, als wär’s dein Himmelreich.

Das hat also gefallen dir,
Die Wahrheit anzuzeigen mir,
Wie aller Welt Macht, Ehr und Gut
Vor dir nichts gilt, nichts hilft noch tut.

Ach mein herzliebes Jesulein,
Mach dir ein rein, sanft Bettelein,
Zu ruhen in meins Herzens Schrein,
Daß ich nimmer vergesse dein.

Davon ich allzeit fröhlich sei,
Zu springen, singen immer frei
Das rechte Susaninne schon,
Mit Herzenslust den süßen Ton.

Lob, Ehr sei Gott im höchsten Thron,
Der uns schenkt seinen ein’gen Sohn.
Des freuen sich der Engel Schar
Und singen uns ein neues Jahr.

Martin Luther (1483 - 1546)
- Ein Kinderlied auf die Weihnacht Christi



FRATERNAL CALENDAR

NATIONAL EVENTS

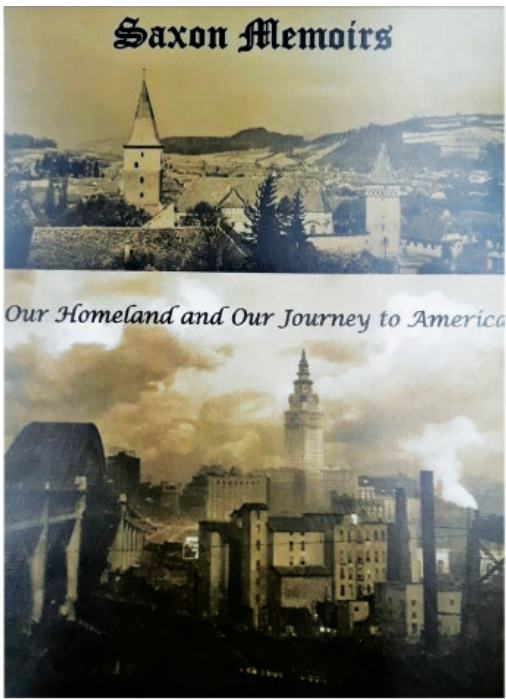
- January 14, 2024
TSBA Bowling - New Castle
- February 18, 2024
TSBA Bowling - Cleveland East
- March 17, 2024
TSBA Bowling - Youngstown
- April 6 - 7, 2024
TSBA Season End Tournament - New Castle
- May 18 - 19, 2024
ATS Convention
Host: Youngstown, OH
- July 12 - 14, 2024
North American Saxon Heimattag
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 31, 2023
Cleveland Sachsenheim New Year's Eve Bash
- January 21, 2024
Youngstown Saxon Club Pork/Kraut Dinner



“Let’s try this piece of coal and you tell me if it’s better or worse.”



Get your copy of the
Saxon Memoirs!
Written by your fellow Saxons.
Copies are \$25 each.
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ATS
5323 Pearl Road
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Call the ATS Home Office at
(440) 842-8442 for
more information.

BRANCH 10, COLUMBUS
By Donald Blum

MONTHLY MEETING
NO DECEMBER
MEETING
COLUMBUS BRANCH 10
CHRISTMAS PARTY

Great Christmas Party for the Columbus Saxon Club. Special thanks to Christine Oehlman and Sara Alzner-Brown for organizing Berwick Party House arrangements, room setup, the reservations and meals (rumor has it that he has requested Christine and Sara to help with organizing the elves). Thanks to Olga Hesch, Mike P, Michael Roth, Marlene Mueller and Jill Blum (Mrs. Claus) for their work to make this a truly fun night for Saxons to gather and celebrate. As usual, Rob Betts provided everyone with beautiful wood ornaments from his workshop at the North Pole. Thanks to ATS President, Denise Aeling Crawford for coming down to join us and explaining what a wonderful organization the Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons is. And obviously, thanks to all the Saxons that joined in to make this a wonderful event.

This a time that we had so many Saxons join us in not only celebrating Christmas but in celebrating Saxon Heritage. We had displays of pictures, traditional clothing, books and a wonderful exchange of conversation about the past and hopefully promise of what our future can bring.

We sang Christmas songs, both Saxon and English. As a special treat we had an accordion player providing the music to sing along the familiar tunes. Several of the members provided some traditional treats.

The children enjoyed meeting Sankt Nicholas and Mrs. Claus, receiving the traditional present of fruit, nuts and German chocolate. Also, the reindeer chipped in and gave them a special treat, and then they received their stockings filled wonderful surprises.

The adults that were at the top of the Nice List received some gifts of beer mugs, steins, Saxon cookbooks, lottery tickets and even a 4-pack of Vlad Impaler beer. Unfortunately, there were a few people that received a lump of coal. They were assured that they still had time before Christmas Eve to correct this situation.

Marlene Betts turned her birthday card and \$2 lottery ticket into \$20. Santa has already requested that Marlene pick his lottery numbers

so he can buy an all-electric sleigh and give the reindeers a rest this year.

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.

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

A little boy was waiting for his mother to come out of the grocery store.

As he waited, he was approached by a man who asked, “Son, can you tell me where the post office is?”

The little boy replied, “Sure, just go straight down the street a couple of blocks and turn to your right.”

The man thanked the boy kindly and said, “I’m the new pastor in town, and I’d like to see you in church on Sunday. I’ll show you how to get to Heaven.”

