



THE SAXON NEWS

Volksblatt

Celebrating over 100 years of Saxon Fraternalism

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

ATS Founded in 1902

August 15, 2025

Issue 17



New Membership Roll Call

The Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons welcomes the following new members who joined the ATS during the first half of 2025. We hope they enjoy being a member of our Fraternal Benefit Society as much as we enjoy having them!

Branch 1 – Cleveland

Andres Barrios
Todd Henning
Samuel Weiss

Branch 5 – Lorain

Clayton Cassidy

Branch 8 – Alliance

Bonnie Hayes

Branch 18 – Salem

Katharina Sunderman

Branch 19 – Salem

David Ritter

Branch 25 – New Castle

Robert Dado
Larry Hollerman
Mark Nord

Branch 26 – Merrillville

Andrew Floyd
Aiden Linz

Branch 27 – New Castle

Thalia Zehner

Branch 30 – Youngstown

Henry Koch
James Muntean
Heidi Smith
Sophia Smith

Branch 33 – Cleveland

Laura Merkum
Philip Merkum
Britney Perkins
Julie Phillips

Home Branch

Mary Garofalo

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Denise Aeling Crawford
ATS Nat'l President



Our Local Branches need your help. Does your Branch have a clubhouse? If so, that building always needs some maintenance work done or a utility or insurance bill needing paid. When's the last time you attended an event there? When was the last time you attended a meeting there? Do you pay dues to your Local Branch? \$12 – \$40 per year isn't that much to most of us, but everyone's dues all added together definitely helps your Branch. Even if your Local Branch does not have a clubhouse, they still need you. As the summer winds down, monthly Branch meetings will resume. Plan on attending a meeting. If you cannot attend, still send your dues checks. We need to keep our Local Branches sustainable for as long as possible. This takes not only money, but people as well.

ATS Family Day at Waldameer Amusement Park and Water World for 2025 is now history. It was great to see so many members attend. Branch cities that were represented included Alliance, Cleveland East, Cleveland West, New Castle, Salem, and Youngstown, as well as some members of the old Erie Branch. It was great to see and talk with Past President Tom Manning for a little while, too. This event is a great day for young and old alike. There are plenty of rides for all ages, as well as the water park. Even though the food prices in the park are not too expensive, you can still bring your cooler and picnic basket in. If you missed out this year, you should consider joining us next year!

School is starting soon in some areas. Others still wait until after Labor Day. Whenever they do begin in your area, please look out for the children walking to school or waiting for the school bus. Slow down in those school zones, not because you could get a fine, but because it's the right thing to do!

Did you know that the city of Berlin was divided on August 13, 1961? I wrote last August about the Potsdam Conference splitting Germany into 4 different quadrants following World War II. The defeated country was divided into Soviet, American, British, and French zones of occupation. The entire city of Berlin, though technically part of the Soviet zone, was also split, with the Soviets taking the eastern part of the city. The Soviets attempted to blockade West Berlin in June 1948 but failed after a massive airlift was successfully implemented by the Allies. Following this, the eastern section was drawn even more tightly into the Soviet fold. According to History.com, over the next 12 years the eastern side was cut off even more from its western counterpart and

Continued on Page 3

ARE YOU PROUD

TO BE SAXON?

**TIMELY - DO NOT DELAY
MAILED TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2025**

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



**Attend the
monthly
meetings
of your Branch.
Help make
your Branch a
healthy Branch.**

Schloss Horneck needs OUR help!



Schloss Horneck located in Gundelsheim, Germany is the international location for our Siebenbürger Sachsen to house Sachsen artifacts, books and other historical documents and records. It is important to our worldwide Sachsen community to help in the maintenance expenses of this historical facility that will preserve our Sachsen culture and heritage.

The Federation of Transylvanian Saxons requests donations to help in the funding of the facility. If you are interested in giving a donation, please complete the form below and send to the ATS Home Office, 5323 Pearl Road, Cleveland, OH 44129.

Please make your check payable to the ATS.

DONATION FOR SCHLOSS HORNECK

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zipcode _____

Amount Donated \$ _____

Please indicate if donation is in memory
or honor of someone



Healing through books

Any bookworm will tell you that a great book can change your life, but can the right book help with anxiety, depression or trauma? Some psychologists say yes.

Healing through reading isn't a new idea -- according to Psychology Today, the ancient Greeks and Egyptians believed that libraries were sacred places that could restore the soul. But modern bibliotherapy usually combines literature with discussion to help patients process traumatic experiences, learn more about their symptoms, and experience hope and joy.

Bibliotherapy is generally used alongside more conventional therapy approaches like cognitive-behavioral therapy to help patients experiencing mood disorders, trauma, addiction, grief, or relationships challenges like divorce. Therapists tailor their recommendations to suit the unique needs and preferences of each patient -- for example, they may assign a novel about a person who survives a trauma or a nonfiction book about coping with loss.

But can books replace therapy entirely? Probably not, according to the BBC. Several experts noted that there's little evidence to support bibliotherapy as a primary method to treat specific mental health conditions. And for some patients, bibliotherapy simply isn't an appropriate or effective treatment.

Can books heal? It's debatable. But for many of us, they can at least help.



ATS SAXON RELIEF FUND



We petition our Saxon fraternal community - members, branches, affiliate organizations, and friends to continue to support our Saxon Relief Program.

The need is still great and we ask our members and friends to continue to support our Saxon Relief Fund program with generous contributions.

Please send your contributions to our ATS office, 5323 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44129. Write checks payable to the "ATS SAXON RELIEF FUND". Thank you for your help!



NOTE: Gift packages can be ordered for delivery to a specific relative or friend in Transylvania for a minimal cost of \$50.00. Send your check payable to the "ATS Saxon Relief Fund" and the **exact name and address** of the recipient to our ATS Office. Please print or type for clarity. The package contents include non-perishable items such as: Coffee, Milk, Cocoa, Sugar, Rice, Flour, Margarine, Soup, Chocolate, Cheese, Sausage, Yeast, etc.

Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons
Home Office: 5323 Pearl Rd., Cleveland, Ohio 44129
Telephone: (440) 842-8442 FAX: 440-842-5442
E-mail: office@atsaxons.com Website: www.atsaxons.com

National Board of Directors

President -

Denise Aeling Crawford Br. 8 (330) 257-0267
9415 Elsmere Dr, Parma OH 44130

Honorary Past Presidents -

Thomas J. Manning Br. 2 (814) 864-6072
3909 Schaper Ave Apt 203, Erie PA 16508
Joan Miller-Malue Br. 4 (216) 233-8631
17105 Hilliard Rd, Lakewood OH 44107

First Vice President -

Monica M. Weber Br. 4 (440) 356-5936

Second Vice President -

Randall Floyd Br. 26 (219) 798-6908
1806 E 73rd Ave, Merrillville IN 46410

Third Vice President -

Michael Bachinger, Br. 30 (330) 540-5168
3134 Neosho Rd, Youngstown OH 44511

Secretary-

Christine Oehlman Br. 10 (614) 419-7485
8333 Shade Maple Dr, Canal Winchester OH 43110

Treasurer -

Michael Teutsch, Jr. Br. 30 (330) 509-9670
140 Neff Ct, Canfield OH 44406

Trustees -

Jacob F. Spor Br. 25 (724) 657-3773
2940 Plank Rd, New Castle PA 16105
Barbara Spack Br 18 (330) 501-1491
1389 Brookview Dr, Salem OH 44460
Ingrid Weihs-Ferguson Br. 37 (586) 264-6136
11711 Lancer Dr, Sterling Hts MI 48313
Margarete Ziegler, Br. 33 (440) 488-6421
38047 Parkway Blvd, Willoughby OH 44094
Debbie K. Ferguson Br. 37 (586) 431-1956
4975 Surrey Dr, Sterling Heights MI 48310

Chief Medical Examiner -

Dr. Andreas W. Schuster, Br. 1 Cleveland

The Saxon News Volksblatt (ISSN 0894-1165), the official publication of the Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons, 5323 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44129-1503, is published Bi-weekly.

