

THE SAXON NEWS

Volksblatt

Celebrating over 100 years of Saxon Fraternalism

Published by
The Alliance
of Transylvanian Saxons
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Cleveland, Ohio 44129-1503
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ATS Founded in 1902

July 31, 2026

Issue 16



John Werner of Canada being awarded the Star of Honor of the Federation of Transylvanian Saxons, the highest award of the worldwide Saxon community. L-R: Rainer Lehni, Federation Chair, also of Germany, John Werner, Denise Aeling Crawford, President Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons, and Rebecca Horeth, Chairwoman, Landsmannschaft in Canada.

“We are Heimat”: North American Heritage Day 2026 in Aylmer testifies to cross-border community spirit

Transylvanian Saxons from Canada, the USA and even from Germany met from July 10 to 12 in Aylmer, Ontario, for North American Heritage Day 2026. Saxonia Hall and its members were pleased to welcome Rainer Lehni, President of the Federation of Transylvanian Saxons and Federal Chairman of the Association of Transylvanian Saxons in Germany, together with his wife Heike, as well as the Federal Managing Director of the Association of Transylvanian Saxons in Germany, Ute Brenndörfer, with her husband and other guests. This year’s three-day event was hosted by the German-Canadian Club (Saxonia Hall) in Aylmer under the motto “We are Heimat (home)”.

The Heimattag takes place every summer alternately in Canada and the USA. In 2026, the focus was neither on the places we remember as our home, nor on the new places of residence in Canada and the USA, but on the many generations of people in our Saxon communities who create a sense of home through their stories and traditions. The weekend events began on Friday evening with an open-air beer garden. The participants met at this FIFA World Cup-style welcome party and made contacts with old friends. On Saturday afternoon, a beer tasting took place. Six different German beers were offered together with small appetizers. In addition, beer expert Daniel Schmidt explained details of the samples. Mr. Schmidt inspired the guests with

his knowledge of Bavarian beers.

The official opening of the weekend took place on Saturday evening with a banquet and dancing. The musical accompaniment was provided by the Youngstown Saxon Brass Band under the direction of Mike Bachinger. David

TIMELY - DO NOT DELAY
MAILED TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2026

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Continued on Page 5

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

By Denise Aeling Crawford
ATS Nat’l President



The 2026 North American Transylvanian Saxon Heimattag is now just a great memory. For those who attended, I believe they all had a great time. Friday evening was the “Gemütlichkeit” get together where everyone can see old friends and make new ones. Saturday afternoon, some of us attended a “beer tasting” and learned some dos and don’ts and facts and fictions about beer. The Saturday evening banquet had greetings from David Pfingstgraef, the President of Aylmer’s Saxonia Hall, and Rebecca Horeth, the President of the Transylvanian Saxons in Canada. The Kitchener Choir performed as well as the Kitchener Transylvanian Club Dancers. To round out the evening, our own Youngstown Saxon Culture Group’s Brass Band played to everyone’s musical and dancing enjoyment. Sunday morning brought church service at the local Lutheran Church just down the street from the Saxonia Hall. Then, a short parade from the Church down the street to the Hall. The Sunday program kicked off with my greetings and then a message from Rainer Lehni, the President of the Verband der Siebenbürger Sachsen in Germany and also the Chairman of the Federation of Transylvanian Saxons. John Werner, past Chairman of the Transylvanian Saxons in Canada, was awarded the Federation’s Star of Honor for all of his many years of service to the Transylvanian Saxon people. Following lunch was our own Cleveland Saxon Dance Group performance and then the Aylmer Saxonia Hall Dance Group. Most of the USA attendees then hopped back on the ATS bus for our drive back home.

It was nice seeing Rainer Lehni and his wife, Heike, again. They enjoyed an extended vacation traveling throughout some cities and the countryside in Canada during their stay. Plans are in the works for Rainer to attend next year’s Heimattag in the USA, when the ATS celebrates its 125th Anniversary. Also in attendance was Ute Brenndörfer and her husband, Wieland. Ute is the General Manager of the Verband’s office in Munich, Germany. It was great to see them again in person, too. As we say, Heimattag is the time for making and meeting life-long friends, whether they’re from the USA, Canada, Austria, Transylvanian, or Germany!

Did you know that President Dwight D Eisenhower signed into law the phrase “In God We Trust” on July 30, 1956? According to History.com, the law, P.L. 84-140, officially declared “In God We Trust” to be the nation’s official motto. This law also mandated that the phrase be printed on all American paper currency. (The phrase had been placed on U.S. coins since the Civil War.) Eisenhower’s treasury secretary, George Humphrey, had suggested adding the phrase to paper currency as well. The first paper money with the phrase “In God We Trust” was printed in 1957.

Two years earlier, on June 14, 1954 (Flag Day), President

Continued on Page 4

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

YOUNGSTOWN
SAXON RETIREES
By Ro Dundon

Hi—Happy Summer to all! We held our July meeting on the 9th. It was held at Amen’s Corners in Girard. It’s so good to get together to hear what is going on at each member’s domain, what’s going on at the club now and in the future, A Happy, Happy Birthday went out to Kay Ring wishing her many, many more.

We understand the Club has a new Chef. Welcome aboard!! We heard the dinners, sandwiches, side dishes and specials are very good. So, saying that, how about we take a trip to the Club so you can judge for yourself. While there, have a drink at the bar and take a look at the lower lounge. Come down for Bingo and sign up for the raffle, have fun. By the way, anyone interested in our group come and join us for the August Meeting. We don’t bite; we would love to meet you.

The next meeting will be on August 13th at 12 Noon. It will be at Ruby Tuesdays Restaurant in Austintown.

Everyone. Stay indoors with the air conditioning on. Stay dehydrated, stay safe and healthy.

Hoping to see you all on the 13th at Ruby Tuesdays Restaurant. RoseMarie will call everyone if there is any change in the plans.

Until we meet again, As usual It’s Ro.



A frog rode the
salad to the store

Talk about farm fresh. A shopper in Australia opened a bag of grocery-store salad in May and found an unexpected extra ingredient -- a live frog, tucked among the lettuce leaves.

According to The Associated Press, the little stow-away had apparently been scooped up with the greens back at the farm and rode all the way to the store shelf, none the worse for the trip.

Consider it a good reason to give those pre-washed greens one more look before dinner.



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.

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THE DEADLINE DATE FOR ARTICLES
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You may either
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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 5, 2026	FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2026
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2026	FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 2026
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2026	FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Cont'd from Page 1

Eisenhower signed a bill to have the phrase "under God" inserted into the Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge, which was recited by school children every morning, was originally written in 1892 to mark the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' arrival in the Americas. It contained no reference to religion. The push to add these words gained momentum during the Cold War, reflecting a response to the perceived threat of communism.

