



New Membership Roll Call

The Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons welcomes the following new members who joined the ATS during the second 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

Dominic J. Pruchinsky
Liam O. Pruchinsky
Lorenzo K. Pruchinsky
Steven L. Pruchinsky, Jr.
Arnold C. Rinas

Branch 4 – Cleveland

Lila E. Panico
Adrianna F. Pruchinsky

Branch 10 – Columbus

Julian T. Gellner
Ty A. Gellner
Barrett L. Vannatta

Branch 17 – Canton

Josephine M. Sifft

Branch 27 – New Castle

Hali J. Weaver

Branch 30 – Youngstown

Anastasia A. Barber
Elizabeth F. Davis
Bob English
Karen English
Logan A. R. Pauley
Addison Rupert
Ashley Rupert
Ralf Schuster

Branch 32 – Ellwood City

Marleigh M. Agnew

Branch 33 – Cleveland

Patrice Havreberg
Joan K. Huber
Joseph A. Huber
Dennis M. Mitchell
Lyla R. Naypauer
Lorie L. Novak

Home Branch Hannah G. Lopez

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Denise Aeling Crawford
ATS Nat'l President



Tis the Season for.....Scholarships! Please see inside this issue for information regarding the 3 different types of scholarships available. One is the Freshman scholarship – available for high school seniors entering their first year of college. The second is for college undergraduates - those college students entering their second, third or fourth year of college. The third is for any student enrolled in a technical or trade school. So, except for graduate degrees, I believe we have a scholarship that every student can use after high school. Eligibility requirements apply.

One of those eligibility requirements for an ATS scholarship is to be an ATS Member for 2 years prior to applying for a scholarship. So, if you have children or grandchildren who are not members, please get them signed up so that they can meet this easy requirement. Meeting the rest of the requirements are up to the students!

I'm told that Camp Frederick is filling up quickly for the summer season. If you have children or grandchildren interested in attending Saxon Summer Camp this year, please contact the Home Office as soon as you can to reserve a spot. We'll need to know the camper's name and what grade the child will have completed by then. ATS Saxon Summer Camp will be the week of June 14, 2026. More details will be coming soon, but as the Camp is filling up fast, we want to make sure they save enough spots for our ATS kids.

Congratulations to TSBA bowler Chase Vassen on bowling a perfect 300 game at the TSBA session in December. If you don't know Chase, he is a great bowler. He's rolled 300 games before, and I'm sure he'll do it again. There's still a few TSBA sessions left in the season, if you're interested in bowling. Teams are always looking for a sub to fill an empty spot at each session.

The ATS has added a new part-time position to our lineup. Eric Litschel, from Branch 33, will be serving as the ATS Historian and Archivist. He'll be working on our library and museum artifacts and helping to keep a good record of the ATS's almost 125-year history. We're excited to welcome Eric aboard. In addition, Nicole D'Arcangelo, who has been working part-time in the Home Office, has now become full-time. Many of you may have spoken with Nicole if you've called over the last year and a half. Lauren, John, Lisa and I round out the Home Office staff. Whatever your life insurance and annuity needs are, we're here for you and all of our members!

Did you know a prototype Chevrolet Corvette made its debut at the General Motors' Motorama auto show on January 17, 1953? The auto show at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City, occurred at a time when European automakers dominated the sports

Continued on Page 4



Happy 100th Birthday
wishes to
Margaret (Bette) Schmidt
who will be celebrating on
January 21st.
Alles gute zum Geburtstag!

Bette, shown with her daughter Karyn, is a lifelong member of Cleveland East Branch 33.

TIMELY - DO NOT DELAY
MAILED TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026

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



SEE PAGE 3 FOR
2026 ATS SAXON
SCHOLARSHIP
INFORMATION
AND
APPLICATIONS

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

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.

The real cost of premium credit card rewards

If you think you might be missing out on credit cards that offer big rewards, think again.

