



Deutsche Zeitung

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Februar 2020

of the German-American Society of Central New York

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: 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 see if the meeting has been canceled.

President's Report

Welcome to winter in Central New York! Thank you to the brave souls who ventured out for our last Monthly Membership Meeting. Unfortunately, due primarily to our bad weather, we did not have a quorum to hold our Monthly Meeting.

Please try to make every effort to attend the February 20 Monthly Membership Meeting at 7 P.M. at the Syracuse Turners. We have some important issues to discuss, one of which is **Oktoberfest**. We need someone to step up to chair this very important event. Give working on Oktoberfest some thought and bring your ideas to the meeting.

There will also be a Board Meeting at 6:30 on February 20. Would all Board Members please plan to attend to review business before the Monthly Membership Meeting? Your participation is needed to keep our organization moving in the right direction. The German American Society is all of us working together!

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

Danke!

DAVID A. GUNTER, *President*

Vice-President/Oktoberfest Report

Winter greetings to all our members! Please plan to attend the February 20 Monthly Membership Meeting to keep up to date on our organization and to offer your ideas.

B. BRUCE BARNES, *Vice President*

Treasurer's Report

Please send all dues payments, invoices, or financial communication to: The German-American Society of CNY, PO Box 5548, Syracuse, NY 13220-5548, or give them to me at the next Monthly Meeting.

At the January meeting I presented the Board of Directors with a detailed accounting of all expenses and revenues for 2019, and will continue to do so on a monthly basis throughout the

year. If at any time you have questions or suggestions, please feel free to email me at heckatjr@gmail.com, or text to 315-200-5209.

JAMES HECKATHORNE, *Treasurer*

Financial Secretary's Report

As we did not have a Monthly Membership Meeting on January 16 due primarily to the weather, the applications for membership that were posted in the previous *Zeitung* will be voted on at the February 20 Monthly Membership Meeting. The applications are: **Jane Neer**, Baldwinsville, proposed by Jim Heckathorne; **Michael and Cheryle Bockheim**, Syracuse, sponsored by Sally Frenza; and **Edward N. Karl**, Bridgeport, who received his application as a result of the 2019 Oktoberfest.

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, at any of our events, or on our website at www.germanamericanscnyc.com. Or just contact me and I can send one to you. My contact information is found below.

Reminder: The 2020 membership dues were due by January 31. The dues for renewing members remain at \$15/year. There are several members who have not paid their 2020 dues. The dues can be paid in person at the February Monthly Membership Meeting on February 20, or sent to the above address. Checks need to be made payable to the German American Society of CNY (please add "Annual Dues" in the message portion of your check). If your dues were not paid by January 31, an invoice will

CLUB MEETINGS

Feb 20	Board Meeting, Syracuse Turners, 6:30 Monthly Membership Meeting, Syracuse Turners, 7
Mar 19	Board Meeting, Syracuse Turners, 6:30 Monthly Membership Meeting, Syracuse Turners, 7

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

Apr 27	German Student Scholarship Night, Syracuse Turners 5-9
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be sent reminding any unpaid member that 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.

Also, when you renew your dues, would you please send in 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.

Another 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.

Please remember: If you change your address, please contact or text me at 315-450-4655 or email me at cnygermansociety@gmail.com and the Editor at 315-345-6253 or email at sallyzf@aol.com 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 above phone number or email address.

Thank you.

NADJA ALLMANN, *Interim Financial Secretary*

From the House Committee

Plans are under way for 2020. There will be more discussion about possible events at the February 20 Monthly Membership Meeting. If you have ideas for 2020 please bring them to the meeting with you.

If you would like to be on the House Committee, just give either a call or text to Sally Frenza at 315-345-6253 or me at 315-491-2573. We can use your help. Thank you.

BRIGITTE NIEBUHR, *House Committee*

Sunshine Lady

During the month of January a sympathy card was sent to **Bob Domachowski**. His sister **June** passed away recently. June was a member of the German American Society and a valuable member of the Scholarship Committee for several years.

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

MARGARETHA MICHIO, *Sunshine Lady*

German Student Scholarship Program

It's hard to believe we are now heading into our 18th year of awarding scholarships to graduating high school seniors in Onondaga and Oswego County who are students of German. It seems like only a short time ago when I handed out the first scholarships on a cold, snowy evening in April 2003.

