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Klaus Raith, Honorary President

President's Report

opefully everyone enjoyed a great holiday with their families and friends. May 2013 be a healthy one for all!

Plan for our next event—the **Bockbierfest**—Sunday afternoon, March 10, from 2:30 to 6:30 at the Liverpool Fire Hall.

Because Easter is early this year, there will be no Fasching.

Our next General Meeting will be Thursday, February 21, at 7 P.M. at the Syracuse Turners. See you there! Happy Valentine's Day!

HEINRICH PFAFF, President

Vice President's Report

lans for the 2013 Great Syracuse Oktoberfest are beginning to shape up. We will have a new venue this year, or should I say an old venue revisited. We will have a one-day event at Long Branch Park on October 6 from 12-7. Coincidentally, that is also **German Heritage** Day, and another reason to celebrate. The date of the first Oktoberfest Committee meeting will be in the next Zeitung.

If you would like more information on the Oktoberfest Committee, or would like to help out, please see me at the February 21 Monthly Meeting, or give me a call at 675-8321.

KLAUS RAITH, Vice President & Oktoberfest Chair

Treasurer's Report

Please plan to attend the next Monthly Meeting on February 21 at 7 P.M. at the Syracuse Turners to obtain the up-to-date financial report.

See you at the Monthly Meeting!

JIM KOZLOWSKI, Treasurer

Financial Secretary's Report

ith the sad loss of two of our members, but the addition of one new member, we still stand proudly with 226 members. The membership voted in one new member at the January meeting: **Dianna Leonard** from Bernhards Bay, sponsored by Dick Schoeck.

Any new members who have not received their membership cards will receive them with the new 2013 stickers on them. Yes, the 2013 tabs are in; we are just trying to figure out a better way to get them to all of you who have and will renew your membership for 2013.

And a special note of interest: After reviewing the bylaws of our organization, we have found that membership dues at the \$15 rate are to be accepted until March 31. After that date, any renewals will be charged the \$25 fee.

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 21 at the Syracuse Turners at 7 P.M. and paying in person.

MICKEY PALUMBO, Financial Secretary

House Committee

ur Bockbierfest is coming up on March 10 at the Liverpool Fire Hall from 2:30 to 6:30. We will be serving Bockwurst, hot dogs, Sauerkraut, potato salad, dessert, and coffee and tea. Bier, wine, and soda will be available for a small fee.

Admission is \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door. Children 5 to 10 years are half price in advance, and under 5 are free. The Enzian Bavarian Quartet will be playing for your listening and dancing pleasure.

CLUB MEETINGS

Feb 21 Board Meeting, Turners, 6:00

Monthly Meeting, Turners, 7:00

Board Meeting, Turners, 6:00 Mar 21 Monthly Meeting, Turners, 7:00

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bockbierfest, Liverpool Fire Hall, 2:30-6:30 Mar 10

Scholarship Night, Turners, 5–9 Apr 29

PLEASE RSVP by FRIDAY MARCH 8 to: Brigitte Niebuhr, 319 W. Ostrander Ave., Syracuse, NY 13205. My home phone is 469-5304, cell 491-2573. All checks need to be made out to German American Society of CNY.

Hope to see you all there!

Any questions, or to find out more about the House Committee and what we do, please give me a call.

BRIGITTE NIEBUHR, Chair

Sunshine Lady

uring the month of January, get-well cards were sent to Johanna Lutsche, Helena Smith, and Elizabeth Crowley. Sympathy cards were sent to the Schaack family for the passing of one of their family members; Herb Bauerle for the passing of his daughter; and to the Snow Flake Bakery for the passing of one of their long-time employees, Rhonda.

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

MARGARETHA MICHO, Sunshine Lady

Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship applications and criteria will be going out this month. Please mark April 29 on your 2013 calendar for **Scholarship Night.** More information will be in the March and April *Zeitungs*.

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

SALLY FRENZA, Scholarship Chair

Goethe and Schiller Monument

Ithough the weather outside is frightful, 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. The bricks will be installed at a later time.

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.

