



Deutsche Zeitung

of the German-American Society of Central New York

Dezember 2012

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Henry Pfaff, *President* Klaus Raith, *Vice President*
James Kozlowski, *Treasurer*
Erika Carneim, *Secretary*
Mickey Palumbo, *Financial Secretary*

Klaus Raith, *Honorary President*

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Robert Kline Rita Knapp Brigitte Niebuhr
Bill Nurk John Ott Pat Palumbo
June Pardue Richard Schoeck

President's Report

Hopefully everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving with family and friends.

Let's start the Christmas Season by attending the **Syracuse Liederverein Christmas Concert**, Sunday, December 2, at 3 P.M., at Trinity Lutheran Church, adjacent to Shop City. We have many talented singers, so let's get out and support them!

Our German American Society **Family Christmas Party** is scheduled for Sunday, December 9, from 2 to 6 P.M., at the Liverpool Fire Hall. We always have an enjoyable time at this function and get many laughs from our auction.

We're looking forward a productive year in 2013. Why not consider serving on one of our various committees? With your help we can continue to keep this a successful organization. Many thanks to all members and nonmembers who participated in our 2012 events. Also, thank you to our Executive and Board Members for a great job this past year.

Reminder: No Board Meeting or General Meeting in December. January 17, 2013, is our next General Meeting and Installation of Officers and Board Members. Please try to attend. Enjoy the holidays!

HEINRICH PFAFF, *President*

Vice President's Report

Time is rolling on and it's almost the end of 2012. But we're already thinking about ideas for our 2013 **Oktoberfest**. If you have suggestions or would like to serve on the Committee, it's not too early to let me know. I can be reached at 675-8321.

I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year! See you at the Christmas Party on December 9.

KLAUS RAITH, *Vice President*

Treasurer's Report

We are still tying up some loose ends from Oktoberfest, but a full financial report should be available at our January General Meeting.

Looking for New Advertisers

If you know a business that would like to advertise in our newsletter, please have them call Jim Kozlowski at 622-2658. The cost is \$25 a year for 12 issues of the *Zeitung*, which goes out

to approximately 250 members and others in our community. Plus, it's available on our website at germanamericanscny.com, so the exposure is tremendous for the price.

See you at the Christmas Party!

JIM KOZLOWSKI, *Treasurer*

Financial Secretary's Report

At our November Monthly Meeting, I announced that we now have 228 members, as **Monika Loerzel**, sponsored by Rita Knapp, and **Theresa (Terry) Bowen**, sponsored by Sally Frenza, were voted in by the members at the meeting that evening.

Reminder: Please review the insert regarding membership dues, and if you have not already done so, get them in to keep your cost at \$15.

Pat and I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! See you all at the December 9 Christmas Party.

MICKEY PALUMBO, *Financial Secretary*

From the House Committee

The **Christmas Party** is coming up on December 9 at the Liverpool Fire Hall. The cost for adults is \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. Children ages 12 to 18 are \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door. Children under 12 are free. All checks for the party need to be made out to The German American Society of CNY and sent so they will arrive by December 4 to: Brigitte Niebuhr, 319 Ostrander Ave., Syracuse, NY 13205. Payment will also be taken at the door as long as you have made your reservations ahead of time. Please contact me at 469-5304 if you need additional information.

As we did last year, the auction will be held only during

CLUB MEETINGS

No December Board or Monthly Meetings
Jan 17 Board Meeting, Turners, 6 P.M.
 General Meeting with Installation of Officers,
 Turners, 7 P.M.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dez 9 Christmas Party, Liverpool Fire Hall, 2-6 P.M.
Apr 29 Scholarship Night, Syracuse Turners, 5-9 P.M.

the band breaks, which doesn't take any of the fun or laughs out of it, and saves on our party time as well! If you're able to bring something for the auction, be it baked goods or whatever you would like, it would be appreciated. But please do not feel obligated. It is strictly up to each member to decide what they are able to do. The most important thing is to be there and have a good time!

The party promises to be a lot of fun, so please try to attend and join in the festivities. Help is needed for the decorations and setting up for the party. If you would like to help out or can make decorations, please let Brigitte know. The House Committee would be grateful for any help they can get. I'm asking the House Committee and volunteers to please be at the Fire Hall between 12:30 and 1 on December 9.

See everyone there!

BRIGITTE NIEBUHR, *House Committee Chair*

Sunshine Lady

A get-well card was sent to First Lady **Mary Pfaff** as she continues to recuperate from her hip replacement and additional medical issues. It was great to see Mary up and about at the November Monthly Meeting.

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

MARGARETHA MICH0, *Sunshine Lady*

Election Results

This year's German American Society elections were held at our Monthly Meeting on November 15 at the Syracuse Turners. The new Officers and Board members are as follows:

President—Henry Pfaff

Vice-President—Klaus Raith

Treasurer—Jim Kozlowski

Secretary—Erika Carneim

Financial Secretary—Mickey Palumbo

Board Members: Richard Schoeck, William Nurk, Kenneth Blechl, Patricia Palumbo, and Rita Knapp

Thank you to everyone who attended the November Monthly Meeting. Installation of officers will be at the General Meeting to be held on January 17.

BILL NURK, *Nominating Committee*

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.com.

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.

Have a happy and safe Holiday Season!

