

ATS Founded in 1902

Friday, December 23, 2011

Beverly Pochatko elected President of German American National Congress (DANK)

The German American National Congress (DANK) elected its new Executive Board at the National Convention October 28-30 in Pittsburgh, PA.

Eleceted to a two (2) year term as National President was Beverly Pochatko of Erie PA.

Mrs. Pochatko, has been active with the German American Community for over twenty years having started a DANK Chapter (a.k.a. German Heritage Society of Erie); co-founder of the Erie German Heritage Festival held on Labor Day weekend for fifteen years; serving on the Boards of the Sachsen Sängerbund as 1st Vice President and NASA (North American Singers Association) Pittsburgh District Vice President; and a member of the Erie Männerchor Gesangverein, the ATS and the Siebenbürger Singers.

During the convention, Ms. Pochatko was the recipient of the 'Elsbeth Seewald Award' for her

for outstanding service to all German-American groups and invaluable commitment to promoting the German language and culture.

The German American National Congress, also known as DANK (Deutsch Amerikanischer National Kongress), is the largest organization of Americans of Germanic descent. DANK has 27 chapters and an impressive network of Associate Member societies with membership spanning across the majority of the U.S. The national organization seeks to bring together Germanic-Americans in the pursuit of cultivating and presenting their heritage and interests on local, regional and national levels. These were the primary reasons that DANK was founded in 1959, and they are still among the organization's primary objectives today.

For more information on DANK please visit <u>www.dank.org</u> or email: <u>office@dank.org</u>.

The spirit of Christmas

Decorations abound in December. The calls of "Merry Christmas" fill the streets and come

from people we barely know. Everyone seems to be smiling more as the big day comes closer. It's part of the spirit of Christmas.

For many Christians, celebrating the birth of the Christ child is the primary focus. They recall the angels singing, "Glory to God in the highest; on earth, peace and good will toward men."

For them and for people of many faiths, acts of kindness and generosity are part of the spirit. It prompts them to contribute gifts to toy collections for poor children, to give a check or groceries to a food bank, or to help serve Christmas dinner at a charitable organization.

It's been said that giving is more blessed than receiving. Even those with little to give do what they can. Just dropping a few coins into the bell-ringer's bucket makes them a giver. You may think that Santa Claus isn't part of it. But think of the joy he creates not only for children with his image in a red suit; he spreads color and seasonal joy to everyone who sees him. As one modern poet says, "Standing or sit-

ting or walking around, Santa Claus is all over town."

The decorations, the music, the service and the gifts put us in the mood for Christmas, but the true spirit is in our hearts. Though we're busy, we may be a little more patient. And we are more compassionate when helping others, though we may have situations of our own to deal with.

As we consider our blessings, no matter how great or small, let us have joy, hope and peace in

our hearts.

The spirit of Christmas is upon us.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Thomas J. Manning ATS Nat'l President



The hustle and bustle of Christmas is now pretty much over except for us to enjoy the fruit of our labors including the beautiful decorations and lighted displays. I hope that Santa was good to all of you a nd that you enjoyed the holiday with your family and friends. Liz and I want to be the first to wish all of you a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

With the start of the new year, our Home Office staff will begin to prepare the tax statements which will be mailed to our members. As you know, it will soon be time to file your income tax return with the Internal Revenue Service. I hope you will be one of the fortunate taxpayers who will receive a refund instead of owing the IRS. If you do receive a refund, why not consider purchasing an ATS Life Insurance Policy of Annuity Certificate. This would be a great gift for yourself, your children, or your grandchildren. As I have often stated, the ATS offers very reasonable rates for life insurance plans.

Over the past several months, many of the ATS Branches have elected their new officers for 2012, or will soon be doing so. If you have a vacant office in your Branch, why not consider a run for that position. In some Branches a member holds one office and has to fill in on a second office because of a lack of members who are willing to fill the vacancy. Throw your hat into the ring. It is not a difficult thing to do for your Branch.

What is the weather forecast for the weather this winter???? The Indians ask their chief in autumn if the winter was going to be cold or not. The chief replied that the winter was going to be cold and that the members of the village were to collect wood to be prepared. Being a good leader, he then went to the next phone booth and called the National Weather Service and asked, "Is this winter going to be cold?" The man replied, "This winter is going to be quite cold indeed". So the chief went back to speed up his people to collect even more wood to be prepared. A week later he called the National Weather Service again and asked, "Is it going to be a very cold winter?" "Yes" the man replied. So the chief ordered them to find every scrap of wood they could. Two weeks later he called the National Weather Service again and asked, "Are you absolutely sure that it is going to be very cold? Absolutely" he replied. "The Indians are collecting wood like crazy".



Issue 26

TIMELY - DO NOT DELAY MAILED WEDNESDAY, December 21, 2011 Attention Postmaster: Send all Changes of Address to: The Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons 5393 Pearl Road Cleveland, OH 44129-1597

Vom Siebenbuerger Sachsen Saengerbund

Fuer die kommenden Feiertage wuensche ich allen Saengern, sowie Ihren Angehoerigen, ein Frohes Weihnachtsfest und ein Gesundes Neu Jahr 2012.

For the upcoming Holidays, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Singers and their Families, a very Merry Christmas and good health and happiness for the New Year of 2012. May God Bless You All.

> Johann Paal, President Siebenbuerger Sachsen Saengerbund

Take care until next time and may God bless the members of the ATS.



BRANCH 37, DETROIT By Susi Fleischer

Br. 37 hosted the annual Christmas party for members and friends at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, December 4th. The event was well attended and enjoyed by all, especially the children.

Before dinner was served, Pastor Gies said the prayer, and once everyone was fed and satisfied, we sang Christmas carols before Santa Claus made an appearance to present each child with a gift and listen to their wishes for a special request this year. A very special thank you to this year's Santa, a job well done. The children were delighted with their gifts and then bid Santa farewell, since he had other stops to make.

As President of Br. 37, I would like to thank everyone who made this afternoon possible. Either by preparing food, buying gifts, cleaning up or just helping out wherever it was needed. Katie Moody and Trudy Kalvin prepared and served the food. Jean Fisher provided the potato salad. Debbie Ferguson was a great help to Santa; she purchased the gifts for the children. Without the dedication of these people, none of these activities would take place. If I forgot to mention someone by name, please forgive me. Also a thank you to all members who brought cookies, which were enjoyed by everyone after the delicious meal.

Our first meeting of 2012 will take place on January 8, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. At this time the Officers for 2012 will be installed. A special invitation to all our young members, please come to our meetings and take an active part in our Branch, everyone is needed to keep the Branch alive and well.

Happy Birthday wishes to all members who are celebrating this special occasion during the month of December.

We wish everyone a merry and peaceful Christmas and a blessed New Year.

BRANCH 22, YOUNGSTOWN By Rosemarie Kascher

In my last article stating the new slate of officers for Branch 22 The *Volksblatt* made a printing error, which provided to be embarrassing. We apologize to our president Bonnie Baker and our new first vice president, Helen Fotiuk, former president. We look forward to your leadership in the new year. (*Our apologies for the error - Ed.*)

Upcoming events for Branch 22 and Br. 30 are:

Saturday, December 31 New Year's Eve Party, Ballroom tickets from Mike Teutsch, Jr. and Bill Karako \$30 each.

Wednesday, January 4 Officers Meeting in Br. 22 Room Sunday, January 8 Branch Meeting in LL.

Please submit your dues in to Carmella Markel, 12075 Sandy Lane, North Jackson, OH 44451 (330-538-2639.)

We are grateful to the great gang who house cleaned the pavilion kitchen and brought it up to snuff again. Special thanks to Mary Ann Dahman, Darlene Nischwitz, Claudia Bair, Gloria Hahn, Tom Hahn and yours truly, the new chairman of the Restoration Committee, so vital in addressing the physical needs of the Saxon Club. There are no words to thank Tom Fizet enough for his many contributions, especially as the leader of this committee for the past years. We still look forward to his guidance.

Until recently, there were four generations of the Teutsch family active in the Saxon Club and we truly appreciate them. May we extend returning good health to Mike Teutsch Sr. as he recovers from surgery.

Thanks to all who worked for the children's Christmas Party, especially Chris. Thinking of yous were sent to Christine Schneider, Geri Perrine and Betty Walton. December anniversaries are Jennie Salinas and Thelma Schuller. Birthdays are Margaret Troll, Anneliese Kimes, Helen Fotiuk, Tillie Stefanik, Elaine Bozich, Marilyn Gerald, Eleanor Laise, Gertrude Galich and Martha Konrad.

We welcome into membership a lovely new member, Boverly Galla

BRANCH 10, COLUMBUS By Hilda Kautz

Froehliche Weihnachten und ein Glueckliches Neues Jahr!

