



Deutsche Zeitung

of the German-American Society of Central New York

www.germanamericanscny.com

Februar 2022

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David A. Gunter, *President* Bob Kraus, *Vice President*
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 Nadja Allmann, *Financial Secretary*

Board of Directors

2 yrs: Eric Gang, Helen Kline, Robert Kline,
 Brigitte Niebuhr, Derrick Pratt
1 yr: [Vacant], Susan Foster, Tina Higgins,
 Monika Loerzel, Bill Nurk

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 find out if the meeting has been canceled.

President's Report

Thank you to everyone who attended our last meeting where members were able to hear a great presentation by **Derrick Pratt** on German American soldiers who fought in the Civil War. Members were also brought up to date on what is happening in our organization.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 17, at 6 P.M. at the Syracuse Turners, with the Monthly Membership Meeting to follow at 7. Please try to attend the Monthly Membership Meeting to hear more about plans for 2022.

Due to the need of one of our Board members to resign, we now need to find someone to serve out the remainder of the one-year term. To be considered for the open position on the Board, the person must be a member in good standing for at least one year. If you have a desire to serve in this capacity, or would like more information on what is involved in being a Board member, please contact me at 315-289-8145 or Sally Frenza at 315-345-6253.

If you have any questions or suggestions or need anything that I can help you with, please feel free to contact me. The German American Society of CNY is here to support its members.

I hope to see everyone at the February 17 meeting.

DAVID A. GUNTER, *President*

Vice-President's Report

Keep those membership applications coming in! Let's make 2022 a great year for growth!

If you have any questions or ideas, please contact me at chk1205@centurylink.net or speak with me at the January 20 Monthly Membership Meeting.

Thank you for helping to increase our membership!

BOB KRAUS, *Vice President*

Treasurer's Report

Please continue to send all dues, patron, or advertising payments to the address below. As we are now commencing in 2022, it's time to renew membership dues,

patron ads, and advertising. So please send all renewals, invoices, and financial communications to: The German-American Society of CNY, PO Box 5548, Syracuse, NY 13220-5548.

Also, on behalf of the German American Society I want to thank **Prison City Brewery** for their donation. It is certainly appreciated.

At the February 17 Monthly Membership Meeting, I will provide up-to-date information on our financial status.

JAMES HECKATHORNE, *Treasurer*

Financial Secretary's Report

Thank you to those who have sent in dues payments for 2022! Annual dues are \$25 per individual and \$40 per couple in the same household. If you have not already sent in your dues that were due on January 31, 2022, please do so ASAP! You can also pay at the February 17 Monthly Membership Meeting. Per the by-laws, delinquent members will receive an invoice by 2/15/22 and will have until 3/15/22 to submit payment. If the dues payment is not received by 3/15/22 the member will lose their membership and associated benefits. The strength of our organization comes from our members, and we hope that everyone will maintain their membership and actively participate!

If you became a member from October 2021 through the end of 2021, your 2022 dues are considered paid.

At the January meeting, we presented and voted four members into the Society. Please join me in welcoming **Erika Schell, Jamie Ellsworth, Richard Pfaff, and Blaine Houck!** We look forward to seeing you at upcoming meetings and events!

If you have anyone to propose for membership, have the

CLUB MEETINGS

Feb 17	Board Meeting, Syracuse Turners, 6 Monthly Membership Meeting, Syracuse Turners, 7
Mär 17	Board Meeting, Syracuse Turners, 6 Monthly Membership Meeting, Syracuse Turners, 7

UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr 25	German Student Scholarship Night, Syracuse Turners, 5-9
Mai 22	Maitanz, Syracuse Turners
Jul 17	Picnic, Camp Brockway

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 meeting or event, on our website at www.germanamericanscny.com, or by emailing us at cnygermansociety@gmail.com.

Don't forget to follow our CNY German American Society Facebook page and let us know what kinds of information and content you would like to see posted!

Reminders: If you will be away for an extended period of time, the *Zeitung* can be forwarded to you. Please contact the Editor at 315-345-6253 or sallyzf@aol.com to arrange for this complimentary service. If you change your address, please email cnygermansociety@gmail.com, or contact the Editor with the new information to ensure that the membership list is kept current and that *Zeitung* reaches you.

To discuss any of the above areas or if you have questions regarding your dues or membership, please email cnygermansociety@gmail.com.

NADJA ALLMANN, *Financial Secretary*

From the House Committee

We are now in the process of planning a *Maitanz*. Your ideas and assistance in this event would be greatly appreciated. More information will be available at the February 17 Monthly Membership Meeting at 7 P.M. at The Syracuse Turners. There will also be more information in the next *Zeitung*.

Please try to attend the February 17 Monthly Membership Meeting to hear more about plans for 2022. We welcome your ideas and participation.

If you would like to be on the House Committee, please let us know at the meeting. Or if you would like more information, just give a call or text to me at 315-345- 6253 or Brigitte Niebuhr at 315-491-2573. We can use your help and suggestions.

Thank you.

SALLY FRENZA & BRIGITTE NIEBUHR, *House Committee*

Presentation #2 on German American Soldiers' Contributions in the Civil War

Wat the October 21 Monthly Membership Meeting our member **Derrick Pratt** gave a very informative and interesting presentation on local German American soldiers' contributions in the Civil War. He provided many unknown facts about these soldiers, their contributions, and the history of their units. He presented Part 2 at the January 20 Monthly Membership Meeting. He provided additional facts about these soldiers and the recognition they received. Even though remarks had been made about these men's ability to fight a good fight, the soldiers proved those soothsayers wrong.

