



Deutsche Zeitung

of the German-American Society of Central New York

www.germanamericanscnyc.com

Dezember 2023

Officers

David A. Gunter, *President* Bob Kraus, *Vice President*
 Jim Heckathorne, *Treasurer*
 Sally Frenza, *Secretary*
 Nadja Allmann, *Financial Secretary*

Board of Directors

2 yrs: Eric Gang, Mark Gondeck, Brigitte Niebuhr,
 Jackie Schneider-Rivette, Willi Rohrbach
1 yr: Austin Westphal, Susan Foster,
 Frank Heine, Tina Higgins, Bill Nurk

Just a reminder: The December Board and Monthly Membership Meetings are on the 2nd Thursday, December 14. This change was made a few years ago and only applies to December.

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

President's Report

Swish and hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving with family and friends!

Thanks to everyone who attended our last **Monthly Membership Meeting** on November 16. We had the election and there is more about that in the article in this *Zeitung*.

Our next event is the December 10 **Christmas Party** being held at the Syracuse Turners. There's still time to make your reservation so call Sally Frenza. Information is in the House Committee Report.

Please plan to attend the December 14 **Monthly Membership Meeting** at 7 P.M. at the Syracuse Turners. It will be installation of officers. We also have refreshments afterward, which gives everyone an opportunity to enjoy the company of their fellow members.

We always welcome any suggestions that you may have for future activities, fundraising ideas, or monthly meeting presentations.

If you need anything that I can help you with, please feel free to contact me at 315-289-8145. The German American Society of CNY is here to support its members.

I hope to see everyone at the December 10 **Christmas Party** and the December 14 **Monthly Membership Meeting**.

DAVID A. GUNTER, *President*

Vice-President's Report

The year is quickly coming to a close, but there is still time to get those membership applications in for 2023. Why not surprise a friend or relative with a gift of membership for Christmas? The gift that keeps on giving! You can also be the first one to send in a member application for 2024! Valentine's Day isn't far off!

I want to thank everyone who has worked on submitting applications to grow our organization. Keep it up!

If you have any questions or ideas, please contact me at chk1205@centurylink.net.

Thank you for helping to increase our membership!

See you all at the December 10 **Christmas Party!** And the December 14 **Monthly Membership Meeting**.

BOB KRAUS, *Vice President*

Treasurer's Report

Thank you to everyone who continues to support our organization by working at our events to help raise money for our Scholarship Program and raise awareness in the community about the German American Society. Your continued support is essential for us to continue with our programs.

As always, feel free to offer suggestions for future events or ask questions about our club finances at our monthly meetings, or by email at cnygermansociety@gmail.com.

Please plan to attend the December 14 **Monthly Membership Meeting** for a full report on our financial status.

Thank you.

JAMES HECKATHORNE, *Treasurer*

Financial Secretary's Report

We currently have 155 members. We voted in one new member at the November Monthly Membership Meeting: **Jennifer Nurk**, who had been proposed by **Sheri and Bill Nurk**. Welcome to the Society, Jennifer, and we hope to see you at our events and monthly meetings!

I would like to remind everyone that the 2024 membership dues are due by December 31, 2023. If you are planning to be away for the winter months, please consider submitting your dues payment before you depart. Membership dues are \$25 for an individual and \$40 for a household couple. Payment can be submitted by mail at the address found below, at upcoming meetings or events, or electronically upon request. Please email cnygermansociety@gmail.com with questions or to make arrangements for dues payment.

If you have anyone to propose for membership, have the person

CLUB MEETINGS

Please note that the December Board and Monthly Membership Meetings are the 2nd Thursday. This only happens in December due to the closeness of Christmas.

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Dez 14 | Board Meeting, Syracuse Turners, 6
Monthly Membership Meeting, Syracuse Turners, 7
Installation of Officers and Board Members |
| Jan 18 | Board Meeting, Syracuse Turners, 6
Monthly Membership Meeting, Syracuse Turners, 7 |
| Feb 15 | Board Meeting, Syracuse Turners, 6
Monthly Membership Meeting, Syracuse Turners, 7 |

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Dez 10 | Christmas Party, Syracuse Turners, 1-6 |
| Apr 29 | 22nd Scholarship Night. Syracuse Turners, 5-9 |

complete a membership application and forward it along with the \$25 payment for a single membership or \$40 for a household couple to The German American Society of CNY, PO Box 5548, Syracuse, NY 13220-5548 or by email to cnygermansociety@gmail.com. Applications can be obtained at any meeting or event, on our website at www.germanamericansny.com or by email. Checks should be made out to The German American Society of CNY.

