

Published by
**The Alliance
of Transylvanian Saxons**
Home Office: 5393 Pearl Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44129-1597
Tel: (440) 842-8442

BRANCH 5, LORAIN

By Elmer Schneider

Old Man Winter has finally arrived and the cold weather is upon us. I guess we'll just have to get used to it, as there is nothing that we can do about it.

We had our combined Christmas Party on Saturday, December 6th at the Amber & Oaks Restaurant. Our attendance was very good considering the weather. I'm sure everyone enjoyed the evening if they were in attendance. The service was good as was the food that was served. We were honored with the presence of them for making it to our party even though the weather was threatening.

At the party Sister Katherine Thompson was surprised when she was presented with the ATS Honor Pin and plaque by President Tom Manning and a dozen of roses by Branch 11 for having been a member of Branch 11 and the ATS for 75 years and also having served as Branch 11 President in the past. Sister Kate will be celebrating her 92nd birthday on January 1st. We wish her a very happy birthday and that she will be able to be active in Branch 11 doings.

Next meeting for Branch 5 will be a general meeting on Saturday, January 3rd, at American Slovak Club beginning at 8:00 p.m. Before the meeting, members are invited to Chris Restaurant at 6:00 p.m. for a dinner before the meeting. Brother Andy Schuffert will be there a little early to collect local dues for 2009.

Members celebrating a birthday in December are Brother Daniel Paghi and Juvenile member Katie Lachman. We wish these members a very happy birthday and hope they will have many more happy, healthy ones to come.

We wish to thank all the Sisters of Branch 11 who made the Christmas party a success that it was.

From the Officers and members of Branch 5 we wish each and every member of the ATS a very merry Christmas and a joyous new year!

YOUNGSTOWN SAXON CLUB RETIREES

By Teri Laret

Welcome to all - it is the month of December. Poor Murphy, he has to be a good-hearted soul because he is the bunt of so many jokes. The President, Pat Bokesch, called the meeting to order with a tap of the gavel. We pray, Lord, that You open our hearts to welcome the baby Jesus Who will be coming in just a few weeks. We thank you for such a wonderful gift. This gift comes with loads of love, compassion, forgiveness and appreciation for all good things. Today we experience a gift of sharing as the kitchen crew shares with us their culinary expertise. It is a good thing the cooks realize our sometimes forgetful minds. They prepared for and served 55 dinners but only 47 called for reservations. There is our flag placed beside the Christmas tree. What would our flag be with our fir tree and what would an evergreen tree be without our flag. We salute all. It is time to eat. During the dinner, Yolanda Hardy serenaded us with a selection of Christmas music. Her skills at the keyboard rank her a number ten. Dinner was excellent as usual. Yo, Diane and John, please accept this small token of thanks. Let us not forget to say thanks to the officers who planned the menu and decorated every possible spot with red and green. After dinner, we shared a birthday cake for Marie Teutsch. This was a gift from her family to be enjoyed by all.

The Secretary, Teri Laret, read the minutes of the previous meeting. Min Haner, our Treasurer, gave her report of the monies on hand. Both accounts were approved as read. More singing, this time to our December babies - five nice ladies: Tillie Stefanick, Gertie Galich, Eleanor Laise, Marge Troll and Heidi Candia. Now, six nice ladies share their birthday years in the form of liquid refreshment for us. They include Tillie, Maria and Maria, Martha, Eleanor and Heidi.

Our President turned the meeting over to Hildegard Dunkerly. She installed the new/old officers for the coming year. She continued with the meeting as the Way Way Off Broadway players prepare for their program. After this (their first rehearsal) they will be off to fulfill their commitments on their busy calendar of events.

Raffle time. So many winners. Please forgive me if I did not get everyone's name. I am sure all winners were delighted, especially the ones who received a holiday window ledge sit-upon.

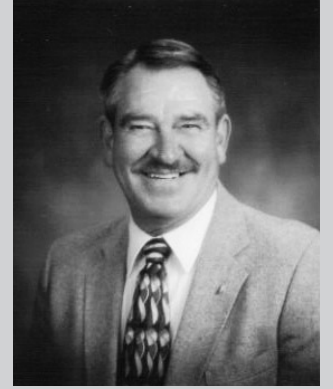
The curtains are opening - so on with the show ending with singing "O Tannenbaum", while Santa passes out the gifts from his sack and Gramma is recovering from being run over by a reindeer.

Starting with the new year, the committee is Kay Ring, Eileen Anerino, 330-759-8089, and Gert Prest 330-759-1257. Please call one of the above on or before Sunday, January 4th for cancellations or additions to the standard list of reservations.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to one and all! So Ein Tag . .

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Thomas J. Manning
ATS Nat'l President



I hope everyone had a happy and blessed Christmas. Even though we are in the middle of our Christmas season, there is still time to be thoughtful of the less fortunate people who are disabled, unemployed, or homeless, and who do not have much to be thankful for. It is never too late to do our part in making this season a little brighter for them. We can help by making a monetary gift to our favorite organization, volunteering several hours to a food bank or soup kitchen, or visiting a friend or relative who is alone or residing in a nursing home. I am sure that any one of these acts would be welcomed.

On December 6th, Liz and I had the pleasure of attending the annual Christmas dinner held by Branch 5 and Branch 11 of Lorain, Ohio, at Amber Oaks Restaurant. The food was delicious and the members were happy that we were able to attend. What a great time we had! Much to Liz's surprise, I was actually singing Christmas carols. (I have a terrible singing voice.) At the dinner, I had the privilege of awarding the ATS Honor Pin to Katherine Thompson. Katherine has been a member of Branch 11 for over 75 years. She was a past-President of Branch 11 and served on numerous committees during those 75 years. When she was a young girl, she set pins at the club bowling alley and when she was older, she was a barmaid. She is very proud of her Saxon heritage and is one of the spryest 90 year olds that I have ever met. After I presented her with the Honor Pin, everyone sang her favorite song, "K-K-K-Katie". I remember this song very well as my family used to sing it to my mother who also we called Katie. Congratulations again, Katherine.

Recently, the ATS has added some new types of insurance policies to our program. They are a Seven-Year Paid Up Life Policy and a Paid Up At Age 65 Life Policy. We will continue to sell our One Payment Life, 20-Year Paid Life, and Whole Life Policies. We have also revamped our premium payments and separated male and female rates. Our thanks go to 1st Vice President, Robert Cunningham, for his time and effort instructing the Branch Deputies regarding the new policies and rates. He did a great job. Our Annuity Program remains unchanged. The ATS Board of Directors has been working with our Actuary, Howie Heirdon and Financial Advisor, John McPike, plus the various insurance commissions since 2005 to make the necessary changes to our insurance program. The new policies and rates take effect immediately. You can contact your local Deputy for specific details.

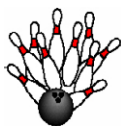
Quote of the Day: "We may not be rich or famous and we may not be important to anyone other than our friends and family. Still, that's enough. We each have our own legacy to build. How would we like our friends and family to remember us? How do they think of us today? The difference between these two things tells us what we need to do with the time that we have left."

Liz and I wish you a happy and prosperous New Year. Take care until next time and may God Bless the members of the ATS.

Happy New Year's TSBA Bowlers:

The first bowling session in 2009 will be hosted by Cleveland-West at the Freeway Lanes, 12859 Brookpark Road.

Bowling starts at 11:00 am



Lunch will be served at the Sachsenheim, 7001 Denison Avenue.

If you need to cancel meals please call CJ Schmitz at (440)235-3343 by Tuesday, December 30th.

**TIMELY - DO NOT DELAY
MAILED WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2008**

Attention Postmaster: Send all Changes of Address to:
The Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons
5393 Pearl Road Cleveland, OH 44129-1597

**New Years Resolution:
Be an active Branch member!**



TSBL STANDINGS

MENS STANDINGS AS OF 12-7-08

1. Cleveland East	17	4	9629
2. Youngstown #1	13	8	9337
3. Erie	11	10	9321
4. New Castle #1	10	11	9406
5. Salem	10	11	9383
6. Alliance	10	11	9364
7. New Castle #3	9	12	9412
8. Cleveland West	9	12	9368
9. Youngstown #2	9	12	6305
10. New Castle #2	7	14	9236

HI GAME

1. Milt McCoy	263
2. Jake Spor	258
3. Tom Simon	257

HI SERIES

1. Brad Schertzer	747
2. Milt McCoy	678
3. Jake Spor	656

HI GAME W/HDCP

1. Vince Pisanello	300
2. Andy Krestel	291
3. Bob McCormick	287

HI SERIES W/HDCP

1. Carl Schmitz	764
2. Fred Krestel	763
3. Duaine Slusser	754

WOMENS STANDINGS as of 12-7-08

1. Cleveland West	17	4	9535
2. New Castle #1	14	7	9702
3. Cleveland East	14	7	9700
4. Alliance	10	11	9565
5. Canton	10	11	9407
6. New Castle #2	9	12	9337
7. Salem	6	15	9416
8. Youngstown	4	19	9312

HI GAME

1. Pat Hall	214
2. Sharon Edwards	205
3. Arline Suts	205

HI SERIES

1. Sharon Edwards	567
2. Pat Hall	519
3. Sue Giersch	506

HI GAME W/HDCP

1. Mary-Ann Guip	275
2. Arline Suts	273
3. Pat Hall	267

HI SERIES W/HDCP

1. Mary-Ann Guip	752
2. Helen Aeling	715
3. Jennifer Spor	715

First of all I would like to congratulate George Jurjev (our German Radio D.J. on WDLW 138 Sundays from 1-3 p.m.) on receiving GABA German American Business Man of the year 2008 award. I couldn't think of anyone that is more deserving of this award. He put a lot of work into his Sunday program to make it such a huge success. I would also like to thank GABA for giving him this award!

Well, all the Christmas parties are now over with. I would like to thank all the people that did all the hard work, cooks, etc. to make it possible for us to enjoy these nice festivities. Hans Botsch gave us a little scare at the Branch 1 and 4 Christmas party but thank God everything worked out good for him and it was just something minor. We would like to thank all the members that participated in our Branch 1 and 4 Christmas party and choir party. We had the pleasure of singing Christmas carols for all the Branch members again as we do every year.

Congratulations to my cousin Katherine Thompson on receiving the Saxon Honor Pin for her service to the Saxon community and being a member of Branch 11 for 75 years. Wow, 75 years boy is that a milestone! Some people don't even live to be 75 years old! Our grand president Tom Manning had the pleasure of giving her the award in person at our annual Branch 5 and 11 Christmas party held at Amber Oaks Restaurant in Sheffield Lake, Ohio. We were pleasantly surprised to see Tom at our party. We thank Mr. and Mrs. Manning for taking time out of their busy schedule to come to our Christmas party. I know that is a long drive all the way from Erie, PA. I know the membership picked the right person to be our ATS president. Tom and his lovely wife have spent a lot of time visiting all the Branches since he has become president. Good luck Tom with all your endeavors!

Our winter hasn't really been that bad this year. Of course, it isn't officially winter until the 22nd of December. I ask all of our members to be careful while they are walking on the ice, snow, etc.

I would like to thank our gracious editors Hanz and Barbara Hermann for all the time they take to put all of our articles in the *Volksblatt*, especially mine. God bless them both and their family during this Christmas season!

