



Deutsche Zeitung

of the German-American Society of Central New York

Dezember 2019

Officers

David A. Gunter, *President* B. Bruce Barnes, *Vice President*
Jim Heckathorne, *Treasurer*
Sally Frenza, *Interim Secretary*
Nadja Allmann, *Interim Financial Secretary*

Board of Directors

2 yrs: Carl Bloss, Susan Foster, Tina Higgins,
Monika Loerzel, Bill Nurk
1 yr: Sally Frenza, Eric Gang, Helen Kline,
Robert Kline, Brigitte Niebuhr

Please note: The December Monthly Membership Meeting is scheduled for December 12. As we have done in the past, it is early because of the Christmas Holiday.

Please also note: If we have inclement weather on the day of any of our scheduled meetings, please call either President Dave Gunter at 315-289-8145 or the Syracuse Turners at 315-471-9851 to find out if the meeting is canceled.

President's Report

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was at our November 21 meeting. We were able to complete the election of Officers and Board Members. There is only one position open, and that is for Secretary. **Sally Frenza** will act as Interim Secretary as a Board Member. However, I know she would be very pleased if someone would step forward. She will provide guidance and assistance in what the expectations are for the Secretary. Please give me a call at 315-289-8145 if you are interested in taking over as Secretary.

Please plan to attend the December 12 Monthly Membership Meeting as it is the installation of Officers and a chance to obtain the latest information on our organization. The German American Society belongs to all of us!

Also, the Christmas Party is December 15 at the Syracuse Turners. Please see the House Committee Report for all the details. Hope to see you all there. It will be fun!

If you have any questions that I can help you with, please feel free to contact me at 315-289-8145.

DAVID A. GUNTER, *President*

Vice-President/Okttoberfest Report

At the November 21 Oktoberfest Wrap-up I presented the Financial Report. Although financially we did not do as well as I had hoped, we were successful in providing a great experience to everyone who attended. People were happy and really enjoyed the Fest. We had many positive remarks and the people of Minoa were glad we were there. I will not be the Chair of the Oktoberfest in 2020 but I will turn over all my records and provide support wherever I can.

If you have any questions that I can help you with, please give me a call between 6 and 8 P.M. during the week, or on the weekend at 315-635-5174.

Again, thank you to everyone who volunteered and attended the 2019 Oktoberfest!

B. BRUCE BARNES, *Vice President*

Treasurer's Report

I am happy to be taking over the position of Treasurer and I will do my best to perform the duties to the best of my ability. Once I get everything underway, I will be presenting a financial report at each meeting. If you have questions that I can help you with, please give me a call at 315-200-5209.

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.

Thank you for affording me this opportunity to serve our organization.

JIM HECKATHORNE, *Treasurer*

Financial Secretary's Report

I am happy to be taking over as the Interim Financial Secretary until I can be appointed in February 2020.

The following applications were presented at the November 21 Monthly Membership Meeting: **Michael and Cheryl Bockheim**, Syracuse, sponsored by Sally Frenza, and **Edward N. Karl**, Bridgeport, who received his application as a result of the 2019 Oktoberfest. These applicants will be voted on for membership at the December 12 Monthly Membership Meeting.

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 at any of our events, or on our website at

CLUB MEETINGS

- Dez 12 Monthly Membership Meeting and Installation of Officers and Board Members, Syracuse Turners, 7
- Jan 16 Board Meeting, Syracuse Turners, 6
Monthly Membership Meeting, Syracuse Turners, 7

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

- Dez 15 Christmas Party, Syracuse Turners, 2-6
- Apr 27 German Student Scholarship Night, Syracuse Turners 5-9

www.germanamericanscnyc.com. Or just contact me and I can send one to you. My contact information is found below.

There are only a few days left in 2019. With that in mind, it's time to pay your 2020 membership dues. To renew your membership, just mail your check for \$15 to the address noted above. Please note "Membership 2020" on the line on the lower left-hand corner of your check. Dues need to be paid by January 31, 2020.