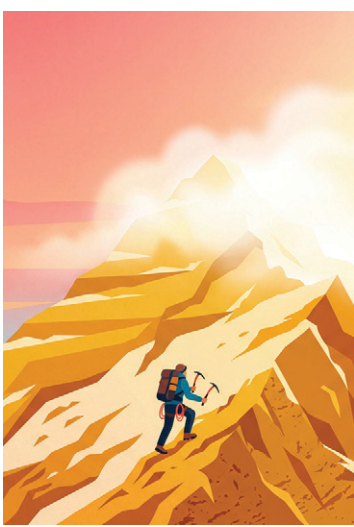
The President's ancestors immigrated from the village of Karlsbrunn, Germany, to the Province of Pennsylvania in 1741. The name then was spelled Eisenhauer, and accounts vary as to when the spelling changed. Some historical accounts claim that Eisenhower was raised a Jehovah's Witness. However, most presidential scholars now believe that his family was Mennonite. No matter which it was, Eisenhower abandoned his family's religion before entering the Army. Later, he took the unusual step of being baptized late in his adult life as a Presbyterian. He was baptized in 1953, barely a year into his first term as president, at the age of 63.

Although Eisenhower em-

braced religion, biographers insist he never intended to force his beliefs on anyone. The chapel-like structure near where he and his wife Mamie are buried on the grounds of his presidential library is called the "Place of Meditation" and is deliberately inter-denominational. At that Flag Day speech in 1954, he discussed why he wanted to include "Under God" in the pledge of allegiance. He stated, "In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's most powerful resource in peace and war."

President Eisenhower, also known as Ike, was the 34th President of the United States, serving from 1953 to 1961. He was best known for his leadership during World War II as the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in Europe and his efforts to ease Cold War tensions. Alaska and Hawaii became states during his Presidential term. Eisenhower died on March 28, 1969, of congestive heart failure, at the age of 78.

Until next time...



A historic boom, and no one knows where it ends

The same giant companies that dominate the stock market are pouring almost unimaginable sums into artificial intelligence, and the figures are hard to picture.

According to Goldman Sachs, building the computers, data centers, and power that AI needs could cost about \$7.6 trillion between 2026 and 2031. Morgan Stanley puts data-center construction alone near \$2.9 trillion through 2028, and says AI is already driving roughly a quarter of all U.S. economic growth this year. Meta alone has told investors it plans to spend well over \$100 billion in a single year, more than the yearly economic output of many entire countries.

Some compare the moment to the arrival of electricity or the railroads, the kind of rebuilding that reshapes an economy once in a century.

Yet no one knows how it ends. Experts disagree about whether the spending will pay off. According to a report from MIT, about 95 percent of company AI projects have so far returned nothing.



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CALM
and
SAXON ON

Help Preserve Sachsenheim Hall's Historic Legacy



Donate now!

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Sachsenheim Hall (AKA Westside Sachsenheim) has been the home away from home for the Transylvanian Saxon Germans living on the Westside of Cleveland for 116 years.

Many cultural events and weddings have been held here, (who hasn't been to a wedding reception at the Sachsenheim?) and our "Rathskeller" bar hosts one of the best Taco Tuesdays on town.

As is the case with many a historic building, time catches up to it and over time maintenance and repairs become costly.

In addition to incurred debt over the years, other concerns include major needed repairs, the largest being a roof that is in need of a total replacement and we are asking for your financial help and support.

Why \$116,000.00? The cornerstone of the Sachsenheim was laid in 1916 with a later addition in 1925.

With your generous contribution we can keep our legacy alive.

Prefer to donate directly? Your generous donation can also be made by mailing your check made out to "ATS Br. 1" to Hanz Hermann, ATS Br. 1 Treasurer, 29076 Fall River Dr, Westlake OH 44145.

Our sincere thanks to the following donors:

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FRATERNAL CALENDAR

NATIONAL EVENTS

- September 20, 2026
TSBA Bowling - New Castle
- October 4, 2026
TSBA Bowling - Cleveland West
- October 10, 2026
Saxon Jugend Sport und Spiel Fest
Streetsboro, OH
- October 17 -18, 2026
ATS Open Bowling Tournament
Host: Salem

LOCAL EVENTS

- August 8, 2026
Alliance Branches 3 and 8
Summer picnic @ John Aeling's
- August 9, 2026
Cleveland East Br. 33 Summer Picnic
Penitentiary Glen, Kirkland, OH
- August 15, 2026
Cleveland Sachsenheim Oktoberfest
- August 16, 2026
Lorain Br. 5 Summer Picnic, Lakeview Park
- September 26, 2026
New Castle Br. 25 and 27 Oktoberfest
Cleveland East Br. 33 Clambake
- December 13, 2026
Chicago Br. 9 Christmas Party
Columbus Br. 10 Christmas Party Berwick Party House

BRANCH 25, NEW CASTLE
By Larry Hollerman

Eb was a loved and trusted member of the ATS Branch 25 for many years. Our condolences and prayers go out to his friends and family.

Official Obituary of Detlef E. "Eb" Seeger, Jr.
November 2, 1938 - July 7, 2026

Detlef E. "Eb" Seeger, Jr., age 87, of New Castle, passed away July 7, 2026, at his residence. Born to the late Detlef E. and Evelyn Seeger on Nov. 2, 1938. Known as Eb by his family and friends. Eb worked for the Pepsi Cola Bottling Co., Met Life, owned and operated Dan-Dee potato chip franchise, Dracket Products, Co., Reliable Lumber & Supply Co., and was part owner of Eb & Nancy's Sportsman Lounge with longtime friend, Nancy Hobel.

He was also the owner and operator of Shasta II fishing charter on Lake Erie. Eb was an avid fisherman and hunter. He was very active as a volunteer for the PA Fish & Boat Commission. He loved going to the Georgian Bay in Canada on fishing trips. Eb was past Exalted Ruler of Elks Club, Past President of Eintracht Singing Society.

He was preceded in death by his father Detlef, mother Evelyn, one sister, Kathryn Elliot. Surviving is two daughters Susan (Stu) Kessler, Marcie Reinhard, one son, Douglas Seeger;



Detlef E. "Eb" Seeger, Jr
1938-2026.

one sister, Carol Stole, five grandchildren Ashley, Douglas Jr., Christopher, Morgan, and Justin; and ten great grandchildren.

In keeping with his wishes there will be no visitation or services. Donations can be made to Three Rivers Hospice. Special thanks to Dr. Shober and his staff: Faye Haylette, Nan Lease, Tanya Fee & Tracy Morris for all their help in Eb's care. Arrangements have been entrusted to the R. Cunningham Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc., 2429 Wilmington Road, New Castle, where online condolences may be offered to the family by visiting www.cunninghamfh.com.



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.