I would like to thank all of my faithful readers near and far that make my articles continue to flourish. If anyone has anything that they would like me to put in my articles, please call me at (440) 346-3199. Thanks again!

I got a call from Dori Tischer the other day and she wanted me to thank the Eintracht Saxonia Sachsenchor for sending

her the beautiful Christmas card. Thanks for the call Dori, may God bless you during this holiday season!

It was so nice to see our faithful member Anna Alischer back in our midst at our Christmas parties. God bless you Anna during the holidays!

Last, but not least I would like to wish all my faithful readers a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year 2009 with all of God's blessings! I hope Santa Claus is good to everyone!

Special holiday greetings go out to my faraway loyal readers, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Reschner of Arizona. Thanks for the lovely Christmas card! God bless you both!

God bless all my readers – until you hear from me again. Lebe wohl!

Westside Sachsenheim

7001 Denison Avenue
Cleveland OH
216-651-0888

Friday Fish Fry

5:00 p.m. ~ 9:30 p.m.

Breaded Perch - \$8.95 Baked Salmon - \$8.95

Beer Battered Pollock - \$6.95

Baked or Beer Battered Scrod - \$8.95

All dinners served with your choice of
potato and coleslaw or salad
also serving Burgers and Bar Bites

A variety of domestic and imported beers available

The lighter side

The hearing

A man goes to a revival where the preacher asks anyone with needs to come forward to the front altar.

So the man gets in line, and when it's his turn, the preacher asks: "Son, what do you want me to pray about for you?"

He replies: "Preacher, I need you to pray for my hearing."

The preacher puts his hands on top of the man's head and prays and prays. Finally, he removes his hands and asks:

"Son, how is your hearing now?"

The man says, "I don't know, Reverend. It's not until next Wednesday."

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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SECRETARIES TAKE NOTICE:

THE DEADLINE DATE FOR ARTICLES IS FRIDAY - 12 NOON.

You may either

**MAIL: PO BOX 45198,
Westlake, OH 44145,**

FAX: (440) 399-9339

E-MAIL: saxonvolksblatt@aol.com

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, January 2, 2009	Friday, January 9, 2009
Friday, January 16, 2009	Friday, January 23, 2009
Friday, January 30, 2009	Friday, February 6, 2009

Please have your articles in by 12 Noon.

Questions?? Contact Barb or Hanz Hermann at (440) 892-0436.

**BRANCH 11,
LORAIN**
By Monica Gilles

It's hard to believe that another year has come and gone. And to end the year out, we have our Christmas dinner with the men of Branch 5. Our dinner was at Amber Oaks again this year and we had about 40 people in attendance. We were honored to have ATS National President Thomas Manning and his wife, Liz, join us for the holidays. But once again, Mother Nature showed up and brought some holiday snow. Sure wish she would stop that. It's getting annoying!

The dinner was delicious and the service was great! I still can't get over the size of my prime rib. Thank goodness for take home boxes. Before dinner, we had a special presentation of the Saxon Honor Pin for Kate Thompson. President Manning presented Katie with the pin and boy was she shocked! Here's a



Branch 11 ladies who attended the annual Christmas dinner, missing are Rose Gross, Arlene Jones and Patricia Brings Plenty.

little background on Kate.

Katherine Thompson will be a 75-year member of Branch 11 in January and served as President from 1974-1976. She started out working at the Saxon Club as a child setting up pins in the bowling alley and later moved to setting up drinks behind the bar. She has

always been a supporter of the Saxon heritage and loves to attend the dinner/dances at the Westside Sachsenheim. Kate participated in the first trip to Transylvania and got to visit the childhood home of her father. She will be 92 years young on New Year's Day and attributes her great health to Vitamin P (better known as warm beer). She is a wonderful woman who is known for her laughs. Branch 11 is honored to have Kate as a member and congratulate her on her Saxon Honor Pin. We love you, Kate!

After the presentation, we took a shot at singing a couple Saxon songs, including the Saxon National Anthem. Thank you George for leading us! But I think we could use some practice for next year. We ended the evening by singing some traditional Christmas tunes and hope everyone got in the holiday spirit.

Thanks to everyone who attended. Special thanks to President Jeanne Petty for arranging the whole dinner, Brother George Schneider for providing the blessing in German, Sister Nancy Kranstuber for donating some door prizes and Christmas goodies, Ginger Romes for getting candles for everyone and Carolyn Mroski for bringing the cake.

Happy birthday greetings to Sisters Paula Dickason, Arlene Jones, Molly Kirchner, Sue Koepke, Nancy Kranstuber and Mary (Ruth) Schuerger. And of course the most important birthday in December: Baby Jesus!

Our next meeting will be held on Saturday, January 3, 2009 starting at 8 pm at the Slovak Club on Broadway. Here's a great idea: why not make "going to more Saxon meetings" one of your New Year's resolutions. The trustees will be serving a luncheon at this meeting! And if you're interested in life insurance or an annuity give me a call at 989-8180. We can meet in the evenings or before a meeting.

Finally, I want to wish everyone reading a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year! May you be blessed with peace, joy and good health in 2009!



Kate Thompson of Branch 11 Lorain receiving the Saxon Honor Pin. L-R: Branch 11 President Jeanne Petty, Kate Thompson and National President Tom Manning.

*Westside Sachsenheim
Presents*

ANNUAL WINTERFEST

Saturday, January 31, 2009

Dinner served at 6:00 p.m.

Program

*Cleveland Saxon Dance Group
(including the new Junior Group)*

*Dancing Entertainment
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 Cunningham (216) 398-7520*

***DEADLINE for reservations**
is January 25, 2009
Please list your seating preference
Tickets will be held at the door*



**Vom Siebenbuerger Sachsen
Saengerbund**

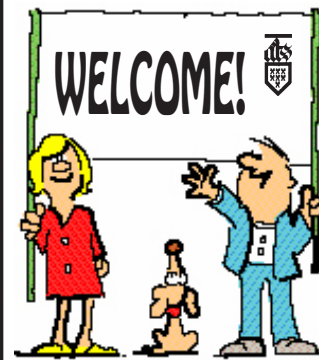
Fuer die kommende Feiertage wuensche ich allen Saenger und Saengerinen, so wie Ihren angehoerigen ein Frohes und Gesegnetes Weihnachtsfest und ein Gesundes Neue Jahr.

From The Siebenbuerger Sachsen Saengerbund; I wish all of the Singers and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year of 2009. May we keep the German Song Alive throughout the coming New Year of 2009 !!

Von Johann Paal
Saengerbund President

*Üb immer Treu und Redlichkeit bis an Dein Küles Grab;
und weiche keinen Fingerbreit von Gottes Wegen ab!*

NEW MEMBERSHIP ROLL CALL



**The Alliance of
Transylvanian Saxons
welcomes the
following
new members
who recently joined our
Fraternal Society.**

Branch 1 – Cleveland
Cameron J. Zimmer

Branch 26 – Merrillville
Jack M. Lawrence

Branch 3 – Alliance
Devin M. Christy

Branch 30 – Youngstown
Kasen J. Weaver

Branch 5 – Lorain
Taylor N. Cassidy

Home Branch
Tanner W. Armagost
Jacob M. Kuner

Branch 22 – Youngstown
Payton L. Boyce
Victoria Cline
Sandra L. Oblinger
Mariah A. Schuller

**Happy New Year!
Resolutions have checkered history
but can still work**

It all started a long time ago, actually 2,162 years ago if historians are correct. In 153 B.C., the first month of the year was named for a mythical king of early Rome named Janus.



With two faces, Janus could look back on past events and forward into the future. He became the symbol for New Year's resolutions. Many Romans asked for forgiveness from their enemies, decided how to improve themselves, and exchanged gifts just before the new year began.

Modern New Year's resolutions have a reputation for being forgotten or discarded within days or weeks of the holiday. If done seriously, however, starting the new year with a legitimate plan can be successful. Here's how to do it.

* Take responsibility for the change so your motivation will be sustained.

* Be realistic. Habits and behaviors that are changed gradually have a greater

chance of success.

* Redefine physical discomfort. Psychologist Pauline Wallin, editor of The Pennsylvania Psychologist, says the physical discomfort of not smoking can be redefined as cleansing your body. Discomfort from not overeating can be a sign that your body has to go to fat reserves for energy.

* Make it non-negotiable. Exercise at the same time every day. Whatever your plan, practice it every day.

No one will be perfect at making difficult changes, but if you falter, learn from your mistake and move on. There will never be a perfect time to make changes, so do it now.

FRATERNAL CALENDAR

BRANCHES 33 & 34 CLEVELAND EAST By Ron and Joan Blaha

NATIONAL EVENTS

2009

- May 16, 2009
Branch Presidents' Meeting
Hosted by Branch 27 New Castle
- June 20-21, 2009
Saxon Heimattag, Kitchener, Ontario

LOCAL EVENTS

- December 27, 2008
Salem Peanut night 8:00 p.m.
- December 31, 2008
Youngstown - Bar will close at 5 pm
Cleveland New Years' Eve Celebration

2009

- January 5, 2009
Salem Br. 19 Meeting 7:30 pm
- January 7, 2009
Salem Retirees Meeting 11:30 am
- January 8, 2009
Youngstown Retirees Meeting
Salem Br. 18/19 Line Dance Lessons 7pm
- January 9, 2009
Salem Br. 18/19 Joint Social Dinner 6:30 pm
- January 11, 2009
Merrillville Br. 26 Meeting 3pm
Youngstown Br. 22 & 30 Meeting
- January 12, 2009
Salem Br. 18 Meeting 7:30pm
- January 15, 2009
Salem Br. 18/19 Line Dance Lessons 7pm
- January 17, 2009
Salem Br. 18/19 Breakfast 7:00-10:00am
- January 18, 2009
Youngstown Br. 30 Pork Dinner open to the public
- January 22, 2009
Salem Br. 18/19 Line Dance Lessons 7pm
- January 29, 2009
Salem Br. 19 Officer's Meeting 7:30pm
- January 31, 2009
Salem Peanut Night 8pm - ?
- February 1, 2009
Youngstown Br. 30 Super Bowl Party
- February 8, 2009
Merrillville Br. 26 Meeting 3pm
- February 12, 2009
Youngstown Retirees Meeting
- February 15, 2009
Youngstown Br. 30 Pork Dinner open to the public
- February 21, 2009
Youngstown President's Ball
- February 25, 2009
Youngstown Fish Dinner in the Lounge
- February 27, 2009
Salem Fish Fry #1 5-7:15pm
- February 28, 2009
Merrillville Br. 26 Balmoral Park Race Track
- March 2, 2009
Salem Br. 19 Meeting
- March 4, 2009
Salem Retirees Meeting 11:30am
- March 6, 2009
Salem Fish Fry #2 5-7:15pm
- March 9, 2009
Salem Br. 18 Meeting 7:30pm
- March 13, 2009
Salem Fish Fry #3 5-7:15pm
- March 20, 2009
Salem Fish Fry #4 5-7:15pm
- March 21, 2009
Salem Breakfast 7-10am
- March 27, 2009
Salem Fish Fry #5 5-7:15pm
- March 28, 2009
Salem Peanut Night 9am-3:30pm/8pm-?
- April 1, 2009
Salem Retirees Meeting 11:30am
- April 2, 2009
Salem Br. 19 Officers Meeting 7:30pm
- April 3, 2009
Salem Fish Fry #6
- April 4, 2009
Salem Sausage Sale 9am-2:30pm

Well, Sunday, December 14th proved to be another very successful afternoon for many of our members and guests who attended our 2008 Christmas dinner at Pine Ridge Country Club. Although there was also a sad note as we mourned the loss of our dear and treasured member of Branch 34, Arlene Kushing, who passed away on Tuesday, December 2nd. Arlene was Joanie's closest cousin; they grew up together. Both the dinners for the past five years, three years at Dino's restaurant and two years at Pine Ridge Country Club (catered by Dino's), she asked Joanie, if she would do it this year, to which she agreed. As I told our members and guests, "If you don't like the food, complain to Joanie." There were no complaints, only many comments of praise on the selections she made.