Also, when you renew your dues, would you please include your email address? I would like to start sending out information regarding events, meetings, etc. You will still get the *Zeitung* as usual. I will just send some extra information out to you.

Reminder: If you will be away for an extended period of time the *Zeitung* can be forwarded to you. Please contact the Editor to arrange for this complimentary service of the German American Society.

Also, if you change your address, please contact me at 315-450-4655 and the Editor at 315-345-6253 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 me at the phone number above. Thank you.

NADJA ALLMANN, *Interim Financial Secretary*

From the House Committee

The Christmas Party is planned for December 15 at the Syracuse Turners from 2 to 6. The cost is \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. It will be a pork dinner with all the fixings. Please have reservations with your check made out to the German American Society of CNY to me by December 9. My address is found below.

As usual, we are asking the members to bring a dessert to share if they are able. We will also be having our annual auction which helps to offset the expenses of the Christmas Party. This year we will be handling the auction a little differently. We will hold a silent auction where you write your bid on the sheet that's with the auction item, which will alleviate the time spent on the floor auction. During the last band break, the highest bidder on each item will be announced. So, if you can, an auction item would be greatly appreciated. It is strictly voluntary. The item can be cake, cookies, wine, or anything else that may be appropriate. We have had wreaths, centerpieces, and other decorations donated in the past.

Santa will be bringing presents to the children ages 0-12 who are children, grandchildren, nieces, or nephews of German American Society members. Hopefully all the information will have gotten to me by the time you get this *Zeitung*. If not, please call me immediately.

The **Enzian Bavarian Quartet** will be playing for your listening and dancing pleasure. I'm sure there will also be a Christmas sing-along. It will be a fun afternoon!

The mailing address for reservations: Brigitte Niebuhr, 319 W. Ostrander Ave., Syracuse, NY 13205-1928; phone/text 315-491-2573.

If you would like to be on the House Committee or help out with the Christmas Party, just give either a call/text to Sally at 315-345-6253 or me. We can use your help.

Thank you.

BRIGITTE NIEBUHR, *House Committee*

Sunshine Lady

During the month of November, I sent a sympathy card to **Dick Schoeck**, former Board Member and supporter of the Scholarship Program, on the passing of his wife and German American Society member, **Dianna**. They attended many of our German American Society events and lent their support.

Please report any illnesses, deaths, monumental birthdays, anniversaries, etc. to me at 315-468-4541.

Thank you.

MARGARETHA MICH0, *Sunshine Lady*

German Student Scholarship Program

Scholarship applications will be going out in January to the area high schools in Onondaga and Oswego Counties who teach German. There will be more information on the Scholarship Program in upcoming issues of the *Zeitung*.

There are still flag pins for sale for anyone who would like to purchase one for \$3. Great stocking stuffers for Christmas! We also have some gently used clothing for sale at very reasonable prices.

I want to thank **John Besten**, who has volunteered to join the current members of the Scholarship Committee.

If you have any questions about the Scholarship Program, or if you would like to purchase clothing or pins, please feel free to call/text me at 315-345-6253 or by email at sallyzf@aol.com.

Thank you!

SALLY FRENZA, *Scholarship Chair*

Election Night Results

The following are the results of the 2020 election of Officers and Board Members held on November 21.

President, **Dave Gunter**; Vice President, **B. Bruce Barnes**; Treasurer, **Jim Heckathorne**; Secretary, **Open**; Financial Secretary, **Nadja Allmann** (on an interim basis, to be appointed in February when she will be a member in good standing for one year).

Board Members: **Carl Bloss, Susan Foster, Monika Loerzel, Bill Nurk, and Tina Higgins**.

Sally Frenza will continue as Interim Secretary until the position is filled. If you would like to assume the position of Secretary, please contact Sally Frenza at 315-345-6253 for a description of the duties, and President Dave Gunter if you would like to be considered for appointment.