Annual Subscription rate for non-ATS members
USA - \$15; Canada and Europe - \$50

Managing Editors HB Laser Communications,
29076 Fall River Dr, Westlake, Ohio 44145.
"Periodicals Postage Paid" at Cleveland, Ohio.
Postmaster: Send address changes to the Saxon News Volksblatt, 5323 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44129-1503

SECRETARIES TAKE NOTICE:

THE DEADLINE DATE FOR ARTICLES
IS WEDNESDAY - 12 NOON.

You may either
E-MAIL: saxonvolksblatt@aol.com
POSTAL MAIL:
Saxon News Volksblatt
29076 Fall River Dr
Westlake, OH 44145

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

DEADLINE DATES FOR ARTICLES:

DEADLINE	ISSUE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2025	FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 2025
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2025	FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2025
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025	FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

Please have your articles in by 12 Noon.

Did you miss the deadline?
Have you emailed your article past 12 Noon?
Please call Hanz Hermann at (440) 525-0020

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
Cont’d from Page 1

was basically reduced to a Soviet satellite. East Germany saw between 2.5 and 3 million of its citizens head to West Germany in search of better opportunities. By 1961, some 1,000 East Germans, including many skilled laborers, professionals and intellectuals, were leaving every day.

In August 1961, the Communist leader of East Germany, Walter Ulbricht, received the go-ahead from Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev to begin sealing off all access between East and West Berlin. Just after midnight on August 13th, soldiers began laying more than 100 miles of barbed wire slightly inside the East Berlin border. The wire was soon replaced by a six-foot-high, 96-mile-long wall of concrete blocks, complete with guard towers, machine gun posts and searchlights. East German officers known as Volkspolizei (“Volpos”) patrolled the wall day and night.

The Berlin Wall was one of the most powerful and iconic symbols of the Cold War. On June 26, 1963, President John F Kennedy gave his famous “Ich bin ein Berliner” (I am a Berliner) speech in front of the Wall, celebrating the city as a symbol of freedom and democracy in its resistance to tyranny and oppression.

The height of the wall was raised to 10 feet in 1970 in

an effort to stop escape attempts, which at that time came almost daily. From 1961 to 1989, a total of 5,000 East Germans escaped. Many more had tried and failed. High profile shootings of some would-be defectors only intensified the free world’s hatred of the Wall.

Twenty-three years after President Kennedy’s speech, on June 12, 1987, President Ronald Reagan gave his famous speech at the Brandenburg Gate, which included the lines “General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization: Come here to this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!”. Two years later, on November 9, 1989, masses of East and West Germans gathered together at the Berlin Wall and began to climb over and dismantle it. A decree was issued by East Germany for the wall to be opened, allowing people to travel freely into West Berlin. In some cases, families that had been separated for decades were finally reunited. The wall was torn down completely by the end of 1990 upon the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe and in Soviet Russia itself, marking the end of the Cold War era.

Until next time...



For any additional questions, call the ATS Home Office at (440) 842-8442 or email Office@ATSaxons.com

Travel with us to the
65th ATS OPEN BOWLING TOURNAMENT
In Merrillville, Indiana
OCTOBER 18 - 19, 2025

The cost for round trip on the bus is \$75.

Accommodations are at either the Fairfield Inn or the Hampton Inn. (see Hotel Info)

Bus starts early **Friday** morning (Oct 17th) from the **Youngstown Saxon Club** with a stop at the **ATS Home Office** in Cleveland. We will return late Sunday evening.

Reservations for the bus must be made by **September 26, 2025**

We welcome Bowlers and Non-Bowlers to join us for this trip to Merrillville.



RESERVATION FORM FOR BUS TRIP

NAME _____ Br. No. _____

Number of Passengers _____ @ \$75.00 Total Remitted \$ _____

List of Travelers _____

Pick up Location: Youngstown Saxon Club _____ (8:30 a.m.)

ATS Home Office _____ (10:00 a.m.)

Make Check payable to ATS and mail to ATS Home Office 5323 Pearl Rd. Cleveland, OH 44129



How to dunk
an Oreo

The perfect dunk of an Oreo in skim milk is a personal problem, but, in case you are wondering, there is math for that.

Here’s the answer: The perfect dunk is three seconds.

We know this rare fact because in 2016 three members of the Utah State University’s Splash Lab tested Oreos.

They found that Oreos soak up 50 percent of their potential liquid weight in one second, according to Mental Floss. After two seconds, they soak up 80 percent. After four seconds, the Oreo soaks up all the milk it will ever soak. If you wait five minutes, a soaked Oreo will lose its shape and dissolve in the skim milk.

However, if you prefer a long dunk, use whole milk or heavy cream. The fat slows down absorption time.

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



**Sachsenheim Hall
Annual Clambake 2025!!**
Saturday, September 27th, 2025

Doors will open at 4 p.m.
We will serve from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Steak and Clams-\$29.95
Half Chicken and Clams-\$25.95
Extra Dozen Clams-\$10.00
Clambake Includes - Clam Chowder, Corn, Potato, and Rolls with butter.

All Tickets must be PREPAID.
Please call 216-651- 0888 to purchase your tickets with a valid credit card or stop up and speak with your bartender or server.

Unfortunately, we will NOT be selling ANY tickets at the door the day of the Clambake.
The last day to purchase tickets will be September 20.
Please call us with any questions regarding this event. 216-651-0888

I am Saxon

A History of the Transylvanian Saxons
By Karl Gagesch



Learn about your Saxon heritage in this captivating book that brings the past to life. Start your historical adventure today!”

Get your copy and join the growing effort to preserve Saxon heritage for future generations.

Available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Kobo and most online book retailers.

FRATERNAL CALENDAR

BRANCH 26, MERRILLVILLE
By Brigitte Floyd



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.

Elizabeth Friedsmann
Age: 99
Died: July 18, 2025
Branch 33, Cleveland East

CHURCHES



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

10:00 Service
Nursery
Coffee following service
Senior Circle

INVEST YOUR
SAVINGS IN
AN ATS
ANNUITY PLAN

Youngstown Saxon Club

FLEA MARKET
NOW OPEN!

Mondays
8 a.m to 2 p.m.

