



Deutsche Zeitung

of the German-American Society of Central New York

Dezember 2016

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Willi Kreuzer, *President* Klaus Raith, *Vice President*
June Pardue, *Treasurer*
Sally Frenza, *Secretary*
Nancy Crast, *Financial Secretary*

Directors

Bruce Barnes Kenneth Blechl Susan Foster
Robert Kline Brigitte Niebuhr
Bill Nurk John Ott Henry Pfaff
Richard Pfaff Richard Schoeck

Klaus Raith, *Honorary President*

Please note: The December Board and Monthly Membership Meetings are being held on the second Thursday, December 8. This change is for December only.

President's Report

As I am writing this report, it is snowing outside and looking like a winter wonderland. Must say I am not ready for that! But it is November and it won't be long before we'll be singing *Weihnachtslieder*. We can all join in at our **Annual Christmas Party** on December 4. I am looking forward to a good time, and a visit from Santa for the children. The details are in the House Committee Report.

We had our election at the November meeting and on December 8 we will install the new leaders. It is with sadness that we are losing **Nancy Crast** as our Financial Secretary due to health problems. Nancy did an outstanding job at this position and we will miss her contribution to the club. But we also wish her the very best in the future. Financial Secretary is a very important position and requires knowledge of computers.

I am thankful that **Helen Kline** agreed to step in as our Financial Secretary. She will need help as she will be in Florida for February and March. Anyone who is interested in helping out the Financial Secretary, please contact me at 472-3507 or see any of the officers at our functions or Monthly Meetings.

I hope everyone had a good and happy Thanksgiving with your families. I want to personally wish everyone a *Fröhliche Weihnachten und ein Gesundes und Glückliches Neues Jahr!*

WILLI KREUZER, *President*

Vice President's Report

I have been working on the Entertainment Schedule for the **2017 Great Syracuse Oktoberfest**, and I will have more to report at the January 17 Oktoberfest Committee Meeting. If you have any questions I can be reached at 315-675-8321.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Have a great time at the Christmas party!

KLAUS RAITH, *Vice President and Honorary President*

Treasurer's Report

Just a reminder that all bills and financial communication should be sent to: The German American Society of CNY, PO Box 5548, Syracuse, NY 13220-5548.

The Oktoberfest Report will be audited in the near future. I will provide the specifics after the audit.

Please attend the Monthly Membership Meeting on December 8 at 7 P.M. at the Syracuse Turners for a complete report on our financial status. In the meantime, if you have any questions about our

financial status or concerns that I can help you with, please speak with me at any of our meetings, or contact me at 412-1761.

Thank you.

JUNE PARDUE, *Treasurer*

Financial Secretary's Report

It is with sadness that I will be leaving the position of Financial Secretary after the first of the year due to health reasons. I want to thank **Helen Kline** for agreeing to take on this position.

I also will be unable to handle the mailing of the *Zeitung* after January 2017. If you are interested in taking on this job, please contact me at the number below or the Editor, Sally Frenza at 345-6253. I have all the information on the process for mailing the *Zeitung* and I will be happy to assist for the January *Zeitung*.

Currently, there are no new-membership applications for posting this month.

Please remember: We are always looking to expand our membership. If you have anyone to propose for membership, just have the person complete a membership application and forward it along with their \$25 check made out to The German American Society of CNY to: The German American Society of CNY, PO Box 5548, Syracuse, NY 13220-5548.

Applications can be obtained at any Monthly Membership meeting or any of our events, or on our website at www.germanamericanscny.com. Or, just contact Helen Kline. Her contact information is found below.

Also, the 2017 membership dues are due in January and should be sent to the above address. The dues for renewing members remain at \$15 a year. The dues can be paid in person at the January **General Meeting**, or paid by check made out to the German American Society of CNY (please add annual dues in the message portion of your check) and sent to the above noted address. As per a prior Amendment to our Constitution and By-laws, all annual membership dues must be paid by January 31 of the membership year. If the dues are not paid by that date, an invoice will be sent by the Membership Committee reminding any unpaid member that

CLUB MEETINGS

- Dez 8 Board Meeting, Syracuse Turners, 6
 Monthly Meeting, Installation of Officers,
 Syracuse Turners, 7
- Jan 17 Oktoberfest Committee Meeting,
 Syracuse Turners, 7
- Jan 19 Board Meeting, Syracuse Turners, 6
 Monthly Meeting, Syracuse Turners, 7

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dez 4 Christmas Party, Syracuse Turners, 2-6

his or her membership dues are past due, and that the dues must be paid by March 15 in order to remain a member in good standing. After March 15, any member who has not paid his or her dues will be automatically dropped from membership without further notice. If any prior member wants to rejoin The German American Society of CNY, he or she must come in as a new member.

