



Deutsche Zeitung

of the German-American Society of Central New York

www.germanamericansny.net

Februar 2012

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President's Report

Winter has been great for us, so far; however, that big snowstorm could be just around the corner!

Our combination **Fasching/Bockbierfest** will be Saturday, February 18, at the Liverpool Fire Hall. May we again have a great turnout!

Our next **Oktoberfest** meeting will be Tuesday, February 14 at 7 P.M. at the Turners. We look forward to ideas as well as volunteers for our upcoming Oktoberfest.

Remember: Valentine's Day is February 14.

HEINRICH PFAFF, *President*

Vice President's Report

Well, we're already getting ready for the **Great Syracuse Oktoberfest 2012**. The Oktoberfest Committee met on January 17 to start planning. As the elected Oktoberfest Chairperson, I am happy to report that we had a great meeting. Committee Chairs for all the various areas are set. Now we need you to come forward and volunteer to help out. It's not too early to start thinking about where you can be of assistance.

I've been thinking about a way in which the Society could save a considerable amount of money this year. It will take many volunteers from our membership and friends. But with your help I think we can do it. What I'd like you to consider is working the kitchen ourselves this year. For years we successfully did this before we started hiring it out. Please let me know what you think. I can be reached at 675-8321. We have great committee co-chairs for the kitchen area—Brigitte Niebuhr and Ken Blechl—so you would be working with two wonderful and hardworking people.

I also want to report that **Jimmy Sturr** and **Under the Gun** have been hired. Hopefully, I will be able to have the whole Oktoberfest entertainment schedule put together soon.

If you have ideas for Oktoberfest or would like to join the committee, please try to attend the next meeting, scheduled for February 14 at 7 P.M. at the Turners.

KLAUS RAITH, *Vice President & Oktoberfest Chair*

Treasurer's Report

Please plan to attend the next Monthly Meeting on February 16 at 7 P.M. at the Turners to obtain the up-to-date financial report.

Now, some announcements:

Friends of Schiller Park

Friends of Schiller Park are hoping that a member or members of the German-American Society would be willing to participate in their group, which was formally organized in 2009 (applied for 501C3 in 2010) to be a citizens' committee interested in preserving and improving the park and its facilities for current and future generations. You do *not* have to be a resident of the neighborhood area, but that certainly would be a plus. If you're interested, please call Chris Wiles at 478-3760.

German Lessons

I regret to inform you that it doesn't look like we'll be having informal German lessons this year. So far we have no sign-ups. If you planned on participating but didn't call, please do. We need at least sixteen more to consider holding the classes. Call Jim Kozlowski at 622-2658 if you'd like to attend.

See you at the Monthly Meeting on February 16.

JIM KOZLOWSKI, *Treasurer*

CLUB MEETINGS

Feb 14	Oktoberfest Committee Mtg., Turners, 7 P.M.
Feb 16	Board Meeting, Turners, 6 P.M.
Feb 16	Monthly Meeting, Turners, 7 P.M.
Mär 13	Oktoberfest Committee Mtg., Turners, 7 P.M.
Mär 15	Board Meeting, Turners, 6 P.M.
Mär 15	Monthly Meeting, Turners, 7 P.M.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 18	Combination Fasching/Bockbierfest, 5:30–10 P.M., Liverpool Fire Hall
Apr 30	Scholarship Night, 5–9 P.M., Turners

Financial Secretary's Report

As previously mentioned in the January newsletter, we've lost two more of our longtime members: **Waldemar Koschel** and **Eleanore Iadanza**. However, we always seem to bounce back with new members joining the organization. At the January meeting both **Carl Smith Jr.** and **Adam Parente** of Syracuse were accepted as new members.

I have already received this year's membership dues from a handful of members, and I sincerely hope we won't have to track the rest of you down for your dues. This year, the Board has decided that the cut-off date for 2012 membership dues is March 31. Any dues paid after that date will be considered as new members and will be charged \$25 instead of the normal \$15 renewal fee. Membership runs from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012, not from when you pay your dues until that same date the following year. As always, Board, Audit Committee, Honorary, Life, and Complimentary members are exempt from dues. We have 252 members as of this newsletter's printing.

Please pay your dues as soon as possible by either sending them to my attention at: German-American Society of CNY, PO Box 5548, Syracuse, NY 13220-5548, or by attending the next Monthly Meeting on February 16 at 7 P.M. at the Syracuse Turners and paying in person.

MICKEY PALUMBO, *Financial Secretary*

House Committee

Our next event is the combined **Fasching/Bockbierfest** on February 18 at the Liverpool Fire Hall from 5:30 to 10 P.M. Dinner will be served at 5:30, followed by a dance accompanied by the **Enzian Bavarian Quartet** from 6 to 10 P.M. Admission is \$15 at the door, \$12 in advance, or \$10 in advance if you attend in full costume, including mask.

Dinner will consist of *Bockwurst*, hot dogs, *Sauerkraut*, and German potato salad. Beverages will be available for a small donation. Please bring a dessert to share if possible.

Costume prizes will be \$75, \$50, and \$25.

Reservations are due by February 16. Please call Brigitte Niebuhr at 469-5304 with any questions or to phone in your reservation. Checks made out to the German-American Society of CNY need to go to Brigitte Niebuhr, 319 Ostrander Ave., Syracuse, NY 13205, and arrive by February 16.