The date for **Scholarship Night** is set for April 27 from 5 to 9 at the Syracuse Turners. So mark this day on your 2020 calendar. There will be more information in the March and April *Zeitungs*.

If you have never attended this wonderful event, please try for 2020. It is a night that honors not only the scholarship recipients, but all students of the German language and their teachers.

Scholarship applications have gone out to the area high schools in Onondaga and Oswego Counties who teach German. The Scholarship Committee is looking forward to another year of great applicants.

Just a reminder: There are still flag pins for sale for \$3 for anyone who would like to purchase one. We also have some gently used German clothing for sale at very reasonable prices.

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

Thank you!

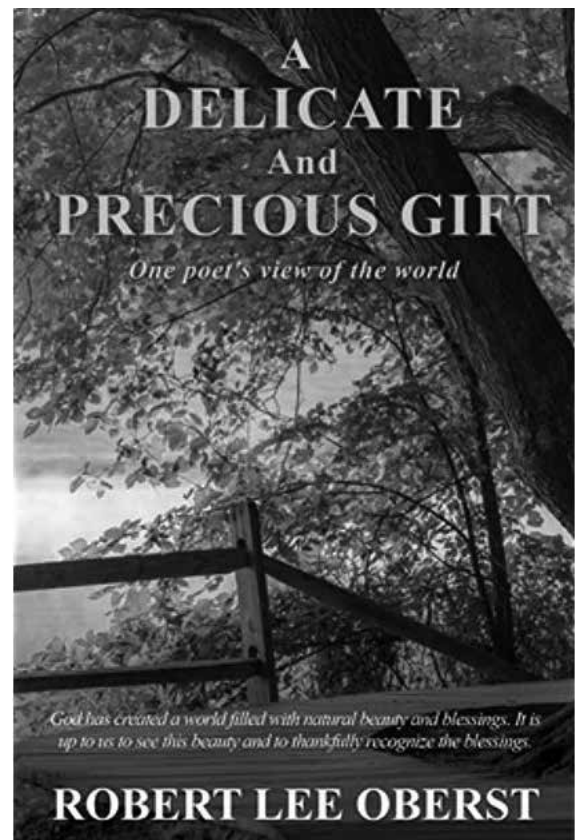
SALLY FRENZA, *Scholarship Chair*

Member Robert Lee Oberst Has Book Published

Our member Robert Lee Oberst has had a book of poetry published. It is titled *A Delicate and Precious Gift*.

A review of the book by Lisa Monroe, editor of the *Adirondack Express* notes:

It has been my pleasure over the years to publish Robert Oberst's poetry in the *Adirondack Express*. The poems are uplifting and sometimes provide a little chuckle. His words help one to focus on the things that are truly important like the feeling of fresh snow falling down, remembering the sacrifices of our vets and first responders, and the simple joys of spring.



Oberst's approach to the written word is thoughtful and welcome in this busy world."

The book is available at Barnes and Noble and on Amazon at a cost of around \$15+. Please try to support our member by purchasing his book. I ordered my copy today!

From the Editor

Before I write anything else, I want to apologize to the **Wuerslin Family** for omitting **Siegfried Wuerslin** from the list of valued members who passed away in 2019. Siegfried's smiling face could be seen at many of our events over the years.

Ah, it's February and love is in the air with the approach of **Valentine's Day**. Although many people consider German people to be rather cold and stern, they actually are romantic (we know that, right!?!).

Valentinstag has only been celebrated in Germany since World War II. In Germany it is an adult-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 would-be Valentine, some cards have little pigs holding a four-leaf clover while climbing a ladder on a heart.

Another important item of Valentine's Day in Germany is big ginger cookies made in the shape of a heart and decorated with frosting. They usually have a few words written on them such as: *meine Shatzi, ich liebe Dich, etc.*

As Germany is more liberal in matters of sex and erotica than North American countries (I had no idea!), you will also find that some of these cookies may have messages that express more directly the lover's intentions than your usual "I love you!"

So, whatever your intent, I hope that Valentine's Day is romantic and filled with love as you express your feelings to your loved one (or ones!).

Just a Reminder: If you have not yet sent in your 2020 Patron payment, or if you would like to become a Patron of the Zeitung, 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.

PATRONS

Bruce Barnes 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



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.

For Sale

Beautiful men's suede jacket for sale. Call **Helga** at 315-457-5057 for details. Helga has been a supporter of our Christmas Party auction over the past couple of years by donating some beautiful German items.

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