BOB DOMACHOWSKI, Goethe and Schiller Monument Chair

From the Editor

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

The Ground Hog Day tradition was brought to Pennsylvania by German immigrants. February 2 is Candlemas Day, the day when a candlelit mass is held to brighten up the dark days of winter. Historically, clergy distributed 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 und 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 into looking for either signs of spring or the continuation of winter. If a hedgehog (originally a bear) saw his 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 extent of German traditions on the American way of life. Now you have something new to amaze your friends over a couple of cold ones!

Fasching is Germany's Biggest Bash!

Most people would probably say that the Munich Oktoberfest is the biggest bash in Germany. However, the greatest festival is none other than *Fasching*, or *Fastnacht*, Germany's Mardi Gras. This is often referred to as Germany's foolish or silly season. There are thousands of costume balls or dances all over Germany. All events start at 11 minutes past the 11th hour on November 11. Although it remains low-key for the first few weeks, the action really gets started seven weeks before Easter.

The Thursday before Ash Wednesday is known as Weiberfastnach or Women's Carnival Night. On this day, women dress up like old ladies and go door to door pulling jokes on people, especially politicians. (Way to go girls!!!) The women are allowed to cut off the tie or kiss (or both) any man within their reach! It is also tradition in many areas for the women to capture the local Rathaus (city

hall) and take over the city key. The following Monday is known as *Rosenmontag* (Rose Monday). During this day there are parades and carnival floats. *Faschingsdienstag* (Carnival Tuesday) is the last day of *Fasching*, when most of the festivities happen. Usually workers get the afternoon off to celebrate.

In Munich from 2 to 5 P.M. on *Faschingsdienstag*, the *Viktualienmarkt* pedestrian area is turned into a party zone. At night there are gala balls, the biggest held at the *Bayerischer Hof*. The Bavarians refer to *Fasching* as the "season of fools." Some people dress in costumes and ski down hills. It is a great time of the year to be able to dress up in costumes, act like a fool, and have a great time.

Munich also features doughnuts during *Fasching*, which can be found everywhere. The story goes that in pre-Christian Europe it was customary to choose a man to be the "sacred king" of the tribe for a year. When his year in office was up, he would be sacrificed and his blood returned to the soil to ensure a successful harvest. The method of choosing the sacred king was the King's Cake. A coin or bean would be placed in the cake before baking and whoever got the slice with the coin or bean was the chosen one. In recent times, the King's Cake idea evolved into doughnuts.

How Bockbier Got to Bavaria

Although we now associate *Bockbier* with Bavaria, it had its origins in the middle of the 13th century in Einbeck, a town in Northern Germany. Over the centuries it ended up in Bavaria to help bolster the economy, as *Bockbier* was so good that the Bavarians were the greatest consumers. However, they could not seem to master the brewing of the beer. After Duke Maximillian enticed an Einbeck brewmaster, Elias Pichler, to come to Munich in 1612 to work in the famous Wittelbach brewery, they began to brew a beer closer to the *Bockbier* we know today. The first strong Munich lager brewed the "Einbeck way" was dispensed

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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Charles Anspach Emilie Bachmann Eric Doell Sylvia & Rocky Herrmann Edward & Jean Kokernak Fritz Kucinski Edward Loos Barbara Omicinski Jim Ryan The Schaack Family Sally Frenza at the *Hofbräuhaus* in 1614. The Bavarian dialect soon changed the name "Einbeck" to "ayn Pock" and eventually "ein Bock." And that's how the Bock got to Bavaria.

Bockbiers rank among the heaviest and maltiest—yet smoothest—brews in the world. They are made to be sipped, not guzzled. The alcohol level of *Bockbier* ranges between 6 and 8%.

Members and Friends

Syracuse Liederverein Chorus

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 in Shop City, adjacent to Teall Avenue and Grant Boulevard in Syracuse. The chorus is now rehearsing for the Spring Concert.

Jackman Twins at St. Stephen

The "Twin Magicians" will be performing at St. Stephen Lutheran Church, 873 DeWitt St., Syracuse, on February 10 at 4 P.M. Suggested donation is \$5 for adults; children are free. Refreshments and fellowship follow the show. This performance is part of the Arts and Music Festival at St. Stephen.

For additional information about this performance or upcoming events, contact 479-9912.

Events at the Utica Männerchor

Upcoming events at 5535 Flanagan Road in Marcy: Feb 9 Fasching

If you have any questions regarding these events, contact the clubhouse at 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

Deutsche Zeitung

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