KEEP
CALM
and
SAXON ON

Greetings from Indiana. Hope you all are making plans to join us for the bowling tournament in October. We are looking forward to hosting our Saxon sisters and brothers for this event. Some of us have to sharpen our skills, not wanting to mention anyone, but I must admit that I may fall into that group. Please look for the information in the Volksblatt. We didn't have a meeting in July, but we did have a social event at Lassen's Resort in Cedar Lake, Indiana. We had a catered meal and ate in the old resort dining room overlooking the lake. There was a museum to tour prior to our steamboat ride around Cedar Lake. The docent on the boat gave us a wonderful presentation of the lake's geology, the history of the many resorts in a bygone era and its popularity with vacationers and visitors. Judy Andrews' family from Lafayette came and joined us for this outing as did two of Dan and Michelle Schuffert's grandchildren. As we disembarked the skies turned ugly and within 15 minutes the winds whipped us with sand from the beach and the rain pelted down as we ran to our cars. What an end to such a lovely day. Our meeting was held on August 3rd and we had a good turnout since we hadn't met since June. Randall and I told our members what a great time we had at Heimattag in Youngstown. Plans are coming together for the bowling tournament, and our club may have a bowling get together sometime in September or early October to brush up on our

games. We have a date for our memorial dinner at Innsbrook Country Club, and it is Sunday, November 16th at 1p.m. Our Christmas dinner will also be at Innsbrook Country Club on Sunday, December 14th at 1 p.m. So, mark your calendars! Our next meeting will be on September 7th at 2 p.m. On a sad note, we have lost a dear member, Jacqueline "Jackie" Smith. Her memorial/celebration of life was held on what would have been her 99th birthday, July 8th. Jackie was French and as a teen was part of the French Resistance in WWII. She could break down and clean munitions with expert speed and delivered explosives to her compatriots by concealing dynamite sticks in her bike handlebars, pedaling past Nazi occupiers. What a brave young girl. To us she was the wife of Martin, someone who loved her family and spoke of them passionately, was Santa's helper at the old Saxon Christmas parties, provider of delicious baked goods for our meetings, a great conversationalist, a cheerleader at bowling tournaments, a great dancer with her husband, and just someone we so enjoyed having as a sister.

NATIONAL EVENTS

- September 14, 2025
TSBA Bowling Session Host: Lorain
- October 5, 2025
TSBA Bowling Session Host: Cleveland West
- October 18 - 19, 2025
ATS Open Bowling Tournament
Host: Merrillville, IN
- November 16, 2025
TSBA Bowling Session Host: Cleveland East
- December 14, 2025
TSBA Bowling Session Host: New Castle
- January 11, 2026
TSBA Bowling Session Host: Lorain
- February 15, 2026
TSBA Bowling Session Host: Salem
- March 15, 2026
TSBA Bowling Session Host: Youngstown
- April 11 - 12, 2026
TSBA Season-end Tournament - New Castle
- July 10 - 12, 2026
North American Transylvanian Saxon Heimattag
Aylmer, Ontario Canada

LOCAL EVENTS

- August 17, 2025
Cleveland East Br. 33 Annual Picnic
Penitentiary Glen
- August 20, 2025
Chicago Br. 9 Performance of the Youth Dance
Group from Herzogenaurach Germany
Donauschwaben Club, Des Plaines
- September 13, 2025
Youngstown Saxon 300 Club Banquet
- September 20, 2025
Youngstown Saxon Club Speck Fry
- September 27, 2025
Cleveland Sachsenheim Clambake
- September 28, 2025
Youngstown Saxon Club Pork/Kraut Dinner
- October 15, 2025
Cleveland Sachsenheim Lagerfest
- October 18, 2025
Youngstown Saxon Club Craft Show
- October 24, 2025
Cleveland Sachsenheim Children's Halloween Party
Youngstown Saxon Club Children's Halloween Party
- October 26, 2025
Youngstown Saxon Club Pork/Kraut Dinner
- November 1, 2025
Youngstown Saxon Club Trachtenball
- November 9, 2025
Cleveland Sachsenheim Veterans' Day Dinner
- November 16, 2025
Youngstown Saxon Club Pork/Kraut Dinner
- November 19, 2025
Cleveland Sachsenheim Tree Trimming
- December 5-6, 2025
Cleveland Sachsenheim Sausage Making / Sale
- December 13, 2025
Cleveland Sachsenheim
Children's Christmas Party
Krampus Fest
- December 14, 2025
Chicago Br. 9 Christmas Party

FOLLOW US ON
facebook

Alliance of
Transylvanian Saxons

65th ATS ANNUAL
OPEN-BOWLING
TOURNAMENT
OCTOBER 18 – 19, 2025
Host: Merrillville Saxon Bowlers

ATS OPEN BOWLING
TOURNAMENT RULES

1. All bowlers must be Alliance of Transylvanian Saxon members in good standing to participate in this tournament.
2. Each bowler will receive 100% of the difference between his or her average and a two hundred ten (210) scratch with no limit on pins.
3. Averages to be used are:

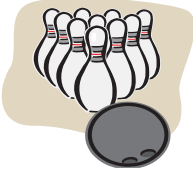
a. The average of the past five years’ tournaments, with exception of 2020.

b. If the bowler has no tournament average, then the bowler will establish his or her average after the first three games rolled in the tournament, which will remain the bowler’s average for the remainder of the tournament.

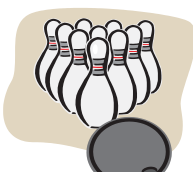
c. If a team has a blind, then a 200 Average is used and no handicap.
4. A bowler may only bowl once in each event in this tournament.
5. The tournament management has the right to return for correction any entry which does not comply with the above rules.
6. Prizes will be awarded at the ratio of at least one (1) prize for each ten entries. One hundred percent (100%) of the prize fee must be returned. Prizes will be awarded by handicapped scores and not by gender.
7. It shall be the duty of the tournament manager to keep a running record of all bowlers’ averages participating in each event.
8. Tournament starts on October 18, 2025 and ends on October 19, 2025.
9. Closing date for entries is October 1, 2025.
10. There will be no refunds of fees after October 10, 2025.
11. Two All Events Winners will be awarded. One for actual scores; one for actual scores plus handicap.
12. We will start with Doubles Event followed by the Singles Event on Saturday.

Your All Events score will be your total individual score of singles, doubles, and team event plus your handicap total for the tournament.

Separate men and women prizes will be awarded in Singles event only. Doubles and team event will be mixed.



65th ATS ANNUAL OPEN-BOWLING TOURNAMENT
OCTOBER 18 – 19, 2025
HOST: MERRILLVILLE SAXON BOWLERS
STARDUST BOWL 2
3925 E. LINCOLN HWY.
MERRILLVILLE, IN
(219) 627-2924



Check in on begins on Saturday at 10:00 am

Doubles Event 12:00 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18
(Name)

Singles Event 2:30 p.m. (approx.) Saturday, Oct. 18
(Certificate #)

(Name)

(Certificate #)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Team Event 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 19
(Check in begins at 8:30 a.m.)

All Events

(Name)

(Certificate #)

(Name)

(Certificate #)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: OCTOBER 1, 2025. Note: Tournament is for ATS Members in good-standing only. All bowling fees and meal reservation money for bowlers and non-bowlers MUST accompany this form. No refunds after October 10, 2025. Sunday Banquet will be held at the Slovak Club; 6920 Broadway; Merrillville, IN.