The big, premium cards promise fantastic rewards: Uber rides, \$1,000 welcome bonuses, travel and hotel credits, airport lounge access.

But it isn't free and it isn't easy.

American Express Platinum charges an \$895 fee per year. JPMorganChase's Sapphire Reserve card is \$795, according to The Wall Street Journal. There are cards even more premium than that: The Amex Centurion has a \$5,000 annual fee.

To make sure you get all the rewards you can, you'll have to spend a lot of money and some real time and effort.

It takes 5 to 20 hours of research up front to compare cards and design a strategy. Check out The Points Guy or NerdWallet online.

After you decide, and get approved, you have to stay on top of the game. According to Kiplinger.com, about 40 percent of perks go unused. That may be because it can take at least three hours and up to five hours to really get maximum benefits from a number of cards.

Nick Maggiulli at dollars and data argues it is a waste of time for everyone but hobbyists/enthusiasts.

One way to take advantage of rewards cards is to find just one card with perks you will actually use with little effort. If you shop on Amazon a lot, use the Chase Prime cards for automatic rewards at checkout. If you travel constantly, the research to find a good match for travel points might also be worth it.



Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons
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SECRETARIES TAKE NOTICE:

THE DEADLINE DATE FOR ARTICLES IS WEDNESDAY - 12 NOON.

You may either

E-MAIL: saxonvolksblatt@aol.com

POSTAL MAIL:

Saxon News Volksblatt

29076 Fall River Dr

Westlake, OH 44145

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

DEADLINE DATES FOR ARTICLES:

DEADLINE

ISSUE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2026

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 2026

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026

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

FRESHMAN ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS

To be eligible for a Freshman Academic Scholarship Grant you must be a high school senior with an accumulated grade point average in high school of 2.8, or better.

TWENTY-FOUR Scholarships will be awarded to new freshmen in undergraduate study at an accredited college or university in the United States.

- \$1,000 Four Year Renewable Grant from the Victor Deptner Memorial Scholarship
- \$1,000 Four-Year Renewable Rev. & Mrs. John Foisel Memorial Scholarship
- \$2,000 Rev. & Mrs. John Foisel Memorial Scholarship
- \$2,000 New Castle Branch 27 Scholarship
- \$1,000 Past ATS Officers' Memorial Scholarship
- \$1,000 Henry Schindler Scholarship
- \$1,000 Michael W. Schassburger Memorial Scholarship
- \$1,000 Jon Weber Memorial Scholarship
- \$1,000 ATS Branch 33 National Scholarship Endowment Award
- \$1,000 Julia & Martin Konnerth Memorial Scholarship
- \$1,000 Julia & Martin Konnerth Memorial Scholarship
- \$1,000 Branch 10 – Columbus Scholarship
- \$1,000 Branch 14 – Canton Scholarship
- \$1,000 Davidson-Schuller Appreciation Scholarship Award in honor of ATS and Branches 33 & 34
- \$1,000 John F. Spack Memorial Scholarship
- \$1,000 John and Mary Guip Memorial Scholarship
- \$1,000 Branch 5 – Lorain Scholarship
- \$1,000 Dale & Rose Segedi-Kaufman Memorial Scholarship
- \$1,000 Dale & Rose Segedi-Kaufman Memorial Scholarship
- \$1,000 Dr. David E. Schuller Appreciation Scholarship in honor of his parents Elsie and Daniel S. Schuller
- \$1,000 New Castle Branch 27 Scholarship
- \$1,000 Donzella Herman Scholarship
- \$1,000 George R. Spack Sr. Appreciation Scholarship
- \$ 750 Niles-Branch 20 National Scholarship

Applicants for the Scholarships listed must be ATS Members in good standing with a minimum of two years' continuous membership prior to the scholarship application deadline of April 1. High School Seniors must have maintained a 2.8, or better, grade point average in high school.

Complete the Request Form below to receive your Application. Please note: upon our receipt of the Request Form, an official ATS Scholarship Application Form will be mailed to you. The completed official ATS Scholarship Application Forms from the applicant and school must be received at the ATS Home Office before April 1, 2026.