To top it off, each member and



Attending Branch 33 and 34 Fall Dinner Dance are Branch 33 President George Schneider with his wife Dorothy, ATS National President Tom Manning with wife Liz, and Branch 34 President Ema Litschel with her husband Dolf.

of us always looked forward to Lodge meeting nights when Arlene would come over and I would take her and Joanie to our monthly meeting. We sure are going to miss this. Also, we were sad to hear that Ed Lautner, the Vice President of Branch 33, was taken to Cleveland Clinic a couple of days before. Also, Jean Schneider broke her hip and is now recovering in a nursing home.

So much for the bad news. The food was excellent and the service was very good. Although Ema Litschel, the president of Branch 34 has been selecting



Myron Davidson and Ingeborg Krestel receive the Saxon Honor Pin from ATS National President Tom Manning.

Photos submitted by Arline Suts

BRANCH 4, CLEVELAND By Joan Miller-Malue

We ended our Christmas season with two great get-togethers, the Holiday Membership Banquet and the Children's Christmas Party. At our Membership Banquet we recognized Nancy Gross as our newly attained 50-year member. Clara Aber who was unable to attend was our newly attained 60-year member. We congratulate Nancy and Clara on their long-time membership with Branch 4. We wish to thank Christine Roppelt for conducting the Installation of Officers. Special thanks to the Eintracht-Saxonia Sachsenchor for singing several songs and to director, Andreá Ball for playing the piano and directing us all in our caroling. We thank Pastor Dick Williams for giving the invocation and closing prayer and of course, great big thanks to our cooks for preparing a delicious dinner.

We had over 160 members attend our children's Christmas party, which included 67 children. We were happy to

have junior members from Cleveland East Branches 33 and 34 and Lorain Branch 5 attend the party. We wish to thank Branch 34 for their most recent generous donation to help defray the expenses of our holiday parties. We wish to thank our junior members who performed so beautifully for the program: Olivia Greger, Andrea and Victoria Tsiros, Jennifer and Jason Zayac. Santa was happy to see all the children and to pass out gifts to each of them. Our entertainer this year was a ventriloquist and really had the children's attention. We enjoyed a light supper of dinosaur chicken nuggets, macaroni and cheese, Jell-O jugglers and ice cream sandwiches. Donna Jankow and I work very hard to put this party together and wish to thank those who helped us: Patty and Rob Cunningham, Honey Wolff, Stephanie Miller-Hanek, Monica Gilles, Jenny Miller, Gene King, Rich Kniecny, Rob Hanek, Monica Weber and Charles Malue. We all enjoy seeing the happy

guest found a beautiful small box in front of their plates. Knowing that Marie Thellman often does things like this, several members thought this was her doing, but they were wrong. It was my dear wife, Joanie that came up with the idea. What she did was take 80 used or new Christmas cards, folded them up, cut them and ended up with a beautiful small box. Then, she put a small artificial bow on each box and filled each box with wrapped chocolate candy.

We already have confirmed reservations for our 2009 Christmas Dinner. It will be Sunday, December 14, 2009 at Pine Ridge Country Club from 1 to 4 pm. As is customary, reservations cannot be made before our annual picnic at Penitentiary Glen in Kirtland, Ohio. The date for the picnic has not been set yet, but it will be in August. So, we are looking forward to seeing many of you there. As usual, we will have ribs and chicken, catered from nowhere else, but Dino's Catering.

Therefore, we are looking forward to seeing many of you at both our annual picnic and at our annual Christmas Dinner. Additional information on both events will be in the *Volksblatt* later in 2009.



faces on the children and hope they and their families all had a good time.

We will end the year with a New Year's Eve party. We will have a five-course meal with choice of filet mignon or salmon. A DJ will play the tunes from the 50's, 60's to current. The cost is \$60 per person, which includes the meal, all spirited beverages, noisemakers and sausage sandwich at midnight. Prepaid reservations were a must and had to be paid by December 23. We are looking forward to a great celebration to end the year and bring in 2009.

The officers and members of Branch 4 wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year!

SALEM SAXON RETIREES

By Sue Fritzman

"Tis the season to be jolly" and enjoy the holiday celebration! Lorrie Weingart catered the delicious Swiss steak dinner as 65 Saxon Retirees and two guests enjoyed this December 3rd Christmas dinner. Guests included: Connie Peters, granddaughter of Martha Lesch, and Karen Long, daughter of Cathie Sanor. Several members who have been missed were welcomed back. The dining room reflected the holiday season with festive décor with tables accented with Christmas napkins and placemats donated by Sue Fritzman and centered with beautiful large red poinsettia plants. Hermine & Siegfried Henness donated these poinsettias in loving memory of our dear friends Matt Drotleff (husband of Hattie Drotleff) and Bertha & Henry Heidenreich. The Heidenreichs were charter members and parents of Nancy Stumperth. Thank you dear friends for this lovely gesture, which spread the holiday spirit to all!

President Lois Whitacre opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance as Bill Hiltbrand presented an appropriate invocation for the season. It was such a luxury to have our meal served for this event with ample servings to enjoy. Entertainment followed the meal with Christmas songs and choreographed dance routines provided by the United Local Choral group "Fight". This pleasant group of 25 performers brought joy and youthful Christmas spirit to our holiday celebration.

Our business meeting followed with our regular order of business with officer's reports given by Secretary Sue Fritzman and Treasurer Katherine Lederle. The sick list included the long list of members who are always missed and remembered. Good to see Ina Dutcher back as she recovers from knee surgery. Our Elsie

Gross has recently been admitted to Essex 3 after suddenly becoming ill. Elsie has always been a faithful retiree and loyal participant of Saxon activities and our thoughts and prayers are with her. Elsie is also to be congratulated on the birth of a new great granddaughter, Ellie Marie, born on December 2nd. Proud grandparents are Joyce & Charles Hazelbacker of Salem.

Congratulations to those starting out the New Year with birthdays and anniversary celebrations! January birthdays are 2 - Martin Roth, 9 - John Heltman, 19 - Ike Spack, 19 - Mike Stumperth, 24 - Walter Ulrich, 30 - Ina Dutcher. January anniversaries couples are: Betty and Glen Clayton - January 14th with 59 years.

Vice President Bob Kekel announced the following committee for our upcoming potluck January 7th meeting. Marianne and Clem Vogt will be taking reservations at 330-332-0276. The rest of the committee is as follows: Walli Spack, Al Linder, Joe Bush, Dee Bush, Helen Aeling and Hilda Thiess. I hope the weather cooperates as it did for our Christmas meeting. It will take more than bad weather to keep our faithful members from spreading holiday cheer and New Year' wishes! How the year has flown by once again as we prepared for our traditional New Year's goodies of "Pig in the Blankets", pork, sauerkraut, etc. Not to mention all the Saxon pastries for those who are lucky enough to still have access to great Saxon bakers. This generation of bakers are hard to come by anymore and we are grateful to have just a taste of some of these old favorites from the few Saxons that can still create these delicacies.

It has been a tradition every year for the Saxon Club to donate to the "Dress A Live Doll" program. Our retirees also con-

tributed to this important cause of supplying needy children with new clothing. Flo Spack is greatly appreciated for her dedication to this great cause. She spends a lot of time shopping for these kids and gives so much thought in choosing the right clothing for each child. This year Flo had some assistance from her son Richard, and his wife, Teri Spack. These thirty outfits were on display for all to see. What a great act of kindness and holiday spirit! We are sure these children and their parents are very appreciative of this generosity, especially with the cost of living and the loss of so many jobs in the area this past year.

Our retirees also helped by donating non-perishable food items for those in need thru the Salvation Army. Thanks to Bob Kekel and George Spack for delivering these donations to the Salvation Army. We are sure this will be a blessing for so many in need of these daily necessities.

We thank Flo Spack once again and her son Ron, and Marilyn McNutt, for doing a beautiful job as they donated their time decorating the club for the Christmas season. This décor is such an important part of lifting our spirits and spreading the joyful celebration of this special holiday. Your faithful dedication is appreciated.

We have sadly lost another dear member of Branch 19 as Fred "Fritz" Roth passed way suddenly after just recently enjoying the 50-year recognition banquet. We extend our deepest sympathy to Butch and Mary Ann Roth and Margaret Hall and his family. God gives us strength to face each new tomorrow!

The following were the winners of the beautiful poinsettia plants: Hattie Drotleff, Ike Spack, Ralph Cook, Barbara Gorman,

Kate Sanor, Ray Denny, Hazel Tiball, Evelyn Yuhanick, Marilyn McNutt, Norma Byers, Dee Bush and Bob Kekel.

Christmas poinsettias have become a tradition as they add such beauty to the season. At one time these plants were only the color of red and then the white became popular. Now they can be found in deeper shades of red almost burgundy and pinks. Some are sold now with glitter sprinkled on the petals for an extra holiday glisten. Poinsettias were first discovered growing in Mexico around 1828 by Joel Robert Poinsett. He was the first US Ambassador who sent cuttings home to his native South Carolina. Today these colorful plants can be saved over winter, but it takes a lot of coddling. Some people say they produce a milky substance that can be poisonous to animals and others disagree.

As for our Christmas traditions, many trace back to our ethnic ancestors like the following popular songs: "Oh, Christmas Tree" (O Tannenbaum) in German and "Silent Night" (Stille Nacht) by Franz Gruber written in 1818 on Christmas Eve. This favorite Christmas song is sung all over the world and is translated in over 90 languages. "Winter Wonderland" was chosen as being the most famous of all holiday tunes. Hearing these traditional Christmas songs brings back special memories of times spent with family and friends.

May the magic of the season and the New Year bring *love and peace* within to each and everyone!

Fröhliche Weihnachten und ein Glückliches Neues Jahr!
Aufwiedersehen!

CHURCHES



St. Peter's German and Saxon Lutheran Church

11423 Chicago Rd.
Warren, Michigan 48093
(586) 979-3850 & 979-3903
email: St.Peters Church@msn.com
Pastor Jens Liedtke-Siems
Pastor in Residence

9:30 English
Holy Communion
Sunday School
11:00 Deutscher
Gottesdienst
Heiliges Abendmahl,
1. and 3. Sonntag

St. Thomas Evangelical Lutheran Church

9509 Lake Avenue
Cleveland, OH
(216) 961-4870
Rev. Dick Williams
Pastor

9:43 am Confirmation Class
11:00 am English Worship
German Worship
9 am on 2nd Sunday
Pastor Susanne Carter

St. John's Lutheran Church

1000 Ford Road
Highland Hts., Ohio
(440) 449-1334
Rev. Robert E. Pindell
Pastor

10:00 Worship Service
10:00 Sunday School

BRANCH 40 & 26 MERRILLVILLE

By Betty Mucha

We celebrated our Christmas season by gathering at the Slovak Club on Sunday, December 7, 2008 for our Christmas dinner. We thank Pete Guip of Branch 26 and his helpers for the beautiful Christmas tree he had set up and decorations. Our festive round tables were set up in green and red with beautiful centerpieces of glass bowls on mirrors with floating candles and sparkles by Judy and Charlie Young and I thank them for taking charge of this.