_____ Doubles @ \$46.00..... \$ _____

_____ Singles @ \$23.00..... \$ _____

_____ Team @ \$92.00..... \$ _____

_____ All Events @ \$2.00.....\$ _____

_____ Sunday Banquet free for Bowlers.....\$ _____

_____ Sunday Banquet @ \$25.00 for Non-Bowlers \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE.....\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Tel.Number _____ Email _____

TSBA Team Number (if applicable) _____

SEND ENTRY FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

ATS Home Office
5323 Pearl Rd.
Cleveland, OH 44129
Make checks payable to ATS
Deadline October 1, 2025
Any further questions, call the ATS Home Office at (440) 842-8442 or email: Office@ATSaxons.com

Hotels for the ATS Open Bowling Tournament
October 18 – 19, 2025
Hosted by: Branch 26, Merrillville, IN

Fairfield Inn & Suites 8275 Georgia St Merrillville, IN 46410 (219) 736-0500/ (219) 843-7983 1 King Bed - \$94 King Suite/pull out sofa - \$119 Free Breakfast Room Block Name: ATS	Hampton Inn 8353 Georgia St Merrillville, IN 46410 (219) 736-7600 1 King Bed - \$129 2 Queen Beds - \$149 Free Breakfast Room Block Name: ATS
--	--

Deadline for room block rate is September 26, 2025
The ATS Bus will be staying at the two above hotels (Fri, Oct 17 & Sat, Oct 18).
Other nearby hotels include:

Red Roof Inn 8290 Georgia St Merrillville, IN 46410 (219) 738-2430	Baymont Inn 9275 Georgia St Merrillville, IN 46410 (219) 472-9025
--	---

Saxon News VOLKSBLATT August 15, 2025 - 5

The Cleveland Saxon Dance Group on a cultural exchange in Germany

This year, as part of the cultural exchange program of the Federation of Transylvanian Saxons, the Cleveland Saxon Dance Group came to Europe for two weeks to cultivate and celebrate their Transylvanian Saxon heritage with their compatriots in Austria and Germany. Coming from the Blasifest in Elixhausen near Salzburg (see report from Austria on page 8), they crossed the Austrian-German border on 22 June to follow the program that Federal Cultural Officer Dagmar Seck had planned for them together with several local and cultural groups in southern Germany. Below you will find reports from the respective cities.

Loud Americans in Munich

And then they finally arrive, the Saxon Americans from Cleveland, Ohio. Sunday evening, Munich, Haar, a bus full of “Loud Americans”, it’s warm, but the bus is well air-conditioned. Heidi Mößner, local president, greets the group in English and welcomes them to Munich. A quick trip to the toilet, then a brief bustle and some coordination until all the guests are assigned to their Saxon host families. Ah, some speak German, wow, I hear Saxon, yes they are tired, off to the cars and the cozy homes of our board members and youth dance group members. What is “Brotzeit”? You don’t cook for supper? We discuss these and many other interesting questions with our guests over the next few days.

On Monday, Maria Beer took the group on a stroll through Munich’s main sights (Marienplatz, Hofbräuhaus, Hofgarten etc.), the Clevelanders were able to enjoy Saxon-Bavarian food at the office of the Association of Transylvanian Saxons at Karlstraße 100 and on Monday evening a very sociable and cozy Zieker club evening awaited us all at the House of the Danube Swabians in Haar. After an excellent guided tour of the Danube Swabian Museum, during which some of the young people in the group learned that they also have Danube Swabian roots, everyone was able to take a deep breath. Under the mulberry tree, with a cool drink in hand and treats from the Zieker buffet, it’s easy to keep up. Harald Binder bequeaths the group a much sought-after blue book, the dance bible of the Saxons, applause. Good conversations, dance videos, exchanges, schnapps, the latest fitness trends, seconds from the buffet, there’s far too much left over, typical Saxon, slowly leaving, last overnight stay with the Munich host families, too bad it will soon be over. How cool, Cleveland was our guest. We’re looking forward to next time. Question from the young people from Munich... when can we go on a cultural exchange... hopefully soon.

On Tuesday morning we said goodbye at the Fröttmaning bus station and received the devastat-



The garden of the House of the Danube Swabians in Munich-Haar was the perfect place to exchange ideas in a relaxed circle. Photo: Martina Schorsten

ing news that Tony’s mom had died and he and his family were already at the airport with Heinz Fleps trying to get affordable return flights. Done, the family has booked and is already through security. Thanks to Heinz for your commitment and compassion. That’s how cohesion works. All the best to the Cleveland Saxon Dance Group for the rest of their journey through Germany, thanks to all the host families from Munich, who have moved a little closer together in their city apartments, and thanks to the Danube Swabian Cultural Center in Haar, especially Gabriele Schilcher and her staff, for their hospitality and the special evening.

Heidi Mößner

Augsburg: perfectly tanned (optimal browning) and in good shape

On June 24, shortly before 11 a.m., the Cleveland Saxon Dance Group arrived at Rathausplatz in Augsburg. Helmut Schwarz and two other board members welcomed the group on behalf of the district group and were surprised to discover that some of the Clevelanders did not speak German, but were still fluent in Saxon. During the two-hour professional tour of the old town, the group took the opportunity to talk to each other personally. They learned that Saxon is only familiar to those who speak it at home in everyday life. The excursion came to a cool, thirst-quenching end in the beer garden of the Fuggerei, which unfortunately had to be cut short in order to stay on schedule.

Our district group had prepared a Swabian lunch in the canteen of an Augsburg secondary school, complemented by a Transylvanian-Saxon specialty, Baumstriezel, for dessert. Our guests were familiar with this dessert and were very impressed by its taste, the consistency of the dough, its optimal browning and size.

We would have liked to fulfill the group’s wish

to spend a little more time in the city centre of Augsburg, but unfortunately the rush hour was approaching, so it seemed impossible to return in time for the cultural evening after another visit to the city centre.

The evening program was characterized by dances of our guests, applause, giant pretzels, dancing together to the music of the Transylvanian Brass Band Augsburg under the musical direction of Sigfried Krempels, good conversations and singing by the Transylvanian Choir Augsburg under the musical direction of Elfriede Ungar. Around 10 p.m., the guests left the hall of the Holy Trinity together with their hosts for the night, in order to arrive at the Plärrer grounds for the onward journey to Heilbronn before 9 a.m. the next morning, after breakfast in the individual host families of the district group - the last person to arrive had been threatened with push-ups, we were told.

Ulrike Lassner

Once around Horneck Castle

On the bus ride to Heilbronn, the guests were able to catch up on some sleep before being served delicious goulash by some cooks and helpers from the district group. Kremschnitten and fresh fruit rounded off the short stop at the House of the Transylvanian Saxons before continuing on to Gundelsheim, where the central cultural institutions of the Transylvanian Saxons in Germany were to be visited at Horneck Castle. Dr. Ingrid Schiel and Christian Rother from the Transylvanian Institute started off with a guided tour of the library and archives. The rest of the afternoon was at leisure and was quickly filled with a visit to the outdoor pool, a trip to the ice cream parlor or a nap. During dinner on the veranda and a glass of wine on the terrace overlooking the Neckar, all travelers were able to admire and enjoy the unique location of the castle.