The little boy replied with a chuckle, “Awww, come on; you don’t even know how to get to the post office.”

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 (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 and Canada. We encourage you to spread the word about our group.

CONCLUSION

One thing the party made us realize is how blessed and fortunate we are. Remember, this is a time of giving. We received God’s greatest gift, Jesus Christ. God set the example of giving. If you can help those that are in a time need during the holidays, use God’s example and help those that need even the simplest things to make their Christmas special.

We hope you have a Merry Christmas and may the New Year bring you peace, happiness, good fortune and good health.

Gottes segen!

(See Page 8 for photos from the Christmas Party - Ed.)



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.

CHURCHES



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 30, YOUNGSTOWN By Rosemarie Kascher

Upcoming events at the Youngstown Saxon Club. January 8, 2024 officers meeting at 5:30 p.m. January 14, 2024 branch meeting at 2 p.m.

The club will be closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day.

Our sincerest thanks to Kiki Eberth for her outstanding job as president this past year. She has brought us up-to-date in so many areas and really moved us forward. Special thanks also go to Michelle Eberth for her part. I should also thank the whole slate of officers this past year.

The next Pork/Kraut dinner will be January 21 take out and dinner in the ballroom \$12.

Please pay your dues on time. The cut off date is February 19 when your card could be canceled. It is only \$40 a year, honor members at \$20. The financial secretary requests that you mail your dues books if you choose that way to pay and include a self addressed envelope for return. College/university students also pay half as well. Please send your dues to Val Thomas, 5947 Tippecanoe Rd., Youngstown, OH 44406 or to the Saxon Club office 710 South Meridian Rd., Youngstown, OH 44509.

We welcome Ernie Roth as our new president and wish him well for the new year.

I wish you a meaningful Christmas and a Happy New Year. Sachs halte wacht!

There are different perspectives regarding Christmas time. It is a spiritual celebration, honoring the birth of Jesus Christ. Christmas also includes non-religious festive details, such as Santa Claus, Christmas trees, exchanging gifts, holiday parties, and of course, decorating cookies. The history of Christmas cookies can be traced to Medieval Europe - Lebkuchen being a favorite in Germany. My cousin Helmine lives in Albstadt, Germany and sent me a photo:



"Plätzchen sind fertig und lecker!" Would love to be at her house eating those cookies with hot chocolate after a day of wandering through a Christkindlmarkt! Branch 33's Christmas banquet was held on Sunday, December 10. We had a fabulous attendance of 85 members, guests, and children. Cindy Schneider did a fantastic job organizing the event at Pine Ridge country club. Donna Foisel and Holly Prankas ensured Santa arrived from the North Pole and helped him distribute children's gifts. Sharon Volpe arranged the poinsettias. Congratulations to Bruce Schneider the 2023 perfect attendance winner. Outgoing officers, Jeff Krestel and Cindy Schneider were honored for their service. There are so many photos of the event to share; I promise to attach to a forthcoming article.

One week after Christmas, we will be welcoming a new year. Germans have been eating pork sausage and sauerkraut on New Year's for generations; the belief is the meal brings good luck (viel Glück!). Well aware of this tradition, Branch 33 makes Saxon sausage the first weekend in December.

BRANCH 33, CLEVELAND EAST By Arline Krestel-Suts



Thank you to outgoing Br. 33 officers:
Cindy Schneider (above) and Jeff Krestel (below).



Bruce Schneider honored for
"Perfect Attendance" in 2023

December 2 was our sausage sale. We want to thank everyone who purchased our sausage - we truly appreciate your support and hope you enjoy! Half the proceeds are donated to a local food bank. Thanks to Messiah Lutheran Church for allowing us to use their facility. Thank you to the many members who spent the day working so hard making and selling sausage. Yes,

through hard work, diligence to the age-old recipe, and our mantra "needs more garlic"! this year's result is really delicious. And we enjoy spending the time together as well.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 10 and we start the new year sharing our sausage (and kraut) for supper at 7 p.m. Wishing everyone a Blessed and Merry Christmas!!



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.

Robert Goohs

Age 74

Died: June 10, 2023
Branch 5, Lorain, OH

Samuel Tochtenhagen

Age 92

Died: November 21, 2023
Branch 30, Youngstown, OH

Katherine J. Novicky

Age 97

Died: November 21, 2023
Branch 30, Youngstown, OH

Ellen H. Spencer

Age 85

Died: December 2, 2023
Branch 8, Alliance, OH

Let me tell thee, time is a very precious gift of God; so precious that it's only given to us moment by moment.

Amelia Barr

Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look what they can do when they stick together.

Vista M. Kelly

It is easier to be wise for other people than for yourself.

Francois
de La Rochefoucauld

And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so? It came without packages, boxes or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled 'til his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more.

Dr. Seuss

I believe that wealth should not be an end in itself but a means to achieve a fulfilling life that encompasses financial security, strong relationships and personal happiness.

Rich Mullins

Have a safe and happy
New Year's Eve!

Branch 33 members Sausage making crew.
A full day of work, but enjoying each others company!



Eintracht-Saxonia Sachsenchor
Christmas Luncheon



BRANCH 5, LORAIN

By Michael Johnson

Another year for The First Transylvanian Saxon Sick Benefit Society of Lorain Ohio; Branch 5 of The Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons comes to a close. As we mark the 120th anniversary of this branch, we do so with hope for the future that we may continue to uphold the values and traditions passed down from those who formed it over 100 years ago on July 12th, 1903.