Charles E. West
Age: 85
Died: June 16, 2026
Branch 30, Youngstown, OH

Rudolf F. Gross
Age: 90
Died: July 4, 2026
Branch 26, Merrillville, IN

Charlotte A. Bottar
Age: 94
Died: July 6, 2026
Home Branch

Detlef E. Seeger
Age: 87
Died: July 7, 2026
Branch 25, New Castle, PA

Hannah J. Anderle
Age: 27
Died: July 9, 2026
Branch 9, Chicago, IL

Gudrun H. Jefferis
Age: 88
Died: July 10, 2026
Branch 27, New Castle, PA



Give the credit away

Here is a finding that runs against instinct. When behavioral researcher Joseph Folkman studied roughly 3,800 leaders, each rated by the people around them, the ones who grabbed credit for the team's work landed low in effectiveness, in the 13th percentile. The ones who pushed credit toward others landed high, in the 85th for effectiveness. Giving credit away did not make them look smaller. It made them look like the best leaders in the building.

You do not have to be a boss for this to work. Naming the colleague whose idea actually carried the meeting, or the teammate

who caught the error before it shipped, costs you nothing and builds something. The trick is to be specific. "Great team effort" is forgettable. "This worked because Dana rebuilt the spreadsheet over the weekend" is the kind of credit people remember receiving.

Withholding it does real damage. A 2026 study in the Journal of Occupational and Organizational Psychology found that when people's ideas were taken by others, the resentment ran deep -- but it dropped sharply the moment a colleague or a leader stepped in and named the true source out loud.

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Nursery
Coffee following service
Senior Circle



parents, grandparents and ancestors who mastered the challenges of immigration to North America and wanted to preserve the most valuable aspects of their everyday lives from their homeland". She explained that the continuation of our Saxon traditions in Canada and the U.S. is "thanks to all the people who are committed, who nurture our roots, and who, like our ancestors, enthusiastically pass on our traditions to our children and neighbors." Rebecca continued, "As our families and communities grow and our direct ties to Transylvania increasingly fade, our connection to our Saxon roots becomes more complex. Instead of being Transylvanian Saxons just because we live there or because our parents were, we consciously choose to live as Transylvanian Saxons." The evening ended with singing by the Transylvania Club Choir under the direction of Andrea Emrich and a performance by the Transylvania Club Dance Group under the direction of Laik Sweeney.

Sunday began with an evangelical service at St. John's Church, a local congregation founded in the 1950s by German-speaking immigrants from Eastern Europe after arriving in the Aylmer area. Pastor Barry Boeckner led the service and introduced the participants to the reflection on our roots using the parable of the sower. Both parishioners and guests of the Heimattag were happy to see the church full of traditional costume wearers. Particularly moving was the joint departure from the church as part of the traditional costume procession - a living reminder of a cherished custom from Transylvania. Going to church and traditional costume parade to Saxonia Hall of the flag bearers: Ryan Hesch (Transylvania), Henry Botsch (USA), Daniel Pfingstgraef (Canada), Derek Gotzmeister (Switzerland), Reilly Ragot (Romania), Kate Pfingstgraef (Austria), Julie Firtl (Germany). Photo: AJ Coletti After returning to Saxonia Hall, Denise Crawford, President of the Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons (ATS) in the USA,

brought greetings during the rally. Denise shared her experience of how our culture connects us across borders: "Our Transylvanian-Saxon roots are very special, and these traditions are proudly presented here this weekend. We feel transported back home for a moment. A connection is immediately created, often even a friendship with people you have just met. All those present here are henceforth forever connected to each other. When you meet again at the next Heimattag, you are no longer a stranger to the other person. You feel like you're at home with your family."

Rainer Lehni conveyed greetings from Germany. He reported on the successes of our Transylvanian-Saxon community in Europe this year and said: "We are home' fits wonderfully with our globally scattered community. It is a community that appeals to and unites all generations – something that is typical for us Transylvanian Saxons. I think the Transylvanian Saxons in Germany and North America could not have found more appropriate keywords this year. You here, my dear compatriots in Canada and the USA, live in the second, third or fourth generation far away from Transylvania. It is remarkable how young Transylvanian Saxons from North America, some of whom speak neither German nor Saxon, say about themselves: 'I am proud to be Transylvanian Saxon.' Young people are curious and eager to learn. And without a doubt, this is the generation that is rediscovering its roots. Passing on our traditions to this young generation is crucial for the preservation of our community." Awarding of the Honorary Star of the Federation to John Werner (second from left), from left: Rainer Lehni, Denise Crawford, Rebecca Horeth. Photo: Heidi Löwricks As part of the rally on Sunday, Rainer Lehni, Rebecca Horeth and Denise Crawford presented John Werner with the Star of Honour of the Federation of Transylvanian Saxons, the highest award of the worldwide Saxon commu-



Rebecca Horeth,
Chairwoman
Landsmannschaft der
Siebenbuerger Sachsen
in Canada

nity, in recognition of his 28 years of commitment to the Saxon Community of Canada as chairman of the Transylvanian Saxon Landsmannschaft. John Werner's contributions both as chairman and in other capacities, as well as his more than fifty years of commitment to youth camp and cultural exchange programs, have shaped many generations of Transylvanian Saxons in Canada and abroad. Rainer Lehni explained: "With the award of the Star of Honour, we would like to honour your decades of commitment to the Transylvanian Saxons. You have not only taken great care of our Saxons living in Canada, but have always strived to steadily expand the connections across continents. Federation youth camps and cultural exchange have been a matter close to your heart for decades. It is precisely with this commitment that you have understood how to bring the Transylvanian Saxons in Europe and North America closer. Anyone who knows you knows that you have spent your whole life working for the interests of the Transylvanian Saxons and their cross-border cohesion. Starting with youth work and your participation in the first federation youth camp in Germany in 1971, up to the 28 years in which you worked as federal chairman of the Landsmannschaft in Canada."

John Werner thanked for the award and first recalled his Saxon roots - his mother came from Meschendorf, his father from Weillau. Looking

SAVE THE DATE!

SAXON JUGEND

SPORT UND SPIEL FEST

★ YOUTH SPORT AND GAME FEST ★

OUTDOOR GAMES!

OCTOBER 10

PRIZES! FUN FOR EVERYONE!

BE ACTIVE. MAKE FRIENDS. HAVE FUN!