After a night in the castle hotel, further discoveries around Horneck Castle were planned for Thursday: A guided tour of the castle with Dr. Horst Müller from the Transylvanian Cultural Centre “Schloss Horneck”, a tour of the Transylvanian Museum with Dr. Markus Lörz and a picnic in the castle moat with packed lunches from the Heilbronn district group. Ines Wenzel’s car not only contained Leberkäs rolls, buttered pretzels and apples, but also - as an extra - traditional shirts so that a dancer could choose a new one that suited him better. There was barely enough time to say thank you for being able to fulfill the wish within 24 hours, because the next castles, palaces... and of course encounters were already waiting

Dagmar Seck

Continued on Page 7

Always beautiful along the Neckar

The Clevelanders stopped off in Neckarsteinach on their way to their host families in Heidelberg and Mannheim. Here they were welcomed with coffee and cake in the Café Vierburgeneck and taken on a short hike to the medieval castles above the town, from where they had a wonderful view of the Neckar valley. From Neckarsteinach, the bus took us to Heidelberg and Mannheim, where the guests met their host families.

On Friday, we went for a walk through the old town of Heidelberg. First on the program was a visit to the Studentekarzer and the auditorium of the old university. The cable car then took us to the castle with its Great Barrel and the fantastic view of the Neckar and Heiligenberg.

After lunch together, the tour continued for some of the group, while the others had to get souvenirs from this romantic city. Heidelberg on the Neckar is one of the most beautiful German cities and attracts millions of visitors every year. My thanks go to all the Cleveland compatriots who took part with interest and enthusiasm.

Hans-Holger Rampelt

After the program of visits in Heidelberg, our guests drove to Mannheim at around 4.30 p.m., where they were welcomed by our dance group. After the welcome, smaller discussion groups quickly formed, with some of the guests translating for the others.

This was followed by dancing together, with the two dance groups presenting dances to each other. Each group performed two dances and then chose one to teach to the other - in mixed American-German dance pairs. Waltzes for Mona, Hetlinger Bandritter, Krüz-König and Bundheimer were performed.

The host families were also invited to the subsequent dinner, which included mici, steak, gratinated cheese and home-made salads, with the mici being particularly popular with the guests.



The Clevelanders danced vigorously and precisely in Augsburg. Photo: Helmut Schwarz



At the end of the trip, the Cleveland Saxon Dance Group once again showed their skills at the Kronenfest in Herzogenaurach. Photo: Wolfgang Niewelt

The time flew by with stimulating conversations and the guests had to say goodbye, as they were due to travel on to Herzogenaurach the next morning.

Dagmar Markel

From Franconia to Frankfurt

Herzogenaurach in central Franconia was the last stop on the tour. Hosted by members of the Transylvanian Youth Dance Group (Herzis), the guests were to take part in the folk dance group's crown festival on Sunday. As always, the day before was dedicated to the preparations for the festival and so they were able to take part in tying and erecting the crown - including digging the hole and heaving the trunk up together. Under the shady trees of the Weiherbach grounds, they got to know each other, made jokes, played card games, watched each other rehearse their dances and spontaneously recruited some Herzis to dance the Jägerneuner

together on Sunday with two groups of nine people. A lively exchange! The evening ended in a relaxed atmosphere with a shared evening meal before everyone retired to their host families.

Sunday then offered a crown festival with all the familiar elements: small church service, grilled micis, Baumstriezel, a parade of all the dance groups, climbing the crown, brass band music, dances, dances and more dances. Right in the middle of it all: our guests from Cleveland. They will probably not soon forget the greeting that the young man gave them in English from high up in the crown.

The Clevelanders then spent Monday, the last day of their trip, in Nuremberg. After Dagmar Seck had first shown them part of the Nazi Party Rally Grounds, they set off for the old town. From the castle to the Lorenzkirche, she told them the most important things they should know about the city, the castle and the medieval empire. The afternoon was free to do as you pleased and everything from kitchen utensils and chocolate to

dirndls was bought.

In the evening, it was Werner Henning who invited the group over for a suckling pig, some of whom had known each other for a long time. With some host families, other friends and Fred (Untch) on the keyboard, the atmosphere became more and more exuberant until everyone was dancing at the end and some guests even grabbed the microphone to sing along. Photos and videos must have been diligently posted, because the next morning countless acquaintances already knew that the group had spent a happy evening.

Unfortunately, it was the last evening, but even the best trip has to come to an end at some point: On July 1, the Clevelanders boarded a plane in Frankfurt bound for America. However, it was not very difficult to say goodbye in Herzogenaurach, as the next reunion is already in sight, with the Herzis flying to North America in August.

And this could actually be observed in every city: Reunions were celebrated almost everywhere. Either relatives who live in Germany came by, or people who had already taken part in the cultural exchange in North America got in touch. Others realized that some of those currently active in Austria and the USA had met at the same Federation Youth Camp many years ago, while others were already considering meeting up at this year's Oktoberfest in Munich ...

The bonds within the Federation are not an illusion. Whether they are familial, personal or cultural, they exist and are strengthened with every visit and every exchange. Many thanks to the guests, the US partner organization ATS, the host families, all the helpers and the Kulturwerk der Siebenbürger Sachsen, which supported the cultural exchange with funds from the Bavarian State Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Affairs. It is thanks to their hospitality, their openness and their commitment that we will be able to say for many years to come: It's a pleasure to see you again!

Dagmar Seck

SBZ Online 1. August 2025

Federation Cultural Exchange Cleveland – Austria

The Cleveland dance group thrilled with their performances in Austria - to experience was a beautiful, Transylvanian intercontinental community.

Warm welcome on 18. June at Vienna Airport: The group was led by Amanda Donnellan and included 20 people aged ten to 67 years. This was followed by a week full of activities and cultural events across the country of Austria.



Group photo in Elixhausen-Sachsenheim, from left: Federal Chairman Manfred Schuller flanked by the members of the dance group from Cleveland. Front Center: Group leader Amanda Donnellan. Photo: DI Franz Peter Seiler

Getting to know each other and the first mutual Transylvanian evening in Vienna was a cordial meeting for both sides. With suckling pig and apple strudel with vanilla sauce, typical Austrian specialties, the guests from overseas were spoiled right on the first evening. At the following Transylvanian evening “Cleveland meets Vienna” the dance group showed their skills, the applause of the guests, members and friends of the clubs in Vienna was safe for them. In addition to other guests, Federal Chairman Manfred Schuller and his wife had traveled specially from Upper Austria to welcome.

Reinhard Frank as organizer in Vienna did not promise too much. The program for the guests from Cleveland was impressive. In addition to a city tour and a visit to the sights, which there are enough in Vienna, the exploration of the Vienna Prater, the beautiful view of Vienna from the famous Kahlenberg and finally the visit of a Viennese Heurigen with his special, hearty delicacies were special events that you will certainly not forget so quickly.

The journey of the Clevelanders continued to Upper Austria. So, they met on the 20th. June in Wels, the godfather city of the displaced persons, with the bus, which was chartered especially for their round trip. Many of the refugees from northern Transylvania had come through this city at the end of their escape in the late autumn of 1944 and had rested here for one night before it went on to the destinations further east, such as Vorchdorf, Laakirchen, Schwanenstadt, Vöcklabruck, Rosenau, or even further to Salzburg. At that time, only a few

Transylvanian Saxons remained in Wels itself, but they founded their Transylvanian neighborhood as early as 1949. Since then, the local cultural association of the Transylvanian Saxons has existed, since 1983 there is also a folk dance group, since 2014 there is even a town twinning with Bistritz in northern Transylvania.