I hope to see you at the event. It's always a lot of fun to see who is dressed as what! If you have any questions, or to find out more about the House Committee and what we do, please give me a call.

BRIGITTE NIEBUHR, *House Committee Chairperson*

Sunshine Lady

We lost two members this past month: **Waldemar Koschel** and **Eleanore Iadanza**. Condolences have been sent to the families of these long-time members.

Please contact me at 468-4541 to report any illnesses, surgeries, deaths, monumental birthdays, or other events that are deserving of a card.

MARGARETHA MICHIO, *Sunshine Lady*

Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship applications and criteria will be going out this month. Please mark April 30 on your 2012 calendar for **Scholarship Night**.

I've started to get the list together of all the past scholarship recipients, and they will be called to see what they've been doing since they received their scholarship, and to invite them to the 10th Annual Scholarship Night Celebration. See the March *Zeitung* for more information.

If you have any questions on criteria to be considered for a scholarship, or any questions about the process, please contact me at 345-6253 or e-mail me at sallyzf@aol.com.

SALLY FRENZA, *Scholarship Chair*

Goethe and Schiller Monument

Although the warm weather has left us for a while, I want to make everyone aware that there is still an opportunity to purchase a brick at the Goethe and Schiller Monument. A single brick is \$50, 2 bricks are \$75, and 3 bricks are \$100, with each additional brick being \$30. These bricks can be purchased to honor or memorialize a loved one, friend, organization, etc. Please call me at 451-1848 for further details or to get a form. Forms can also be obtained at any German-American Society event or online at germanamericanscny.net.

As you may recall, bricks have been sold to help offset the cost of the Goethe and Schiller Monument Restoration Project that was a joint venture between the German-American Society and the City of Syracuse a few years ago. The current plan is to have any new bricks installed prior to Earth Day, 2012.

BOB DOMACHOWSKI, *Goethe and Schiller Monument Chair*

From the Editor

Did you ever wonder where Ground Hog Day originated? Not really, huh! Well, I'm going to tell you anyway. Yep, you guessed it: Germany!

This tradition was brought to Pennsylvania by German immigrants. February 2 is Candlemas Day, the day when a candlelit mass was held to brighten up the dark days of winter. The clergy would distribute candles to all the parishioners, and the event became an important date

on the calendar, when people took particular note of the weather. They also inventoried all the supplies on hand to get them through the winter.

Here's a verse about the event:

*Wenn's an Lichmess stürmt und schneit
Ist der Frühling nicht mehr weit;
Ist es aber klar and hell,
Kommt der Lenz noch nicht so schnell.*

*When it storms and snows on Candlemas Day,
Spring is not far away,
If it's bright and clear;
Spring is not yet near.*

The custom developed by looking for signs of spring or the continuation of winter. If a hedgehog (originally a bear), cast its shadow, there would be six more weeks of winter. But if it was a cloudy day without shadows, winter would be much shorter. So, enter the groundhog, and the German tradition became Americanized. This is just one more way to show the influence of German traditions on the American way of life. Now you have something new with which to amaze your friends over a couple of cold ones!

Now, about Valentine's Day: Valentinstag has only been celebrated in Germany since World War II. In Germany, it's an adults-only holiday, so you won't see any of those cute little pink or red "Be Mine" cards that the American children exchange in school. The German cards are strictly meant for adults, and the chocolates that accompany them can be quite provocative. The Germans also put a little twist on Valentine's Day by adding a pig to their cards. These little pigs are a symbol of luck, but also of lust. So, for extra luck with the loved one or a would-be Valentine, some cards have little pigs holding a four-leaf clover while climbing a ladder on a heart.

*Your name could be here! \$15 for Patrons, \$10 for Sponsors,
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Whatever your intent, I hope Valentine's Day is romantic and filled with love as you express your affection to your loved one.

Members and Friends

The Syracuse Liederverein Chorus is an award-winning chorus that is always looking for new singers of all ages. You don't need to be able to speak or understand German to join our group. All you need is a love of singing and the desire to preserve a very important part of German culture: singing.

This is our Sängerfest year, when the chorus will be competing against other German choruses in the NYS Sängerbund. This would be a great time to join, as we need your voice! The Sängerfest is a wonderful event held every three years. There is a mass chorus on Friday night made up of all the singers together at a concert open to the public. Saturday is the day of competition, followed by a great party on Saturday night. Sunday is the picnic, where the winners are announced. Then it's time to say good-bye to friends for another three years. Please join us and participate in the competition and fun in preserving our German singing tradition.

If you'd like more information on joining the only German chorus in our area, please contact George at 475-0282. Rehearsals are on Monday evenings at 7 P.M. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Shop City, adjacent to Teall Avenue and Grant Boulevard in Syracuse. The chorus is now rehearsing for the Spring Concert to be held in May and the Sängerfest to be held in June.

Events at the Utica Männerchor

Located at 5535 Flanagan Road in Marcy.

Feb 10 Ice Bar—Steak Night—Fish Fry
Feb 12 Valentine's Day Brunch, 9:30–noon
Mar 11 Pancake Breakfast, 9–noon

If you have any questions regarding these events, contact the clubhouse at 315-735-5882. Please try to support our friends in Utica by attending their events.

Contact the *Zeitung*!

Mail: Sally Frenza, 4 Commodore Circle,
Baldwinsville, NY 13027
Phone: 315-345-6253
E-mail: sallyzf@aol.com

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