Our Christmas dinner on December 11th at the Hickory House will be an enjoyable memory when you get this edition of the *Volksblatt*. I understand several of our younger members plan to be with our group and we welcome you most heartily. Abig thank you to Mary and Mike Lassel for handling the details of our party.

On a sad note, we extend our deepest sympathy to Olga Hesch whose mother, Klara Ehrlich, passed away peacefully on November 27 after a lengthy illness. Olga was a faithful and loving caregiver for several years and her mother can now at last rest in peace.

Congratulations to John and Rosina Hartig who will celebrate their 56th wedding anniversary on December 10th and a merry Happy Birthday to Mary Ludwig on December 24^{th.}

We hope everyone will be finished with doctor visits by our next meeting on January 16th. We meet at MCL, 5240 East Main Street at 1:00 P.M. Did you all enjoy the fun game and prizes after the November meeting?

Christmas Shopping

It was Christmas and the judge was in a cheery mood when he was presented with his next case.

"What are you charged with?" he asked the man before him.

"Just doing my Christmas shopping early," the man replied.

"That is no crime," said the judge. "How early were you doing this shopping?"

"Before the store opened," admitted the prisoner.

> Tracking Santa's Sleigh

Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons Home Office: 5393 Pearl Rd., Cleveland, Ohio 44129 Telephone: (440) 842-8442

E-mail: office@atsaxons.com Website: www.atsaxons.com

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Elisabeth Weber	Br. 4 Cleveland	(216) 272-3504
Ingrid Weihs-Ferguson	Br. 37 Detroit	(586) 264-6136
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SECRETARIES TAKE NOTICE:
THE DEADLINE DATE FOR ARTICLES IS FRIDAY - 12 NOON.
You may either

You may either	
MAIL:	PO BOX 45198,
	Westlake, OH 44145
FAX:	(440) 399-9339
E-MAIL:	saxonvolksblatt@aol.com

We welcome Tom Hahn as Merry Ch.

Merry Christmas, everyone!

HAVE A NEW ADDRESS?

If you belong to a household receiving two or more *Volksblatts*, or if you have recently moved and have a new address, you can alleviate both situations simply by using the Change of Address Form printed in the *Volksblatt*. We ask that one *Volksblatt* per household be sufficient.

Also, the same form holds good for any of our members who would like to, but are not receiving the newspaper. If you are a member in good standing, you are entitled to receive our publication.

Since 1955, the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) has been using their radar system to track Santa's whereabouts as he travels on Christmas Eve. Today, sophisticated tracking equipment monitors the infrared heat signal being emitted by Rudolph's nose. To learn more about how to track Santa, along with holiday history, music, and other fun, visit Noradsanta.org. Also, beginning at 7:00 am MST on December 24th, Santa trackers will be available to personally talk with you toll-free at 1-877-HI-NORAD.

Articles e-mailed will receive an e-mailed confirmation by Noon Saturday. If you did not receive confirmation, please give us a call.

Deadline Dates for articles:		
DEADLINE	ISSUE	
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2011	FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2012	
FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2012`	FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2012	
FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2012	Friday, FEBRUARY 3, 2012	

Please have your articles in by 12 Noon.

Did you miss the deadline?

Have you emailed your article past 12 noon? Please call Hanz or Barb Hermann at (440) 892-0436.

Poem composed by Elizabeth Krestel (age 15) Branch 34, Cleveland East



My Dream of Dezember ín Deutschland

Snow is flurrying in the Alps. Fires are warm in the fireplace Temperatures below zero Frost coating the windows Church bells ringing in the distance.

Preparations for the Weihnachtszeit have begun. Die Kinder helfen ihrer Mutter They help her bake delicious desserts: Lebkuchen, Stollen, Spritz, Platschen, Apfelkuchen and Mandelhörnchen.

Children must be respectful on the night of the **fünften Dezember St. Nikolaus** and **Krampus** are out to Visit little girls and boys.

Am vierundzwangzig Dezember

Children are finishing their prayers Reciting Ich bin Klein is a must Or else Christ-Kind won't arrive And kids won't get their presents,

Music fills the air People gather around the piano Playing familiar tunes like **O Tannenbaum** and **O du Fröhliche**

Frohe Weihnachten!!!

Merry Christmas! Happy Holidays! Christmas Day is here, **Die Weihnachtsganse** is in the oven Along with the **Kartoffeln** Spreading holiday cheer and It smells **sehr gut**!

The doorbell rings Oma und Opa are in here! Bringing presents for their Enkelkinder; Oma brings her famous Roten Kraut And Opa brings his handcrafted toys.

BRANCH 33, CLEVELAND EAST By Jeff Krestel

Cleveland East hosted the TSBA bowling session on December 4th at Freeway Lanes in Wickliffe. Thanks to all of the bowlers that participated. We enjoyed visiting with all of our friends from the many different branches of the ATS. Everyone had pleasant comments about the exceptional facility they have put together at Freeway Lanes. We'll see you in Lorain on January 15th.

We had over 80 people attend the Christmas party on December 11th. Dino's provided us with a delicious dinner, and there was plenty of time for everyone to mingle. After dinner, Donna Foisel led us in singing some Christmas Carols, which helped to provide some Christmas spirit. Branch 34 President (and Branch 33 President elect) Ema Litschel gave a perfect attendance award to Karyn Schmidt, and some poinsettias were given away as raffle prizes.

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to some of our out-going officers. Myron Davidson is stepping down from his Trustee position. He has been a branch 33 officer for 29 years. Dolf Litschel is stepping down from his ATS Secretary position after 19 years. Martha Bretz is stepping down from her office, and my wonderful mother, Ingeborg Krestel, is stepping down from her position as Branch 34 Treasurer after some 40 plus years (hi Mom!). Thank you to all of the officers from both Branch 33 and 34 for all of your dedication. Thank you also to George T. Schneider who is stepping down from his position as President and moving into the Vice-President role.

Here's wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas and we hope to see you at our next meeting on Wednesday, January 11th. There will be sausage sandwiches and installation of officers. See you there!

Green Living Tip

Many household contaminants are brought into your home on the bottom of your shoes. To reduce these harmful substances in your home, you should have good, durable mats at all entrances of your home. Encourage your children and guests to wipe their feet well before entering your home. You can also place cotton rugs inside your doors to collect dust from the outside. Don't forget the door to your garage as well. For even better protection, consider becoming a shoe-free household. You can set up an area near the entrance of your home for shoe storage.

ATTENTION TSBA BOWLERS

Next Session: Sunday, January 15, 2012 in Lorain

Time: 11:00 AM

Bowling Fee: \$8.00 Luncheon Fee: \$8.00 Luncheon will be cabbage rolls, mashed potatoes, vegetable, salad, & dessert

> Cancellations or Additions: Please contact Monica Gilles 440-309-7894



Bowling Location: Rebman Recreation 5300 Oberlin Ave., Lorain, OH 44053 Phone: 440-282-6761

Luncheon Location: VFW Post 451 4562 Oberlin Ave., Lorain, OH 44053 Phone: 440-282-8320

Directions: From I-90/OH-2 follow from ** From Ohio Turnpike: Turnpike to Exit 145. Merge onto OH-57 North Turn left to merge onto I-90/OH-2 West ** Continue to follow OH-2 West to Exit 10, Middle Ridge Rd./Broadway Ave. Turn Right onto Middle Ridge Rd./S. Broadway Ave. Turn Left @ 1st light onto Cooper Foster Park Rd. Turn/Veer Right onto Oberlin Ave. Rebman Recreation will be on the left side. VFW is located further down on Oberlin Ave. on the left side.