The tour group from Cleveland was

welcomed at the Welser Stadthalle after their arrival from Vienna in the late morning by Nachbarvater Dr. Christian Schuster and dance group leader Dr. Robert Feichtinger. A city tour and a group photo on the town square with today’s landmark, the Ledererturm, in the background could not be missing, before we went to lunch in the beer garden of the Gösserbräu Inn. In the afternoon, the group took a trip to the nearby Benedictine monastery Kremsmünster, which had an interesting private tour of the monastery founded in 777 by the Bavarian Duke Tassilo.

Fischkalter, Kaisersaal, Tassilokelech, art collection and monastery library were the highlights of the approximately two-hour tour. Afterwards, the guests could either swim in the monastery’s own outdoor pool or taste a glass of wine in the cool wine cellar of the monastery, before going on to the next station to Traun after a day with a lot of local history and sightseeing.

At the Protestant community center in Traun, they were duly received with a musical serenade after the official greeting by Nachbarvater Dietmar Lindert in the evening. With a cozy barbecue evening and getting to know each other or deepening existing acquaintances ended the day in the parish garden comfortably.

An excursion was planned the next day. The guests, some of the host parents as well as other members of the youth and neighborhood as well as Federal Chairman Manfred Schuller drove by bus to the museum village Trattenbach in the “Tal der Feitelmacher” (Feitel are small pocket knives). This craft was recognized as Intangible Cultural Heritage by

the Austrian UNESCO Commission in 2015.

The further program was a raft ride with alpine hut on it; with it the group drove on the river Steyr through a wildly romantic landscape. In addition to a tasting, the trip was also used to relax and entertain, to sing, dance and make music together. The evening after was all about togetherness and entertainment.

Well strengthened, the Cleveland Saxon Dance Group completed its approximately one-hour performance in front of around 150 guests. The 20 members took turns and showed lighter, but also many very demanding dances from their great repertoire. After breakfast on Sunday, it was time to say goodbye to Upper Austria, because a visit to Salzburg, to the Association of Transylvanian Saxons, was another travel highlight. In Elixhausen-Sachsenheim on 22. June the traditional Blasfest to finish school. In honor of the visitors from Cleveland, the date was moved forward without further ado to be able to celebrate this festival together. After the service in the Honterus Church in Sachsenheim, there was a parade led by the local music band Elixhausen.

Numerous guests had participated despite the great heat and it was once again a beautiful picture to see the

all guests sat under the lime trees in the shade and enjoyed the festival.

After another introduction of the dance group from Cleveland and the exchange of guest gifts, our guests had to be said goodbye again by Federal Chairman Manfred Schuller. The group then made their way to Germany to complete the second part of the Federation Cultural Exchange. What remains in the end? It was an impressive time for everyone involved, the weather meant it well, there was no lack of cordiality and the lasting impressions give the certainty that the Transylvanian Saxons remain connected to each other worldwide, the traditions and customs, although thousands of kilometers away, are the same. To preserve them, to pass them on to the youth, is the heritage and mission of our ancestors, our parents and grandparents. If we look forward to the next cultural exchange and, above all, if we maintain our contacts and friendships, then no way and no goal is too far.

In this sense, we would like to thank all those who participated in the Federation Cultural Exchange Cleveland/Ohio and Austria, participated and ensured that the guests lacked nothing. I would like to thank the Federation of Transylvanian Saxons in Austria for the implementation



Performance of the Cleveland Saxon Dance Group at the Blasfest in Salzburg. Photo: DI Franz Peter Seiler

different traditional costumes.

Chairman Gerhard Alzner (Sachsenheim) and Chairman Roland Meburger (Salzburg) officially opened the event afterwards. In addition to the guests from the USA, the mayor of Elixhausen, Mr. Michael Prantner, our Federal Chairman Manfred Schuller and a delegation of the Transylvanians from Rosenau/Seewalchen were welcomed.

With a first remarkable dance performance of the Cleveland Saxon Dance Group there was wood meat from the grill, an impressive cake buffet and the brass music from Siebenbuerger Blasmusik Elixhausen accompanied the afternoon with its music. Children were allowed to let off steam in the bouncy castle and

and the associations in Vienna/Burgenland/Lower Austria, the Transylvanian neighbourhood of Traun and music, the Wels neighborhood and the association in Salzburg/Elixhausen and their music bands for helping to create, celebrate and thus make the cultural exchange an unforgettable experience.

For the generous financial support, the federal government would like to thank above all the VLÖ, the Kulturland Oberösterreich and the co-designed associations and a special thanks goes to the host families who hosted our compatriots from overseas and thus gave them a homely feeling.

Christian Schuster, Irene Kastner, Barbara Eichbauer, Ingrid Schuller
SBZ Online 27.July 2025

BRANCH 10, COLUMBUS
By Donald Blum

*******IMPORTANT
NEW*******

**MONTHLY MEETING
LOCATION**

**RUSTY BUCKET
RESTAURANT & TAVERN
73 N. HAMILTON ROAD
GAHANNA, OHIO 43230
(614) 475-4435
August 18, 2025
12 Noon**

Our meetings are the Third (3rd) Monday of the month.

Remember to bring a canned good item, household product or other food item.

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

CLUB CONVERSATIONS

We are happy to advise that John Gellner is doing well and living with his family. John is enjoying life and continues to stay in contact with the club. We miss John's sense of humor.

Hedy Fleischer, long-time club member and Pickerington resident, has put her house up for sale and will be starting a new journey in life with her family.

Regina Kellner's birthday was in July, and while she was unable to attend the meeting, we remember her birthday in spirit.

Olga Hesch is busy trying to keep things organized with her new house she is working to finish in North Carolina.

CELEBRATIONS

We will celebrate Sophie Untch (August 6) birthday - Alles Gute zum Geburtstag!

Debby and Mike Roth's Anniversary (August 25)- Alles Gute zum Jahrestag!

HEIMATTAG

We want to thank Youngstown, Branch 30 for being such a wonderful host and for conducting such a wonderful and festive celebration, with the assistance of performers from several other branches.

We totally enjoyed the comradery, fellowship and the sharing of heritage and of the true meaning of 'Coming Home and Celebration of Heimattag.'

Our journey began with Olga Hesch putting on her regular chauffer hat and transporting many of the Columbus Branch 10 members in the luxury 15+ person van. If we continue to add members to the transport van, Olga may have to apply for her CDL license. Thanks for doing this for the club members.

The hotel accommodations were excellent, and

the scheduling of all of the activities was flawless.

The Friday night theme of "Back to the 70's" was so much fun. We enjoyed the music, dancing and seeing the several people that dressed in the true spirit of the 70's. Truly brought back memories.

The Saturday's activities were a huge success. The dancers, singers and especially the children's Kinderchor performances were very special. It was impressive how the Cleveland Group gave an excellent performance after just having a brief time to get ready after their tour from Europe. As usual, we enjoyed our Canadian performers and skilled dancers.

The food was excellent, and my wife enjoyed being introduced to a drink called the Dirty Shirley. Myself, I found the Jägermeister too much to my liking.

The church service was so appropriate for the wonderful homecoming celebration of Transylvanian Saxons.

Heimattag was everything we expected and more. We look forward to these special events and are already looking forward to next year.

Again, a huge thanks to the Youngstown Branch for hosting and doing such a wonderful job.

HUMOR

When will husbands ever learn?