Thanks.

NADJA E. ALLMANN, *Financial Secretary*

House Committee

The Annual Christmas party is quickly approaching! It is scheduled for Sunday, December 10, from 1 to 6 P.M. at the Syracuse Turners, 619 North Salina Street, Syracuse. There will be a social hour from 1 to 2 to give everyone a chance to get there, find a seat, spend a little time with friends, and have a couple of snacks before dinner. There are adult beverages for sale in the bar. We are planning a pork dinner for 2 P.M. **The Syracuse Oktoberfest Band** will be playing for your listening and dancing pleasure from 2 to 6. So dust off your dancing shoes and let's see those feet out there on the dance floor! **The Edelweiss Schuhplattlers** from Utica will be celebrating their Christmas Party with us and entertaining with a few dances on one of the band breaks.

The cost for the pork dinner with all the fixings is \$20 for members of the German American Society, and \$25 for non-members. There is no charge for children under 17. Reservations are requested by December 4 with a check made out to the German American Society. If there's not time for the check to reach Sally before the party, please call in your reservation and you can pay at the door. If time allows, reservations and checks can be sent to Sally Frenza, 4 Commodore Circle, Baldwinsville, NY 13027-2105.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive with gifts for children under 13 who are children, grandchildren, nieces, or nephews of German American Society members. By this time, all the names and gift suggestions should have been sent to Brigitte Niebuhr, and Santa's elves have the gifts together and wrapped. Questions about the children's gifts can be directed to Brigitte at 315-956-9270.

If you would like to bring an appetizer to add to the social hour or a dessert for dinner, or if you have any questions about the Christmas Party, or want to make a phone reservation, please call or text Sally at 315-345-6253.

If you would like more information about being on the House Committee, or if you would like to volunteer at any of our events, please let us know at any Monthly Membership Meeting, at any event, or by giving a call or text to Sally at the above number. We can use your help and suggestions. Thank you!

See you at the Christmas Party!

SALLY FRENZA & BRIGITTE NIEBUHR, *House Committee*

Sunshine Lady

Get-well card was sent to **Joe Frenza**, who has recently spent some time in the hospital and at rehab. A get-well card was also sent to **Sue Besten** who has been under the weather. We wish you each a speedy recovery!

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

Thank you.

MARGARETHA MICH0, *Sunshine Lady*

CHRISTMAS PARTY!

of the German-American Society of CNY

December 10
from 1 to 6 P.M.
at the
Syracuse Turners Club

\$20 for members
\$25 for non-members

Children under 17 free

Entertainment by
The Syracuse Oktoberfest Band

Enjoy a delicious roast pork dinner.
Adult beverages for purchase at the bar.

If possible, please bring
an item for the raffle.

Checks and RSVP by December 4 to
Sally Frenza

4 Commodore Circle
Baldwinsville, NY 13027-2105

For more info, call/text
Sally at 315-345-6253

Scholarship Program Enters Its 22nd Year

As I do every month, I am once again reminding everyone about our wonderful Scholarship Program that will be entering its twenty-second year in 2024! We typically not only provide scholarships, but a wonderful, fun-filled evening for not just the scholarship recipients, but all students of German and their teachers at no cost to them. Guests, families, and German American Society members who attend pay a small fee.

I have also mentioned in the past that continuing to administer our Scholarship Program is a costly undertaking for the German American Society. Our Scholarship Program could use your financial support. If you would like to make a donation, please send a check or money order to: The German American Society of CNY, PO Box 5548, Syracuse, NY 13220-5548, with a notation that it is for the Scholarship Program. Any amount would be helpful. Since we are a 501(c)3 not-for-profit, donations are tax deductible. If you would like to know more about the Scholarship Program and how you can help, please call or text me at 315-345-6253 or email me at sallyzf@aol.com. I look forward to the opportunity to answer any questions you may have.