YOUNGSTOWN SAXON CLUB PORK KRAUT DINNERS

January 15 February 19 March 18 April 15



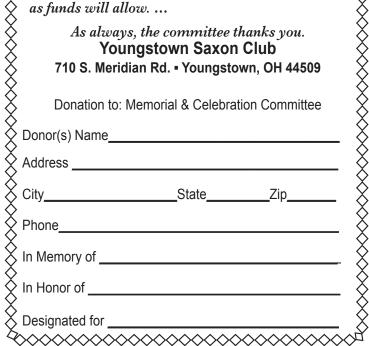
Sundays 11:30 to 2:30



As Saxons we are often loathe to ask for donations for our organizations, but we live in a very realistic world. And so we do indeed ask...and guess what? Our members do respond. Again we ask for your kind donations, hoping to continue with our renovations

While the families are inside their homes Keeping warm by the fire The **Schnee** outside keeps falling, And I will remember these days **Auf immer und ewig!**

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



FRATERNAL CALENDAR

NATIONAL EVENTS

<u>2012</u>

June 1, 2012 **ATS Officers' Pre-Convention Meeting** June 2-3, 2012 **ATS National Convention** Host: Branch 30, Youngstown July 20, 21, 22, 2012 Saxon Heimattag Salem, Ohio Hosted by Branches 18 and 19 August 4, 2012 **ATS Family Day** Waldameer Amusement Park & Water World Erie, PA September 22, 2012 **Saengerbund Convention** Host: New Castle Eintracht Maennerchor October 20-21, 2012 **ATS Open Bowling Tournament** Host: Merrilville Branches 26 & 40 at Stardust Lanes

LOCAL EVENTS

December 24, 2011 New Castle Br. 25 Tom & Jerry Paty 4-6 pm Youngstown Saxon Club closed December 25, 2011 Youngstown Saxon Club closed December 29, 2011 Salem Br. 19 Officer's Mtg 7:00 p.m. December 31, 2011 **Cleveland Br. 1 New Year's Eve Celebration** Youngstown New Years' Eve Party in the Ballroom January 1, 2012 Youngstown Saxon Club New Year's Day closed January 8, 2012 Youngstown Br. 22 and Br. 30 meet at 2:30 PM January 12, 2012 Youngstown Retirees, no meeting January 14, 2012 New Castle Br. 25 150 Club Banquet Youngstown Saxon Culture Group Night at the Races January 15, 2012 Youngstown Branch 30 Pork Dinner January 22, 2012 **Cleveland West Smoked Pork Chop and Sauerkraut** Dinner 1 p.m. January 28, 2012 **Cleveland Br. 1. Annual Winterfest** February 5, 2012 Youngstown Super Bowl Party in the Lounge February 9, 2012 Youngstown Retirees, no meeting February 11, 2012 Youngstown Valentine Day Dinner February 12, 2012 Youngstown Br. 22 and Br. 30 meet at 2:30 PM February 19, 2012 Youngstown Branch 30 Pork Dinner Cleveland Br. 4 Chinese Auction/Sausage Dinner 1 pm February 7, 2012 Youngstown Lenten Fish Dinner in the Restaurant February 16, 2012 **Cleveland - Sachsenheim Sausage Sale** March 8, 2012

BRANCH 30, YOUNGSTOWN By Tom Fizet

Tickets are available for the YOUNGSTOWNSAXONCLUB NEW YEARS EVE PARTY. The price is \$30.00 per person, which includes Dinner, Bar (BYOB), Continental breakfast at midnight, and "Guys Without Ties" for your listening and dancing pleasure. Call Bill Karako 330-540-1262 and Mike Teutsch Jr.330-533-9669 for tickets.. You can also call the office for reservations at 330-792-7973. If you need a table for eight call Tom Fizet soon, 330-792-7249.

Dues should be in by February 1, 2012. For Branch 30 send fraternal dues to Don Hoelzel, 695 E Western Reserve, Unit 2601, Poland, Ohio 44514, 330-753-2856. For Branch 22, send dues to Carmella Markel, 12075 Sandy Lane, North Jackson, Ohio, 44451. 330-538-2639.

Those Brothers to be known sick or on the mend are; Bill Artz In the hospital for surgery, Mike Teutsch Sr. has had surgery and is now home, Rich Maurer home recuperating after knee surgery, Alan Dieter Sr. had a short visit in the hospital recently, Robert Kimes was in the hospital for some time in 2010, I had no information until Annalisa told me at the meeting. Offer your prayers for our sick and shut-in.

The 300-club ticket is in need of several ticket sellers. If you can help call Rick Lieb 330-792-1350. Call your ticket seller, for tickets or Tom Fizet, 330-792-7249.

There will be a Super Bowl Party in the Bar and Restaurant. More information later.

The Children's Christmas Party went over great. Thanks to Chris Simon and her helpers.

The Bar and Restaurant will close at 5:00 PM on December 24th and December 31st and remain closed on December 25, and January 1, 2012, to give our employees some time to enjoy their families. In doing this we wish all our friends, members and their families a Joyous and Merry Christmas, see you at the Christmas Eve service in your favorite place of Worship, and the New Year's Party in the Ballroom. Ernie Roth invites all members to try their luck at Bar Bingo on Tuesday Evening at the Saxon Club. Have dinner, visit and enjoy the evening. Back by popular demand are the Branch 30 Pork Dinners, which are open to the public, dine in or take out. Dinner includes roast pork, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes and gravy, applesauce, rolls and butter, dessert, coffee and tea with pop and beer available in the Bar area. Dinners will be served on January 15, February 19, March 18, and April 15, 2012, we



Ring in the New Year at the ATS Branch 1 NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY December 31, 2011 Westside Sachsenheim 7001 Denison Avenue

Doors Open at 7:00p.m.

Dinner will be served at 8:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$60 per person and include a five-course dinner with your choice of filet mignon, or salmon, all beverages and festivities. Sausage sandwiches will be served after the midnight champagne toast.

Be prepared to PARTY and DANCE the night away. Prepaid Reservations must be made by December 26 by sending your check made payable to ATS Branch 1 to:

> Sachsenheim 7001 Denison Ave Cleveland, OH 44102 Telephone: (216)651-0888



Designate your choice of meal: Filet Mignon or Salmon





Youngstown Retirees meet March 10, 2012

Youngstown Culture Group Sausage Sale Cleveland Saxon Dance Group 2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off

March 11, 2012

Youngstown Br. 22 and Br. 30 meet at 2:30 PM March 14, 2012

Youngstown Lenten Fish Dinner in the Restaurant March 17, 2012

Youngstown Celebrate St. Patrick's Day in the Lounge and Restaurant

March 18, 2012

Youngstown Branch 30 Pork Dinner

March 21, 2012

Youngstown Lenten Fish Dinner in the Restaurant March 22, 2012

Youngstown Golf Meeting in the Lower Lounge March 23, 2012

Cleveland Br. 1 250 Club Dinner March 24, 2012

Youngstown President's Goulash Dinner

Saxon News VOLKSBLATT December 23, 2011 - 4

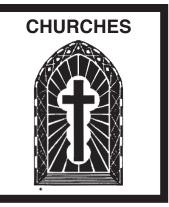
50/50 • Poker • Black Jack Food Available for Sale

Tickets may be purchased at the door the night of the event or at the Youngstown Saxon Club office prior to January 11th. For more information call Bonnie at 330.501.2851

will return on September 15th. Adults \$8.75, Children under 12 \$ 5.00 so don't forget your \$.50 off for the first dinner. Of interest to the Saxon Men's

Bocce league is the recent passing of two long time players; Vince "Sonny" Sciortino and James "Jimmy" Tanferno, both men passed away in December; they will be missed by all Bocce players.

SO GOES THE NEWS!



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

10:00 Bilingual Service

Nursery School Coffee following service. Bible Study, Senior Circle, Sunday School, Church Choir, Bell Choir

St. Thomas Evangelical **Lutheran Church** 9509 Lake Avenue Cleveland, OH (216) 961-4870 **Rev. Dick Williams** Pastor Cell (330) 524-1718

9:00 a.m. German Service 2nd Sunday of the month **Pastor Susanne Carter**

11:00 a.m. English Worship

Daily Devotion: www.EarlyWord.org

St. John's Lutheran Church 1000 Ford Road Highland Hts., Ohio (440) 449-1334 **Rev. Karen Ullestad** Pastor

9:00 Worship Service

Poinsettia **Facts and Myths**

Despite its popularity, the poinsettia plant has a reputation as a poisonous plant. A recent poll of 1,000 Americans found that 50 percent of those polled believed poinsettias are toxic if eaten. In actuality, the poinsettia is the most widely tested consumer plant on the market today, which has allowed experts to dispel common myths about the plant.

- Ohio State University conducted tests on all parts of the plant, including the leaves and sap. Researchers there concluded that the poinsettia is non-toxic to both humans and pets.

- POISINDEX, the national information center for poison control centers, has issued guidelines indicating that a child would have to ingest over 500 leaves, or 1.25 pounds, in order to exceed any previously measured toxic doses.

- Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh, in conjunction with Carnegie Mellon University, analyzed data from the American Association of Poison Control Centers. They concluded that out of 22,793 reported exposure to poinsettia plants of varying degrees, there were no reports of toxicity of any significance.

- In 1975, the Consumer Products Safety Commission was presented with a petition asking that warning labels be placed on all poinsettia plants sold. After investigating the medical research, the Commission denied the petition, citing lack of substantial evidence of the toxicity of poinsettia plants.

Cleveland Sachsenheim's Tree of Life



Purchase a Leaf to: Memorialize your Family Name... Honor someone dear to you.... Engrave your own name....

The Cleveland Sachsenheim wants to recognize and honor our Saxon Families and Friends by creating a "Tree of Life."

The cost of each Leaf is \$50 and you can have a maximum of 30 characters and spaces per line. Maximum 3 lines per Leaf.