Wife poses a question, where you know there is only one right answer, and you still choose the wrong answer; If a tiger attacks your mother-in-law and your wife at the same time, who will you save?

Husband doesn't take the time to thoroughly think through the question, and he proudly answers; Of course, the tiger, there are only a few tigers left now!

Please send your cards and flowers to the ICU where the husband is currently residing!

FACEBOOK PAGE

Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons, Columbus Branch 10 (Facebook Group).

We are happy to announce that the group has grown to 245 members. Please invite people to join our Facebook Group, that is open to all people interested in sharing or reading about our Saxon Heritage. We will continue to modify and improve the Facebook page as needed. While we welcome you to join the Columbus Branch 10, you do not need to be a member

to join the Facebook Group. You are invited to join our Facebook group and share your Saxon history or just enjoy what others post. If you are interested in becoming part of the Facebook group you can request an invitation or send me your email address (donaldblum@prodigy.net), and we will set you up.

We are happy to say, we continue to add Saxon/German heritage individuals to the Facebook Group. Some of the new members include people from Europe and Canada. We encourage you to spread the word about our group.

Our Facebook Group is an excellent place to share pictures that anyone would have of the Transylvanian Trip. It's a good reason to join and become a part of sharing Heritage information



**Besseres kann kein Volk vererben,
Als der eigenen Väter Brauch.
Wenn des Volkes Bräuche sterben,
Stirbt des Volkes Seele auch.**

**No people can inherit better things,
As the custom of their own fathers.
When the people's customs die,
The soul of the people also dies.**

80 years ago: Flight and Evacuation from Northern Transylvania
1944-1945

The Saxons, who were in the Soviet occupation zones of Germany and Austria and in Czechoslovakia at the end of the war, were returned to Transylvania in June/July 1945 on the orders of the Soviet occupation (about 6000 of about 35,000, which had landed mainly in the American occupation zone in southern Upper Austria and in Salzburg as well as in Bavaria). This repatriation was much more difficult than the evacuation in 1944. This time everyone had to see him move forward.

Maria Göbbel (1914-2003) writes in 1986:

“Mid-June 1945 came from the Russians order, everyone goes where he came from. Our men - Gierescher 226, Gierling 288, Baier 164 ... - discussed and decided that we should bow to the Russian order. Those who no longer had horses all came to the station in Perg, the others drove with horse-drawn carriages towards their home in Transylvania. We drove to St. Pölten in passenger cars, where we had to unload everything. With our luggage we slept on a wall on the floor, Horst and Erika in the stroller.

In St. Pölten we were allowed to load our things on open platforms and continued until the next station where our men had to “ford” other wagons, which cost money, sugar, military shoes, matches, etc. People had to put all this together, otherwise we couldn’t get any further. We always only received open wagons, withstood a lot of wind and rain. We just put blankets over our heads and over the stroller. It went on slowly. In Hungary at a train station women came with liter bottles of milk; they wanted matches from us for it. So, we got 2 liters of milk for the little ones. Until then, I had only boiled semolina in water, sugar and cocoa in it, that was in addition to the breast. But how did the cooking go? Whenever the train was somewhere, the men looked for two stones, a sheet on it, a small fire underneath, they always provided wood. So we cooked here and there. Now I had milk and cooked for the little ones, but that was not good, because the milk was probably spoiled. Both got sick, cried, did not want the breast anymore, diarrhea and the train continued. In Budafok we stopped again for a few days, we went to the city to the doctor, I wanted to take the children to the hospital, but the doctor said it was not so bad, we could continue, gave us medicine, but the little ones were getting worse and worse. My dear mother, wherever she could, she went into the water to wash diapers; once the train left, and she stayed behind. She then came on foot on the railway line and then found us



Erika Göbbel
(2.10.1944 Ofeherto
- 10.07.1945 Püspöklodanyi).
Photo: Otto Engler Family
Archive Göbbel

again. Late in the evening the train left again, my children were getting worse and worse, early between 8 and 9 we arrived in Püspöklodanyi. The children were crying, on the many tracks there were trains, wagons, everything full, my son Thomas had seen the station building, he took the little Horst in his arms, I took Erika and as quickly as we could go up and down under the wagons, we got to the building. There was a German doctor there; he examined the little ones, then said, unfortunately he had no medication. When we came back above and under the wagons, my dear Erika fell asleep in my arms forever - it was on the 10th. July 1945 in the morning at approx. 10 o’clock. She was 9 months and 8 days old.

Now what to do? My husband went to the city; he was supposed to buy a coffin, but for money alone it was not possible. He came back; we had taken a wooden beer barrel full of honey when we escaped from home; there was still something in it. He then went with honey and money and got a little children’s coffin. We then dressed Erika nicely and put the coffin on the meadow next to the railway line; it was nice and green there. The people from the transport, there were many Jaaders there, came and saw and weed with us; they were hard days. During the night we took the coffin up to the wagon, because no one knew when it would continue again. My little Horst was pretty bad, he just croaked, couldn’t cry anymore, he once became blue, yellow, cold sweat was on his forehead. I prayed: “You, dear God, let me even just get this child healthy and take him home!” On the railway line was a large cemetery. There we carried our little Erika to the grave. I can’t remember exactly on the 11th or 12th. July. My brother-in-law Otto then prayed at the grave. I was at the

cemetery in Püspöklodanyi in 1987, but I couldn’t find the grave.

In the night it continued again until Bihorkeresztes. There we went with Horst to the city to the doctor, bought medicine from the pharmacy and our little boy soon felt better. (...) Sidor, the brick maker, picked us up from Desch with a truck. He lived in my childhood home and told us that Grandma had died. When we arrived, she was in her house. The Romanian priest buried her. Fortunately, we were all there. This is how I experienced the flight; it was hard days and nights to overcome. With God’s help, we did it.”

Source: Horst Göbbel (ed.): Abschied aus der Geschichte – Jaad in Siebenbürgen – Werden und Niedergang einer deutschen Gemeinde, Nürnberg 1990, p. 316-320.

Text selection: Horst Göbbel
SBZ Online 8. August 2025

Brushcetta puts your tomatoes to good use

At this time of year, everyone is looking for a way to use those tomatoes furiously growing on the vines.

Here is one tasty use: The tomato bruschetta.

Bruschetta originated in Italy, with its roots tracing back to the 15th century in central Italy, particularly Tuscany and Lazio.

The word “bruschetta” comes from the Italian verb “bruscare,” meaning “to roast over coals,” referring to the traditional method of grilling bread. Initially, it was a simple dish made by peasants using left-over bread, rubbed with garlic, drizzled with olive oil, and seasoned with salt. This was a way to revive stale bread and make use of the abundant olive oil from the region.

Tomatoes were introduced to Italy from the New World in the 16th century but were initially considered ornamental or even poisonous. It wasn’t until the 18th century that they became a staple in Italian cuisine, especially in the south. The addition of tomatoes to bruschetta likely evolved in this period, particularly in regions like Campania and Puglia, where tomatoes thrived. The classic tomato-topped version we know today became popular as a fresh, flavorful appetizer, reflecting Italy’s agricultural heritage and resourcefulness. It remains a beloved dish, often served as an antipasto or snack, symbolizing rustic Italian cooking.