REQUEST FOR ATS HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP

Name

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Tele: _____

E-Mail: _____

Br. No. _____ Cert. No. _____

Request must be received by March 16

Completed Application must be received by April 1, 2026

MAIL SCHOLARSHIP REQUEST FORM TO:
 ATS Home Office
 5323 Pearl Road
 Cleveland, Ohio 44129-1503
Request Forms must be received by March 16, 2026
Please note: Only official ATS Scholarship Application Forms will be accepted for consideration.

UNDERGRADUATE CONTINUING ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS

The ATS is offering TWENTY-ONE Academic Undergraduate Continuing Education Scholarship Grants to our members who are not current year high school graduates and are not entering college in their freshman year of study but are in an undergraduate program.

- \$2,000 Branch 18 - Salem, OH Scholarship
- \$2,000 Branch 37 - Detroit, MI Scholarship
- \$1,000 Award in memory of Marie Stirner
- \$1,000 Award in memory of Gertie & Ernie Gottschling
- \$1,000 Lorain Saxon Ladies Branch 11 Scholarship
- \$1,000 Joan Miller-Malue Scholarship
- \$1,000 Award in memory of Donald G. Miller
- \$ 750 Erie Branch 2 Scholarship
- \$ 750 Erie Branch 2 Scholarship
- \$ 750 Award in memory of George H. Schneider
- \$ 500 ATS Branch 34 Cleveland East Scholarship
- \$ 500 Award in memory of Karl & Charlotte Klamer
- \$ 500 Farrell - Branch 7 Scholarship
- \$ 500 ATS Scholarship Award
- \$ 500 ATS Scholarship Award
- \$ 500 ATS Scholarship Award
- \$ 500 Award in memory of Gerard Slusny
- \$ 500 Award in memory of Sofie & Franz Hum

Applicants must be ATS members in good standing, with continuous membership for a minimum period of two (2) years. They must have a grade point average of at least 2.8. They may be any age; however, they cannot be a current year high school graduate or entering their freshman year of college.

Applicants must be enrolled in an undergraduate program as a **full-time student** at an accredited college or university in the United States.

Requests for official ATS Undergraduate Continuing Academic Scholarship Applications may be made by calling the ATS Home Office (440) 842-8442, or by completing the Form printed below by March 16, 2026.

Completed official ATS Applications for scholarship grants must be received at the ATS Home Office before April 1, 2026 Undergraduate Continuing Academic Scholarship winners will be chosen in a random drawing conducted by the ATS Scholarship Committee

REQUEST FOR ATS UNDERGRADUATE CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

Name

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Tele: _____

E-Mail: _____

Br. No. _____ Cert. No. _____

Request must be received by March 16

Completed Application must be received by April 1, 2026

MAIL SCHOLARSHIP REQUEST FORM TO:
 ATS Home Office 5323 Pearl Road
 Cleveland, Ohio 44129-1503

Request Forms must be received by March 14, 2025
Please Note: Only official ATS Scholarship Application Forms will be accepted for consideration



VOCATIONAL & TRADE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

The ATS is offering scholarships for eligible Vocational & Trade School education programs. Applicants may attend a vocational school, trade school, technical school, certification training program, or credential program. Eligible fields of study include, but are not limited to, advanced manufacturing, automotive technology, computer technology, construction, cosmetology, culinary arts, electrical, HVAC, health care, industrial maintenance, machining, plumbing, or welding.

Applicants for this scholarship must be an ATS member in good standing, with a minimum of two (2) years' continuous membership prior to the scholarship application deadline of April 15. Applicants can be a high school senior or any age.

In addition to ATS awards, the following scholarship will be awarded:

\$ 500 Award in memory of Frank Hum

Requests for an official ATS Vocational & Trade School Scholarship applications may be made by calling the ATS Home Office (440) 842-8442, or by completing the Form printed below by March 16, 2026

Completed official ATS Applications for scholarship grants must be received at the ATS Home Office before April 1, 2026.