Thank you, Derrick, for providing everyone at the meeting with a glimpse into the past of our brave German American soldiers.

Sunshine Lady

Wsympathy card was sent to **Bruce Barnes** on the passing of his mother. Our condolences to Bruce and his family.

Condolences to **Cheryl Maier** on the passing of her husband **Walter**. They had both been long-time members of the German American Society and attended and supported our events, as well as those of the German chorus, the Syracuse Liederverein.

We also lost member **Larry Crast** at the end of January. He was the husband of member **Nancy Crast**, who was the Financial Secretary a few years ago. Thoughts and prayers to Nancy and family.

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

Thank you.

MARGARETHA MICH0, *Sunshine Lady*

The German Student Scholarship Program

Want to thank the Board of Directors for approving the funding for the Scholarship Program. The applications have gone out to the schools. The completed applications with required documents must be postmarked by March 16 to be considered. The Committee then reviews the applications and the recipients are chosen and notified.

I can honestly say that I am starting to get a little excited at the prospect of the German Student Scholarship Night scheduled for Monday, April 25, at the Syracuse Turners. The celebration is open to all, with any student of German and their teacher attending at no cost to them. Unfortunately, the past two years of the Scholarship Program did not include a special night for all students of the German language due to the pandemic. It doesn't seem possible that this will be our twentieth year of awarding scholarships! I, along with the committee, will be working on something special for this great celebration! If you have not already done so, please add this event to your 2022 calendar. The Scholarship Committee members are **John Besten**, **Tammy Gondeck**, and me. There will be more information on German Student Scholarship Night as we move forward.

Now, as usual, my monthly pitch about the flag pins and gently used clothing. The German-American flag pins are \$3 and make great add-on gifts for any occasion. I have them at our meetings and they will also be available at any of our functions. There is also some gently used German clothing for sale, including a woman's large size navy blue boiled wool vest, a couple white blouses, and a small child's *Bundhosen*, red checkered shirt, suspenders, and vest, as well as a couple pairs of men's *Lederhosen* and some suspenders. Please call me if you are interested in any of these items. Clothing prices are negotiable. Any money raised from the sale of the pins or clothing goes toward the Scholarship Program.

Thank you!

SALLY FRENZA, *Scholarship Chair*

From the Editor

Although Ground Hog Day has already passed, I thought it would be interesting to give some information on how this "Celebration" originated.

Many historians say that Groundhog Day (*Grundsau Dak, Grundsow Dawg, or Murbeltiertag in Pennsilfaanisch Deitsch*, or Pennsylvania German) has its origin in German-settled areas of Pennsylvania, and the animal chosen was the groundhog as there were plenty of this animal available.

According to information I have read on the Internet, a diary entry from 1841 (predating the Punxsutawney tradition) by a storekeeper in Morgantown is one of the earliest records of groundhog weather prediction. The **Historical Society of Berks County** in Reading, has preserved a handwritten note that reads, "Last Tuesday, the 2nd, was Candlemas Day, the day on which, according to the Germans, the Groundhog peeps out of his winter quarters and if he sees his shadow he pops back for another six weeks' nap, but if the day be cloudy he remains out, as the weather is to be moderate."

Groundhog Day has been celebrated in Punxsutawney since 1887 and has grown into a huge celebration. In the movie *Groundhog Day*, there are scenes of the crowd that gathers for this momentous occasion. It looks like so much fun and one big party. There is even a Punxsutawney Groundhog Club that was established in 1887! Every year they choose a Groundhog King and Queen. It is a presiding official of the club who awakens Punxsutawney Phil to get his prediction.

On February 2, 2022, admirers and partygoers from the U.S. and around the world gathered at Gobbler's Knob as Punxsutawney Phil came out of his tree stump at dawn. The suspense became intense as the crowd shouted "six more

weeks!" Everyone wanted to know if he saw his shadow. The Groundhog again predicted another six weeks of winter as he has about 100 times before. If you want to learn more about this celebration, just go online. I got so wrapped up in everything I was reading I lost track of time.

It's almost Valentine's Day, so let's get a look at how Germans celebrate it. *Valentinstag* has only been celebrated in Germany since World War II. In Germany it is an adults-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 to Valentine's Day by adding a pig on their cards. These little pigs are a symbol of luck but also 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 to a heart.

Another important item of Valentine's Day in Germany is the 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 Schatzi, Ich liebe dich*, etc.

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.

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? Or even a recipe? Just let me know. My contact information is in this *Zeitung*.

SALLY FRENZA, *Editor*

It's easy to get your name in print in the *Zeitung*. All you need to do is send in a \$20 check made out to the German American Society of CNY to the Attention of the Editor at The German American Society of CNY, PO Box 5548, Syracuse, NY 13220-5548. Please note "Patron" on the message line of your check. Thank you to the Patrons who have renewed for 2021, and we look forward to your continued patronage in 2022.

Please contact the Editor at the contact information in this *Zeitung* if you have any questions about becoming a Patron, or if you feel your name was removed from the Patron list in error. Thank you.

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The Syracuse Turners are now operating on their normal schedule and are once again serving dinners on most Friday evenings. Please contact them if you would like information regarding joining the Turners or their activities, or to check on whether they will be serving dinners on any particular Friday by calling 315-471-9851.

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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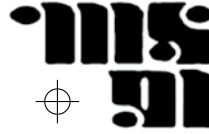
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