★ LET'S PLAY. LET'S GROW. TOGETHER. ★

Location: Streetsboro City Park **Time: 10am-2pm**

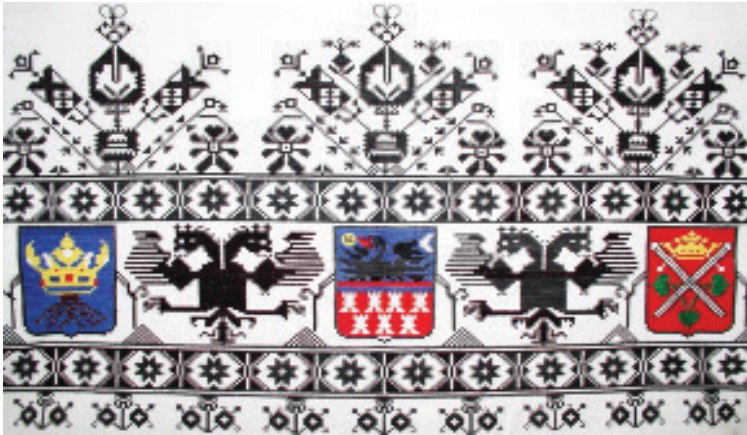
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back on his more than 56 years of active cultural work and commitment to the cultural heritage of the Saxon community in Canada, he said, "I have had the privilege of meeting and working with many people to develop and implement these programs." He also spoke about his experiences as a participant in the first youth camp in Siegen in 1971 and about the Heimattag: "The Heimattag, which we celebrate every year alternately in the USA and Canada – like this weekend here in the Saxonia Hall – is our annual Saxon festival. It brings us together to celebrate our heritage, see old friends, meet new ones and bring our children and young people closer to Transylvanian-Saxon culture and traditions. We hope that the Heimattag and our club events will awaken a lasting interest among our young people, which will help us to preserve and pass on our heritage."

Finally, John Werner thanked all those who had supported him over the years: "I owe my success in all my activities to my wife Helgard and our family, the board of the Landsmannschaft, my companions in the Transylvania Club and in the Saxonia Hall, the responsible persons of the Federation of Transylvanian Saxons as well as all our Saxon members and friends." The weekend concluded with performances by the Cleveland Saxon Dance Group and the Saxonia Dancers, as well as the invitation of Denise Crawford on behalf of the ATS to the 2027 North American Homeland Day in Cleveland, Ohio, which will take place July 9-11, 2027.

Rebecca Horeth, Federal Chairwoman of the Transylvanian Saxon Landsmannschaft in Canada.

SBZ Online 23.07.26



Heimattag Address:
Rainer Lehni, Chairman of the Federation of Transylvanian Saxons

Liebe Rebecca Horeth, dear Denise Crawford,
meine sehr geehrten Damen und Herren,
liebe Landsleute in Nordamerika, leiw Saxen,

unsere siebenbürgisch-sächsische Gemeinschaft lebt seit vielen Jahrzehnten verstreut in der ganzen Welt. Die 1983 gegründete Föderation der Siebenbürger Sachsen vereinigt unter einem Dach unsere Verbände in Kanada, den USA, Österreich, Siebenbürgen und Deutschland. In diesem Jahr kamen erfreulicherweise unsere Landsleute in der Schweiz hinzu. Die Föderation ist für unsere Gemeinschaft enorm wichtig und sie dient dem weltweiten Zweck unsere Kultur, unser Brauchtum, unsere Traditionen, unsere Gemeinschaft über Ländergrenzen und Kontinente hinweg zu bewahren und zu erhalten. Ich freue mich daher Ihnen allen die besten Grüße der Siebenbürger Sachsen aus Europa hier zu übermitteln.

Our Transylvanian Saxon community has been living scattered across the world for many decades. Founded in 1983, the Federation of Transylvanian Saxons brings together our associations in Canada, the USA, Austria, Transylvania, and Germany under one roof. This year, we were delighted to welcome our compatriots in Switzerland. The federation is extremely important for our community, as it serves the global purpose of preserving and maintaining our culture, customs, traditions, and community across national borders and continents. I am therefore happy to send all of you the best greetings from the Transylvanian Saxons in Europe.

Vor sieben Wochen feierten die Sachsen in Deutschland ihren 76. Heimattag in Dinkelsbühl. Ich habe mich sehr gefreut, dass mit Rick Hesch und Michael Bachinger auch Ihre Verbände aus Kanada und den USA präsent waren. Ganz besonders schön war, dass Kanada gleich beim Trachtenzug von einer kleinen Trachtengruppe ihrer Landsmannschaft vertreten war. Ich hoffe lieber Rick, dass alle Besucher aus Kanada den Heimattag in Dinkelsbühl genießen konnten.

Seven weeks ago, the Saxons in Germany celebrated their 76th Heimattag in Dinkelsbühl. I was really happy that Canadian Landsmannschaft and ATS were also represented by Rick Hesch and Michael Bachinger. It was great that Canada was represented right from the parade by a small group in our traditional costumes. I hope, dear

Rick, that all guests from Canada were able to enjoy Heimattag in Dinkelsbühl.

Vor wenigen Tagen ging auch das Föderationsjugendlager in Deutschland zu Ende. Kanada und die USA waren hier sehr gut vertreten. Und ich freue mich dass nicht nur die Kinder von Rick Hesch sondern auch die Enkel von John Werner hier dabei gewesen sind. Habe mich gefreut, die Jugendlichen bei ihrer ersten Station in Drabenderhöhe begrüßen zu dürfen. Ich hoffe, alle Jugendlichen hatten schöne zwei Wochen in Deutschland.

A few days ago, the Federation Youth Camp, the Föderationsjugendlager in Germany, also came to an end. Canada and the USA were very well represented here. And I'm happy that not only Rick Hesch's children but also John Werner's grandchildren were there. I was glad to be able to welcome the young people at their first stop in Drabenderhöhe. I hope all the young people had a wonderful two weeks in Germany.

Ich darf mit großer Freude feststellen, dass im Zuge einer zunehmend globalisierten Welt, die Beziehungen der weltweit lebenden Siebenbürger Sachsen untereinander sich noch viel mehr verbessert haben. Das digitale Zeitalter macht das möglich, ersetzt aber nicht die persönliche Begegnung. Ganz besonders möchte ich hier an das zweite Große Sachsentreffen im Sommer 2024 erinnern, dass uns alle zusammen in Hermannstadt vereint hat. Auch Sie liebe Sachsen aus Nordamerika waren hier selbstverständlich dabei und haben mit ihrer Teilnahme zum großen Erfolg dieses Treffens beigetragen.

I am very happy to note that in our increasingly globalized world, the relationships among Transylvanian Saxons living all over the world have improved even more. The digital age makes this possible, but it cannot replace personal encounters. I especially want to remember the second Great Saxon Treffen in the summer of 2024, which brought us all together in Hermannstadt, in the heart of Transylvania. You, dear Saxons from North America, were of course there as well and contributed to the great success of this meeting with your participation.