REQUEST FOR ATS VOCATIONAL & TRADE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

Name

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Tele: _____

E-Mail: _____

Br. No. _____ Cert. No. _____

Request must be received by March 16

Completed Application must be received by April 1, 2026

MAIL SCHOLARSHIP REQUEST FORM TO:
 ATS Home Office 5323 Pearl Road
 Cleveland, Ohio 44129-1503

Request Forms must be received by March 16, 2026
Please Note: Only official ATS Scholarship Application Forms will be accepted for consideration

•• All Scholarship winners will be notified by mail, after being announced at the ATS Convention

Peanut allergies finally decline after years-long surge

Peanut allergies are one of the most common causes of life-threatening allergic reactions, and have grown increasingly common in recent decades. According to JAMA, about peanut allergies affected .4 percent of children in 1997, but by 2018, more than 2 percent of children were allergic to peanuts. But recent data suggests that peanut allergy incidence is finally starting to decline -- and also suggests that previous guidance on peanut introduction may have been driving the sudden increase.

During the late 1990s and early 2000s, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommended that parents delay peanut introduction for three years, and some providers encouraged parents to wait as long as five years. But the landmark Learning Early About Peanut Allergy (LEAP) study, published in 2015, showed that introducing allergenic foods early actually decreased allergy risk among infants and young children.

Today, AAP guidance reflects these findings, and urges the introduction of allergenic foods for all infants at approximately six months of age. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, potentially allergenic foods include cow's milk products, eggs, fish and shellfish, tree nuts, peanuts, wheat, soy, and sesame.

FRATERNAL CALENDAR

NATIONAL EVENTS

February - March, 2026

Bowl Where You Are Contest

February 15, 2026

TSBA Bowling Session Host: Salem

March 15, 2026

TSBA Bowling Session Host: Youngstown

April 18 - 19, 2026

TSBA Season-end Tournament - Salem

May 2-3, 2026

ATS National Convention

Hosts: Cleveland West Branches 1 and 4

June 14 - 20, 2026

Saxon Summer Camp

July 10 - 12, 2026

North American Transylvanian Saxon Heimattag

Aylmer, Ontario Canada

July 25, 2026

ATS Family Day at Waldameer, Erie, PA

October 17 -18, 2026

ATS Open Bowling Tournament

Host: Salem

LOCAL EVENTS

January 18, 2026

Youngstown Saxon Club Pork and Kraut Dinner

February 8, 2026

Salem Branches 18 & 19 Family Bowling Party

Hunt Club Lanes

February 15, 2026

Youngstown Saxon Club Pork and Kraut Dinner

February 22, 2026

Cleveland Br. 4 Chinese Auction/Sausage Dinner

March 14, 2026

Cleveland Saxon Dance Group Chili Cookoff

March 15, 2026

Youngstown Saxon Club Pork and Kraut Dinner

May 2, 2026

Cleveland Saxon Dance Group Trachtenball

EINTRACHT SINGING SOCIETY NEW CASTLE

The following members have been elected to serve as Officers for 2026;