We met on November 20 for our final meeting of 2023 to wrap up business for the year so we could begin again in January with a clean slate. The evening concluded with election of officers for 2024 by a unanimous vote of present members to have those in office maintain their current positions for another year. All officers agreed to maintain their positions at the current salaries set in the constitution. The officers again are: Monica Gilles - President, Jane Mowery - Vice President, Ginger Romes - Treasurer, Brian Gilles - Recording Secretary, Michael Johnson - Financial and Dues Secretary, Sergeant at Arms - Arlene Gilles, Trustees - Barbara Gilles, Jeanne Petty, and Brian Gilles.

A unanimous vote to again give an annual donation for the holidays to The Mary Lee Tucker Clothe-A-Child, Saxon Relief Fund, the Saxon artifact museum Schloss Horneck; located in Gundelsheim, Germany, The Saxon Orphan Fund, and Second Harvest Food Bank, were approved.

On the evening of December 2nd members enjoyed a festive Christmas dinner at Diso's Bistro at All Nations

in Lorain. As part of the evening, President Monica Gilles presented Sister Arlene Jones with her 50 year membership pin. On behalf of those who could attend, I would like to thank Sister Jeanne Petty for her time that went into arranging with the staff, all of the reservations for the delicious meal combinations that were served. It was a most pleasant evening which I believe left all of us with that full holiday feeling.

At the time of this writing, there is no member receiving sick benefits or reporting any illnesses. We hope to start the new year with everyone healthy and in good spirits.

Our next and first meeting of 2024 will again be held at the American Slovak Club 2915 Broadway Ave. Lorain, Ohio on the 3rd Monday of the month of January the 15th, 2024 starting at 7:00 p.m. If you are a dues paying member, please come prepared to pay your dues (which would be the same annual amount you paid last year) by either cash or check payable to: **ATS Branch 5, Lorain, OH**. If you are not going to be attending, you can submit your dues by mail. Please make your check payable to: **ATS Branch 5, Lorain, OH** and mail your check to: *Michael W. Johnson, 41868 Earlene Ct., Elyria, OH 44035*.

Happy Birthday to those members celebrating birthdays this month of December; Sisters Arlene Jones, Nancy Kranstuber, Brother Daniel Paghi, and Junior member Kyle Smith. Hope your day will be a special one!

Until next time, may everyone have a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!



Branch 5 Christmas Dinner at Diso's Bistro in Lorain



BRANCH 27, NEW CASTLE

By Dolores Both

During the hustle and bustle of preparing for the holiday, Branch 27 ladies and guests took a time out to celebrate Christmas at the club house in Hunters Woods on Thursday, December 7. We had a merry time beginning with our delicious meal catered by Jeremy from the Hill House Restaurant. There was much fun and merriment among our group beginning with the early arrival of several of our guests to the end of the party. Members won six centerpieces and several other gifts, which highlighted the evening's activities.

We all enjoyed Judy Both's reading of her new Christmas poem "Caroling for Christ." Judy reported that the plans for the Children's Christmas party were in place for a fun time for members' children.

Donations were collected for ARISE, the women's shelter. The collected amount was matched by the treasury.

No meetings will be held during January and February. And don't forget to take care of paying your 2024 dues if you haven't done so yet. Dues must be paid to be eligible for benefits and drawings. Just mail your check to Katy Hudak at 4097 Countyline Road, New Castle, PA 16101.

Be good for goodness sake! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Caroling For Christ

*At this special time of year
when Christmas carols I do hear;
a smile appears upon my face,
no matter what the time or place.
It's more than trimmings or gifts galore,
more than the goodies that all adore.
It's the good will and love we feel for others,
all created our sisters and brothers.
Children of God sharing the earth
celebrating our Savior's birth.
The happiness those thoughts do bring
give us pleasure to which we cling.
Trouble, sorrow, pain, and strife
may be a part of earthly life;
but Christ was born for us all
to save us from a hellish fall.
What better present could God give,
than hope in Heaven we might live.
May all the world gladly sing,
for the birth of Christ the King.*

An original poem by Judith E. Both Christmas 2023
Artwork by Katy and Brooke Hudak



President Monica Gilles presents Sister Arlene Jones with her 50 Year membership pin

Branch 10 Columbus Christmas Party



Branching out: The history of the artificial Christmas tree

Peek in the average American’s home during the holidays and you’re likely to find an artificial Christmas tree. The American Christmas Tree Association reports that 75 percent of Americans display a Christmas tree and roughly 84 percent of them will put up an artificial one. Ever wonder where and when the artificial Christmas tree first laid its roots? Artificial or not, these trees certainly have grown through the years.

The first artificial Christmas trees started to appear in Germany in the late 19th century. At the time, Germany was suffering extensive deforestation and people needed a greener alternative. Early artificial trees actually used goose feathers, dyed green to emulate bristles. These trees didn’t offer the lushest experience, but they became popular nonetheless.



In the early 1900s, Addis Brush Company, then busy making toilet brushes, realized that they could make better-looking artificial trees. The brush company took their artificial toilet brushes, dyed them green, and then used them to make an artificial tree. Trees made out brushes and similar materials remained popular through much of the early 20th century.