Die geschichtlichen Entwicklungen des 20. Jahrhunderts haben unsere sächsische Gemeinschaft in alle Welt verstreut. Hier komme ich jetzt zu dem schönen deutschen Wort „Heimat“, dass es so in keiner anderen Sprache gibt. Die alte Heimat in Siebenbürgen haben wir verloren. Aber wir Siebenbürger

Sachsen haben es geschafft, an unseren neuen Wohnorten uns eine neue Heimat zu schaffen, und das egal ob in Deutschland, in Kanada oder in den USA. Wir pflegen heute unsere Traditionen, unsere Kultur und unsere Trachten. Wir pflegen unsere kulinarischen Rezepte wie Strätzel, Hunklich oder Bratwurst. Wir sprechen noch teilweise unseren sächsischen Dialekt. Ich freue mich immer wenn ich junge Menschen treffe die noch sächsisch sprechen. Wir pflegen aber vor allem unsere sächsische Gemeinschaft. Das alles macht Heimat aus, auch wenn wir heute in Aylmer, Cleveland, München oder Köln leben. Überall haben wir Siebenbürger Sachsen es geschafft neue Heimat zu finden und zu gestalten. Das Motto des Heimattags „Wir sind Heimat - We are Heimat“ passt daher perfekt zu ihrem Heimattag hier in Nordamerika.

The historical developments of the 20th century have scattered our Saxon community all over the world. Here I come to the beautiful German word „Heimat,“ which doesn't really exist in any other language. We lost our old Heimat in Transylvania. But we Transylvanian Saxons have managed to create a new Heimat for ourselves in our new places of residence, whether in Germany, Canada, or the USA. Today, we maintain our traditions, our culture, and our traditional costumes. We keep up our culinary recipes like Strätzel, Hunklich, or Bratwurst. We still partly speak our Saxon dialect. I always get happy when I meet young people who still speak Saxon. But above all, we take care of our Saxon community. All of this makes home, even if today we live in Aylmer, Cleveland, Munich, or Cologne. Everywhere we Transylvanian Saxons have managed to find and shape a new home. The motto of the Heimattag „Wir sind Heimat - We are Heimat“ therefore fits perfectly for your Heimattag here in North America.

Unser Heimattag in Dinkelsbühl stand in diesem Jahr unter dem Motto „Generationen verbinden – Perspektiven schaffen“. Gemeinsam mit Ihrem Motto „We are Heimat“ passt das alles wunderbar zusammen zu unserer weltweit verstreuten Gemeinschaft. Es ist eine Gemeinschaft, die alle Generationen anspricht und vereint, etwas was typisch ist für uns Siebenbürger Sachsen. Ich bin der Meinung bessere Schlagworte hätte die Siebenbürger Sachsen in Deutschland und Nordamerika in diesem Jahr nicht finden können.

The Heimattag in Dinkelsbühl, Germany, this year was under the



Rainer Lehni

motto „Connecting Generations – Creating Perspectives. (Generationen verbinden – Perspektiven schaffen)“ Together with your motto „We are Heimat,“ it all fits wonderfully with our worldwide dispersed community. It's a community that appeals to and unites all generations, something that is typical for us Transylvanian Saxons. I believe the Transylvanian Saxons in Germany and North America couldn't have found better keywords this year.

Sie hier, meine lieben Landsleute in Kanada und den USA, leben in der zweiten, dritten oder vierten Generation fern von Siebenbürgen. Es ist bemerkenswert wie junge Siebenbürger Sachsen aus Nordamerika, die teilweise kein Deutsch oder Siebenbürgisch-Sächsisch sprechen, von sich sagen: I am proud to be a Transylvanian Saxon. Junge Menschen sind wissbegierig, sind neugierig auf alles. Und mit Sicherheit sind sie die Generation die ihre Wurzeln wieder entdeckt. Für den Erhalt unserer Gemeinschaft ist die Weitergabe der Tradition an diese junge Generation von essentieller Bedeutung.

You here, my dear fellow compatriots in Canada and the USA, live in the second, third, or fourth generation far from Transylvania. It's remarkable how young Transylvanian Saxons from North America, some of whom don't speak German or Transylvanian Saxon, say about themselves: I am proud to be a Transylvanian Saxon. Young people are curious, eager to learn about everything. And without a doubt, they are the generation rediscovering their roots. For the preservation of our community, passing on our traditions to this young generation is of essential importance.

Sie hier in Nordamerika sind dabei auf einem guten Weg. Auch wenn ihre Gemeinschaft viel kleiner ist als jene der Siebenbürger Sachsen in Deutschland, sind Sie für uns ein Vorbild. Sie haben bewiesen, dass man auch in einem hauptsächlich englischsprachigen Umfeld deutsche und sächsische Traditionen über viele Jahrzehnte hinweg erhalten

Continued on Page 7

und bewahren kann. Jede neue Generation wird diese Werte, diese Traditionen neu für sich entdecken. Das soll so bleiben, und ich rufe Sie alle hier im Saal dazu auf, tragen Sie mit dazu bei. Siebenbürgisch-sächsische Werte werden nicht nur im Verein, in der Landsmannschaft übermittelt, in erster Linie aber auch zuhause in der Familie. Dieses ist möglich und wir sollten alle daran arbeiten die sächsische Gemeinschaft mit ihrer Tradition zu erhalten und immerwiederneu entdecken.

You here in North America are on a good path. Even though your community is much smaller than that of the Transylvanian Saxons in Germany, you are a role model for us. You have shown that it is possible to preserve and maintain German and Saxon traditions for many decades even in a mainly English-speaking environment. Each new generation will rediscover these values and traditions for themselves. This should continue, and I urge all of you here in

contribute to this. Transylvanian Saxon values are passed on not only in the Landsmannschaft or ATS, but above all at home within the family. This is possible, and we should all work to maintain the Saxon community with its traditions and continuously rediscover them.

Zum Abschluss danke ich nochmals, dass meine Frau und ich, aber auch unsere Geschäftsführerin Ute Brenndörfer mit Ehemann hier bei Ihrem Heimattag dabei sein dürfen. Dem Heimattag in Aylmer wünsche ich einen weiterhin hervorragenden Verlauf.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you again that my wife and I, as well as our managing director Ute Brenndörfer with her husband, are allowed to be here at your Heimattag. I wish the Heimattag in Aylmer continued success.

Alles Gute, „bleibt gesand und Gott erholt Ech“. God bless you all.

Thank you very much.

Rainer Lehn,
Aylmer, 12.07.2026



This year's fair food has gone gloriously off the rails

Somewhere between the Ferris wheel and the prize hogs, the American fair has become the place where dinner goes to lose its mind. Two exhibits star this season, and both arrive with a side of “wait, what?”

First, meet the Dill Devil. According to the Florida State Fair, it is a whole dill pickle, halved and hollowed out, then piped full of creamy deviled-egg filling and finished with a sprinkle of red pepper flakes -- a pickle impersonating a deviled egg, which is either inspired or completely unhinged. Then there is fried Kool-Aid. Yes, the powder from your childhood. The drink mix is stirred into batter, dropped

in the fryer, and dusted with powdered sugar until it emerges as a small, sweet, alarmingly red fritter. By most accounts it tastes like a hug from 1985 that wandered too close to a deep fryer.