President- Robert Coulter

Vice President - Doug Schafer

Recording Secretary - Jacob Holzhauser

Treasurer - Jonathan Baisch

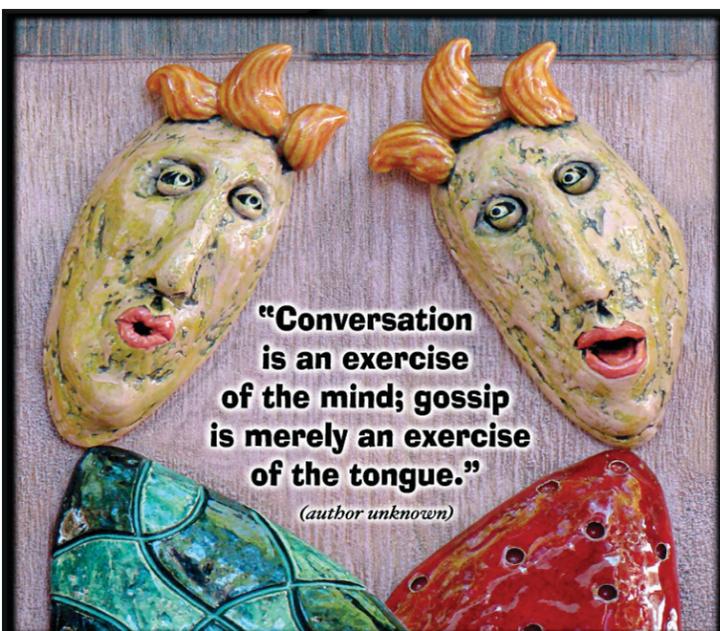
Financial Secretary - Paul Garmon

Trustee- Craigh Kuttensch, Brian Benedict, Mark Hudak

Sgt at Arms - Dan Both

ATS Secretary - Larry Hollerman

Thank you to the outgoing officers for their hard work and dedication to the Eintracht Singing Society.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Cont'd from Page 1

car market. Following the debut of this prototype, the first production of the Corvette was completed at a Flint, MI plant on June 30, 1953. In the early 1950s, Harley Earl, who was at that time the head designer for GM (who was then the world's largest automaker), became interested in developing a two-seat sports car. According to History.com, this first Corvette featured an all-fiberglass body (rather than steel), a white exterior and red interior, an unremarkable 150-horsepower engine and a starting price around \$3,500, which did not include taxes or an optional AM radio and heater. To give the car an air of exclusivity, GM initially marketed the car to invitation-only VIP customers. However, only a portion of the 300 Corvettes built that first year were sold. Even though GM dropped the VIP aspect the next year, sales were still disappointing in 1954.

GM discussed discontinuing the Corvette. However, GM's rival Ford

launched a sporty two-seat Thunderbird convertible in 1955, and that car quickly became a hit. GM didn't want to discontinue the Corvette and appear like a failure next to their competitor, so the car remained in production.

Now enters a Belgian-born, Russian-raised designer named Zora Arkus-Duntov. He applied to work at GM after seeing the prototype at the auto show. He became head engineer for the Corvette and put the car on course to become a legend. He pushed for the decision to turn the Corvette into a high-performance sports car with a succession of more powerful engines. The 1955 Corvette had a 195-horsepower engine, the 1956 version had a 240-horsepower engine, and the 1957 model had a 283-horsepower engine. During the second half of the 1950s, Corvettes began setting speed records on the racing circuit. The vehicle also got a publicity boost when it was featured on the TV show Route 66,

which launched in 1960. The show followed the story of two young men driving around America in a Corvette, looking for adventure.

Some Corvette facts include the following. In 1977, the 500,000th Corvette was built. Two years later, yearly production of the Corvette peaked at 53,807 cars. In 1992, the 1-millionth Corvette came off the assembly line in Bowling Green, Ky. The car is recognized as the longest-produced sports car in the world. The name comes from a small, high performance naval warship built for speed and maneuverability. Corvettes have been produced in only three different cities: Flint, Michigan, Bowling Green, Kentucky and St. Louis, Missouri. The 1957 model was the first American car to be equipped with a mechanical fuel injection system, while the 1986 model was the first American convertible to feature a factory-installed airbag.

The Chevy Corvette is an iconic vehicle and takes center stage in multiple songs, movies, TV shows, and video games throughout its 70+ year history.

Until next time...