After a brief cocktail hour and greeting of those attending we were served a wonderful Christmas buffet dinner with a lot of good home baked goods donated by the ladies of Branch 40. Our entertainment group of young ladies called The Wolfgang from Hobart High School sang festive songs of the oldies

and of course Christmas. All attending had a good time.

Our social chairperson, Jana Szostek passed out schedules of events to consider for our coming year of 2009.

The Officers of Branch 40 will be installed at the January meeting of 2009 and are as follows: President Betty Mucha, Vice President Helen Brooks, Recording Secretary Brigitte Floyd, Treasurer Kay Falk, Financial Secretary Zita Palyok, Trustees Judy Andrews and Judy Young.

We want to extend a good and healthy new year to all of our fellow Saxons and to those going to warmer climates for the winter a safe journey.

Remember our January meeting will be held on the second Sunday, January 11, 2009.



Help to Restore the Evangelical Church in Bistritz

There was a disastrous fire that hit the Evangelical Church in Bistritz, a church that has been a part of the Transylvanian Saxon community for nearly 700 years.

A restoration project was recently completed to preserve this beautiful church. Then, this misfortune happened that destroyed the church tower and part of the roof. ***This church is a part of our history and we must help to rebuild it!***

Please make your contribution to the Saxon Relief Fund and send it to the ATS Home Office, 5393 Pearl Road, Cleveland, OH 44129-1597. Please complete the following form:

My Contribution to the Rebuilding of the Evangelical Church in Bistritz

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Amount of donation \$ _____

Siebenbürgische Bräuche zwischen Weihnacht und Rosemontag

Die zahlreichen siebenbürgischen Winterbräuche gipfeln im Weihnachtsfest und finden ihre Fortsetzung in der Neujahrsfeier, am Dreikönigstag und an einigen "großen" Namenstagen. Sie klingen in den Faschingsbräuchen oder den so genannten "Richttagen" aus, die am Aschermittwoch ihren Abschluss finden, bevor die Oster- und Frühlingsbräuche einen neuen Zyklus einleiten.

Von den Bräuchen zu **Neujahr** (Silvester) sind vielleicht ältere siebenbürgische Gepflogenheiten dem heutigen Leser weniger bekannt. So galt früher der "Neujahrmorgen" als eigentlicher Tag der "Wünsche" und Geschenke. An Patenkinder wurden "Giorsker" ("Johrsker"), "Jährchen", aus Zuckerteig ausgeteilt. Der Pfarrer erhielt traditionsgemäß bei wohlgesetzter Rede das "weiße" oder "grüne Jahr" (Eier, Obst) geschenkt. Zum Neujahrs Geschenk der Schüler für den Lehrer gehörte der symbolische Apfel. Zu Verwandten und Paten ging man "wünschen". Aus Zwiebschalen, Wintergrünblättern oder Bleiguss wurde in der Neujahrsnacht die Zukunft (Gesundheit, Wetter, Fruchtbarkeit) für das kommende Jahr "gelesen" und erforscht. Neujahrglocken und Turmbläser um Mitternacht ("Hört, ihr Herrn, und lasst euch sagen...", "Nun danket alle Gott") geleiten auch in der Gegenwart stilvoll das alte in das neue Jahr. Der Weihnachtsbaum oder Tannenzweige schmücken die Wohnungen über Neujahr hinaus mindestens bis zum 6. Januar. Neuerdings werden auch Mistelzweige als Schmuck gebraucht.

"**Zwölften**" (zwölf Nächte) heißt die Zahl vom 25. Dezember bis 6. Januar. Sie gilt als unheimliche Zeit, weil in ihr die Geister Umzug halten, Spuk treiben und mit Opfern beschwichtigt werden müssen. Man tut gut daran, sich gewisser Speisen zu enthalten und einige Tätigkeiten zu unterlassen, während man sich für andere wiederum fördernde Wirkungen von dieser Zeit verspricht. Besonders aber hat sie wahrsagerische Bedeutung, und zwar so, dass jeder der 12 Tage für einen der kommenden 12 Monate vorbedeutend wird.

Epiphantias, das Erscheinungsfest am 6. Januar, galt ursprünglich als das Geburtsfest Christi (ehe dieses um die Mitte des 4. Jahrhunderts auf den 25. Dezember verlegt wurde) und wurde später zu seinem Tauffest. In Zusammenhang mit dem Stern, der die Weisen aus dem Morgenland führte, wird Epiphantias zum **Fest der Dreikönige**. Es bedeutet den wirklichen Beginn des neuen Jahres und heißt darum auch "Groß-" oder "Hochneujahr". In der Ostkirche ist der 6. Januar der Tag der "Wasserweihe" (bei den Rumänen: Boboteaza), an dem die feierliche Weihe und Segnung des Weihwassers, der Flüsse und Seen stattfindet. Die Dreikönige sind die Weisen aus dem Morgenlande (Matth. 2), die die Legende zu drei Königen gemacht hat: Caspar, Melchior

und Balthasar. Ihre Gebeine wurden 1164 von Mailand nach Köln überführt. Sie gelten als Schutzheilige der Reisenden, Helfer gegen Unwetter und Krankheiten und auch als magisch begabt. Ihr Festtag, auch Berchtentag genannt (Perchta, eine im deutschen Volksglauben der Frau Holle nächst verwandte Figur), wird mit dem Dreikönigssingen gefeiert. Aus vielen Ortschaften in Siebenbürgen ist das Sternsingen bekannt. Am Heiligen Dreikönigsabend gehen drei Schulkinder (in Schäßburg früher Kinder aus dem evangelischen Waisenhaus), als "Könige" gekleidet, mit Kronen aus Pappe, einem beleuchteten Stern, Säbel, Zepter, Sammelbüchse etc., in die Häuser und singen mit Vorführung: "Wir kommen daher in Regen und Wind und suchen das neugeborene Kind." Sie werden mit Geldspenden belohnt. Eine Variante (Text und Melodie) aus dem Jahre 1903 zeichnete Gottlieb Brandsch in Hermannstadt auf (Deutsche Volkslieder aus Siebenbürgen. Aus dem Nachlass von Gottlieb Brandsch, herausgegeben von Walter Brandsch, Neue Reihe I, Seite 39-42). Anklänge hierzu findet man auch in der Erzählung das "Herodesspiel" von Erwin Wittstock in dem Prosaband "Abends Gäste".

Marietag (2. Februar). Der Name "Maria", der aus dem Hebräischen abgeleitet wird, ist trotz der mehr als 60 Eklärungsversuche nicht gesichert (volkstümlich = Meeresstern). Der Gottesmutter Maria kommt besondere Verehrung zu. Im heutigen Römischen Messbuch sind nicht weniger als 15 Marienentage im Jahreslauf verzeichnet. Obgleich der Marienkult vorwiegend katholisch ist, hat sich eine gewisse Marienverehrung auch bei den Protestanten erhalten. In Siebenbürgen wird der "Marietag", ein sehr verbreiteter Namenstag, am 2. Februar gefeiert, mancherorts auch am 15. August (Mariä Himmelfahrt) oder am 8. September ("Mariä Geburt, fliegen die Schwalben fort"). Beziehungen zur siebenbürgischen Geschichte hat vielleicht noch "Mariä Namen" am 12. September, der als Erinnerung an den Sieg über die Türken bei Wien 1683 in diesem Sinne erhalten blieb.

Maria als Himmelskönigin und Patronin der Christenheit, als Helferin in aller Not ist in der Kunst die mit Abstand am meisten dargestellte Heilige: Altarbilder, Ikonen, Gebete, Gedichte, Lieder, Standbilder (Plastiken), Pestsäulen u. a. gehören zum wichtigen Bestand der siebenbürgischen Kunstgeschichte. In Siebenbürgen wird

z. B. "Maria durch den Dornwald ging..." als Weihnachtslied gesungen. Mancherorts ist noch das alte Schifferlied bekannt: "Meerstern ich dich grüße, / O Maria, hilf, / Gottesmutter süße, / O Maria, hilf! / Maria, hilf uns allen / Aus dieser schweren Not."

Das größte dörfliche Kinderfest des Jahres war in Siebenbürgen der "**Blasi**" (St. Blasiusabend, 3. Februar), eine Feier der Schuljugend. A. Schullerus vergleicht ihn, was seine Bedeutung betrifft, mit dem Weihnachtsabend des Stadtkindes. Die Vorbereitung beginnt damit, dass der Lehrer am bestimmten Tag auf der Schultafel einen Fuchs oder ein Pferd gezeichnet findet mit der Überschrift "Blasius Fuchs". Der Klassenerste steht hinter der Türe, verbrennt in einem Topf Schafwolle und "bittet um den Blasi". Nach eingeholter Einwilligung des Pfarrers geht die Schuljugend in Gruppen geteilt "ansingen" - am Vortag die Mädchen, am eigentlichen Festtag die Jungen - und sammeln Lebensmittel und Geld. Der Blasispruch lautet:

*"Matter, gäf Batter,
gäf Schmalz,
Dad äs gad än Halz.
Wo er näst wällt gin,
Si frieb ich der Fuß de Hin."*

Auch erbitten sie "Achen, Kokachen, e Stämpche Lächt", so wie auch in Luxemburg die Kinder am Abend vor Mariä Lichtmess mit den Bliesjen (Blasius-Lichtchen) ansingen gehen und Gaben sammeln. Aus dem eingesammelten Geld wird der Kettenschmuck für das Schulzimmer und der Wein für die "Adjuvanten" bezahlt, die am ersten Tag die Tanzmusik spielen. Die gesammelten Lebensmittel werden von den "Kirchenmüttern" zum "gefüllten Kraut" und zur "Kächen" zubereitet. Gemeinsam gesungene Lieder, Spiele und Tanz gehören zum Programm des Blasi (A. Schullerus).

Der Übergang zum Frühling wird von den **Faschings- oder Karnevalsbräuchen**, in Siebenbürgen der "Fuesnicht", den so genannten "Richttagen", dem "Urzellaufen" und den Maskenbällen bestimmt. Dieses tolle Treiben findet am Rosenmontag und Aschermittwoch seinen Höhepunkt und Abschluss. "Rosenmontag" ist etymologisch als "rasender, wilder, toller" Montag zu deuten (siehe auch das Wort "rosendich"); das Bestimmungswort lässt nur bedingt auf die "Rosen" schließen.

Walter Roth
SBZ Online
29. Dezember 2003

Mitten auf der Kreuzung stoßen in der Silvesternacht zwei Autos zusammen. Ein Polizist kommt und zückt seinen Notizblock. Darauf der eine Fahrer: "Aber Herr Wachtmeister, man wird doch noch aufs neue Jahr anstoßen dürfen!"