Just a reminder: If you are going to be away and would like the *Zeitung* held until you return, please contact the Editor. If you will be away for an extended period of time this winter, the *Zeitung* can be forwarded to you. Just contact the Editor to arrange for this complimentary service of the German American Society.

Also, if you change your address, please contact the Financial Secretary with the new information to ensure that the membership list is kept current and that the *Zeitung* reaches you.

To discuss any of the above areas or if you have any questions regarding your dues or membership, please contact Helen Kline at 458-6415 or by e-mail at hkline8@twcny.rr.com.

Thank you to everyone for all your help and cooperation.

NANCY CRAST, *Financial Secretary*

From the House Committee

Just a reminder: Our Christmas Party is December 4 from 2 to 6 P.M. at the Syracuse Turners, 619 North Salina Street, Syracuse. Admission is \$13 in advance or \$18 at the door. Children up to 6 years old are free, and children ages 7 to 12 are \$6.

Dinner will be roast pork, sauerkraut, red cabbage, mashed potatoes, yams, and salad. If members are able to bring a dessert it will be appreciated. There will be a variety of beverages for purchase at the Turner's for a reasonable price.

For those of you who have already provided a child's information, Santa Claus will be bringing gifts for children ages baby to 12 years old.

If you have not made your reservation, please contact me immediately at 491-2573 or email omib21@aol.com.

The Enzian Bavarian Quartet will be playing for your listening and dancing pleasure.

This will be a lot of fun! Please bring something for the auction if you are able. It can be a baked good, a Christmas item, or anything else you would like to donate. The auction is always a blast and a fun way to make some money for our society.

We will have valet parking for anyone who cannot find a place to park in the front of the Turners and is unable to climb the back stairs. Just call 345-6253 if you need to take advantage of this service.

If you have any questions about the House Committee or our activities, or if you would like to serve on the Committee, please give me a call at 491-2573 or email at omib21@aol.com.

Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Party!

BRIGITTE NIEBUHR, *House Committee Chair*

Constitution and By-Laws Committee

The Committee continues to work under the leadership of the Chair, Willi Rohrbach, to revise our Constitution and By-Laws. They will be meeting again after the first of the year to continue their revisions.

When all the proposed revisions have been completed, a special meeting will be called of the German American Society of CNY membership for the purpose of reviewing the revisions and discussing them in person. The next step in the process will be further reviewed at that time.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about the By-Laws or revisions, please contact Willi Rohrbach, Committee Chair, at 610-972-4169.

Sunshine Lady

We had a quiet month in November.

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

MARGARETHA MICHIO, *Sunshine Lady*

Election Results

At the November 17 **Monthly Membership Meeting**, the following Officers and Board Members were elected to serve our great organization: *President*—Willi Kreuzer, *Vice President*—Klaus Raith, *Treasurer*—June Pardue, *Secretary*—Sally Frenza, *Financial Secretary*—Helen Kline. *Board Members*: Bob Kline, John Ott, Brigitte Niebuhr, Eric Gang, Rita Knapp

Please plan to attend the December 8 **Monthly Membership Meeting** for the installation of officers and to meet those who will be taking on the leadership roles for 2017.

Oktoberfest 2017

Just want to remind the Oktoberfest Committee that I have scheduled an Oktoberfest Committee meeting for Tuesday, January 17, at 7 P.M. at the Syracuse Turners.

If you would like to serve on the committee or if you have suggestions for Oktoberfest, please contact me at 730-7498 or by e-mail at mjdoyle@twcny.rr.com, or plan to attend the January 17 meeting.

Thank you and I look forward to the opportunity to work with everyone to make the 2017 Oktoberfest a great one!

MAUREEN DOYLE, *Oktoberfest Chairperson*

Goethe and Schiller Monument

It is hard to think about it, but Christmas is not that far off. Why not buy a brick or two or three at the Goethe and Schiller Monument? What a great Christmas gift that would be for a loved one or organization! A single brick is \$50, 2 bricks are \$75, and 3 bricks are \$100, with each additional brick being \$30. 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 and online at www.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.

If you have any questions about the monument or the bricks, please give me a call at 451-1848.

BOB DOMACHOWSKI, *Goethe and Schiller Monument Chair*

Scholarship Night

The German Student Scholarship Program is alive and well!

The Scholarship applications will be going out after the first of the year to the area high schools who offer a German program.

If you would like to know more about the scholarship program, please contact me at 315-6253 or sallyzf@aol.com.

More to come next month.

SALLY FRENZA, *Scholarship Chair*

From the Editor

First I want to thank Nancy Crast for the outstanding job she did in mailing out the *Zeitung*. She took us into the "computer age" with the new way that the mailings are done for the postal service. She was very conscientious and timely in everything she did, and for that I am more than grateful. I wish you only the best in the future.