Salem Saxon Club Branches 18 and 19

FAMILY BOWLING PARTY

FEBRUARY 8, 2026

1:30 PM

HUNT CLUB LANES

188 Railroad Street Salem OH 44460

Free Bowling

Free Shoes

Pizza

Soft Drinks

**Free for Branch
18 and 19
Members**

**Non-Member guests
are welcome to join
the party. Bowling
and shoes will be at
guest expense.**

**Juvenile members
age 6 - 17 bring
your ATS Bowl-
Where-You-Are
scoresheet**

RSVP by

February 6, 2026

**Barbara Spack
330-501-1491**

Detroit Branch 37 Christmas Party

BRANCH 37, DETROIT
By Trudy Kalvin



December in Detroit has been pretty chilly, but on December 7th things warmed up inside St. Peter's Lutheran Church at the Branch 37 Christmas Party. We unbundled ourselves inside and enjoyed the celebration with lots of good food, live music, beautiful festive decorations, and friendly faces. The members provided a huge display of homemade cookies and pastries. Our longtime President Susanna Fleischer started the celebration with this prayer:



Dear Lord, in this holy season when we are given so much, do not let us forget the many gifts and blessings you bring into our lives. Help us to remember that Christmas is a celebration of the birth of your son, Jesus Christ. Remind us to be grateful for our friends and families, whom we so often take for granted. We thank you for the beauty and peace of this holiday. Bless this food that we are about to enjoy on this special occasion. Amen

After the meal, each person received a nice gift. Then the singing of the holiday songs began, led by Dawn Wiseman, and our resident musicians Robert Schneider and Mike Rehner accompanied by playing the drums and bells.



A wonderful, peaceful time was had by all. We always give thanks, and appreciate the work of President Fleischer, Ingrid Weihs-Ferguson, Debbie Ferguson, Katie Moody, for their planning and preparation of our events.

Branch 37 wishes all a Happy Holiday Season.



FDT FINANCIAL
ADVISORS



"It's crypto with a C and has nothing to do with kryptonite."

BRANCH 10, COLUMBUS

By Donald Blum

*****IMPORTANT NO JANUARY MEETING*****

SPECIAL MENTION

Long-time Saxon Club member, Sofie Untch fell and is still recovering from hip surgery. She is still doing physical therapy and doing her best to get back normal activities. Sofie really enjoyed Christine Oehlman visiting her. She especially liked the things that Christine brought from Aldi's. We hope to see Sofie soon. Sofie's daughter, Anna Hall, who had surgery about the same time as Sofie is done with her physical therapy. Like Sofie, Anna is trying to get back to normal activities. We wish them both the best.

It is with great sadness that we advise of the passing of Stephen "Steve" Brown. Steve is the husband of long-time Saxon Club member Sara Alzner-Brown. Stephen L. "Steve" Brown, 68, of Pickerington, passed away on December 27, 2025, at his home. He was born to the late Virgil and Mary Brown on June 14, 1957, in Lancaster, OH. Steve was a 1975 graduate of Lancaster High School and worked for Anchor Hocking for 27 years, and ARC Industries for 20 years. He enjoyed playing pool, reading, camping, fishing and spending time with his buddies, Bryson and Braxton. He will be remembered for his kindness and good sense of humor.

Please join us in giving Sara and her family our sincere condolences.

MAILING/CONTACT LIST

So that we may keep you updated on the Saxon Club and ATS activities please email me and/or text me your contact information: donaldcblum@prodigy.net or (614) 580-8616 or private message me on Facebook

We don't want you to be left out of events like Heimattag, Picnics, Christmas Party and numerous ATS events. We are getting ready to send out a mailing of events in 2026.

CELEBRATIONS

We want to wish Hedy Fleischer (January 1), Olga Hesch (January 12) and John Gellner

(January 23) a very Happy Birthday and good fortunes in the New Year. Alles Gute zum Geburtstag

SAXON LIFE OF MICHAEL FARR (his story is paraphrased from excerpts of his story)

The story of Michael Farr continues with Michael and brother Jakob finding out from the Baron that he was to turn them into the prison camp at Kazan.