"Bäume-Binden" am Neujahrs-Samstag

Das "Bäume-Binden" ist ein siebenbürgisch-sächsischer Brauch, der am "Neujahrs-Samstag" (31. Dezember) in Henndorf gepflegt und grundsätzlich von den Kindern durchgeführt wurde. Johann Unberath schildert den Brauch aus seiner Heimatgemeinde.

Am "Neujahrs-Samstag" (so hieß bei uns der 31. Dezember / im Dialekt: *Gärschs-Sonn-äwend*) fertigten die Kinder im Laufe des Vormittags in der Scheune armdicke Binden aus Stroh an und legten sie griffbereit auf einen Haufen in den Scheunenausgang dem Garten zu. Kurz vor 12 Uhr standen die Kinder vom Hof - in Begleitung eines Erwachsenen - neben ihren Strohbündeln (Strihboindel) und warteten in voller seelischer Spannung auf den auslösenden ersten Glockenschlag. Punkt 12 Uhr begannen die Glocken zu läuten, und das Geläute dauerte an diesem letzten Tag des Jahres (egal welcher Wochentag es war) zehn Minuten. Wir Kinder stürzten uns auf die Strohbündeln und legten um jeden Baum unseres Gartens in etwa 50 cm Höhe einen Strohring. Unser Ehrgeiz war es, in den zehn Minuten mit der Tätigkeit fertig zu werden. Es war, als solle der Klang der Glocken unsere Tätigkeit nicht nur begleiten, sondern auch segnen. In allen Gärten des Dorfes geschah zu diesem Zeitpunkt das Gleiche. Ist es zu verwundern, dass wir unwillkürlich eine Feierlichkeit empfanden, wenn wir die letzten Minuten still und andächtig dem

Silvesterwitz

Auf der Silvesterparty geht es hoch her. Als die Uhr zwölf schlägt, hebt der Gastgeber sein Glas und protest strahlend seinen Gästen zu: "Kinder, das neue Jahr scheint ein gutes Jahr zu werden, es hat pünktlich auf die Minute angefangen!"

Glockenläuten zuhört? Wir waren fünf Brüder und jedes Mal in weniger als zehn Minuten mit unserer Arbeit fertig, wonach wir uns immer unter demselben Baum versammelten und dem Glockenklang lauschten. Das Wort Mythos kannten wir noch nicht, aber es wehte uns ein Gefühl dafür an.

Den Sinn unserer Tätigkeit hatte man uns erklärt: Ab jetzt sammelten sich alle Schädlinge, die in die Baumkrone kriechen wollten, in dem warmen Strohbund. Im Frühjahr erst wurde das Stroh abgenommen und verbrannt, damit waren auch die Schädlinge vernichtet. Das würde man heute ökologische Schädlingsbekämpfung nennen. Im Januar-Februar wurden dann die Baumkronen zurecht geschnitten, Baumstämme und Äste von eventuellen Flechten befreit. Damals hätte niemand seine Obstbäume im Haus- oder Baumgarten des Weingartens mit Chemikalien gespritzt.

Es war eine Genugtuung, dass man etwas Sinnvolles tat, aber es bestand auch der Anreiz, dass an diesem letzten Tag des alten Jahres das ganze Dorf in einer Tätigkeit vereint war, dass man also zusammen das Jahr abschloss und das neue Jahr sozusagen vorbereitete.

Unsere Altvorderen hatten auch pädagogischen Takt, wir wurden jedes Mal gelobt und die Sinnhaftigkeit unseres Tuns wurde unterstrichen. Abschließend gab es dann das gemeinsame warme Mittagessen, und die Welt war rundum in Ordnung.

Johann Unberath
SBZ Online
31. Dezember 2004





Zum neuen Jahr

Zwischen dem Alten
Zwischen dem Neuen,
Hier uns zu freuen
Schenkt uns das Glück,
Und das Vergangne
Heißt mit Vertrauen
Vorwärts zu schauen,
Schauen zurück.
Stunden der Plage,
Leider, sie scheiden
Treue von Leiden,
Liebe von Lust;
Bessere Tage
Sammeln uns wieder,
Heitere Lieder
Stärken die Brust.
Leiden und Freuden,
Jener verschwunden,
Sind die Verbundenen
Fröhlich gedenk.
O des Geschickes
Seltsamer Windung!
Alte Verbindung,
Neues Geschenk!
Dankt es dem regen,

Wogenden Glücke,
Dankt dem Geschicke
Männiglich Gut;
Freut euch des Wechsels
Heiterer Triebe,
Offener Liebe,
Heimlicher Glut!
Andere schauen
Deckende Falten
Über dem Alten
Traurig und scheu;
Aber uns leuchtet
Freundliche Treue;
Sehet, das Neue
Findet uns neu.
So wie im Tanze
Bald sich verschwindet,
Wieder sich findet
Liebendes Paar,
So durch des Lebens
Wirrende Beugung
Führe die Neigung
Uns in das Jahr.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

BRANCH 26, MERRILLVILLE By Sam Palyok

On December 7th we had our annual Christmas dinner. After dinner the Hobart High School choir performed for us. They were exultant as always. They sang Christmas songs and oldies. There were 46 members and guests in attendance.

2009 Event Schedule:

- | | | |
|-------------|---|------------|
| Jan. 11th. | 3 pm meeting | Food after |
| Feb. 8th. | 3 pm meeting | Food after |
| Feb. 28th. | Balmoral Park Race Track. There will be a buffet. RSVP by Feb. 8th!!! Tickets will be given out at the Feb. 8th meeting. You can make your reservations at the Jan. 11th. meeting or call Jeff and Jana at (219) 661-0233. Cost for inactive members or guests: \$28/pp. | |
| March | NO MEETING!! | |
| Apr. 5th. | 3 pm meeting - Easter dinner after. RSVP by Mar. 28th. You can make you reservations at the Jan. or Feb. meetings or call Jeff and Jana at (219) 661-0233. | |
| May 3rd. | 3 pm. meeting - Picnic after. | |
| June 14th. | NO meeting!! Railcats Baseball game. There will be a buffet. RSVP by June 3rd. Cost for inactive members or guests: #30/pp. | |
| July 12th. | 3 pm. meeting - Food after | |
| Aug. 2nd. | 3 pm. meeting - Food after | |
| Sept. 13th. | Short meeting at Anderson's Orchard. Orchard and winery tour. Wagon ride tour of the orchard, a cellar tour and wine tasting, and a picnic. ALL activities will be outdoors. Cost for inactive members or guests \$25/pp. | |
| Oct. 4th. | Short meeting at Munster CVPA. Brunch at 1 pm. Theater show (Man of La Mancha) at 2:30 pm. Cost to active members: \$20/pp to help offset the cost of the event. Cost for inactive members or guests: \$40/pp. RSVP by Sept. 25th. | |
| Nov 1st. | 3 pm. meeting - Thanksgiving dinner and Memorial services. RSVP by Oct 20th. | |
| Dec. 6th. | NO MEETING!! Christmas dinner. Cocktails at 4:30 pm. Dinner at 5 pm. | |

Come January dues will be due again. \$24 dues and \$2 death benefit for a total of \$26.

I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe New Years.

BRANCH 18/19, SALEM 2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

- 05 Br. 19 Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 07 Retirees 11:30 a.m.
- 08 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- 09 Joint Social Dinner 6:30 p.m.
- 12 Br. 18 Trustees. Audit 6:00 p.m.
- Br. 18 Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- 17 Breakfast 7:00 - 10:00 a.m.
- 22 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- 29 Br. 19 Officer's Mtg 7:30 p.m.
- 31 Peanut Night 8:00 p.m. - ?

February

- 02 Br. 18 Trustees. Audit 6:00 p.m.
- Br. 18 Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- Retirees 11:30 a.m.
- 05 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- 09 Br. 18 meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Joint Social Dinner 6:30 p.m.
- 19 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- 21 Breakfast 7:00 - 10:00 a.m.
- 26 Set up for Fish Fry 7:00 p.m.
- Br. 19 Officer's Mtg. 7:30 p.m.
- 27 Fish Fry #1 5:00 - 7:15 p.m..
- 28 Peanut Night 8:00 p.m. - ?

March

- 02 Br. 19 meeting
- 04 Retirees 11:30 a.m.
- 05 Set up for Fish fry 7:00 p.m.
- 06 Fish Fry #2 5:00 - 7:15 p.m.
- 09 Br. 18 meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Set up for Fish Fry 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Fish Fry #3 5:00 - 7:15 p.m.
- 19 Set up for Fish fry 7:00 p.m.
- 20 Fish Fry #4 5:00 - 7:15 p.m..
- 21 Breakfast 7:00 - 10:00 a.m.
- 26 Set up for Fish fry 7:00 p.m.
- 27 Fish Fry #5 5:00 - 7:15 p.m.
- 28 Peanut Night 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. - ?

April

- 01 Retirees 11:30 a.m.
- 02 Set up for Fish fry 7:00 p.m.
- Br. 19 Officers Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 03 Fish Fry #6 5:00 - 7:15 p.m.
- 04 Sausage Sale 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- 06 Br. 19 Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Easter Egg Hunt 1:00 pm. SHARP
- 13 Br. 18 Trustees. Audit 6:00 p.m.
- Br. 18 Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- 18 Breakfast 7:00 - 10:00 a.m.
- Spring Clean up (CH) 10:30a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- 23 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- 25 Spring Clean up (CC) 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Peanut night 8:00 pm.
- 30 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- Br. 19 Officers Mtg. 7:30 p.m.

May

- 04 Br. 19 Trustees Audit 6:30 p.m.
- Br. 19 Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 06 Retirees 11:30 a.m.
- 07 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- 08 30 Week Drawing 6:00 p.m.
- 11 Br. 18 Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- 16 Breakfast 7:00 - 10:00 a.m.
- 21 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- 28 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- Br. 19 Officer's Mtg 7:30 p.m.
- 30 Peanut Night 8:00 p.m. - ?

June

- 01 Br. 19 Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 03 Retirees 11:30 a.m.
- 04 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- 08 Br. 18 Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- 12 Joint Social Dinner 6:30 p.m.
- 18 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- 20 Breakfast 7:00 - 10:00 a.m.
- 25 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- 27 Peanut Night 8:00 p.m. - ?

July

- 01 Retirees 11:30 a.m.
- 02 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- Br. 19 Officer's Mtg 7:30 p.m.
- 04 4th of July Dance 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.
- 06 Br. 19 Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 09 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Joint Social Dinner and Scholarship Awards 6:30 p.m.
- 13 Br. 18 Trustees. Audit 6:00 p.m.
- Br. 18 Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- 18 Breakfast 7:00 - 10:00 a.m.
- 23 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- 25 Peanut Night 8:00 p.m. - ?
- 30 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- Br. 19 Officer's Mtg 7:30 p.m.

August

- 03 Br. 19 Trustees Audit 6:30 p.m.
- Br. 19 Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 05 Retirees 11:30 a.m.
- 06 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Br. 18 Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Joint Social Dinner 6:30 p.m.
- 15 Breakfast 7:00 - 10:00 a.m.
- 20 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- 27 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- 29 Peanut Night 8:00 p.m. - ?