BOB DOMACHOWSKI, *Goethe and Schiller Monument Chair*

Scholarship Night

It's hard to believe that the year is drawing to a close and Scholarship time is just around the corner again. It hardly seems possible that in 2013 we will have our *eleventh* Scholarship program!

There will be more information coming soon, as the 2013 applications will be going out in early February. Please mark April 29 on your 2013 calendar for Scholarship Night. If you have never attended, please consider attending in 2013 and witness firsthand this wonderful program sponsored by the German American Society of CNY.

If you have any questions about the Scholarship Program, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 345-6253, or e-mail at sallyzf@aol.com.

SALLY FRENZA, *Scholarship Chair*

Holiday Extravaganza at Long Branch Elementary School

The German American Society has once again been invited to participate in the **Holiday Extravaganza** at Long Branch Elementary School on Friday, December 14, from 9 A.M. until approximately 3 P.M. It's a great opportunity to share German traditions with the students and have them participate in singing Christmas songs in German. In past years, Klaus Raith has brought his zither and the students really enjoyed watching him play and taking a look at an instrument they may never have heard of or seen before. So far this year, Klaus, Gracie Schell, and I are slated to go, but please feel free to help us out.

The day starts with coffee and bagels at around 9. The first student segment is at 9:30. Each segment is about 20 minutes long and includes students from K-6, each group at its own individual time. Lunch is provided by the school.

If you're interested in participating in this fun day or would just like more info, please contact me at 345-6253 or by e-mail at sallyzf@aol.com.

SALLY FRENZA

From The Editor

It's the most wonderful time of the year, as the famous Christmas song goes. The Christmas shows on TV and carols on the radio started even before Thanksgiving was here. Black Friday (and now Black Thursday, too!) has passed and we are now all up to our elbows in thinking about what to do, what to buy, where to go, what to prepare for Christmas dinner, what cookies to bake, and all the other stressors that we feel this time of year. But it is also a great time of year; we get together with friends we may not see often; spend time with our families creating new memories and discussing Christmases that have passed and the people who were there; sharing laughs and sometimes shedding a few tears for those

we miss. We have cards to write and send either by snail or e-mail or on Facebook, and all the other new means of communication, to let people know we're thinking about them and wish them holiday greetings.

This is also a time of year to reflect on what Christmas really means and why we celebrate. Sometimes it feels like the real reason for the season is lost in the flurry of shopping, baking, and cooking in preparation for the big day. So, as we prepare to celebrate, let's take a few moments to reflect on what this event that we prepare for weeks ahead of time means, and what we are really celebrating.

Whatever your beliefs or background, take the time to celebrate with family and friends, and start by attending the German American **Christmas Party** on December 9.

There has been some discussion about the origin of the Christmas tree, so I thought I would repeat the following article. According to an article written by William Rauscher, many people believe that the origin of the Christmas tree actually had its roots in pagan rites, along with the use of other greens and decorations to commemorate in ancient times a celebration of the feast of Saturnalia—the birth of the sun in the sky at the winter solstice. Along with the giving of gifts, the feast was later Christianized with the selection of December 25 to announce the birth of the Son of God.

However, the Christmas tree as we know it comes to us from Germany. The story goes that Martin Luther was walking home one night and was inspired by the beauty of the stars shining down on the snow-covered fir trees. He told his family about the feelings he experienced that night by bringing a fir tree into his home. He attached lighted candles to the branches to symbolize the stars shining down from heaven. Over the years, decorations were added, sometimes using fruit and nuts, and of course, the Christmas pickle. Today, all kinds of ornaments and lights are used to decorate the tree. When you light that tree, remember the true meaning as Martin Luther experienced it centuries ago.

Another Christmas custom is that of honoring a family's Christmas tree, or *Christbaumloben*. This day is a lot of fun for the adults. On St. Stephen's Day, December 26, friends visit each other and announce upon arrival, "*Ein schöner Baum!*"

Their reward for praising the tree is (yes, you guessed it!), a bit of Schnapps. After they stay and chat for a while, they move on to the next house and the procession goes on and on. Sounds like a typical German celebration to me! Does it get any better than eating, drinking, and sharing friendship? So be prepared, get out the Schnapps, bring out the *Stollen*, and enjoy the season from the start of Advent to St. Stephen's Day. *Fröhliche Weihnachten und ein Gutes Neues Jahr!*

If you have a German holiday, tradition, or anything German, Swiss, or Austrian that you would like me to write about, please let me know.

Members and Friends

Syracuse Liederverein Chorus Concert

The Syracuse Liederverein Chorus is presenting their annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 2, at 3 P.M. at Trinity Lutheran Church, located in Shop City, adjacent to Grant Boulevard and Teall Avenue in Syracuse. Admission is a \$6 donation. There will be a social hour afterward with all the usual goodies. The format will be a little different this year, with more audience participation, so get those vocal cords warmed up! Please contact Debbie at 699-6612 for additional information.

The 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.

If you would 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.

Events at the Utica Männerchor

Upcoming events at 5535 Flanagan Road in Marcy:

12/14 Männerchor Chorus Christmas Concert at 8 P.M.

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

Your name could be here! \$15 for Patrons, \$10 for Sponsors, for one year. Send your check made payable to the German-American Society of CNY, attn. Sally Frenza, 4 Commodore Circle, Baldwinsville, NY 13027

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