Two days later the baron took them to Kazan. The baron and his wife were very upset and didn't want to take them to the camp. The baron said, "Take all the bread you can carry so you don't go hungry." Also, the baron said, "Michaila, when this is all over, I want to come to your country and see how it is there." They all cried and departed. The baron never came and Michael never knew what had happened to him and his family.

The camp in Kazan was far from the city. The camp was situated on an ex-

tremely wooded area on a mountain side. The facility was pretty large. It contained 36 barracks and housed several thousand people of various nationalities. They were there for about two weeks when something totally unexpected happened.

It was August 1918. Suddenly there was cannon fire everywhere. The Bolsheviks came up from the town of Volga, and it was the Red Army versus the White Army (the rich). They were all scared and started walking away from the barracks. It became very chaotic with prisoners headed one way and others headed another way. They all started heading out to the fields to get away from the skirmish. That night they slept in the fields. They would walk for two days. Eventually, someone guided them to a boat. The boat took them to a big city, Nizhni Novgorod (Gorki). They were there a couple of weeks, then were put on a train to Smolensk. They came to a border, with the German guards on one side and the Russian guards on the other side. Germany had made peace with Russia. They met up with their Regiment in Maras Vasarhely.

Michael received a huge and wonderful surprise. Rosie met Michael in Maras Vasarhely. They had not seen each in 3 1/2 years.

While Germany had made peace with Russia the war was still continuing in France and England. A lot of Americans came to help France and England. Michael's regiment got a furlough for 21 days, and then they were to go back again. Something wonderful happened in those three weeks. The war ended and they didn't have to go back. Germany was so weakened that Kaiser Wilhelm surrendered. The Kaiser gave up all the territory he took from Russia and Transylvania went to Romania (which is where it is today). They put Kaiser Wilhelm in exile on some island and World War I was over.

Finally, things and life for Michael and Rosie were getting back to normal. Michael resumed his farming. He plowed the ground in the fall of 1918. The government promised him seed to plant but he got nothing and they had nothing. He sowed what he could, and the rest of the ground would stand idle. Michael ended up having to buy wheat so they could make bread for him and Rosie. Michael got wheat from his uncle, John Farr but found out that John was not so generous and the wheat was expensive. Michael took his two cows and a wagon and drove to Klein Schong (sic) and met with a Romanian named Peter. Peter would sell him wheat for half of what his uncle John was charging. Peter let Michael use his mill and he made the wheat into flour.

The next fall, Michael received a surprise visit from two officers and two soldiers from the government, along with Judge Kasper. They were going from house to house to collect whatever wheat or corn that you could give. They asked

Michael, "How much will you give?" As I have come to know Michael from this story, I am not at all surprised by his response. Michael said, "Officer, I've got nothing to give." They said, "In a nice home like this, why do you have nothing to give?" I can almost visualize Michael's response. "Officer, I have been in the war for four years and this home stood here. There was no plowing or hoeing until I came home last year. You, the government promised us seed, and all I got was your promise, and nothing else. The ground stood bare, so I have nothing to give." Judge Kasper had to hold his hand over his mouth so they could not see him laugh. The soldiers started going through the house, tried opening locked cabinets. Michael stepped in and said, "What are you going to do? This is mine and you have no right to throw my things around. I was a soldier, too. If you want to see something, then ask me, but there is nothing here for you." The soldiers and the officers backed down and as usual, Michael won yet another confrontation.

On August 17, 1919, their son, Mike was born. Michael continued to work hard for his family. In the daytime he worked as a carpenter for 12 hours (6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.) and at home he worked until dark. He would go to the vineyard and would dig with a shovel so he would prepare to plant grapes. In 1920, he planted 500 grape vines.

In 1921, Michael and Rosie got notice and permission from the United States to come to America. We will pause here, as the news on coming

to America was both good and not so good. Make sure you follow the next leg of Michael's journey.

HUMOR (COMPLIMENTS OF SARA ALZNER-BROWN)

Yesterday, I got a call from a really polite young woman. She sounded like she was calling from a different continent! Here's how our conversation went,

"Good afternoon ma'am, how are you doing today?"