In the 1950s, aluminum

trees, which ditched green for silvery leaves, became quite popular. The futuristic look likely meshed well with the budding space race. However, the aluminum trees ended up on the naughty list of Charlie Brown, the titular character of the famous comics. In 1965’s A Charlie Brown Christmas, Charlie took issue with the over-commercialization of Christmas, and one of his targets was the aluminum Christmas tree. Charlie chose a puny green tree over an aluminum one, sending a message to millions of Americans, who began shunning aluminum trees.

Artificial trees would return to form in the 1980s, when PVC plastic trees emulating natural green trees became hugely popular. Since then, artificial trees have dominated the market.

White Christmas: The story of the classic song

Bing Crosby: ‘You don’t have to worry about this one, Irving’

Songwriter Irving Berlin actually may have suspected how right Crosby was about “White Christmas,” the 687th song he composed during his long life and career.

According to legend, Berlin told his secretary to write down the lyrics to a song he had just written because it was “the best song I ever wrote.”

For Irving Berlin, there were many reasons to be nostalgic, happy, and sad on Christmas. His song “White Christmas” must have conjured up all those memories.

“White Christmas” began as work. Berlin believed in hard work. The song was written for the 1942 movie Holiday Inn. Crosby’s rendition, featured in the film, quickly rose to the top of the charts. It went on to become one of the best-selling records of all time, topping the charts a dozen times and eventually selling 50 million physical copies.

Berlin knew a lot about work. One of eight children,

Berlin (born Israel Beilin) and his family left Tsarist Russia and arrived in the United States when he was just five years old in 1893. The Beilin family, which had its roots in Siberia, was among thousands of Russian Jewish families to emigrate to the U.S. to escape bloody pogroms and Tsar Alexander III’s virulently anti-Jewish policies.

When his father died just eight years after their arrival, the family struggled. Berlin had to leave school at age eight with only two years of schooling in order to sell newspapers and deliver his meager wages to his mother each day. Six years later he left home to make a living singing in honky-tonks, and soon started to write his own songs. His first hit song was “Alexander’s Ragtime Band.”

Berlin loved America and at one point said he was consumed with patriotism. He composed “God Bless America,” a classic song performed in his honor upon his death in 1989. Legendary broadcaster Walter Cronkite once said that Ber-



Irving Berlin, and wife Ellen Mackay in 1926. They had a lifelong love affair.

lin helped “write the story of this country, capturing the best of who we are...”

Although he was Jewish, Berlin spent many traditional Christmases with his family. His wife, Ellin, was Catholic, a fact that fascinated America. When they eloped in 1926. Ellin’s father promptly disowned her.

Then, on Christmas day in 1928, the only son of Irving and Ellin Berlin died. Less than a month old, he was named Irving, Jr.

Ellin’s father reconciled with the Berlins. Irving and Ellin had three other children, enjoying success and a lifelong love affair.

ASK ...
ASK YOUR DEPUTY
HOW A CERTIFICATE OF
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CAN HELP YOU TO SAVE!

Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons
Sales Deputies

Alliance, OH
Helen Aeling
(330) 862-2563
Denise Crawford
(330) 257-0267

Canton, OH
Helen Aeling
(330) 862-2563

Cleveland (East), OH
Ema Litschel
(440) 358-1184
Margarete Ziegler
(440) 488-6421

Cleveland (West), OH
Robert Cunningham
(216) 398-7520
Trudy Schaefer
(216) 215-2269
Monica Weber
(440) 356-5936

Columbus, OH
Michael Roth
(614) 216-0008

Ellwood City, PA
Lori Biddle-Berendt
(724) 714-1217

Lorain, OH
Monica Gilles
(440) 309-7894

Merrillville, IN
Randall Floyd
(219) 798-6908
Jeff Szostek
(219) 313-7854

New Castle, PA
Marie Benedict
(724) 667-7395

Salem, OH
Helen Aeling
(330) 862-2563
Barbara Spack
(330) 501-1491

Youngstown, OH
Michael Teutsch, Jr.
(330) 509-9670

ATS Home Office
(440) 842-8442

The case against Christmas chaos

The kids have been eyeing those presents for a long time. They are itching to open them. Then on Christmas morning (or Christmas Eve), they tear into the stack, leaving behind them a chaotic tangle of wrap, bags, bows, and stuff. It’s over in 15 minutes, but the cleanup will take way longer than that.

The alternative is to have a system where everyone takes turns opening a present, one at a time. But why avoid the joyous Christmas chaos?

1. To respect guests. Grandma or Auntie is joining your family for Christmas. They have probably spent money and time picking presents for everyone. In the chaos model, they might not even see the kids open their gifts and they probably won’t be able to tell if the kids liked the gifts, which are now lost in a sea of wrapping paper.

2. To promote gratitude. Everyone should have the chance to open a gift and thank the giver. Gratitude is greater than avarice.

3. To tell the story of the gift. That large cloth thing you received? Is it a table cloth or a throw? Was it handmade or did it belong to the late Aunt Edna? The giver can tell the story.

4. To create an event. Everyone gets their eggnog and finds a relaxing place to sit. Then the day unfolds amid talk and laughter, everyone gets to see what everyone else opens.

5. To involve the kids in giving. Christmas isn’t just about the desire for your own gifts. It’s the fun of giving, too. Many families have kids ‘play Santa,’ passing out the gifts to each person in preparation for the event. Each person can then choose which gift to open on their turn.