There is another way you can help. If you are cleaning out your closet and have any German Clothing that is in good shape, please consider donating it to the German American Society, as any proceeds from the sale of these items will go to help support the Scholarship Program. Any donations need to be cleaned prior to donating them. Any questions, please contact me at the number noted in this report.

Good News! Almost all of the previously donated German clothing has been sold. Just have a couple of blouses left. The German-American flag pins are available at our meetings and events for \$3.

If you're interested in purchasing any of these items, please just call or text me at the above number. All proceeds from the sale of these items goes to help fund our Scholarship Program.

Thank you for your support!

SALLY FRENZA, *Scholarship Chair*

Election Night

At the November 16 Monthly Membership Meeting the following slate was voted in:

Board of Directors, 2-Year Terms: Eric Gang, Mark Gondeck, Jackie Schneider-Rivette, Willi Rohrbach, and Brigitte Niebuhr.

Officers: **President**, Dave Gunter; **Vice-President**, Bob Kraus; **Treasurer**, Jim Heckathorne; **Secretary**, Sally Frenza; and **Financial Secretary**, Nadja Allmann.

Installation will be at the December 14 **Monthly Meeting**.

From the Editor

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 for the ending of the service sing "Silent Night" as it was written, in German:

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. If you would like your patron ad to be in honor of or memory of someone, please note that. Also, please note Patron on the message line of your check. For current Patrons, thank you for your continued support.

Please contact the Editor at 315-345-6253 or email at sallyzf@aol.com if you have any questions about advertising in the *Zeitung* or becoming a Patron. Thank you.

PATRONS

Bruce Barnes Henry Beck *in Memory of Virginia Bechteler* Jack Bligh *in Memory of Helga Bligh Cheryle & Michael Bockheim in Memory of Joseph Bockheim & Joseph & Katherine Evertz-Dillmann In Memory of Eric Doell* Sally Frenza Holly & Bob Gang *in Memory of Jack Gang* Dave Gunter Tina L. Higgins Udo John Fritz Kucinski John LaLande *in Memory of My Oma, Ursala Müller* Eric Lorenz Robert Oberst Barbara Omicinski Nicholas Pirro Willi Rohrbach *In Memory of Richard Schoeck*

*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!*

Now let's learn a little more about the **Advent Wreath**, which is a circular garland made of evergreen branches representing eternity. As I watched each candle being lit and heard a verse recited, I wondered the significance of each candle. The lighting of an Advent wreath began in Germany by Lutherans and Catholics in the 16th century to help people focus on the coming of Christmas. The lighting of the candles begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, and lasts through Christmas Eve.

On the wreath are four large candles, typically three purple candles and one pink candle, with a modern tradition of adding a white candle in the center of the wreath. These candles represent the coming of Christ's birth, the light of the world. During the season of Advent, one candle on the wreath is lit each Sunday in Advent while a devotional reading is given.

The first purple candle is the Prophecy Candle; the second purple candle is the Bethlehem Candle; next is the pink candle which is the Shepherds' Candle; the last purple candle is the Angel's Candle; and then on Christmas Eve the white center candle is lit, the Christ Candle. The color white represents purity. When you read the name of each candle and the progression of the lighting, the Christmas story is told.

Fröhliche Weihnachten und ein Gesundes und Glückliches Neues Jahr!

Remember, if you have a German, Swiss, or Austrian holiday, tradition, or anything German, Swiss, or Austrian that you would like me to write about, or if you have an article, recipe, or poem you would like to see in print, please let me know.

Hope to see you all at the German American Society **Christmas Party** on December 10 at the Syracuse Turners from 1 to 6!

SALLY FRENZA, *Editor*

Members and Friends

Call the Turners at 315-471-9851 to get details on their Friday-night dinners and special events. You can also get information on how to join their great organization.

Please try to support our *Zeitung* advertisers when you need the types of services they can provide. If you would like to advertise your business, it is \$30 for a single ad and \$60 for a double. Please include a copy of how you would like your ad to appear to the attention of the Editor at The German American Society, PO Box 5548, Syracuse, NY 13220-5548. It is now time for the current advertisers to renew for 2024.

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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