Examples:

or John Schmidt (Just one line) in memory of George F. Miller Family Michael and Anna Schmidt

Darlene Sanor † 1966-2011

The ATS Youth Activities Committee is saddened by the sudden death of Darlene Kay Sanor, a member of Salem Branch 18. Darlene was dedicated in assisting our Youth Committee every year at Saxon Teen Weekend. She organized and prepared the meals and snacks along with her sister, Mary Appleby. She was a true pleasure to work with and always had a smile on her face.

At this past Teen Weekend, the adults were having a gab session in the kitchen and we were so amused by Darlene's "tee hee hee" laugh that we all laughed until we cried. She was a friendly, kind and considerate person that enjoyed being around her family and friends. We have lost a good



friend. We will treasure the memories of the good times we shared with Darlene. We are so glad that Darlene was a part of our lives.

We extend our sincerest sympathy to her mother, Kate and to her siblings, Bruce, Karen and Mary. We want you to know how much Darlene meant to us and that we send our love to you in this time of deep sorrow.

Joan Miller-Malue

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

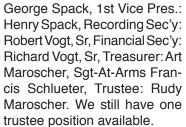
Merry Christmas And Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving. We are now officially into the holiday season. The stores and some radio stations have been into the Christmas season for quite some time. I noticed two of our local stores were displaying Christmas items right after Halloween. It seems as though it starts earlier every year.

The Joint Social Christmas party was held December 9th at the Salem Saxon Club. It was another nice turnout and an enjoyable evening. Huge thanks to Br. 18 for putting this fantastic evening together, especially Florence Spack, Kate Oesch, Mary Sanor Appleby and Debbie Vogt. Also thanks to Br.19's Greg Oesch and of course, Santa Claus.

Branch 19 has lost two members in the last few months. Our condolences go to the family of Raymond Denny. Our thoughts and prayers also go out to the family of Frank Diehl. Frank, as Secretary for many years, along with "Izzy," had many articles in the Volksblatt until handing the reigns over to me. He was also a 50 year member.

My condolences also go out to the family of Darlene Sanor. Darlene was not only a Trustee of Br. 18, but a great friend and relative to many of our members and beyond. Darlene will be dearly missed. At our December meeting, election of officers was held. We welcome a couple of newcomers to the office of Branch 19. Brothers Richard Spack and Gregory Oesch have been elected Trustees along with current Trustee Rudy Maroscher. Thanks to both of you for taking on these positions. Thanks to Sam McKinney (term expired), for his years of service to club. His efforts are greatly appreciated. The rest of the officers remain the same. President:



HUGE THANKS are in order to Brothers Walter Spack, Henry Spack and George Spack for donating the funds for the driveway paving project. With winter weather soon upon us, it is even more greatly appreciated!

Have a safe and happy holiday season along with the new year ahead.

Fröhliche Weihnachten! Bis zum nächstenmal.



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.

Frank J. Diehl Age 90 Died: December 4, 2011 Branch 19, Salem OH

Darlene K. Sanor Age 45 Died: December 5, 2011 Branch 18, Salem OH

Patricia J. Petridis Age 54 Died: December 7, 2011 Branch 22, Youngstown OH

Carrie Ann Shenesky Age 33 Died: December 11, 2011 Branch 32, Ellwood City

Other things may change us, but we start and end with family.

– Anthony Brandt

If you look deeply into the palm of your hand, you will see your parents and all generations of your ancestors. All of them are alive in this moment. Each is present in your body. You are the continuation of each of these people.

– Thich Nhat Hanh

Cleveland Westside Sachsenheim Presents **ANNUAL WINTERFEST** SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2012 Dinner served at 6:30 p.m. Program **Cleveland Saxon Dance Group Dancing Entertainment**

A special dedication of the Tree of Life will be held in 2012.

Complete the form below and make your check payable to ATS Branch No. 4

Engraving to read (up to 3 lines)

Line 1

Line 2

Line 3_____

Submitted by:_____

Phone number

or e-mail

Mail your check and this form to: Monica Weber 19625 Riverwood Ave Rocky River OH 44116 Any questions please call Monica at 440-356-5936 Or email: monica weber@sbcglobal.net A great Christmas gift for the family! Let's give honor to our Families' Names

Hans Schobel and the Bergvagabunden

\$18.00 Admission \$7.00 for children 12 and under Free for children 4 and under

Checks Payable to: ATS Branch 1 c/o Robert Cunningham 9005 Memphis Villas Blvd Brooklyn, OH 44144-2426 For Additional Information please call Robert Cunnigham 216-398-7520 **DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS JANUARY 23, 2012** Please list your seating preference

Tickets will be held at the door

CLEVELAND SAXON SENIORS - 1981- 2011



Seniors Christmas Party 1984 George and his Elves -Tillie, Dorothy, Jerry, Elsie and Erna.







John K., George K., Jack A., George T., Bill S. 1994



Bill Maurer, Karl and Bette Schmidt, Elsie and Ed Gross, Millie Teutschlander, Peg Maurer



Saxon Bowlers - Late 80's, early 90's George, Jerry, Al, Dorothy, Carl and Elsie, Erna, John and Tillie, they bowled for 9 years.





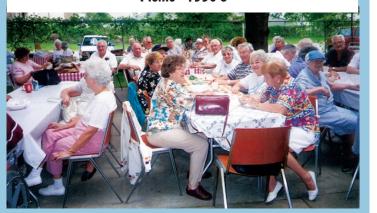
September 13, 1993 Mackinac Island Bus Trip



Agawa Canyon Tour Sault Ste. Marie August 1986



Picnic - 1990's





Rosemary The Herb Sacred to Remembrance And Friendship

Rosemary is an aromatic herb beloved for millennia by the peoples surrounding the Mediterranean for its pungent scent, culinary, and decorative value. Just how rosemary received the name has differing stories behind it. One story tells us that as the Virgin Mary was feeling Egypt with baby Jesus she tossed her blue cloak onto a bush. The next day flowers that had been white were blue and the herb became know as "rose of Mary". Other sources site Pliny who wanted to describe it as an herb that grew in the coastal regions, or more specifically by the foam (ros) of the sea (mare). Botanically, it is known as Romarinus officinalis also known as Garden Rosemary.

Its uses date back to 500 B.C., when it was used for culinary and medicinal purposes. We continue to use rosemary in many of the same ways that our ancestors did: in potpourris to freshen the air, and in cosmetics, disinfectants and shampoos.

"Make thee a box of the wood of rosemary and smell to it and it shall preserve thy youth!"

Uses:

• Drop whole springs into marinades, vinegars or oils

• Crush dried leaves

Halloween 1994



Halloween Party 2000 Jack Adkins, Betty Dettman, George Kloos



Last Group at the Barbecue - August 2011 Peg Maurer, Millie Teutschlander, Erna kloos, Bill Maurer, Hans Schueller, Helen Korsgaard, Paula Martin, Gretchen Binder. Missing were Elsie Koncal and Elsie Gross.

into stews, soups, and casseroles to enhance flavor

• Skewer sprigs between meat and/or vegetables for grilling

• Sip as tea. Its' reputed to be good for nervous tension

Mixed with oil, a few drops are a popular hair treatment for dandruff
Fresh springs in water for a relaxing bath
Dried leaves in your closet or clothes drawer repel moths

BRANCH 9, CHICAGO By Rose-Marie Hauer

Greetings and Happy Holi- Victoria Mronga and Markus days! The meeting was held on Thut.) Rosenkoenigin 2010-December 5, 2011 and called to order by President Thut. As a beautiful speech in German and traditional moment for the month English and thanked everyone of December, a candle was lit to observe the Saxon members or friends that passed away in 2011. A moment of silence was held for Sister Mildred Krestel.

News: Bowling - Thank you to Brothers Jacob and Mike Berg who bowled on behalf of Branch 9 at the Open Bowling Tournament.

meeting at the DANK Haus, parking is available at the nearby MB Financial Bank on the corner of Lawrence and Western, not at the bank directly across the street from the DANK.

Sick List - During the holiday season please remember these members with a phone call or greeting card. Sister Rosemarie Morgen, Brother Andy Seimen, Sister Hilde Schoonmaker and Brother Mike Kraus.

Donations - Thank you to Sister Sara Hartig for creating handmade slippers, socks and blankets. These items will be donated to a nursing home for the residents.

Events: The Donauschwaben Club held its annual Rosenball on November 26, 2011. Four of our Saxon teenagers participated in the performance (Elizabeth Hauer, Erica Hauer,

2011 Elizabeth Hauer gave a involved for an awesome year. The new Rosenkoenigin 2011-2012 is Erica Hauer. Erica is the daughter of Sister Rose-Marie and Eric Hauer, granddaughter of Brother Henry and Sister Ella Reif and proud Uncle Brother Daniel Reif. Erica is a seventeen year old senior at Maine South High School. Erica has Parking - If you attend the been an active member of the Jugendgruppe for the past four years. Prior to that, she was an active member of our Kindergruppe for 10 years and a Wochenendschule student from Kindergarten thru 8th grade. She also worked an additional two years for the Wochenendschule as a Kindergarten Assistant. Erica's high school activities include three years of Class Council, four years of German Club and this year serving as an Officer, member of the National Honor Society, German National Honor Society, Hawk Pride Leader, German tutor, and co-editor in chief of the foreign language magazine Reaching. After graduation, Erica hopes to attend Concordia University in River Forest, IL, and major in Education and minor in German. She hopes to become

a Mathematics teacher. We

congratulate Erica as the 52nd Rosenkoenigin and wish her a wonderful year ahead, filled with many special memories!