September

- 02 Retirees 11:30 a.m.
- 03 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- Br. 19 Officer's Mtg. 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Joint Social Dinner 6:30 p.m.
- 14 Br. 18 /19 Joint Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- 19 Breakfast 7:00 - 10:00 a.m.
- 24 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- 26 Peanut Night 8:00 p.m. - ?
- 26-28 ATS Teen Weekend 6:30 p.m.

October

- 01 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- Br. 19 Officer's Mtg 7:30 p.m.
- 03 50 Year Dinner 6:00 p.m
- 05 Br. 19 Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 07 Retirees 11:30 a.m.
- 08 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- 09 Joint Social Dinner 6:30 p.m.
- 12 Br. 18 Trustees. Audit 6:00 p.m.
- Br. 18 Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- 17 Breakfast 7:00 - 10:00 a.m.
- 22 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- 29 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- Br. 19 Officer's Mtg 7:30 p.m.
- 31 Peanut Night 8:00 p.m. - ?

November

- 02 Br. 19 Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 04 Retirees 11:30 a.m.
- 05 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- 07 Sausage Sale 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- 09 Br. 18 Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Veteran's Day Dinner 6:00 p.m.
- 12 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Joint Social Dinner 6:30 p.m.
- 19 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- 21 Breakfast 7:00 - 10:00 a.m.
- 28 Peanut Night
Decorate for Christmas 8:00 p.m. - ?

December

- 02 Retirees 11:30 a.m.
- 03 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- Br. 19 Officer's Mtg 7:30 p.m.
- 2010 Planning Mtg. 8:00 p.m.
- 07 Br. 19 Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- 11 Joint Social Christmas Party 6:30 p.m.-7:15 p.m.
- 14 Br. 18 Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Line Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
- 19 Breakfast 7:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Give your children and/or grandchildren an

ATS "ONE PAYMENT" LIFE INSURANCE PLAN

A gift that will grow in value and last a lifetime!

BRANCH 18, SALEM
By Barbara Brayn

The ladies met on December 8 for the monthly meeting and the final meeting of 2008. 2nd Vice President Marianne Vogt relayed greetings from Virginia Schuster and we want to answer and say hello to Virginia. Marianne reported on the sick list are Gerry Spack, Evelyn Eichler, Elsie Gross, Elizabeth Fronius, Betty Wagner, and Virginia Schuster. Our best wishes for recovery go out to all of these ladies and anyone else not well at this time. We would also like to send our sympathy to the family of Fritz Roth, including daughter Carrie, sister Margaret Hall, and brother and sister-in-law Butch and Marianne Roth. Fritz will be greatly missed at the club, as he was a regular attendee of most of the social gatherings and helper at countless club functions. A moment of silence in memory of Fritz was taken at the close of the meeting.

Flo Spack displayed the 30 outfits purchased for the Salvation Army Dress-a-Live-Doll program. Richard and Theresa Spack and daughter, Julia, helped to download coupons for maximum discounts and kept the cost under last year's total. The outfits were well put together and everyone did a great job all around! Thanks to the Salem Saxon Retirees and everyone who donated for their additional monetary contributions to this program.

The joint social was on Friday December 12 and was well attended. Flo Spack prepared chicken and pork loin and the tables were festively decorated in green with red accents. Various colors of poinsettias were placed as centerpieces. Debbie Vogt was in charge of the family Christmas party, which followed the dinner. Debbie presented the poinsettias as door prizes throughout the evening. Winners were Hilda Thiess, Jessica Bostian, Denny Ulrich, Kirsten Brayn, Walburga Spack, Marilyn McNutt, Richard Spack and Melissa Chaffin. Raggs the

Confetti has come a long way in 100 years

When the first confetti was made is still a mystery, but we know it was already a big deal in 1905. Police ordered its sale stopped and bars closed when Coney Island's Mardi Gras got too rowdy.

New Year's Eve gives confetti its biggest sales bounce of the year, when revelers want to celebrate with festive paper showers. But confetti is not just tiny pieces of paper anymore. Options include:

Photo confetti: Double-sided one-inch confetti with the photo on each side, by Photofetti. It's great for fancy birthday parties.

Glitz confetti: It's mixed with a lot of pixie dust to make it sparkle.

Dissolvable confetti: Made of rice paper that dissolves.

Clown entertained the children with his tricks and balloon artistry. Mary Appleby set out a variety of craft supplies for the kids to choose from to create a number of different items. Of course, it wouldn't be a proper Christmas party without Santa Claus, and he did not disappoint us this year. His anticipated arrival came none too soon and all the children received a stocking filled with goodies and toys. A big thank you goes out to Flo, Debbie, Mary, Santa, and all who helped, and to the ATS for the stockings and coloring books.

The January joint social will be held on Friday, January 9 at 6:30 p.m. Bring a covered dish and your table service and join in the fun. If anyone is interested in selecting and cooking the meat, contact Marilyn McNutt.

We were surprised by the news that Dorothy and Ed Wentzel are moving to Texas near her son and his wife. We really wish Dorothy and Ed the best in this move and hope all goes well.

The installation of officers for 2009 followed the meeting, conducted by sister Helen Aeling. Marianne Vogt was recognized for her years of service as 2nd Vice President. Although Marianne has elected to step down from the office, she will continue to receive sick benefit notices until someone else comes forward to take the position. The officers had their Christmas dinner on December 15 at Ricky's English Pub in Salem and wish to thank Branch 18 for the dinner.

There will be no meeting in January. A motion was passed to cancel the January meeting. The next meeting will be on February 9, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. If you normally pay your dues in January at the meeting, you may do this in February, as there will not be anyone at the club to collect dues in January.

Hope to see you all at the February meeting.

Aids cleanup after an outdoor wedding.

Many shapes: They'll make it into shamrocks, baseball bats, butterflies and other shapes, by Artistry in Motion.

Metallic confetti: Made of Mylar, by Kzuki.

BRANCH 27, NEW CASTLE
By Marie Benedict

Br. 27 Wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year

The next meeting will be January 8, 2009 at 8:00 pm, which will be our annual election of officers.

God Bless all and may the new year be filled with good health and happiness.

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

Fröhliche Weihnachten!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

First things first. For those of you living under a rock or outside of Columbiana county, congratulations to Brother Ray Stone on winning his bid for Columbiana County Sheriff. Ray is currently filling an unexpired term. Sheriff Stone will be sworn in starting his new term in January.

The joint social / Christmas party was held Friday, December 13th at the Salem Saxon Club. Eighty plus attended the celebration. Branch 18 prepared the entree of pork and chicken. All of the guests supplied the side dishes and desserts. Shortly after dinner, Raggs the Clown kept the children, (and adults) entertained with his magic and balloon sculpturing.



Emely Best shares her letter with Santa.

Santa Claus arrived and after greeting the guests, took his seat where he began handing out stockings to the twenty-eight children in attendance. The look of excitement and happiness among the children was a pleasure to see. GIGANTIC thanks to the ladies of Branch 18 for making this evening so enjoyable.

Some members of Branches 18 and 19 have been kicking the soccer ball around again for the past seven weeks or so. Unfortunately the ball isn't being kicked into the goal very much and at press time the B.B Rooners team is at a meager 1-4-1. Hopefully the next session will go a little better. Members of the team from Branch 18 are, Caroline Stone, Yenera Martig, Debbie Vogt and newcomer Teri Spack. Branch 19 members are Art Maroscher, Ray Stone, also newcomer Richard Spack and myself. Cathy Roth of Branch 18 continues to play as well with

another team. Maybe someday we'll have an all-Saxon team.

The Br.18/19 calendar of events for 2009 is out. Clip it out of the *Volksblatt* and put it up where you will be reminded of the happenings at our club. Dates and times are subject to change so if in doubt call the Salem Saxon Club or a fellow member if you want to confirm an event. If any error is noticed, you may contact me at 330-337-6357 or e-mail me at rpv27@neo.rr.com and let me know so that I may correct it. Upcoming events are P-Nut night December 27th, Line dance lessons on Thursday evenings. Branch 19 meeting, Monday, January 5th at 7:30. Decorations will also be taken down on the 5th. Joint Social on the 9th, Breakfast on the 17th, and p-nut night again on January 31.

Have a safe and healthy holiday season.

Prosit Neujahr!

Bis zum nächstenmal.



Debbie Vogt flirting with Santa.



Marriane and Clemens Vogt give Santa their Christmas wishes.



"Francie Tuel, have you been a good girl?"



Some of the children enjoy a photo opportunity with Raggs.



Raymond Appleby celebrates his first Saxon Christmas party.

BRANCH 30, YOUNGSTOWN
By Tom Fizet

The end of the year is closing in on us fast DON'T FORGET TO PICK UP YOUR TICKETS for the "New Years Eve in the Ballroom". Fine music for dancing will be provided by the Frank Gallo Band. Tickets are available from Mike Teutsch Jr. at 330-509-9670, Fran Heirnerman, at 330-788-0441, Bill Karako at 330-540-1262, or call the office at 330-792-7973. Tickets are \$30.00 per person or \$60.00 per couple, doors will open at 6:30 PM and dinner will be served at 7:00 PM. This will be a B Y O B affair; beer and mixers are included. A continental breakfast will be served after Midnight. Support the A.T.S. and your local Branch. If you are out of town, support the local Branch in that area. Pick up your 2009 Key Card, or send a self addressed stamped envelope to the club, dues must be paid

Don't forget to sign up for Basement Bocce, starting after the first of the year or see Dave Stryffeler.

On Sunday, January 18, 2009 the Pork & Kraut dinners will return to the Ballroom. They will be served from 11:30 AM until 3:00 PM. We look forward to seeing our regular customers and to welcome new faces. Menu will be Pork Roast, Kraut, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Rolls, Applesauce, Cake, Coffee, Tea, Beer and soft drinks can be purchased.

The Saxon Club will be closed on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

Look for the 2009 Fraternal Calendar in this issue.

Thanks to Branch 22 for having a Christmas Party for our members of 22 & 30, the food was delicious, the decorations were beautiful and the program of music and song were wonderful. Our sincere appreciation and thanks to Dr. Patricia Boehm for sharing her vocal talent with us. We can't forget Yo from catering; thumbs up.

What a bunch of kids, young and old, at the Christmas Party. Santa arrived (not on a Fire Truck, saving money for the Township) it was great to see him. The kids had a great time and sitting on Santa's lap to tell him their lists. Good job goes to Chris Simon and her crew and committee.

Mr. John Schenker, an Honor member of Branch 30, passed away on December 5, 2008. Born in 1916, John was 92 yrs old. He joined Branch 30, in

1939; he was an Ironworker at the Ohio Works for 45 years. John loved carpentry and gardening and was a member of The Mahoning Methodist Church. Two sons, John and Garry, survive his wife passed away in 2003.

Paul Roth, 91, of the Eintracht Singing Society, New Castle, was a member of Christ Lutheran Church, also a former bowling team member and partner, we bowled at Camelot for many years. John died on December 13, 2008, most Clubs will remember Paul for his music.

Wishing the best and good health to Dom Buono, Paul Moore, John Price, and Earl Aushenehmer. Jim Dauman who has undergone additional surgery, Jim Salaz who is with M.S. Send cards or call these Brothers.

Congratulations to the ATS Bowlers for their Youngstown visit, I am sure Roger Fotiuk furnished you with a good meal to make your visit a good one. Thanks, Roger.