Now on to the Christmas season. "It's the most wonderful time

of the year,” as a famous Christmas song says. The Christmas shows on TV and carols on the radio started even before Thanksgiving was here. Black Friday has passed and we are all now up to our elbows in thinking about what to do, what to buy, where to go, what to prepare for Christmas dinner, 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 now on social media, 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. So, as we prepare to celebrate, let’s take a minute or two 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 4 from 2 to 6 P.M. being held at the Syracuse Turners.

In thinking about what German Christmas tradition to write about, I happened upon the Advent calendar. Having been brought up in a German Lutheran household, I took the Advent calendar for granted and never really thought about its origin. I know what it stands for, the counting down of the days in Advent until the birth of Jesus, but where did it come from? So, I looked into this a little deeper. At least as early as the beginning of the 19th century, German Lutherans would count down the twenty-four days of Advent, which often meant putting a chalk line on the door each day, beginning on December 1. Other families lit a candle or hung a little religious picture on the wall each day. The candles were sometimes placed on an Advent clock.

It is believed that the first known Advent calendar was home-made in 1851. History notes that the first printed Advent calendar was produced in Hamburg in 1902 or 1903; other authorities state that a Swabian parishioner, Gerhard Lang, was responsible for the first printed calendar in 1908. Lang was a printer in the firm Reichhold & Lang of Munich, who, in 1908, made 24 little colored pictures that could be affixed to a piece of cardboard. Several years later it was changed to 24 little doors. There were at least 30 different designs before they went out of business in the 1930s. At around that time another printing company, Sankt Johannes, started producing religious Advent calendars with Bible verses instead of pictures. The practice disappeared during World War II, apparently to save paper. After the war, Richard Sellmer of Stuttgart resurrected the commercial calendar and is responsible for its widespread popularity.

Many Advent calendars today consist of two layers of cardboard with the top layer having 24 doors cut and ready to be opened, one for each day, by the children. Most of the time there is a piece of chocolate behind the door, which when removed may have a feature of the Nativity story and the birth of Jesus or something else to do with Christmas like bells or holly. Sometimes the Advent calendars

are even made of a sheet with 24 pockets. Each pocket holds some kind of a treat or little gift. There is a giant calendar in the city of Dresden that is built into a fairytale castle on its Christmas market, the Striezelmarkt.

The Advent calendar has sure changed from its humble beginnings of chalk marks on a door. However, the meaning is still there for what each day is leading up to.

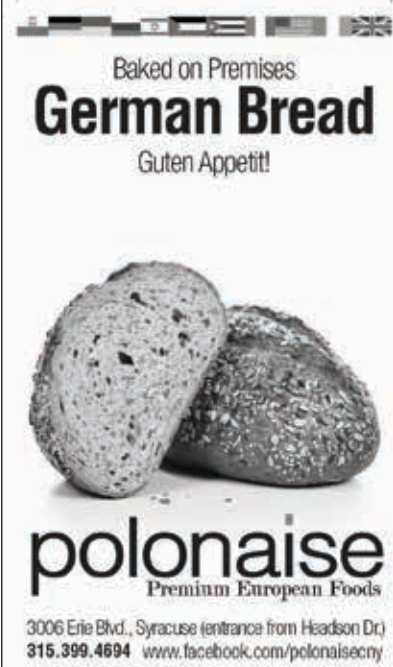
Another custom is that of honoring a family’s Christmas tree, or *Christbaumloben*. This is the day that is a lot of fun for the adults. On St. Stephen’s Day, December 26, friends visit each other and announce upon arrival, *Ein schöner Baum!* Their reward for praising the tree is (yes, you guessed it) a bit of alcohol.

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!!!

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!*

Do you have a German, Austrian, or Swiss topic you would like me to write about? Or do you have an article you have written or found and would like to see in print? Just let me know.

SALLY FRENZA, *Editor*



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If you are looking for somewhere to have a nice friendly Friday night dinner, why not try the Syracuse Turners? They have really great fish and other offerings on the menu, and all at a very reasonable price. Dinner is served from 5:30 to 8 P.M. There is always a special. Please give the Syracuse Turners a call at 471-9851 and they will let you know what the special will be.

Events at the Utica Männerchor

Dez 9: Christmas Benefit Concert, 8 P.M.

Dez 17: Christmas Party and Dinner Dance, 6–10 P.M.

For more information about these or any other upcoming events at the Utica Männerchor, located at 5535 Flanagan Road in Marcy, just contact the clubhouse at 735-5882. Please try to support our friends in Utica by attending their events.

For Sale

Never worn Lederhosen for waist size 32–36. Call Ken Blechl at 458-6102 for details.

Contact the Zeitung!

Mail: Sally Frenza, 4 Commodore Cir., Baldwinsville, NY 13027

Phone: 315-345-6253

E-mail: sallyzf@aol.com

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