Christmas Party - December 18, 2011 from 1-4 pm. Please remember to bring in canned goods that will be donated to a charity. Please come and join in for an afternoon of Christmas cheer! There will be good food, singing and a visit from Santa. Stiftungsfest - Reserve the

date for April 21, 2012 at the DANK Haus.

Elections: Brother Bill Blatter and Walter Drechsler volunteered to monitor the elections. President Thut thanked all the outgoing officers for their assistance and is looking forward to 2012.

Branch 9 Officers for 2012: President - Sister Diethild Thut, Vice President - Brother Georg Thut, Jr., Secretary - Sister Hilde Mueller, Financial Secretary -Sister Hildegard Schmidts, Sergeant At Arms - Brother Richard (Ricky) Hartig, Public Relations - Sister Rose Hauer, Trustees -Sister Claudia Schmidt, Sister Anna Salmen, Sister Maria Huprich

All the members sang Happy Birthday and wished the December members a very Happy Birthday. President Thut read a poem titled "Advent" by Hilde Furstenberg. The meeting ended and coffee and cake was served for everyone.

As you begin to read this article Christmas-time has arrived. The tree has been trimmed, the parties are flowing, and the cookies and Hunklich have been prepared. As I sit at my computer and write I am so thankful this year for all my friends, family and all the blessings from the man above. I once again feel truly blessed to have a family that is supportive and carries on tradition. We all go through rough times but the "powerhouse Saxons" find a way to face any challenge.

May the joy of the Holiday Season and the New Year be awesome to all of you! Frohe Weihnachten und Glückliches Neues Jahr!

tíme, from

BRANCH 11, LORAIN By Monica Gilles

Our Annual Christmas dinner was on December 3rd at Amber Oaks. There were about 40 members and guests in attendance. Everyone received a nice Christmas gift of hand lotion, lip balm, and a chocolate truffle from Godiva. The lotion and lip balm will come in handy for these Ohio winters. Everyone should have also received a Christmas puzzle pack to bring a little bit of fun to the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. I hope that everyone enjoyed their

meal. I know I did! In addition, no Christmas dinner/party would be complete without Christmas carols. I would like to thank Jeanne Petty for arranging the dinner, Barb Wood for getting the dessert, Arleen Gilles and Nancy Kranstuber for helping with the gifts, and George Schneider for providing some German Christmas songs for us to sing. Most of all, I would like to thank everyone who attended and for bringing food items for the Second Harvest Food Bank. There are so many people in the area that will benefit from our generosity.

Congratulations to Sister Jane Mowery on receiving her 50-Year Pin at the dinner. Time flies when you are having fun.

Happy Birthday to Paula Dickason, Arlene Jones, Molly Kirchner, Sue Koepke, and



Branch 11 President Jeanne Pettv (Right) presenting Jane Mowery (left) her 50 Year Pin.

Nancy Kranstuber.

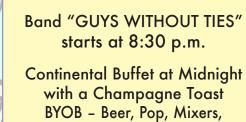
The next monthly meeting will be January 7, 2012. The trustees will serve a meal before the meeting at 7pm with the meeting starting at 8 pm. Since the New Year is just around the corner, do not forget that your local dues need to be paid. Plan on attending the meeting and paying them there. If you cannot make the meeting, please mail your check or money order to Sharron Powell, 2308 Mark Drive, Lorain, OH 44052. Please make checks payable to Saxon Ladies Lodge Br. 11.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a very Blessed Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year! Remember He is the reason for the season. See everyone next year!



New Year's Eve December 31, 2011 Youngstown Saxon Club

Doors open at 7:00 p.m.



Dinner at 7:30 p.m.



Left, Erica Haurer, Donauschwaben Rosenkoenigen 2012, **Right, Hauer and Reif Families**



I have always thought of Christmas when it has come round, apart the veneration due to its sacred name and origin, if anything belonging to it can be apart from that, as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant tíme.

Birth of Christ - Christmas portrayal on the gothic Marien-Altar in Malmkrog (circa 1495). Christmas card of photographer Martin Eichler (www.bildverlag-eichler.de)

Charles Dickens, *19th century* English novelist



Coffee and Tea included \$30.00 per person open to the public

For tickets contact: Mike Teutsch Jr. 330-509-9670

Bill Karako 330-540-1262

Tickets also available in the Lounge Wednesday Night 6-9 p.m. See Tom Fizet

SALEM SAXON RETIREES By Sue Fritzman

The Saxon Retirees enjoyed their annual Christmas Dinner on December 7th which consisted of stuffed pork chops and all the trimmings catered by "Sweet Six." One guest, Ginny Todd, daughter of Gloria Judy, and 39 members were in attendance. President Lois Whitacre called the meeting to order with Ann Schmid giving the invocation due to Bill Hiltbrand's illness. The group then recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes from the last meeting were read and approved, as well as the treasury report.

Athank you was received from Marie Cook stating how much she appreciated the Retirees thinking of her. Marilyn McNutt shared information about the purchasing of clothing for "Dress A Live Doll" project with Mr. and Mrs. Richard Spack shopping for the group. The Retirees donated \$93.00 to this project. Marilyn also thanked all who helped to decorate the club for the holidays and also announced that the yearly Fish Fries will start February 24th. Members take note that due to the July 4th holiday falling on the first Wednesday in 2012 the meeting will be held the 2nd week of July.

President Lois thanked the caterers for the delicious meal enjoyed by all.

All those on the sick list are kept in our thoughts and prayers. Nancy Stumperth acknowledged members celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in December.

The Christmas Cactus centerpieces were donated by the Hemiss's, Stumperths and the Heidemeichs in memory of Matt and Herta Drotleff. These centerpieces were won by the following members; Marianne Vogt, Virginia Pilch, Mary Ann Roth, Hermine Hemiss, Francie Tuel, Joann Reichenbach, Helen Aeling and Dorothy Hutmacher.

Members are reminded there will be no meeting held in January and February. Serving on the committee for the next meeting in March are Joann Reichenbach, Ginny Pilch, Dorothy Hutmacher and Francie Tuel taking reservations at 330-337-8467. This committee will is so important that the doctors and people continue to use the services of our city hospital here rather that the large hospitals. I am glad they caught it in time for I felt better after my 2 week stay, but I did miss my room at Essex I and the view of my birdfeeder.

My daughter tried to call most of my friends so they would not call the nursing home wondering where I was. I felt so bad when my daughter received a call from Kaethe Schneider who had been frantically calling me, as she wanted to thank me for her birthday card. She finally got word that I was hospitalized and she shared her excitement of her wonderful surprise 90th birthday party. Kaethe was really tickled with the attendance of over 150 friends. Kate and Greg Oesch gave this lovely dinner party with a nice selection of food prepared by Kate. I am sure her pig-in-the-blankets were the highlighted choice. Kate really had her work cut out for her not only with preparing the food, but also keeping her plans a surprise, for she and Kaethe are very close neighbors.

She had to keep Kaethe from buying her regular supply of yarn, for that was the one thing she told everyone Kaethe could use. Those who don't have the pleasure of knowing Kaethe don't know that she keeps very busy crocheting blankets, sweaters, whatever needed for children overseas and for the church baptisms, etc. She also sews with her sewing machine and special touch to make beautifully crafted lace-trimmed bags for those using walkers, etc. This is all volunteer work that she does from the goodness of her heart. For those of us who are fortunate to know Kaethe, we are very blessed for it would be very hard to find a more, sweet, special woman. So glad you had a wonderful celebration! You certainly don't look 90 years old either!