These two have plenty of company. Recent fairs have served burgers that use fried deviled eggs as the bun, whole Cuban sandwiches rolled up and deep-fried, and cotton candy wrapped around ice cream like a burrito. For the truly brave, chocolate-dipped pickles and candy-coated insects turn up on a stick.

Somewhere along the midway, “Can we fry this?” stopped being a question and became a dare.

BRANCH 9, CHICAGO
By Rose-Marie Hauer

Thank you to everyone who attended the picnic on June 27. It was a beautiful day, and many people gathered together and had a wonderful time. The committee did a great job!

A special thank you to Brother Georg Thut for grilling, Sister Margaret Maltig for the potato salad, and Sister Claudia Schmidt for the sauerkraut. Thank you as well to Sister Else Krestal, her kitchen volunteers, and all the ladies who made the delicious cakes. Appreciation also goes to Brother Herwig Schmidts and his daughter for handling the bar and drinks, and to President Thut for making this a seamless event.

Thank you to Sisters Elizabeth Hauer, Erica Hauer, and Amanda Schmidt for conducting the raffle. If I missed anyone, please know how much your help was appreciated. See photos on Page 10.

Upcoming Events

- August 3 – Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- September 12 – Steuben Parade

We are looking for participants to march in the parade at 2:00 p.m. Please contact President Thut at (847) 414-2660 if you can attend.

- * December 13 – Christmas Party at the Donauschwaben Club

More information to follow.

If you are cleaning out your closet and have Saxon Trachten or shirts to donate, please contact Rose Hauer at (847) 685-9821.

Wishing everyone a wonderful summer!

BRANCH 5, LORAIN
By Michael Johnson

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. The heat has been the deciding factor of either picking to be indoors with the A/C or splashing in a pool somewhere. Each day nevertheless is a gift whatever you choose to do with it.

There were 14 members who responded to the invitation for a members only dinner on July 16th at Nemo Grille in Avon. Good food and an enjoyable time was had by all. Thank you, sister Jeanne Petty, for making all the arrangements for a fun evening.

Without there being a meeting this past month, there's nothing new to report. Last month's article gave details to much of the news for Branch 5 for the summer until we meet again for our regular scheduled meeting at the American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway, Lorain, OH 44055 on September 21, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. Here are some reminders just in case you missed them.

The Branch 5 Summer Picnic will be held at Lakeview Park, 1800 W. Erie Ave. Lorain, OH 44052 on August 16, 2026, at the #1 shelter at the west end of the park starting at 12 Noon. Make your RSVP to attend by August 8, 2026, by calling or sending a text to Sister Barbara Gilles at (440) 541-7224. Let her know how many people will be attending and the side dish for at least 6 people you plan to share. Branch 5 will provide the main dish of fried chicken, corn on the cob, dessert and beverages along with table settings.

To our senior members if you would like to attend but need a ride, let that be known at the time of your reservation as well. The picnic committee is also asking that you not bring your dog or any pet to the picnic, and that one guest per dues paying member be allowed to attend free of charge as we have honored in the past. Any additional guests of that member will be \$20. We'll begin eating at 1:00 p.m. and then enjoy the rest of the afternoon with bingo, water balloon toss, and corn hole. You could take a walk down to the lake, swim, or just hang out as long as you want since we have the pavilion all day.

The 2026 - 2027 Transylvanian Saxon Bowling Association league will be starting in September. If you would like to bowl this coming season with the Branch 5 team, you must make a commitment by August 10, 2026, so our team can get registered. Contact Sister Monica Gilles at (440) 309-7894 for details to get signed up.

Members celebrating birthdays in the month of August are sisters Dawn Schindler, Myrna Jones, Jeanne Petty, brothers Robert Brenner, Michael Koepke, Brent Sanders, Nick Piller and junior members Mark Cox, and Emilia Jones. Happy Birthday to you all and may you celebrate in your own favorite way!

Continue to enjoy the summer and stay healthy and safe.

oktoberfest

Pros't to the beginning of Fest Season!

Join us at

Sachsenheim Hall

7001 Denison Ave Cleveland

August 15

5-10 p.m.

Food, Bier, Raffles and Entertainment

Cleveland Saxon Dance Group

Gemütlichkeit Cleveländer Musikanten

Admission \$5

Saxonia Hall President’s Welcome Address – North American Heimattag 2026

Goodevening, everyone und Liebe Landsleute!

Welcome to the 2026 North American Heimattag! It is truly an honour for me, as President of the Saxonia Hall German Canadian Club, to welcome all of you here today. Whether you’ve travelled across town, across North America like our friends and family from the USA or Europe as we have guests here from Munich --- -- und ein herzliches Willkommen an Reiner Lehn und seine Frau Heike, thank you for making the journey to be with us. Your presence reminds us that no matter where we live, we remain connected through our shared Siebenbuergen Sachsen heritage.

Before I go any further, I want to recognize all the people who made this weekend possible. To our Saxonia Hall Board of Directors, members, our volunteers, and everyone who has spent countless hours planning, organizing, decorating, cooking, setting up, and taking care of all the details—thank you. Many people only see the finished event, but I know how much work happens behind the scenes. It certainly was not an easy preparation this past week. We have experienced broken air conditioners, a continued unrepaired freezer, a sudden medical issue to our Beer sommelier of which I ended up getting a promotion to complete this task, a very delayed parade permit which was approved Friday afternoon at 3:30 pm and then to top it all off we experienced an extended power outage Thursday evening that required us to bring in a generator and move sausage and chicken down the street to the SuperWok Chinese restaurant’s walk-in cooler So, an adventure for sure. Perhaps we could do a new reality show!!

However, again this weekend is possible because of all of our illustrious volunteers and their dedication, and we all appreciate everything you have done.

Our theme this year is **“We Are Heimat.” Or Wir sind Heimat.**

Heimat is one of those words that’s hard to translate. It means much more than simply “home.” Heimat is where our hearts belong. It’s the traditions we grew up with, the songs our parents and grandparents sang, the stories they told us, the food around the family table, our churches, our clubs, our language, and the values that shaped us.

For us, Heimat is our Saxon heritage.

Even though many of us have never lived in Transylvania, it is still part of who we are. It lives in the stories passed down by our parents and grandparents. It lives in our music, our dances, and in weekends like this, when we come together to celebrate who we are.

I believe it is important to remember our past—not because we want to live in it, but because it teaches us who we are. Our ancestors faced incredible challenges. They built communities, preserved their traditions through difficult times, and had the courage to start over in a new country. I can recall the struggles my mom, dad and grandparents shared with me when they had to leave Siebenburgen to settle in Austria and then move and restart yet again here in Canada. Their strength and determination are part of my story and no doubt many of yours as well.