Saxon News VOLKSBLATT December 22, 2023 - 9

ATS BRANCH DIRECTORY

Cleveland, OH Br. 1
Mtg. 3rd Mon. 7:00 p.m.
Sachsenheim
7001 Denison Ave
Cleveland OH 44102
(216) 651-0888
PRES: Robert M. Hanek
22677Peachtree Ln
Rocky River OH 44116
(216) 385-9932 rhanek8@yahoo.com
SEC'Y. Same as President
ATS SEC'Y. Same as President
LOCAL DUES to August Botsch
12606 Arliss Dr,Lakewood OH 44107

Alliance, OH Br. 3
Mtg. 3rd. Wed.- 6:30 p.m.
American Legion Post 166
141 W Main St Alliance OH
PRESIDENT John H. Aeling
15590 Georgetown St. NE
Minerva, 44657
(330) 862-3706
JDAlI852@yahoo.com
SEC'Y. John Esterly
2940 Cedarwood Dr
Alliance Oh 44601
(330) 821-8766
ATS SEC'Y. Helen Aeling
15354 Georgetown St. NE
Minerva OH 44657
(330) 862-2563
SICK NOTICES & LOCAL DUES to
John Aeling
Address shown as President

Cleveland, OH Br. 4
Mtg. 3rd. Mon. 7:00 p.m.
Sachsenheim 7001 Denison Ave.
(216) 651-0888
PRES. Monica M. Weber
(440) 356-5936
SEC'Y. Joan A. Miller-Malue
17105 Hilliard Rd.
Lakewood OH 44107
(216) 233-8631
miller-malue@cox.net
ATS SEC'Y Donna Jankow
7663 Ragall Pkwy
Middleburg Hts OH 44130
(440) 826-0773
SICK NOTICES to
Joan A. Miller-Malue
Address as above
LOCAL DUES to
Donna Jankow Address as above

Lorain, OH Br. 5
Mtg. 3rd Monday of month 7:00 p.m.
American Slovak Club
2915 Broadway, Lorain
PRES. Monica Gilles
3520 Beavercrest Dr. #107
Lorain OH 44053
(440) 309-7894
gillemo76@hotmail.com
SEC'Y. Brian Gilles
244 Ashwood Dr.
Avon Lake OH 44012
(440) 315-5214
bgilles74@yahoo.com
ATS SEC'Y. Ginger Romes
1507 West 39th St
Lorain OH 44053 (440) 989-8424
dgromes@roadrunner.com
SICK NOTICES to Jane Mowery
3600 Jaeger Dr Unit 3101
Lorain OH 44053 (440) 246-3004
janie.e.mowery@gmail.com
LOCAL DUES to
Michael W. Johnson
41868 Earlene Ct, Elyria OH 44035
(440) 324-2534 mikjo79@gmail.com

Farrell, PA Br. 7
Mtg. 3rd Tuesday 5:30 p.m.
Farrell Lions Den
810 Lions Club Lane Farrell PA
(724) 981-7130
PRES. Karen Zaborowski
1715 Shady Dr Farrell PA 16121
(724) 346-0373
SEC'Y.Same as President
ATS SEC'Y. Bonnie Gregorich
55 Oak Tree Ct
West Middlesex PA 16159
(724) 528-0309
SICK NOTICES to Karen Zaborowski
LOCAL DUES to Kathy Schuller
PO Box 834 Andover OH 44003
(440) 293-6973

Alliance, OH Br. 8
Mgt. 3rd Wed. 6:30 p.m.
American Legion Post 166
141 W Main St Alliance OH
PRES. Denise Crawford
9415 Elsmere Dr
Parma OH 44130
(330) 257-0267 drcrawfordcpa@outlook.com
SEC'Y. Lesley Reed
611 N. Market St Minerva OH 44657
(330) 868-3816
ATS SEC'Y. Helen E. Aeling
15354 Georgetown St. NE
Minerva OH 44657
(330) 862-2563 HHA658@aol.com
LOCAL DUES to: Lesley Reed
Same address as above
SICK NOTICES to: Barb Esterly
2940 Cedarwood Dr Alliance 44601
(330) 821-8766 jackprint@sbcglobal.net

Chicago, IL Br. 9
Mtg. 1st Mon. 8:00 p.m.
Donauschwaben Club
625 E Seegers Rd, Des Plaines IL
PRES. Diethild Thut
923 E Slayton Dr
Palatine IL 60074
(847) 414-2660
dedethut11@yahoo.com
SEC'Y. Elfi Sanderson
1425 London Lane
Glenview IL 60025
(847) 998-0939
elfisanderson@gmail.com
ATS SEC'Y: Claudia Schmidt
8550 Niles Center Rd Skokie IL 60077
(847) 899-8663
Schmidtc274@gmail.com
LOCAL DUES AND SICK NOTICES TO:
Claudia Schmidt
Address as shown above

Columbus, OH Br. 10
Mtg. 3rd Mon. 1:00 p.m. all months
Hickory House,
550 Officecenter Place Gahanna OH
PRES. Mike Roth
8063 Ivory Gull Cir
Pickerington OH 43147
(614) 834-2277 rothpmr@aol.com
SEC'Y. Christine Oehlman
8333 Shade Maple Dr
Canal Winchester OH 43110
(614) 419-7485 chris.oehlman@yahoo.com
ATS SEC'Y. P. Michael Roth
8063 Ivory Gull Cir Pickerington OH 43147
(614) 216-0008
SICK NOTICES to Don Blum
6436 Lakeview Cir
Canal Winchester OH 43110
(614) 837-1915 donalddbhum@prodigy.net
LOCAL DUES to: Marlene Mueller
310 Jericho Rd Apt 220
Pickerington OH 43147
(614) 834-1060 marlenemueller69@gmail.com