Note of a change of address, and unfortunately more added to our current sick list: Martha Lesch has moved to Laurels of Massillon, Room 225B, 2000 Sherman Circle NE, Massillon, OH 44646. Added to the sick list is Bill Hiltbrand, who was hospitalized a few days after me. We hope you are better soon, Bill! You are in our prayers and will certainly be missed for he takes care of all others in nursing homes and Senior Citizens group activities . Since the meetings are delayed until March, I am printing the birthdays and anniversaries in advance so cards can be sent. Congratulations to all members who will be celebrating! Birthday Members for January, February and March are: January: Butch Roth - 2, Ike Spack - 19, Mike Stumperth - 21, Nora Hoopes - 21, Walter Ulrich - 24, Ina Dutcher - 30. February: Lena Zeigler - 4, Twila Kloos - 7,

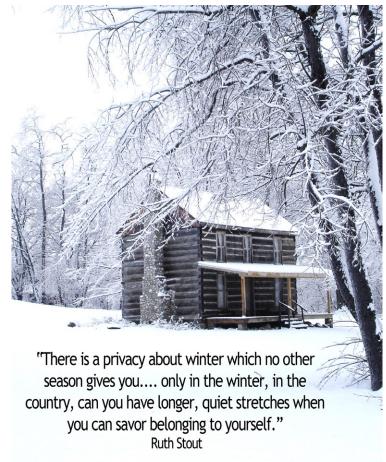
Francie Tuel - 9, Janet Kekel -13, Betty Clayton - 13, Brenda Syppko - 14, Marilyn McNutt - 14, Mary Catherine Detwiler -20, Doris Lewis - 28. February Anniversary Couples - Lois and Doc Whitacre - 3rd.

March: Dorothy McLane -11, Hermine Hemis - 12, Leah Nemenz - 14, Marian Whipkey - 15, Lois Whitacre - 18, Gloria Judy -20, Bob Kekel - 24, Helen Ulrich - 26, Gert Hardy - 30. March Anniversary: Trudy and Dave Ehrhart - 23rd.

We are once again so saddened to have to report on the obituaries of so many passing members recently. Another of our active members, Dorothy (Mohn) Wentzel, 87, formerly of Salem, died October 26th in Plano, Texas. Dorothy and her husband Ed, whom she married in 1971, were both very active members, as she worked in the kitchen and various Saxon events. They had moved to Texas in 2009 to be near their son and daughter in law. Ed had preceded her in death in 2011. Our sympathy is expressed to her family.

Every month we must grieve for another dear friend. Now, most recently, my dear friend and Saxon, Frank Diehl, 90, passed away December 4th. Born to Andrew and Susanna Jemima (Diehl), Frank was guite proud of his mother's name and joked about "Aunt Jemima". He worked as a hardware salesman for 40 years and after retiring he worked for Gold Cross Limousine. Frank married Dorothy Untch Diehl in 1944 and she preceded him in death in 2005. He was very active in many social clubs and was a very strong Saxon leader as past president of Salem Saxon Club and served as Branch 19 secretary for 25 years. Frank wrote wonderful articles for the Volksblatt as "Izzy" and was always ready to help at all Saxon events even if he wasn't on a committee. He and Dorothy met many friends in their younger years. Ralph and Marie Cook who lived near Canton shared their weddings and became lasting friends, Marie and Dorothy both enjoyed singing.

These wonderful members brought along so many other Canton friends to our group like Mike and Regina Bruckner. Frank was also very good to Dorothy's family in time of need as well as his own. He was a strong example of goodness, intelligence and faith. Our sympathies to his family son, Gary (Nancy) Diehl of Alliance and daughter Susan (John) Luxeuil of Salem and all of his grandchildren of which he was very proud. Our sympathies to all who mourn his loss. Our deepest regards to Catherine Sanor and family on the sudden loss of her daughter Darlene Kay Sanor, age 45. Darlene was also the daughter of the late Lloyd Sanor. Darlene was known by many Saxons for she was a trustee for Branch 18. She is survived by two sisters Karen (Patrick) Long



and Mary (Don) Appleby and brother Bruce (Peggy)Sanor of Salem. A sister Beverly Tucker and brother Rick preceded her in death. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Catherine and all of her large faithful Saxon family also. Our prayers are with you at this time of sorrow.

We also received word from her dear friend Kaethe Schneider that Lena Ziegler passed away in Findlay, OH. Lena was married to Chris Ziegler who preceded her in death. Sadly Lena suffered from Alzheimer's the last few years and they could no longer communicate. She and Kaethe were so cute at the meetings for they used to pretend they were sisters and dressed alike. She was a lovely sweet lady and has been missed.

Also the Salem, Hanoverton area has lost a prominent businessman as Peter Johnson Sr., 87, passed away in Vero Beach, FL. Mr. Johnson returned to Summitville after graduating from Penn State to join his families' business, which later became Summitville Tiles, the nation's leading producers of ceramic tile. Subsequent to his retirement in 1990 Mr. Johnson purchased the Spread Eagle Tavern of Hanoverton, Ohio, which has become a popular up-scale restaurant and country inn in the area. This became possible after a 2 year restoration of this 150 year old tavern house. The Spread Eagle has been visited by a number of national and state political figures in the past two decades. This charming three story red brick historic bread and breakfast known as the Spread Eagle Tavern, displays a majestic landmark sign of an eagle in flight. Because of my thirst for knowledge I was curious to learn more about the significance of the symbol of an eagle in flight and why it was chosen to represent this historic establishment. Thank you to my family for their help researching this information. I then learned there are many different forms of crests symbolizing the eagle in some way.

The eagle symbolizes strength, courage, farsightedness and immortality and is considered to be the king of the air and the messenger of the highest Gods. In Christian symbolism the four living creatures of scripture were a man, an ox, a lion and an eagle. The informal term "spread eagle" has been used as an emblem of a number of states and monarchs. Many images of a spread eagle are found on the coats of arms of Germany, Poland and Romania and of course the Great Seal of the United States. The USA has used the American Bald Eagle symbol with the wings displayed since 1782 on its Great Seal. The eagle is also used as a coat of arms for many nations including: Czech Republic, Germany, Austria, Romania, Russia, France, Poland, Mexico, Egypt, Iraq and many more. These are all shown in very different forms and it is very interesting to see the significant difference of the majestic Bald Eagle on our United States Seal compared the threatening black sorcerer depictions, such as the Spanish Empire, Russian and German, etc. Many cities of Europe including German, also use the eagle as their coat of arms. I was going to write about Christmas, but oops!! I missed it! As I said before, time is flying by! I hope everyone enjoys their sauerkraut and pig in the blankets or whatever your New Year's tradition is! I hope it is a better year for many! Auf wiedersehen!

select the menu at the cost of \$6.00 each.

The meeting closed with a moment of silence in memory of Ray Denny, Dorothy Wentzel, Frank Diehl and Darlene Sanor. The members then recited *The Lord's Prayer* followed by a game of Bingo.

To my surprise I ended up spending Thanksgiving in the hospital after finding out I had pneumonia. I didn't even have a cold, just laryngitis, but that explains why I felt so terrible. I was very pleased with the good care I received at our Salem Community Hosptial, for the staff was very efficient and the food was good too. It



BRANCH 5, LORAIN By Michael Johnson

With Christmas fast approaching, you fall into either the category of ready for or not ready for Christmas. Few of us are truly ready; that is if being ready is gifts are bought and wrapped, tree up and decorated, cards sent out, dinner and visitation plans set, etc. Of course, the not ready is the opposite of all the aforementioned. The anxiety of the season many times is because of these things. As a child I remember the anticipation of what I was going to receive. Now as an adult, I agonize over what to give. Many of you I'm sure know what I'm talking about. But regardless of where you stand, Christmas Day will arrive just as it has since you can remember. Just enjoy the day at whatever preparation level you're at and don't worry about it. Also take time to either visit or send a card to a fellow Brother who is sick or shut-in. Contact Brother Ned Jones at (440) 282-2796 for the names and addresses of these Brothers. This act of kindness can bring the joy of the season to both the giver and the receiver.

On December 3rd the ladies of Branch 11 hosted a Christmas dinner at Amber Oaks in Sheffield for both Branch 5 and 11 members. After dinner we sang Christmas songs both in English and in German, thanks to the leading of Brother George Schneider, and Sister Jane Mowrey. Jane was also awarded a 50 year pin as a Saxon member. We thank the ladies for a job well done and also for the gift bags given. Also, thanks to all who generously donated a variety of food items collected to go to the Second Harvest Food Bank.

To the parents and grandparents of our juvenile members I say help us by encouraging your children and grandchildren to participate in the ATS functions. In the last issue of the Volksblatt, I was sad to see that no youth from our branch participated in the Bowl Where You Are 2011 event. That could be due in part that we had no scheduled bowling party. I must admit that we as a club may not be as in touch with our youth as we should be. Hopefully in 2012 we can do a better job between both the men's and ladies' branch. However, most youth won't care about anything offered if the parents don't care either. What's important to you will be important to them. I don't mean to approach this subject so harshly, but the future of our branch lies in all our hands. I understand that we only have about 5 youth members who live locally and about 21 who live out of state. If you have any thoughts on how to stay in touch with these young people, come to our next scheduled meeting on Jan. 7, 2011, and share any ideas you might have.

Speaking of out of state youth, upon rechecking the juvenile member list, another birthday greeting for December goes out to Katie Lachman of Arapahoe, North Carolina.