My article reached you from Tacoma, Wash. We got home OK on December 7. We enjoyed our visit. Thank you for reading the article, I can change it if you want. With this a MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR. Merry Christmas is a very important greeting. We should have a good outlook for the new year be optimistic.

So Goes the News

Fraternal Calendar for Youngstown, January and February 2009

- January 2009**
01 - New Years Day - Closed
08 - Retirees Meet
11 - Branch 22 & Branch 30 meet
18 - Branch 30 Pork Dinner open to Public

- February 2009**
01 - Super Bowl Party in Bar & Lounge
08 - Branch 22 & Branch 30 meet
12 - Retirees Meet
15 - Branch 30 Pork Dinner open to Public
20 - Preparation for President's Ball
21 - President's Ball
25 - Ash Wednesday Fish Dinner in the Lounge Public invited. Bar not open to the public

PORK-KRAUT DINNER
SUNDAY, JANUARY 18th

YOUNGSTOWN SAXON CLUB

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
11:30 to 3:00 P.M.
\$8.50 includes coffee or pop & dessert

TAKE-OUTS - AVAILABLE

BRANCH 2, ERIE
By Lee Wolfe

Our regular meeting was held Tuesday, December 9th at 2:30 p.m. After our meeting we held our Chi Party and we all enjoyed an array of cookies, cheese and crackers and tea and brandy. A voluntary collection was taken up for a Christmas donation to a charity and the members voted to send the monetary gift to St. Paul's Free Clinic. The members also voted to send a donation to the Saxon Relief Fund.

We held a moment of silence for deceased member Dale Brown and included in our prayers was Char Manning who is on the sick list.

Lee Wolfe read a letter from the Home Office wherein our President Tom Manning was praised for his diligence as a deputy. He did not want the letter read, but we felt he deserves the praise. (He just hates blowing his own horn, but we know how hard he works for the ATS so we have to do it for him whether he likes it or not . . . so, there Prez.)

George Cook of the Nominating Committee reported no one has approached him about running for an office except the incumbents. There is still time if anyone wishes to run for an office they can call George at 833-7217.

Our next supper/meeting will be held Tuesday, January 13, 2009 at 2:30 in the rug room. As we reported there is no charge for the meal for Erie Branch 2 members, however non-members will be charged \$6.00. You may make your reservation with Val Pinczewski at 898-0494 and the deadline for reservations is January 5, 2009. Election of Officers will be held at this meeting and that takes only a short time. We do not have a menu as yet, but President Manning will discuss this with the Club's Manager, Terry.

Please remember to pay your annual Erie Branch 2 dues of \$6.00 for 2009. You may send your payment to Mary Ann Hess, 6050 Hummingbird Court, Erie, PA 16509 or bring it to a meeting.

President Manning advised the members he will run for Erie Branch 2 President, but due to his many duties as National President, he will need a lot of help. He asked members to volunteer to be chairpersons for various activities. The chairperson can in turn ask for help from the members.

The members who volunteered as follows: Val Pinczewski, Mary Ann Hess, John Hess and George Cook will co-chair as Youth Representatives. Joe Jezerinac will be chairman of the annual picnic, which is held in July. Lee Wolfe will be chairperson for the Memorial Service we will hold for deceased members starting in 2010. It's a nice ceremony that entails having flowers and a member will take a flower, say the deceased person's name and place it on a table upon which a lit candle will sit. Bill and Donnalee Morschhauser will help with this ceremony.

Members agreed for our

Branch to host the Heimattag, which will be held some time in the summer of 2010. Anywhere from 400 to 500 people attend this event and they come from all over this country and other countries including Germany. Having attended one, it's very impressive. Liz Manning volunteered to be chairperson for this event and of course we will all lend a hand to make this a grand event. Unfortunately, the Siebenbürger Club is not big enough to hold the number of people who will attend. Tom and Liz Manning will check on various places and pick one that is large enough to hold the number of people in attendance.

Vince Leone won the Club's dinner gift certificate.

May we take this time to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy new year. May the Lord always smile upon you and you are surrounded by your loved ones.

A very happy birthday to all of our January babies some of whom are: Debra Euston, Vince Leone, Walt Watral, Ann McLaughlin, Donald G. Slater, Katelyn Griffith, Evelyn Garofalo, Anthony Heintzel, Mary E. Nicholson, Samantha J. Comi, Donnalee Morschhauser, Myrell Wellman, Quinn Griffith, Bradley McLaughlin, Charlotte Boehm and John Mantsch.

A very happy anniversary to our January couples some of whom are: Marvin and Margaret Hunt 53 years, Albert and Gail Webb, Tom and Liz Manning 51 years, Thomas and Janet Young 54 years and Alan and Donna Youngquist.

See you at the January supper/meeting. Take care!

Post-Holiday Chores Made Easy

It can be great fun to decorate your Christmas tree and string lights on your house, but come January, the clean-up can be a hassle. There are some ways to make your post-holiday chores easier. Even better, with these tips, your set-up next holiday season will be faster and easier too.

Holiday lights can be wrapped around empty wrapping paper rolls to keep them from tangling. Simply cut the long tubes into shorter lengths for easier handling and storing. Alternatively, you can wrap the strings into coils and store them in plastic food containers. They will be easy to stack, and the containers will keep the lights separate, untangled, and clean for next year.

Plan on cleaning your ornaments before putting them away. Use a fabric softener sheet to wipe off dust. You can flip the sheet over to the clean side to wrap the ornament. This will protect it and keep dust away while in storage. Fragile ornaments can be cleaned using a can of compressed air. This will safely blast away the dust without harming the ornament.

If you have rolls of wrapping paper left over, cut off and slip one side of a pair of panty hose



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.

Steven Sulich

Age 90
Died: August 8, 2008
Branch 26 Merrillville, IN

Edward O. Lendl

Age 93
Died: November 22, 2008
Branch 33 Cleveland, OH

John Schinker

Age 92
Died: December 5, 2008
Branch 30 Youngstown, OH

Claudia S. Entzi

Age 81
Died: December 9, 2008
Branch 4 Cleveland, OH

Paul F. Roth

Age 91
Died: December 10, 2008
Branch 25 New Castle, PA

Sci-Fi Writers Answer from pg. 9

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

over it. Secure with a rubber band to keep the cut end of the wrapping paper from coming unrolled.

Wreaths should be protected from dust when in storage. First wrap in protective paper or bubble wrap. Then place into a large trash bag or an old pillowcase to store. If you have room on the walls of your storage area, hang your wreaths there to keep them from getting crushed.

Once you've laundered your tablecloths, napkins, and placemats, you can spend some time ironing them to get a jumpstart on next year. To keep them from becoming wrinkled while in storage, simply hang them using skirt hangers. These are hangers that have clips along the bottom edge. Store your freshly ironed holiday linens clipped together on the hanger. Cover with a dry cleaning bag or large trash bag to keep out the dust. Next year, during the busy holiday season, all you have to do is unclip your linens, and they will be ready to use, without the need to iron them again.

Finally, be sure to label everything you store. Simply jotting down on the outside of the box or container what is inside can go a long way towards making next year's holiday chores as easy as can be.

Your Horoscope

January 2009

ARIES: You're busy, but not too busy to socialize. It can bring relief from the stress of the day and make you sharper tomorrow. Many opportunities will come your way before the tulips bloom.

TAURUS: You might enjoy keeping the status quo in your life, but it could be time for something different. Talk to your boss about those improvements in the operation you have been thinking about.

GEMINI: You have it in your power to make this month a very special one. Lead up to it with a loving attitude toward your partner or your intended. Then have a gift and a special plan for the big day.

CANCER: When your days are exciting, remember that they are also exhausting. Extra efforts and contributions at work can be rewarding, but keep your health in mind. Getting enough rest will keep you sharp.

LEO: Be ready for it. The full moon on January 10 could make you feel a little crazy, so don't make any hasty moves. That evening will be a good time to relax at home and stay out of trouble.

VIRGO: Focus on what you have to get done and do that first. Fight your tendency to be disorganized. Tackle one disorganized area at a time and be determined to keep it organized after that.

LIBRA: The stars indicate that you are entering a period of heightened creativity and vitality. It's the right time to tackle a project or task you were hesitating to begin. The ideas and strength will flow.

SCORPIO: Just because you are lucky in love, doesn't mean you are lucky with money. Your luck comes from planning and sticking to your financial goals. Don't gamble this month, even on the slots.

SAGITTARIUS: Transformation starts with using time differently. Put some effort into planning. Don't just sit in one place and wait for life to happen. Turn off the television and do something.

CAPRICORN: Surprising twists are in store for you. Your crowd will fill with interesting characters. Friends will make weird requests and if they don't take too much time, they could make funny stories to tell later.

AQUARIUS: Major problems in your life will be cleared up shortly. It's the minor ones that need a delicate hand and more time. If you have great faith, you can move mountains.

PISCES: The drive to be noticed moves you forward more than higher-minded motivations. But the result is the same. You do excellent work and the time will soon come when you will be noticed by everyone.

New Year's Eve Party Games for Kids

If you are planning a New Year's Eve party this year that will include children, you are probably looking for ideas to keep them occupied for the long night. Here are some ideas to help keep even your youngest guests entertained.

Board Game Tournament

Play 4 or 5 different board games for a set amount of time. Add up points for wins for all the games to get an overall winner.

Funny Face Contest

Hand the kids a digital camera and let them photograph each other making funny faces. Then download the pictures to your computer and let everyone judge who has made the goofiest face.

Guess the Resolution

Each guest writes down a New Year's resolution on a piece of paper. Put all the slips of paper into a hat. One person draws the resolutions one by one from the hat and reads them. After each is read, everyone tries to guess who made that resolution. Whoever guesses the most correctly, wins.

Guess the Month

Before the party, research some news stories from the past year. Make a list of these events, along with the date when they occurred. To play the game, read an event, and have the kids guess the month in which it occurred. Whoever guesses the most correctly, wins the

Sci-Fi Writers

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

Adams
Anderson
Anthony
Asimov
Baum
Bear
Blish
Bova
Brin
Brooks
Bujold
Capek

Card
Chesterton
Farmer
Gibson
Hickman
Jordan
King
Larson
Le Guin
Leiber
Lem
Lewis
Lucas

Niven
Perry
Pohl
Rice
Sagan
Shelley
Smith
Stapledon
Straczynski
Tolkien
Verne
Wells

Answer on Page 9

The lighter side

The swimmer

Once there was a millionaire who had a collection of live alligators. He also had a beautiful, single daughter.

One day, he threw a huge party at which he announced, "I have a proposition to every man here. I will give \$1 million or my daughter to the man who can swim across this pool full of alligators and emerge unharmed!"

Just then, there was the sound of a large splash. The guests turned and saw a man in the pool. They cheered him on as he kept frantically stroking.

Finally, the swimmer made it to the other side unharmed. The millionaire exclaimed, "My boy, that was incredible! Fantastic! I must keep my end of the bargain. Which do you want, my daughter or the \$1 million?"

The man exclaimed, "Listen, I don't want your money. I don't want your daughter, either. I want the person who pushed me into that water!"



New Year's Resolutions for Real People

Tired of making resolutions each year, only to realize that by February you haven't kept a single one? Well, this year resolve to make only resolutions you can keep. To help get you started on your list, here are few ideas of realistic resolutions.