Canton, OH Br. 14
Mtg. 2nd Sunday
Location varies
PRES. Thomas J. Rowinsky
1656 Dunkeith Dr NW, Canton, 44708
(330) 478-9333
ATS SECRETARY: Helen Aeling
15354 Georgetown St NE
Minerva OH 44657
(330) 862-2563 HHA658@aol.com
SICK NOTICES to Thomas Rowinsky
Address as shown above

Canton, OH Br. 17
Mtg. 2nd Sunday Location varies
PRES. Rosanne Miller
3624 Harris Ave NW
Canton OH 44708
(330) 413-1773
SEC'Y. Mary Rowinsky
1656 Dunkeith Dr NW
Canton OH 44708
(330) 478-9333
ATS SECRETARY: Helen Aeling
15354 Georgetown St NE
Minerva OH 44657
(330) 862-2563 HHA658@aol.com
SICK NOTICES to Mary Rowinsky
LOCAL DUES to: Rosanne Miller

USE ONLY THIS FORM FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND CANCELLATIONS

All information in the form
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☐ CANCELLATION
☐ NEW to receive paper

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Branch No. _____ Certificate No. _____

SS# _____ Date of Birth _____

Name _____

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New Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

THIS CHANGE IS FOR:

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Date: _____ Signature of Person Making Change _____

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

Salem, OH Br. 18
Mtg. 2nd Mon. 7:00 p.m.
Saxon Club 1980 St. Rt. 9 Salem,
44460 (330) 222-1770
PRES. Marilyn McNutt
1721 State Route 9 Salem 44460
(330) 337-8940 Cell (216) 410-7291
SEC'Y. / ATS SECRETARY
Barbara Spack
1389 Brookview Dr Salem, 44460
(330) 501-1491 babrayn@sbcglobal.net
SICK NOTICES to Theresa Spack
384 W Pershing
Salem OH 44460 (330) 831-4119
LOCAL DUES TO: Helen Aeling
15354 Georgetown St. NE Minerva
44657
(330) 862-2563 HHA658@aol.com

Salem, OH Br. 19
Mtg. 1st Mon. 7:30 p.m.
Saxon Club 1980 Newgarden Rd
Salem OH 44460 (330) 222-1770
PRES. Glenn Spack
943 Stewart Rd Salem OH 44460
(330) 332-8174
SEC'Y. Robert P. Vogt, Sr.
973 Sunset Blvd. Salem, 44460
(330) 881-3346 mvcobra27@gmail.com
ATS SEC'Y Glenn Spack
Address and phone as above
SICK NOTICES to Glenn T. Spack
address above
LOCAL DUES to Richard Vogt, Sr.
c/o Salem Saxon Club
1980 Newgarden Rd, Salem, 44460
(330) 222-1770

New Castle, PA Br. 25
Mtg. 2nd Thursday 8:00 p.m.
Eintracht Hall 108 Taylor St.,
New Castle PA 16101
(724) 652-7221
PRES. Dave Miller
118 E Hazelcroft Ave New Castle PA 16105
(724) 730-3250
Davidfmiller49@yahoo.com
SEC'Y. Jacob Holzhauser
764 Rose Point Rd New Castle 16101
(724) 971-1260
newcastleeintracht@gmail.com
ATS SEC'Y: Doug Schafer
113 Okinawa Dr New Castle PA 16105
(724) 944-6199
dougschafernc@aol.com
Local Dues: Karl Hermann
1650 Union Valley Rd
Wampum PA 16157
(724) 971- 6683
karlhermann@comcast.net

Merrillville, IN Br. 26
Meeting first Sunday at 2 p.m.
Slovak Club - 6920 Broadway
(219) 756-5101
PRES. Jeff Szostek
625 Lake Shore Dr
Hobart IN 46342-5017
(219) 313-7854 219szos@gmail.com
SEC'Y. Jamie Connors
1035 Garfield St Hobart IN 46342
(312) 758-6341
Weebec052277@yahoo.com
ATS SEC'Y. Randall Floyd
1806 E 73rd Ave, Merrillville IN 46410
(219) 798-6908
LOCAL DUES to Zita Palyok
724 E. 25th Pl, Lake Station IN 46405
(219) 962-7345 randz724@comcast.net
Sick Notices to Jamie Connors
Listed above

New Castle, PA Br. 27
Mtg. 1st Thurs. 6:00 p.m.
Soni's Restaurant
3209 Wilmington Rd, New Castle
PRES. Judith Both
1512 Drespling Ln
New Castle PA 16101
(724) 654-0573
jboth1512@comcast.net
SEC'Y. Dolores Both
3512 Hunters Woods Blvd #1
New Castle PA 16105
(724) 658-7407 doloresboth@verizon.net
ATS SEC'Y. Judy Both
1512 Drespling Ln New Castle 16101
(724) 654-0573
LOCAL DUES to Katy Hudak
4097 County Line Rd
New Castle PA 16101
(724) 924-9286 katyb26@hotmail.com
SICK NOTICES to Judith Both

Monaca / Rochester PA Br. 29
Mtg. 2nd Sunday 6 p.m.
Saxon Club 112 Simes Ave
Rochester, PA 15074
PRES. Cristy Roberts (724) 601-2047
SEC'Y Tiffany Ash (724) 561-5028
All correspondence for President and
Secretary should be mailed to Saxon
Club - address above