When we remember where we came from, it helps guide us as we build our future.

We are also incredibly fortunate to live in Canada and similarly for our friends in the United States as we celebrate our North American Heimattag.

For us here in Canada, the country has given us the freedom to celebrate our heritage openly and proudly. We can gather like this, wear our traditional clothing, dance our dances, sing our songs, and tell our stories. We should never take that for granted. We are blessed to live in a country that embraces multiculturalism and encourages us to preserve our traditions while being proud Canadians.

I’ve had many conversations with friends, coworkers, and people I’ve met over the years about being a Siebenburgen Saxon. Quite often they tell me, “You’re lucky, you actually know where your family came from. You know your history. You know your traditions.”

Every time I hear that, it reminds me just how fortunate we really are.

Many people wish they had that same connection to their roots. We have something very special, and it’s up to us to make sure we don’t lose it.

That brings me to what I believe is our greatest responsibility.

Our culture will only survive if we pass it on to the next generation.

Our children and grandchildren won’t automatically know these

traditions. We have to teach them. We have to invite them. We have to encourage them to dance, sing, volunteer, attend events, and most importantly, help them understand why our heritage matters.

Culture isn’t something you simply inherit. It’s something you experience.

And that’s why weekends like this are so important.

I’d like to leave everyone here with a small challenge.

When you return home and to your own clubs after Heimattag, find just one person and encourage them to become more involved. Recruit one new volunteer. Invite one young family to an event. Ask one person to join your choir, your dance group, your youth activities, or your committee.

If every club here gained just one more active member because of this weekend, imagine the difference that would make.

We also have to remember that preserving our culture in Canada and the United States is a bit different from preserving it in Europe.

In Europe, our history is woven into the towns, the churches, and the landscapes where our ancestors lived. Here in Canada, our culture survives only because people choose to keep it alive.

It survives because we volunteer.

Because we organize events.

Because we teach our children.

Because we gather together.

And because we care enough to continue what previous generations started.

Our grandparents and parents built these clubs so that we would never lose our identity. Now it is our turn to make sure these clubs are still here for our children and grandchildren.

One day, our grandchildren will



David Pfingstgraef

look back and decide whether we did enough to preserve what was entrusted to us.

I hope they will be able to say that we did.

That’s what “We Are Heimat” means to me.

Heimat isn’t just where we came from.

Heimat is all of us—together.

It’s every handshake, every friendship renewed this weekend, every young person learning a traditional dance, every volunteer giving their time, and every story shared between generations.

As long as we continue to come together like this, our Heimat lives on.

Thank you for being here.

Thank you for everything each of you does to keep our Siebenburgen Saxon heritage alive.

May we never forget where we came from, may we always be proud of who we are, and may we leave a strong Siebenburgen Sachsen community for those who come after us.

I wish you all a wonderful Heimattag filled with friendship, laughter, music, dancing, and many happy memories. Herzlichen Dank, Prost and enjoy your weekend!

David Pfingstgraef,
President Saxonia Hall
German Canadian Club of Aylmer



Federation Jugendlager: Connected to the community over three generations

At the 60th anniversary celebration of the Transylvanian Saxon Settlement in Drabenderhöhe from 26 to 28 June, young people from the USA, Canada and Transylvania also took part as guests. They met here to continue to Hesse after the festival, the first stop of the Federation Youth Camp 2026, together with the Federal Youth Leader of the Transylvanian-Saxon Youth in Germany (SJD), Natalie Bertleff.

The long-time national chairman of the Transylvanian Saxons in Canada, John Werner, wrote to us that two grandchildren would be coming to Drabenderhöhe: “We are proud that Jacob and Xander are the third generation of the Werner family to participate in the youth camp.”

In 1971, under the responsibility of Robert Gassner and the then chairman of the North Rhine-Westphalia regional group, Rudolf Dienesch, my husband and I led the first “International Youth Camp” with young people from America, Canada, Austria and Germany. Among the young people from Canada were John Werner and his girlfriend Helgard, now his wife. The youth camp took place in the youth hostel in Siegen. Folk dance, singing, lectures about Transylvania, discussions and trips to the surrounding area were on the program. We often went to the nearby Drabenderhöhe to spend several evenings together with the young people there. The first youth camp was a great success.

In 1973, 39 young people from the four countries registered for the second International Youth Camp. We also led this and helped organize it this time. In addition, Lotte Kramer accompanied the American youth. We were accommodated in the “House for All” in the holiday settlement in

Waldbröl. During trips to the Transylvanian settlements in the Ruhr area of Herten-Langenbochum and Setterich as well as to Drabenderhöhe, contacts were made with the compatriots. Young people from Drabenderhöhe came to the youth camp several times to spend the evenings together. Finally, we visited the Transylvanian Saxons in Großsachsenheim. Everywhere we were warmly welcomed. From there, at the invitation of the “Asociația România”, we flew as guests for seven days to Transylvania and Costinești on the Black Sea, which was unusual at the time. This journey through Transylvania to the roots of their ancestors impressed the young people very much.

In both youth camps, contacts were made and friendships were made that still last today. John and Helgard Werner came to Drabenderhöhe several times with the Hofbräu brass band and the folk dance group from Kitchener as part of the Federation Cultural Exchange. My husband and I represented the Association of Transylvanian Saxons in Germany at the Heimattag 2001 in Windsor/Canada and were then guests of the Helgard and John Werner family for a few days.

We are glad that we have remained in friendship since 1971, just as many other participants of the youth camps meet again and again and maintain contact with each other. We were very happy to meet Jakob and Xander and the other young people. It is also pleasing that since 1990 young people from Transylvania have been able to participate in the Federation Youth Camp.

What began 55 years ago has borne rich fruit and will hopefully continue for a long time to come.

Enni and Harry Janesch
SBZ Online 17.07.26



2026 Jugendlager at Schloss Horneck / Gundelsheim



2026 Jugendlager in Drabenderhöhe



First Jugendlager in 1971 - US Participants
Photo: C. Schindler



Above and below: 1973 Jugendlager
Photos: C. Schindler



Logistics: When your teen needs a ride

In a big city, the hardest part of raising a teenager is often logistics.

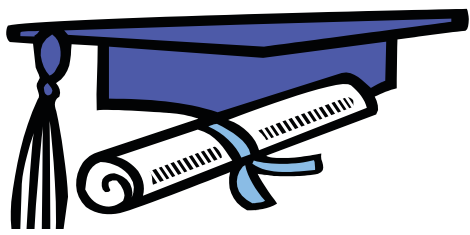
A 13- or 14-year-old has to get to practice, a lesson, or a friend's apartment across town, and a parent cannot always be the driver. For years the only choices were an unsupervised taxi, a city bus, or a subway ride that left a parent guessing where their kid actually was.