In closing I would like to again wish everyone a *Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.* Don't be alone to bring in the New Year. Check your *Volksblatt* for the Westside Sachsenheim New Year's Eve Party and make your reservations. Sounds like a good time!

BRANCH 4, CLEVELAND By Joan Miller-Malue

The Children's Christmas Party was a good time. We want to thank our ATS junior members who performed that afternoon: Olivia Gillespie, Julie Radca, Kailey Hochevar, William Smoot and Jennifer Zayac. Olivia, Kailey and Jennifer sang; Julie played the violin and William was a joke teller. Santa thought all the children were good this year so they all received a gift. We thank everyone who helped with the party. It was a great time to start off the Christmas season. The folks at Community Corners were so thankful for the number of wonderful toys we donated for their Christmas Gift Program and also for all the food that we collected at the Children's Party. We thank everyone who donated gifts and food to help out those that are less fortunate than we. We do "make a difference" in providing for our neighbors in need.

meal with choice of filet mignon or salmon as the entrée; music by the Video DJ - John B; all beverages; homemade sausage sandwiches at midnight along with noise makers and a champagne toast for only \$60 per person. We will see the midnight countdown on the big screen. It is a great way to bring in the New Year. Reservations are to be prepaid and can be made by calling the Sachsenheim at (216) 651-0888 or Joan Miller-Malue (216) 251-6036. It is also time to make your reservations for the Smoked Pork Chop and Sauerkraut Dinner that will be held on Sunday, January 22, 2012 at 1 pm. Adults \$12 and Children Age 12 and under \$8. Call Robert Cunningham at 216-398-7520 before January 17th to make your reservations. Don't forget to memorialize you and your family's name by purchasing a leaf on the Cleveland Sachsenheim's Tree of Life. Look for the form in this issue of the Volksblatt, page 5. Our first monthly meeting of 2012 will be held on Monday,

Take a break and ... Work out at your desk

Want to get relaxed, stronger, and take a break at the same time? Exercise experts quoted in Bloomberg Businessweek say this is how to do it without ever leaving your desk:

For ABS and QUADS:

* Sit half way forward on your chair reach out with palms down. Bend and touch the floor, then sit up.

* Sit back in your chair and hold onto the sides of the seat with both hands. Lift both legs, cross one over the other. Switch and repeat.

For LATS and SHOULDERS: * Lean over your desk and extend one arm out to the edge, palm up. Keep your chest down and lift your arm slowly as high as you can. Repeat with the other arm.

For OBLIQUES and LOWER BACK:

* Sit on the edge of your chair, hands by your sides. With waist straight, lift one arm toward the ceiling and extend the other toward the floor. Repeat with the other arm.

* For QUADS and GLUTES:

Move your chair to the side. With hands on the desk, heels together with toes pointed out, bend knees, then straighten up and kick one leg over to the seat of the chair. Move your leg down and kick it back up several times. Then move the chair to the other side, bend, then do the same with the other leg.

Repeat all of the exercises two, three or more times.

BRANCH 4, CLEVELAND

January 16th at 7 pm. We will hold our annual Memorial Service at this time. We would love to see you at the meeting and help us plan for the New Year.

The last weekend in January we will hold the Annual Winterfest on Saturday, January 28, 2012. Dinner will be served at 6:30 followed by a performance of the Cleveland Saxon Dance Group and then dancing to the music of Hans Schobel and the Bergvagabunden. Adults \$18; children 12 & under \$7 and free for children age 4 and under. Robert Cunningham is taking reservations. Please mail your check made payable to ATS Branch 1 and send to Robert at 9005 Memphis Villas Blvd. Deadline for reservations is January 23rd. The officers and members of Branch 4 wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy. healthy New Year.

BRANCH 34, CLEVELAND EAST By Arline Krestel-Suts

The year of 2011 is quickly coming to an end. We are in the midst of the holiday Season and on the threshold of Christmas. During this busy time, I want to remind everyone to slow down a bit, enjoy your family and friends, remember the "reason for the season"we are celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus. There are many ways in which people pass through this busy month of December: shopping for the 'perfect' gifts, caroling, traveling to warmer climes, attending or hosting social gatherings with co-workers, neighbors, family and/or friends, giving more time or gifts to charities and those less fortunate, Decorating our domiciles-inside and out--or venturing out to view other's exterior illumination displays, spending more time at church, writing Christmas cards, visiting Santa to ask for our own special gift, watching 'Bowl' games or holiday TV shows, baking cookies...Whew! So much to do, so little time! Ultimately, I would like everyone to remember to stay constant in your Faith, keep a smile on your face and a song in your heart, maintain a selfless concern for others... and you will have a blessed Christmas and new year. This past year, Branch 34 had many highs and lows. Good times included the trip to Pittsburgh, Dinner-Dances, and

the picnic in August. The death and illness of several sisters were low points. Most recently, Susannah Beer and Kathleen Schneider passed away. Mrs. Beer was one of our oldest members, and though she had not been able to attend meetings or social events for several years, she is remembered fondly by many of our members. I remember her for being a fellow citizen of the Chardon 'snowbelt', and her commitment to family. She had much to do with raising her granddaughters, and I remember her bringing them to church every Sunday as they were growing up. I imagine she was a special "Oma", and our condolences go out to her entire family.

Tragically, we lost a younger sister as well: Kathy Schneider unexpectedly passed away at home in November. Kathy was an active member, attending meetings regularly and never missing a social outing. I vividly remember her at our summer picnics playing games with her sun-visor on, and not long ago looking quite elegant with her mother, Jean, at our Fall Dinner-Dance. Kathy was also active at her church, belonged to a quilting club, loved to garden, and had recently retired from Nestles' (better known as Stouffers') after 30 years of employment. Kathy was one of those people who did have the gift of a selfless concern for others: at her suggestion, Branch 34 donated a monetary gift to the Hattie Larlham Center

for Children with Disabilities. I know she had a real soft spot for infants and children. Kathy's passing is a great loss to our organization our heartfelt sympathy to her family.

The height of this past year was the celebration of our 100th anniversary. We are proud that we were able to reach that milestone. However, for a number of reasons, Branch 34 has voted almost unanimously to merge with Branch 33. Well, actually, Branch 33 is absorbing the members of Branch 34: Branch 33 Cleveland East is now a 'co-ed' organization. Change. It is said that nothing stays the same. Change is not always easy, especially as we grow older. We surround ourselves with the familiar and become complacent. But I have to say that our brothers of Branch 33 have made this change easier. They were eager for us to join with them in continuing our Saxon tradition. They have been most generous and welcoming: our sisters' benefits have increased both monetarily and fraternally. We feel this larger organization is more sound and will have greater longevity. In fact, we look forward to growing as a fraternal benefit society and social group. The merger committee has 'birthed' a revised Constitution; and at the November meeting, we have elected officers thatwill bring out the best of both Branch 34 and 33 in the coming years. In addition, I am happy to inform members that we have created a Branch 34 academic scholarship fund to be awarded through the ATS, as Cindy Schneider (who brought up the idea at one of our last meetings) said, through this Scholarship "Branch 34 will live in perpetuity". Now, we need you members to do your part. Help the officers and other members by becoming more active; support the ATS and us by signing up new members. Change is not always negative; it is progress. Branch 34 is evolving, as Branch 33. We still have goals to achieve.

The new Cleveland East Branch 33's next meeting will be held on the second Wednesday of January at St. John's Lutheran Church in Highland Heights, as usual (no change there!). Hopefully the mild winter weather will hold out and many sisters and brothers will be able to attend that evening, as we will be having our annual Sausage and Sauer Kraut supper and installation of officers. As a spokesperson for Branch 34, I send greetings to all sisters near and far. We wish everyone Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, and a healthy and joyous New Year. This is my last article as secretary of Branch 34. My role is changing too, and I look forward to serving the ATS as a member of Branch 33. "Life does not get better by chance, it gets better by change." (Jim Rohn)

The year's events at the Sachsenheim will end with the New Year's Eve Party. Reservations are to be made by December 26th. There will be a five course

Kleine Weihnachtsgeschichte

Anna Bretz, geboren in Großprobstdorf bei Mediasch, 85 Jahre alt, schreibt seit einigen Jahren Gedichte. In ihren Gedichten beschreibt sie vor allem Erinnerungen und Erlebnisse aus ihrer siebenbürgischen Heimat. Mit Begeisterung trägt sie ihre Gedichte bei verschiedenen Zusammenkünften und kleinen Veranstaltungen vor und findet damit viel Anklang, vor allem bei Landsleuten.

Eine kleine Weihnachtsgeschichte

Tief in Gedanken, der Himmel so grau sitzen zwei Menschen, ein Mann und eine Frau, denken zurück an lägst vergangene Jahre, ergraut inzwischen sind auch ihre Haare.