"I'm fine, thanks! Who am I speaking with?"

"Ma'am, my name is Priya, and I'm calling from Global Tech Support."

"Global what? Is that like in Eastern Europe?"

"No, ma'am - we're a computer company. I'm calling because we've found a serious problem with your computer."

"Oh, that's a problem."

"Yes, but don't worry, I can fix it for you today."

"No, no...it's a problem because I don't even OWN a computer."

"You don't?"

"Nope."

"A laptop?"

"Nope."

"A tablet?"

"Don't have one."

(Another long pause...), "But ma'am, everyone has *something*. You must own some kind of a device?"

"Actually...I don't even have a phone."

(Silence.) Then, finally, she said: "Ma'am...you're not telling the truth."

And I replied, "Well, *you* were the one who started making things up!"

BRANCH 1, CLEVELAND

By Arnold Rinas

It's been a very busy time of year. Branch 4 gathered our youth for a breakfast with Santa Claus that resulted in fun and memories that will last lifetimes.

The hall hosted Krampus Night only a few hours later, an event of the Gemütlichkeit Cleveländer Musikanten. The snow didn't stop a fun lead-in to the Christmas holiday!

Once again, our beautiful hall helped make fun, holiday memories for hundreds of guests that will last lifetimes! Thank you to every individual (too many to name!) who had anything to do with these two events. Everyone from members to volunteers to bar staff and more...none of this is possible without all of you!

A scheduling meeting was held for dates and events in the new year, and 2026 has many good things to look forward to! All the traditional dates were locked in - and some dates for new ideas were left open to explore. Lots of fun is ahead for the Cleveland club, and we can't wait to share it with you!

First up in the new year is our first Branch 1 meeting of 2026 on Thursday January 15 at 6:30 p.m. Our new officers and trustees will take members through plans to enhance

and maintain the club, the building and the bar/restaurant. For more info you can reach out to Sekretär Arnold at rhinocharlie@gmail.com. He'll not only send you the agenda for the month's meeting, but also add you to our email list of members who will get emailed monthly updates, event postings and club events. We're also looking for members to help with maintenance, repairs and social media services. If you're able to help but can't make it to the meeting, please let us know!

We're planning a fundraiser dinner this year, and we're looking for Sachsen recipes to feature! If you have any delicious offerings you would like to share, please reach out and let us know.

We humbly hope you and yours have had a joyful, fun, memorable and meaningful holiday season. We've taken many opportunities to enhance the joy and meaning of the season for those around us, and we hope that in some way it affects all of you as well. Now, it's time to look forward and move ahead toward the goals and ideas we talked about accomplishing in 2026.

Frohes neues Jahr meine Freunde!

Are you someone who needs a good reason to obtain Life Insurance?



Do you fit into one of the following categories? If so, you now have your reason to purchase Life Insurance!

Couples: Life Insurance can provide protection for couples just starting out, or even later in life, who may not be able to afford daily living expenses, pay off debt, etc., with only one income.

Singles: Even if you're single, someone needs to cover your funeral costs, credit card debt, medical expenses, etc. when you pass away.

Family Breadwinner: Life Insurance can replace your income and allow your family to maintain the same standard of living if you pass away unexpectedly.

Stay-at-Home Parent: Life Insurance can cover the cost of childcare and other important services the parent was providing in case of an unexpected passing.

New Homeowner: Life Insurance can allow your family to continue paying the mortgage and stay in the home in the event a wage earner passes away.

Parents of a Special Needs Child: Life Insurance can provide financial support to the child when the parents pass.

Divorced Parents: Life Insurance can be used to continue covering expenses for your child if you pass away.

Multigenerational Household Member: Those supporting aging parents, kids, or both, can use Life Insurance to provide ongoing care for those loved ones.

If your New Year's Resolution is to obtain Life Insurance for yourself or your loved ones, the ATS can help you! Give your local Sales Deputy a call or contact the Home Office for more details.



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