The big ride services now offer a supervised middle ground. Uber introduced teen accounts a few years ago, and Lyft followed in early 2026 across more than 200 markets. Both let a parent add a 13-to-17-year-old to a family account and approve solo rides. The parent gets a notification the moment a ride is requested, can watch the trip live from pickup to dropoff, and can message the driver along the way. Teens are matched only with highly rated, experienced drivers who pass extra background checks, and core safety tools -- PIN verification, route-change alerts, an emergency button -- stay on and cannot be switched off by the rider. The teen has to complete a short safety lesson before the first trip.

The app handles the safety. The manners are still the parent's job. A child riding alone is a guest in a working adult's car, not a passenger in a private chauffeur service. A few basics are worth covering before that first ride: greet the driver, ride in the back seat and buckle up, keep the phone down long enough to be polite, skip the messy snack, and say thank you at the end. A fair rating and a kind word cost nothing, and they mean a lot to someone earning a living one trip at a time.

Chicago Branch 9 Summer Picnic





Congratulations Graduate!



Maya C. Malue

2026 ATS SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Following is a scholarship recipient whose academic, athletic and community achievements were not included in a previous issue of the Volksblatt:

Maya C. Malue is a recent graduate from Saint Joseph Academy in Cleveland, Ohio. During school, she participated in lacrosse and track, while receiving High Honors all four years. This fall, Maya will be attending the University of Dayton where she will major in Psychology and minor in Family Studies. She plans to work in hospitals as a Child Life Specialist to comfort children and their families. When she has free time, she enjoys spending it with family and friends.



Why reliable beats brilliant

The most talented person on a team is rarely the one handed the most important work. That tends to go to someone who does what they said they would do, when they said they would do it. Brilliance gets noticed. Reliability gets trusted, and trust is often what decides who gets the big assignment.

The research backs this up. The largest analysis of its kind, drawing on data from more than a million workers gathered over the past century, found that conscientiousness -- the trait that covers being dependable, organized, and good at following through -- is the single strongest personality predictor of job performance. According to a University of Toronto summary of that work, the finding holds up across nearly

every kind of occupation. The classic 1991 study by researchers Barrick and Mount reached the same conclusion decades earlier. Talent and intelligence matter, but dependability is valuable.

Reliability may be unglamorous, but it is often what is needed. Deadlines met; promises kept. Over time those milestones add up to a reputation that people count on.

This matters more, not less, the longer you are in a job. Early on, people forgive a dropped ball. Once you are established, your name is attached to outcomes, and a single missed commitment can undo months of good work. The most valuable people in any office are often not the flashiest. They are the ones whose word means something.



“I don’t think reading place mats at fast food places is considered ‘doing your own research.’”

From the Archives

By Eric Litschel ATS Home Office

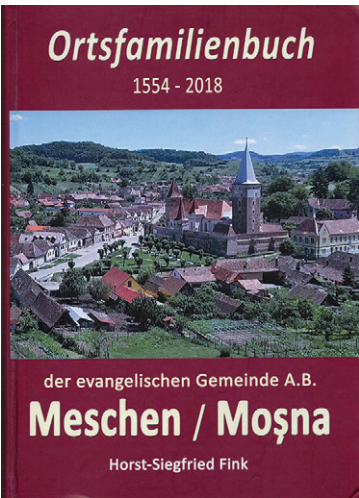
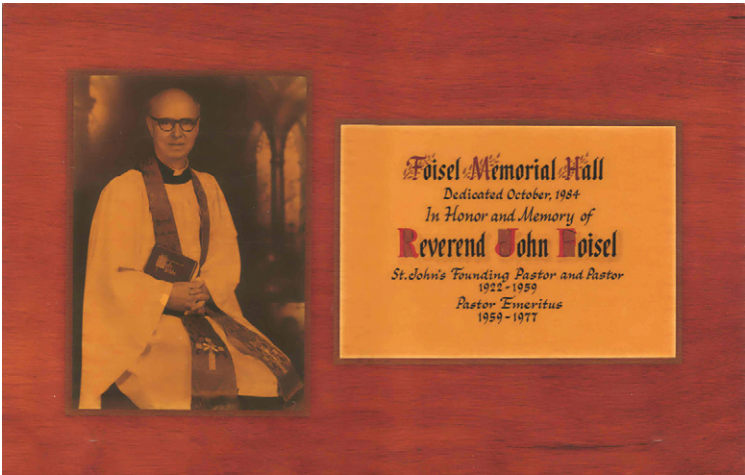
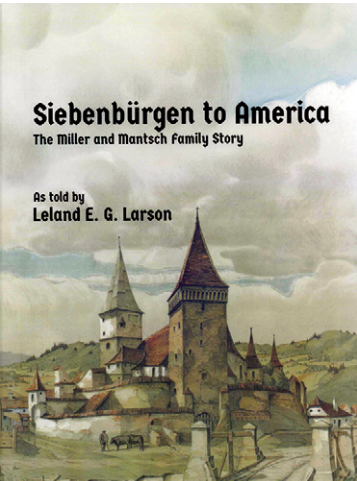
This week I’d like to feature a few donations the ATS recently received and thank the donors of each item.

First, we received a beautiful men’s church coat (Kirchenpelz) from Marlene Mueller of Branch 10, Columbus. The coat dates to 1906 from the village of Wölz, near Mediasch, and it is the oldest of its kind in our collection. We are thrilled to have this item and will be working to preserve and display it in the future! Thank you again to Marlene and her family for the generous donation.

Next, we received two wonderful books from a gentleman in Oregon, Mr. Leland Larson. Mr. Larson’s grandparents both came from the town of Meschen, Transylvania. He has written an interesting and thorough family history, containing numerous photographs, and historical notes. The beautifully bound hardcover book is titled “Siebenbürgen to America: The Miller and Mantsch Family Story”. Mr. Larson donated a copy of this book as well as an Ortsfamilienbuch (Local Family Book) from the town of Meschen. This invaluable resource contains information on families from Meschen dating back to the year 1554. The 625 page book has over 4,000 individual listings. It’s a tremendous resource for anyone interested in researching their family history or learning more about the town of Meschen. Thank you again to Mr. Leland “Lee” Larson

for the donations. (On June 29th, 2025, Mr. Larson spent about 10 minutes in space aboard the Blue Origin New Shepard, Mission NS-33. Check out the video online! <https://www.blueorigin.com/missions/ns-33>)

Last, I would like to thank John Foisel of Br. 33 for his donation of a 1984 wooden plaque dedicated to the construction of Foisel Memorial Hall at St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church. This plaque was one of the last remaining items at St. John’s when it closed its doors in 2022. The plaque is yet another reminder of the enormous impact that Reverend John Foisel had on the lives of so many Transylvanian Saxon Americans. Thank you again John Foisel for bringing this important piece of our history to the ATS for preservation.



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