Coffee linked to healthy aging

Good news for coffee drinkers: Your daily caffeine fix might help you stay healthy for longer. According to CNN, researchers analyzed 30 years of dietary data for 47,000 women and found that those who consumed a moderate amount of caffeinated coffee (about one to three cups a day) experienced fewer major chronic diseases and better cognitive, physical, and mental health as they aged. Those who drank decaffeinated coffee or tea did not experience the beneficial effects.



Tomato Bruschetta Recipe

- Ingredients (Serves 4):
- 4-5 ripe tomatoes (preferably Roma or heirloom), diced
 - 2 cloves garlic, minced
 - 1/4 cup fresh basil, chopped
 - 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
 - 1 teaspoon balsamic vinegar
 - Salt and pepper to taste
 - 1 baguette, sliced into 1/2-inch thick pieces
 - 1-2 cloves garlic (whole, for rubbing on toast)
- Instructions:
1. Prepare the Tomato Mixture: In a bowl, combine diced tomatoes, minced garlic, chopped basil, olive oil, and balsamic vinegar. Season with salt and pepper. Let it sit for 15-20 minutes to marinate.
 2. Toast the Bread: Preheat oven to 400°F. Arrange baguette slices on a baking sheet, drizzle with olive oil, and toast for 5-7 minutes until golden. Rub each slice with a whole garlic clove while warm.



NEW CASTLE, SECTION 6
EINTRACHT MÄNNERCHOR
Rehearsal:
Every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.



PRESIDENT
Paul Garmon
2305 Highland Ave
New Castle PA 16105
(724) 674-7491
paulgarmon1@gmail.com
SECRETARY
Mark Nord
233 Forrest Rd
New Castle PA 16105
(724) 657-7100
NordMR@hotmail.com

**CLEVELAND SAXON
DANCE GROUP**
Rehearsal: Fridays
6:30 p.m. Children
7:30 p.m. Adults
Westside Sachsenheim
csgd7001@yahoo.com

PRESIDENT
Amanda Donnellan
9578 W. 130 St
Strongsville OH 44136
(216) 235-5240
Adonnellan5@yahoo.com
SECRETARY
Stephanie Miller
23500 Wingedfoot Dr
Westlake OH 44145
(216) 647-3229
SAMiller55@sbcglobal.net

**YOUNGSTOWN
SAXON CULTURE GROUP**
Meets: 2nd Sunday of Month
Youngstown Saxon Club
PRESIDENT
Walter Benesch
1268 Bexley
Youngstown OH 44515
(330) 398-5449

SECRETARY
Kevin McCarty
1636 Lexington Ave NW
Warren OH 44485
(330) 883-7162
mccartks@gmail.com

TRANSYLVANIAN SAXON BOWLING LEAGUE



PRESIDENT
Glenn Spack
943 Stewart Rd.
Salem, OH 44460
(234) 320-4132
sspack2@neo.rr.com

VICE PRESIDENT
Tom Simon
538 S Schenley Ave
Youngstown, OH 44509
(330) 720-7988
ts112063@gmail.com

SECRETARY-TREASURER
Jenny Miller King
25321 Conover Dr.
Bay Village, OH 44140
(216) 551-1728
jmill411@yahoo.com

**STATISTICAL SEC'Y.
(Men & Women)**
Carl J. Schmitz
26652 Redwood Dr.
Olmsted Falls, OH 44138
(440) 799-1940
cjsaintrite@aol.com

TRUSTEES AUDITORS
Rich Baker
232 Reiber Road
Hermitage PA 16148
(724) 854-0149
Bob Lohr
291 S Broad St
Canfield OH 44406
(330) 423-9894
Rblohr1@gmail.com
Monica Gilles
3520 Beavercrest Dr Apt 107
Lorain, OH 44053
(440) 309-7894
gillemo76@hotmail.com

**Are your
nieces and nephews
members of
the ATS?
Let them benefit
from our fraternal
program and be a
part of
our history!**



BOOKS

The Saxon Cook Book - Third Edition
Over 400 Saxon/American Recipes \$12.00 per copy (postpaid)

Fleeing to the Friendly Enemy by Barbara Ohler Weber
A true story of the author's experiences during World War II and her immigration to America in the 1950's.
\$14.00 per copy (postpaid)

Flucht aus Siebenbürgen by Monika Görig/Maria Schneider
Memoirs of Maria Schneider written in German describing her family's hardships when they had to flee from their home in 1944 and start a new life in Austria.
\$20 per copy (postpaid)

Saxons Through Seventeen Centuries, author Rev. John Foisel
A paperback which provides a romantic account of the customs and phases of intellectual development of the Transylvanian people. Not intended to be a history of Transylvania, rather a story of our people based upon seventeen centuries of history.
\$15 per copy (postpaid)

Why Can't Somebody Just Die Around Here?, author Gerhard Maroscher.
Tells the story of how his family was impacted by World War II. His mother fled Transylvania with two young sons and his father reluctantly served in three Axis armies and was a prisoner of war by the Russians. Family immigrated to the USA to live the American dream.
\$24.95 per copy (postpaid)

All books unless noted have English Text.

Proceeds from book sales go to the Saxon Orphan Fund Program.

Order From:
The Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons
5323 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44129
Make Checks/Money Orders payable to
ATS ORPHAN FUND
ATS Member, please indicate Branch number.

SAXON SENIORS

**YOUNGSTOWN
SAXON RETIREES**
Meets 2nd Thursday 11:30 a.m.
Youngstown Saxon Club
(March - December)

PRESIDENT
Rose Marie Zarny
3202 Starwick Ct
Canfield OH 44406
(330) 792-0388
SECRETARY
Rosemary Dundon
6000 Lake Rd W Apt 112
Ashtabula OH 44004
(440) 536-4661

SALEM SAXON RETIREES
Meets 1st
Wednesday of the month
Noon at 1980 NewGarden Rd
PRESIDENT
Lois Whitacre
15425 Lisbon St.
Minerva OH 44657
(330) 813-0400
SECRETARY
Dianne Kuttler
4282 McCann Rd
Salem OH 44460
(330) 428-1723

USE ONLY THIS FORM FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND CANCELLATIONS CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Branch No. _____ Certificate No. _____ SS# _____

All information in the form to the right and below must be correctly typed, or legibly written.

- ☐ CHANGE
☐ CANCELLATION
☐ NEW to receive paper

THIS CHANGE IS FOR:

- ☐ HOME OFFICE RECORDS & VOLKSBLATT
☐ VOLKSBLATT ONLY

Date: _____ Signature of Person Making Change _____

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

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



ERIE, PA

ATS Family Day!

July 26, 2025



Raffle Winners:

Helen Aeling
Michael Bachinger
Mike Bachinger
Ian Borerer
Benson Carlevale
Quinn Carlevale
Zaylie Clark
George Cornell
Donna Foisel
John Foisel
Nash Foisel
Jesse Guo
Joe Hoover
Dawn Jackson
Lena Lay
Giuliana Mshar
Krystal Nunley
Logan Pauley
Kristen Pechatsko
Joe Prankas
Tony Principe
Jayden Rimmer
Glenn Spack
Catherine Spor
Jennifer Spor
Judah Stelle
Jessica Walter



Bingo Winners:

Matt Aeling
Lucy Deaton
Darla Fair
Cali Granger
Dawn Jackson
Lena Lay
Quinn Pechatsko
Amanda Snow
Katy Sudol
Logan Sudol