Youngstown, OH Br. 30
Mtg. 2nd. Sun. 2:00 p.m.
Saxon Club 710 S. Meridian
Youngstown OH 44509
(330) 792-7973
PRES. Kathleen (KiKi) Eberth
1461 Brantwood Blvd
Youngstown OH 44509
(330) 509-8443 kkeberth@gmail.com
SEC'Y Fran Hinerman
1481 Salsgiver Dr Leeper PA 16233
(330) 507-1340
ATS SEC'Y Julaine Gilmartin
4173 Timberland Trail
Canfield, OH 44406
(330) 799-5171
LOCAL DUES Val Thomas
5947 Tippecanoe Rd
Canfield OH 44406 (317) 373-0797
SICK NOTICES to
Rosemary Zamary
2158 Cranbrook Dr
Youngstown OH 44511
(330) 792-0388

Ellwood City, PA Br. 32
Mtg. 2nd. Wed. 7:30 p.m.
Saxon Club 901 Millview St.
(724) 758-3268
PRES. Laura Goehring
113 Mahony Ave Ellwood City PA 16117
(724) 971-2040
SEC'Y Johanna Jenkins
909 Old Zelenople Rd.
Ellwood City PA 16117
ATS SEC'Y Lori Berendt
2260 Cherry Hill Rd
Ellwood City 16117(724) 714-1217
SICK NOTICES to: Joan Evans
197 Portersville Rd Apt 3
Ellwood City PA 16117
(724) 752-1109

Cleveland, OH Br. 33
Mtg. 2nd. Weds. 7:00 p.m.
Messiah Lutheran Church
5200 Mayfield Rd, Lyndhurst OH 44124
PRES. Margarete Ziegler
38047 Parkway Blvd.
Willoughby OH 44094
(440) 488-6421
margarez@aol.com
SEC'Y. Arline Suts
413 Downing Dr Chardon OH 44024
(440) 279-3330
asuts@windstream.net
ATS SEC'Y. Karyn Schmidt
4979 Anderson Rd
Lyndhurst OH 44124
(216) 382-7397
SICK NOTICES to Arline Suts
Address and phone as above
LOCAL DUES to Michael Bretz
388 East 317th St.
Willowick OH 44095
(216) 392-6241 meb3172@att.net

Detroit, MI Br. 37
Mtg. 1st. Sun. 12:30 p.m.
St. Peters Lutheran Church
11423 Chicago Rd. Warren, MI
(586) 978-3850
PRES. Susanna Fleischer
11060 Furbush Rd. Holly MI 48442
(810) 694-1860
beetlebugsue7@peoplepc.com
SEC'Y. Trudy Kalvin
2448 Orpington Troy MI 48083
(248) 925-9995
ACTING ATS SEC'Y.
Susanna Fleischer
Address as above
LOCAL DUES to Ingrid Weihs-Ferguson
11711 Lancer Dr Sterling Hts MI 48313
iwferguson@aol.com

Ellwood City, PA Br. 45
Mtg. 3rd Tuesday 7:30 p.m.
Saxon Club 901 Millview St.
(724) 758-3268
PRES. John Dengel
305 Stamm Hollow Rd.
Ellwood City, PA 16117
(724) 622-1593
SEC'Y Dawn Dengel
Same as President
(724) 622-0152
ATS SEC'Y Cathie Bender
801 Park Ave.
Ellwood City, PA 16117
(724) 544-7232
LOCAL DUES to Kathy Carsele
318 Golf Ave.
Ellwood City, PA 16117
(724) 758-3002
Sick Notices to
Cathie Bender
Same as ATS Secretary

Grete Lienert-Zultner:

Bäm Lichtert

Entnommen wurde der Liedtext Grete Lienert-Zultners dem Band „E Liedchen hälft ängden“, herausgegeben von Angelika Meltzer und Rosemarie Chrestels, Nürnberg 2017, S. 45.

Grete Lienert-Zultner

Bäm Lichtert

Alle Kängd:

Lichtert bunt uch wängtergrän,
wonn de Kiärzen alle brän,
feh mer frih ze sängen un,
dänn dro äs der Chrästdåg kunn.

Alle Kängd:

Hellijer Chräst, ich dänken dir,
dätt te hiër bäst kunn za mir!
Zejj doch än as Härzen än!
Änjde säll’ te wunnen drän.

Alle Kängd:

Hellijer Chräst, hä bränge mir
alleguer as Härzen dir,
well mir dich si gären hun.
Nemm se zem Geburtsdåg un!

Måäch et rien, as Härz, uch trå,
måäch et vun dem Bise frå,
dätt mer bleiwe frih uch wohr
si wei hetj äm gäänze Johr!
Amen.

The mutual assignment of the verses is based on the alternating song of the village’s own candlestick song in the “Leuchter- or Lichtertkirche”. The older school children (in some places only boys) sang this in the early church before dawn on December 25th with the candlestick they had made in one of the specified places, e.g. on the galleries in the church, which was mostly (only) lit by the candlesticks. Collecting winter green was part of the pre-Christmas program of the Lichtertgangen, mothers and big sisters were on hand to tie the wreaths/garlands, fathers took care of the wooden frame - overall, the event kept people’s attention awake (even in the actual sense of the word when tying: allowed to stay up late “), and perhaps you were one of the congregations that read one line of the Latin text and then another line of German from “Puer natus”/”A child born in Bethlehem” or “Quem pastores”/” Whom the shepherds praised “very much” had to learn and sing. According to a state church survey, candlestick churches were still taking place in 35 Protestant parishes in Transylvania in 1987. The information was used by Prof. Hermann Binder for his comprehensive study on the topic: “The



Christ candlestick. Photo: Arnold Marke

Lichtert. A Transylvanian-Saxon Christmas custom.” In: “Yearbook 1990. Transylvanian-Saxon house calendar, 35th year, pp. 88-125.