- I resolve to procrastinate more.
- I resolve to gain at least ten pounds.
- I resolve to start being superstitious.
- I resolve to eat out more.
- I resolve to exercise less.
- I resolve to not date any movie stars.
- I resolve to not believe any politicians.
- I resolve to break at least one traffic law.
- I resolve to not volunteer to work on the space station.
- I resolve not to swim with sharks.
- I resolve to focus on the faults of others.
- I resolve to leave my home office a mess.
- I resolve to eat more chocolate.

Shuistrology could bring you good luck in 2009

That's what author Ellen Whitehead calls it. She coined the term by combining feng shui and astrology.

It's all in fun but has grains of traditional wisdom that could make New Year's Day lucky for you. In her book *Make This Your Lucky Day*, she gives this advice:

Make a clean sweep. Clean your house or apartment before New Year's Day in order to clear the way for an exciting new year. Don't clean on New Year's Day or you could sweep away the luck.

If you can't clean the whole house, concentrate on the kitchen, the space that represents health and prosperity.

Move 27 things in your home to bring good luck from every direction.

Attract good fortune. Put 27 one-dollar bills in your wallet and 49 coins in your change purse or pocket. Then sprinkle ground ginger on them. Put some on your checkbook too.

Look only to the future. Don't discuss anything that happened in the past. Only talk about hopes and wishes for the future. Place nine small oranges in a bowl on the table to attract sweet things in the new year. Bowls of fruit, nuts and candy are lucky too.

Get rid of the negatives. Open the door at midnight and light firecrackers or bang pots and pans to scare away any destructive influences in your life.

Make the first words posi-



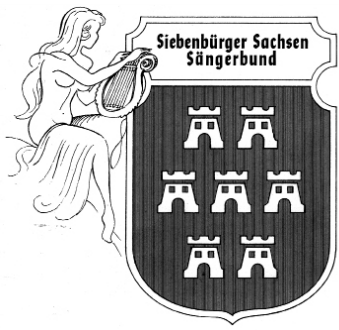
tive. The first words said to you after midnight can impact your good fortune. If necessary, tell someone what to say just after midnight. If you lose your temper or use bad language on this day, it can have a negative effect on the coming year.

Eat lucky foods. Some swear by corned beef and cabbage. For others, it's salmon, cabbage and oranges.

Leafy greens symbolize money. In the southern states, people eat their collard greens along with black eyed peas for good luck. In Texas, the greens could be cabbage or turnip greens.

Greens are often combined with pork in dishes such as ham and cabbage and pork and sauerkraut.

Make things bright. Keep your home brightly lighted on New Year's Day.



Siebenbürger Sachsen Sängerbund

TRANSYLVANIAN SAXON BOWLING LEAGUE

Cultural Groups

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Johann Paal

3201 State Rd
 New Castle, PA 16105
 (724) 654-1776

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Beverly A. Pochatko

750 East 10th St.
 Erie, PA 16503-1414
 (814)456-9599 (work #)
 erieoma@verizon.net

2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Kathy Jenkens

4677 Reese Rd.
 Erie, PA 16510
 (814) 898-4323
 PVJenks@aol.com

SECRETARY

Mary Ann Guip

791 East 236th St.
 Euclid, OH 44123-2515
 (216) 731-5043

TREASURER

Carole A. Simone

347 Pennsylvania Ave.
 McDonald, OH 44437-1939
 (330) 530-4333

CLEVELAND, SECTION 1 EINTRACHT SAXONIA SACHSENCHOR

Rehearsal: Tuesday, 8 p.m.

PRESIDENT

Adolf Fischer
 4567 Williamston Ave.
 Brooklyn, OH 44144
 (216) 741-1398

SECRETARY

Inge Schuster
 7619 Webster Rd
 Middleburg Hts, OH 44130
 (440) 243-3376

ERIE, SECTION 4 S.S. GESANG VEREIN

Rehearsal: Monday

PRESIDENT

William Schubert
 4915 Idyllbrook Ct
 Erie, PA 16506
 (814) 833-2909
 bschubert4@msn.com

SECRETARY

Joanne Reichel
 4209 Longview Ave
 Erie, PA 16510
 (814) 825-7637

PRESIDENT

Marie A. Benedict
 PO Box 25
 Edinburg, PA 16116
 (724) 667-7395
 bckskinbny@verizon.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Hilda Gainor
 492 West Columbia
 Alliance, OH 44601
 (330) 821-9424

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Jacob F. Spor
 2940 Old Plank Rd.
 New Castle, PA 16105
 (724) 657-3773
 jsbrick@aol.com

STATISTICAL SEC'Y.

(Men & Women)
 Carl J. Schmitz
 26652 Redwood Dr.
 Olmsted Falls, OH 44138
 (440) 235-3343
 cjsaintrite@aol.com

TRUSTEES AUDITORS

Hazel Tennis
 660 Wright Ave.
 Alliance, OH 44601
 (330) 823-3849

Joseph Noll
 1555 Saddlebrook Ln 2B
 Westlake, OH 44145
 (440) 892-6049

Roger Fotiuk
 3849 Frederick St.
 Youngstown, OH 44515
 (330) 792-0034

DEUTSCHER MUSIK VEREIN

Rehearsal: Monday
 Westside Sachsenheim
PRESIDENT
 Christine Roppelt
 4107 Gifford Ave
 Cleveland, OH 44109
 216-773-9375
 tantechrissy@juno.com

SECRETARY

Carl Vavpot
 2400 Forestdale Ave.
 Cleveland, OH 44109
 (216) 702-6541
 carl@birthdaytunes.com

CLEVELAND SAXON DANCE GROUP

Rehearsal: Thursdays
 6:00 pm Children 7:30 pm Adults
 Westside Sachsenheim
PRESIDENT
 Amanda Seiler-Botsch
 18920 Laurell Circle
 Strongsville OH 44136
 (440) 238-2656
 seilerbotsch@yahoo.com
SECRETARY
 Jeannette Botsch
 3631 West 148th St
 Cleveland, OH 44111
 (216) 688-1201

DETROIT SAXON YOUTH CULTURAL GROUP

Rehearsal: Each Tues. 7:00 p.m.
 St. Peter's Lutheran Church
PRESIDENT
 Carl Breckner
 1609 W. 13 Mile Rd.
 Royal Oak, MI 48073
 (248) 435-0848
 cbreckner@comcast.net
SECRETARY
 Chris Brettfield
 7784 Frampton Dr.
 Washington, MI 48095
 (586) 752-1882
 scbrett@wwnet.net

YOUNGSTOWN SAXON CULTURE GROUP

Meets: 1st Sunday of Month
PRESIDENT
 Erna Weber
 525 Quarry Lane NE
 Warren, OH 44483
 (330) 856-3842
 saxnera@aol.com
SECRETARY
 Heidi Bachinger
 2465 Skywae Dr
 Youngstown, OH 44511
 (330) 501-5564 (Cell)
 (330) 797-8837 (Home)
 Heidi2465@aol.com

1ST TRUSTEE

Marie Bokesch
 160 S. Beverly Ave.
 Youngstown, OH 44515
 (330) 799-4821

2ND TRUSTEE

Claudia Bair
 1244 Shields Rd.
 Youngstown, OH 44511
 (330) 799-9228

3RD TRUSTEE

Adolf Fischer
 4567 Williamston Ave.
 Brooklyn, OH 44144
 (216) 741-1398

PAST PRESIDENT

Wally Wachter
 3300 Rosemary Lane
 Hermitage, PA 16148
 (724) 342-7011

NEW CASTLE, SECTION 6 EINTRACHT MÄNNERCHOR

Rehearsal: Meets Tuesday

PRESIDENT

Harry Wertz
 20 Buena Vista Way
 New Castle, PA 16105
 (724) 654-5464

SECRETARY

Gene Kauffman
 629 Wilson Mill Rd.
 N. Castle, PA 16105
 (724) 946-2554

YOUNGSTOWN, SECTION 7 CONCORDIA MIXED CHORUS

Rehearsal: Every Tuesday

PRESIDENT

Richard Bowden
 6275 Gibson Rd
 Canfield, OH 44406
 (330) 533-7192
 rmbowden1@yahoo.com

SECRETARY

Gloria Habib
 4486 Burkey Rd
 Austintown, OH 44515
 (330) 270-9752
 wkdw2@peoplepc.com

SALEM SAXON RETIREES

PRESIDENT
 Lois Whitacre
 15938 Georgetown St NE
 Minerva, OH 44657
 (330) 862-2607

SECRETARY

Sue Fritzman
 800 Sharp St.
 Salem, OH 44460
 (330) 332-5250

YOUNGSTOWN SAXON CLUB RETIREES

Meets 2nd Thursday

PRESIDENT

Patricia Bokesch
 310 Parkgate Ave.
 Youngstown, OH 44515
 (330) 799-3121

SECRETARY

Mary Terese Laret
 3304 Quentin Dr.
 Youngstown, OH 44511
 (330) 799-2789

SAXON SENIORS

CLEVELAND SAXON SENIORS

Meets 4th Thursday

PRESIDENT

Erna Kloos
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 the
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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.

USE ONLY THIS FORM FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND CANCELLATIONS

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SS# _____ Date of Birth _____

Name _____

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10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Glueckliches Neues Jahr!



**NEW YEAR WISH.....
PERHAPS A BIT WISER,
A BIT KINDER, TOO,
A LITTLE BIT BRAVER,
A HEART THAT'S MORE TRUE,
A TOUCH OF BELIEVING
WE'VE NOT KNOWN BEFORE,
IN JOYS WE'LL RECEIVING
A LITTLE BIT MORE.

A LITTLE MORE ANXIOUS
TO REACH OUT OUR HANDS,
DESPITE HURT OR PROBLEMS
TO STILL UNDERSTAND.
ACCEPTING THE HEARTACHE
THAT LIFE OFTEN BRINGS,
A LITTLE MORE BEAUTY
IN LIFE'S SIMPLE THINGS.**

As we begin the year 2009, we know that we will be faced with some difficult times due to the volatility of the financial markets that has or will affect our lives in so many ways. It will be a challenging year for all of us. However, the ATS Board of Directors want to reassure our members that the ATS remains financially strong. We have governed our fraternal with prudent investment policies. Our organization does not rely on lines of credit to handle our daily transactions. We maintain a sufficient level of liquid assets to pay any benefit claims that we may incur.

In 2009 we have hope and expectations that our fraternal will grow and prosper. We have two new insurance products that we are introducing in 2009: Seven Payment Life Plan and Life Paid Up At Age 65. Other insurance products are the One-Time Payment, 20 Payment Life and Whole Life. For retirement savings we have the ATS annuity, Traditional IRA and Roth IRA. We encourage you to discuss your insurance needs and savings options offered by the ATS with your Local Deputy or the ATS Home Office

Our Alliance offers its members an exclusive combination of values: 1) financial security given with our portfolio of life insurance plans; 2) retirement savings given with our annuities and IRA contracts; 3) fraternal fellowship provided in our national and local branch activities.

This coming year we hope that our members participate more in their local branch meetings and activities. That they support their cultural groups that work so diligently to keep the Transylvanian Saxons' culture alive in the USA. And we ask that you invite your relatives and friends to join the ATS to help us keep our fraternal strong.

*OUR WARMEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY,
HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!
ATS BOARD OF DIRECTORS*