Erinnern sich, wie die Kinder da spielten und tobten, Sonntags zur Kirche gingen und Gott den Vater lobten. Nun sind sie alle in die Welt hinaus, aber Weihnacht feiern kommen alle nach Haus.

Bald ist nun der Heilige Abend da, gekommen sind sie alle von fern und nah, die Kinder mit Enkelkindern und noch eine kleine Kinderschar, Weihnacht zu feiern auch dieses Jahr.

In der Küche ist's warm und hell, Oma was Gutes zubereitet schnell. Es riecht nach Kuchen und Plätzchen. Welch herrlicher Duft! auch Kaffeegeruch strömt in die Luft.

Schön sitzen sie nun alle beisammen. Oma, Opa mit allen ihren Lieben im Zimmer, im Warmen. Auch ist schon der Heilige Abend da, Weihnachtsglocken erklingen von fern und nah, Weihnacht, Weihnacht, du holde Zeit, das Fest der Liebe, das alle vereint.

Schön brennen die Kerzen am Weihnachtsbaum, ihre Lichter erhellen den ganzen Raum, Aus einem Zimmer die Weihnachtsgeschichte erklingt, auch ein Mädchen mit heller Stimme singt.

In Bethlehem, der heiligen Stadt Christkinds Geburtstag begonnen hat, Den Hirten auf dem Felde leuchtete der Stern, sie trugen die Botschaft hinaus in die Fern.

Die Kinder singen, spielen und toben, sind auch brav, man müsste sie eigentlich loben. Da ruft ein Junge: "Schau, Mammi, was für ein Pferdchen!"

Wenn nun die Kerzen brennen, wird es wegrennen. Ein Mädchen eine schlafende Puppe entdeckt, bitte seid alle brav, damit man sie nicht weckt. Ein kleines Mädchen ruft, auch drüben ist eine.... die ist wohl sicher die meine......

Ein großer Junge mit frohem Gesicht verneigt sich höflich und trägt vor ein Weihnachtsgedicht. Ein blondes Mädchen mit zartem Gesichtchen macht einen Knicks und sagt auch ein schönes Weihnachtsgedichtchen.

Sachsentreffen 2012 in Hermannstadt

Hermannstadt - Das nächste Sachsentreffen soll am 22. September 2012 in Hermannstadt stattfinden. Der Beschluss wurde Ende November auf der Vertreterversammlung des Demokratischen Forums der Deutschen in Siebenbürgen von dessen Vorsitzendem Dr. Paul-Jürgen Porr bekanntgegeben.

Das Sachsentreffen sei ein repräsentatives kulturelles Ereignis, das der siebenbürgisch-sächsischen Gemeinschaft die Möglichkeit biete, in der Öffentlichkeit Präsenz zu zeigen, betonte der Vorsitzende. Auch das diesjährige Sachsentreffen in Kronstadt habe bestätigt, dass große Städte geeignete Austragungsorte für das Fest seien. Laut Allgemeiner Deutscher Zeitung für Rumänien (ADZ) nahmen an der Sitzung Vertreter der Foren in Bistritz, Brad, Deva, Hermannstadt, Kerz, Kalan, Kronstadt, Lupeni, Mühlbach, Neumarkt, Schäßburg und Tartlau sowie der Geschäftsführer der Saxonia-Stiftung teil.

> CC SBZ Online 13. Dezember 2011



Fritz hat Melanie ein Handy zu Weihnachten geschenkt und versucht nun, sie beim Shopping zu erreichen.

Es klappt. "Fritz", ruft sie erstaunt ins Telefon, "woher weißt du, dass ich gerade in der SCS bin ?"

"Ach, Oma, die Trommel von dir war wirklich mein schönstes Weihnachtsgeschenk bisher."

Tatsächlich ?", freut

Heinrich Schlandt: Menjer Frā zem Krastdōch

Im Liebesgedicht "Menjer Frā zem Krastdōch", das in burzenländer Mundart geschrieben wurde, tröstet Heinrich Schlandt (1858-1935) seine Frau mit der tiefen Zuneigung, die er ihr gegenüber hegt. Zu einem Haus in sächsischer Nachbarschaft, von dem beide träumten, haben die Ersparnisse nicht gereicht, doch Armut gepaart mit Zufriedenheit, überlegt der Autor, schaffen inneren Reichtum. Heinrich Schlandt

Menjer Frā zem Krastdōch

Ech hun nast, dā huest nast, Mir hun es garn; Awer ous zwemōl nast Kō nōch ast war'n.

Dat dōt en Wohrhīt as, Hu mir gesëinj, Sonst wēr't am Kändjer Uch Inkeln geschëinj.

För en hīsch Hëisken af Saxeschem Grangd Huet et es fralich nōch Netch gōnz gelangd.

Awer mir zwē sëinj īnt, Mōcht, wad ir walt – Nor de Zefridenhīt Blëif as Gehalt.

Und wō īn Uermer dem Ondern ast schinkt, Dō huet uch Rechtum Sich af se gesinkt.

Liëfte mir īfach uch, Mir wōr'n gesangd – Gott dem Harrn soi gedonkt – Bäs af dis Stangd.

SBZ Online 25. Dezember 2010

Maria Haydl: Än der Silvästernōcht

Die in Arbegen geborene Maria Haydl (1910-1969) – ihr Geburtstag jährte sich am 23. September zum 100. Mal – hat, wie auch Anna Schuller-Schullerus und Grete Lienert-Zultner, Lieder geschrieben, die in Theaterstücke eingebaut wurden. Das heitere Liebesgedicht "Än der Silvästernöcht" dichtete sie für ihr Mundartdrama "De Breokt än der Wengkoff". Maria Haydl



Än der Silvästernoōcht

Angder de Stiweln kerzelt der Schnī; Loingst mir det Mēdche låcht esi frih. Iwer de Kīpen glänzen de Stärn; Mecht et äm sōn īst: "Hun dich si gärn!" Klōke leogde, Bisse schessen,



Viele schöne Weihnachtslieder von den Kindern erklingen,

Auch "Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht" alle zusammen singen.

Oma und Opa glückselig strahlen,

das ist das schönste Geschenk nach all den Jahren in so einem Kinder- und Enkelkreis...

wollen dem lieben Gott danken mit Lob und Preis.

Anna Bretz SBZ Online 23. Dezember 2009 sich Oma.

"Ja, Mami gibt mir seit Weihnachten jeden Tag einen Euro, wenn ich das spielen lasse!"

"Ich bin sehr besorgt um meine Frau. Sie ist nämlich bei diesem schlimmen Schneetreiben zum Weihnachtsmarkt gegangen." – "Na, sie wird schon in irgendeinem Geschäft Unterstellen können oder ?" – "Eben darum bin ich besorgt !" Noajohr wälle mer begressen!

Grumpes äm Iuwen pråsselt uch brät; Fräsch äs det Mēdche, sät et nor, sät. Weng än dem Bēcher fänkelt wä Gūld; Mess et glech måtzen, eos meng Gedūld! Klōke leogde, Bisse schessen, Noajohr wälle mer begressen!

Zårnich äs't Mēdchen, dreht mir de Räck. "Schmåckt et der net, drō gäf mer't zeräck. Lunk wid det Johr sen, vil warde kunn; Wonn tea mät mir kist, Gläck sell'n mer hun!" Klōke leogde, Bisse schessen, Noajohr wälle mer begressen!

SBZ Online 31. Dezember 2010











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Jim Albert 22386 Park Edge Cir Fairview Park, OH 44126 440-241-6713 Jimalbert@wowway.com germanmusicsocietycleveland@gmail.com

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CLEVELAND SAXON DANCE GROUP Rehearsal: Fridavs 8:00 pm Westside Sachsenheim

> Stephanie Miller-Hanek 22677 Peachtree Ln Rocky River, OH 44116 (440) 356-5582

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Christine Roppelt 4017 Gifford Ave Cleveland, OH 44109 (216) 773-9375 tantechrissy@juno.com

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Meets: 1st Sunday of Month Youngstown Saxon Club

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(330) 799-3121

SECRETARY Teri Laret 3304 Quentin Dr. Youngstown, OH 44511 (330) 799-2789

SALEM SAXON RETIREES Meets 1st Wednesday of each month

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Thomas J. Manning National President A Very Merry Christmas to All and the Best in the New Year. Robert Cunningham, III 1st Vice President

MERRY CHRISTMAS from the TS Board of Directors

> Wishing you lots of Love, Joy & Happiness

Joan Miller-Malue 2nd Vice President

May your Christmas be filled with warmth and good cheer.

John Boehm, Jr. 3rd Vice President Let's try to keep the Christmas spirit alive throughout the whole year.

> Monica Weber Secretary

CORN.

Hope you have a wonderful Christmas and a Great New Year.

> Ron Benedict Trustee

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May the warmth and love at Christmas bring us closer to each other.

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