After the escape, the continuation of the “Lichtertchi” was a matter of course for the people of Nösen, it was reported, and after the push in 1990 it was mothers who wanted to show their children what was still in practice at home a few years ago (Deutsch-Weißkirch). There are always reports about candlestick singing during the Christmas season (Reußmarkt remained at the early church on the first day of Christmas). In Nuremberg alone you can take part in three candlelight devotions (Nadesch, Deutsch-Weißkirch, Großalisch). However, nowhere are there four candlesticks, occasionally fir branches take the place of the winter green, women’s voices replace those of the children; but perhaps the men will join in with their beautiful Christmas carol between the Latin/German couplet, as they used to.

Some questions remain unanswered about the origin and age of the “Lichtert” custom. What is certain is that it has nothing to do with the Christmas tree, which appeared much later as a gift tree, but used to hang from the ceiling in farmhouses, like the Christmas tree in the beginning, a little smaller. Both customs exist side by side today. For various reasons, it is virtually impossible that the “Lichtert” was brought from its original homeland. And there is no evidence that similar customs that existed in Germany at the same time were adopted. What is undeniable, however, is the connection to Christmas through candlelight as a symbol of Christmas light. Wishing you a contemplative time

Hanni Markel,
Bernddieter Schobel
SBZ Online 26. Dezember 2019

The Christmas candlestick in Deutsch-Weißkirch

One of the most beautiful things that has been preserved in church customs in the community, wrote an excellent expert, were the customs associated with the Christmas candlestick. From today’s perspective, these prove to be the most enduring, in fact the only complex of customs that has been resettled in a transformed form. The candlestick festival was formerly a children’s festival, the organization and implementation of which was the responsibility of the eldest year (Lichtertgangen, Lichtertmod-schen) of the school leavers, around whom the other children formed four candlestick groups according to election rules.

The equipment: With blowing ox horns and some playful competitive behavior, the boys went to Kathrein in the forest to collect evergreens, juniper branches and hazel rods as material for four Christmas candlesticks. Everyone then met on the fourth Sunday of Advent at the Candlestick Boys, where the girls bundled periwinkle, juniper and boxwood twigs into small bouquets, which the mothers involved tied into wreaths on hazel branches, while others tied flat artificial flower bouquets (zallen) around a bush of boxwood tied the bouquet on a pole. The boys mainly provided entertainment by popping pig’s bladders.

The candlesticks: In contrast to the more elaborate beehive chandeliers in neighboring towns, the basic structure of the Weißkirchen candlesticks was rather modest, formed from three wreaths that tapered towards the top, the top of which formed a crown with two half-wreaths crossing each other. Their decoration was all the more lavish with 16 flags, imaginative and artistic paper cuts made of colored glossy

paper or watercolor floral ornaments. Each boy had to contribute two pairs of flags and two white candles of a certain size, each girl two pairs of flags. When the morning bell rang on Christmas Eve, the candlestick boys carried the candlestick and the girls carried the bouquet in a ceremonial procession of all the children to the church, where fathers helped to place them at the four ends of the side galleries and put the bouquets on top. Slightly smaller Christmas candlesticks without a bouquet used to be the norm in families, but it was only after 1920 that the Christmas tree became generally accepted in Weißkirch.

Quempastoreslaudavere: The musical backbone of the candlestick service was the Quempastores: The four lines of a verse were sung in turn by the four groups of children under the candlesticks, first in Latin, then in an old German translation; Between the verses one of the beautiful two-part male choir “Come, hear the angels sing” was interposed from the organ gallery. The quempas did not wander, as it once did in the great cathedrals of Central Europe, but the sound floated across the church interior.

The candlestick service: Until 1947, the candlestick service took place on Christmas Day at five in the morning, after which it was added to the evening service on Christmas Eve (Lächtschekirich). Currently, the former Weißkirchen residents usually gather around a single Christ candlestick on the third Sunday of Advent, where the Quempastores sung by women enters into dialogue with the men’s choir in the gallery - be it in Eibach or in Gebersdorf, where a spiritual shelter is always opened to those who knock.

Michael Markel
SBZ Online 25. Dezember 2022



Christmas Eve in the Mediascher Margarethenkirche.
Photo: Hildegard Servatius-Depner

Merry Christmas!

As we go through the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, let us remember the real reason for the season.



Christmas time is a special time of the year for you and your family. This includes your ATS family. We are here for you throughout the year providing fraternal benefits. Consider gifting your friends or family members with an ATS membership, if they are not already a member. Contact your local sales deputy or the ATS Home Office for information on our Insurance and Annuity plans, as well as our various fraternal benefits and activities.

With Christmas comes faith, hope, and love.

The Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons Board of Directors and Home Office Staff wish faith, hope, and love for you and your family during this Christmas Season and throughout the upcoming year.

Denise A Crawford, ATS President