Installation of Officers and Board Members will be held at the December 12 Monthly Membership Meeting.

From the Editor

Fröhliche Weihnachten und ein Gesundes und Glückliches Neues Jahr!

"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 couple tears for those we miss. We have cards to write and send either by snail or e-mail or Facebook 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 that began on that cold night in a stable far away. 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.

I have often told the story of how *Silent Night* came about, and I thought it would be a very fitting addition to my comments for this month.

Assistant Pastor Josef Mohr had written a poem about the night when angels announced the birth of the long-awaited Messiah to shepherds on a hillside. He decided those words he had written would make a good carol for his congregation the following evening at their Christmas Eve service. The one problem was that he didn't have any music to which that poem could be sung, or a working church organ to play the music. So, the next day Mohr went to see the church organist, Franz Xaver Gruber. Gruber only had a few hours to compose the music for the poem. On Christmas Eve in 1818, in Oberndorf, a village near Salzburg, in the small Church of St. Nicholas, *Silent Night* was first sung accompanied by a guitar. That carol has become one of the most sung and most meaningful carols of the Christmas season. Many churches light individual candles and turn off the lights on Christmas Eve and end the service with the singing of *Silent Night* as it was written in German:

*Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft; einsam wacht
Nur das traute hoch heilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar
Schlaf' in himmlischer Ruh!
Schlaf' in himmlischer Ruh!*

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 15 from 2 to 6 at the Syracuse Turners.

I was recently reading through a book called *The Joys of Christmas*, which is a collection of all kinds of Christmas facts

If you'd like to become a Patron of the *Zeitung* or if you are currently a patron and need to renew for 2019, please send your check for \$15 to the attention of the Editor at The German American Society of CNY, PO Box 5548, Syracuse, NY 13220-5548. Please note on the message line that it is for Patron. Thank you to those Patrons who have already renewed.

PATRONS

In Memory of Eric Doell Sally Frenza
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Eric Lorenz Robert Oberst Barbara Omicinski
Willi Rohrbach The Schaack Family
Richard Schoeck The Von Knoblauch Family
Jack Bligh, *In Memory of Helga Bligh*

and traditions. I came across this Christmas trivia and I thought it would be fun. Now don't peek at the answers!

1. Which state has a town named Santa Claus? (a) Vermont, (b) Colorado, (c) Maine, or (d) Indiana
2. What color is Santa's belt? (a) Green, (b) Red, (c) Black, or (d) White
3. Who gave Santa the nickname Kris Kringle? (a) Charles Dickens, (b) Martin Luther, (c) Charles Schulz, or (d) Grover Cleveland
4. What do they call Santa Claus in Chile? (a) Old Man Christmas, (b) Señor Santa, (c) Claus the Good, or (d) El Claus
5. What is the rabbit's name in the holiday TV special *Frosty the Snowman*? (a) Roger, (b) Hocus Pocus, (c) Thumper, or (d) Peter

Wasn't that fun? The answers are found later in this *Zeitung*. Remember, if you have a German, Swiss, or Austrian holiday, tradition, or any topic that you would like me to write about, or if you have an article you have written and would like to see in print, just let me know.

SALLY FRENZA, *Editor*

Members and Friends

If you have any questions about hours, events, dinners, etc. at the Syracuse Turners, or if you would like information on joining this great organization, just call 315-471-9851. Please try to support our friends at the Syracuse Turners.

Liehs and Steigerwald

Liehs and Steigerwald Meats, a long-time advertiser in the *Zeitung*, is now serving German Dinners at their E. Fayette St. location in downtown Syracuse. Please see their ad on the back page of this *Zeitung* for contact information on times, etc.

Answers to Christmas Trivia: 1: d; 2: c; 3: b; 4: a; 5: b.
How did you do?

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