



Deutsche Zeitung

of the German-American Society of Central New York

www.germanamericanscny.com

Februar 2024

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

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 is canceled.

President's Report

As I was ill at the time of the January Monthly Meeting, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who continues to attend and participate in our activities and the Monthly Membership Meetings.

Please plan to attend the February 15 Meeting as it is a great time for you to present your ideas and suggestions for activities, fundraisers, and meeting presentations for 2024. We have refreshments afterward, which gives everyone an opportunity to socialize with their fellow members.

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.

See everyone at the February 15 Meeting!

DAVID A. GUNTER, *President*

Vice-President's Report

While I'm away enjoying the beautiful Florida weather, please continue to bring in those new members and we will meet our membership goal!

I want to thank everyone who has worked on submitting applications to grow our organization. Keep it up! I know we can do this! If you have any questions or ideas, please contact me at chk1205@centurylink.net. See you when I return in the spring!

BOB KRAUS, *Vice President*

Treasurer's Report

For the past few years, the Board of Directors has worked hard to ease the financial pressures on our organization by cutting costs and by pursuing additional revenues. We have established beneficial partnerships (for example, the Oktoberfest and Christmas markets at Freight Yard Brewing), have trimmed our expenses for the newsletter and events, and many members have been generous with donations, both monetary and in-kind. As a result, we reduced our deficit in 2023, and in 2024 will implement further cost-cutting and seek new sources of revenue to balance our budget. As always, we appreciate any assistance our members can provide,

and look forward to seeing everyone at our get-togethers this year.

Our next **Monthly Membership Meeting** is scheduled for February 15 at 7 P.M. at the Syracuse Turners. Please feel free to ask me any questions about our club finances at our Monthly Meetings, or by email at cnygermansociety@gmail.com. Thank you!

JAMES HECKATHORNE, *Treasurer*

Financial Secretary's Report

Thank you to those who have submitted their 2024 Dues! Reminder letters will be sent in February to anyone whose dues have not been received. Membership dues are \$25 for an individual and \$40 for a household couple where both individuals are already active members. If you would like to add a spouse or household partner under the household couple dues, please make sure to submit a new-member application as well. All new members must be presented and voted into membership per the society bylaws. Payment can be submitted by mail, at upcoming meetings and events, or electronically upon request. Please email cnygermansociety@gmail.com with questions or to make arrangements for dues payment.

At January's Meeting the Board voted to make **Anna Weigl** a complimentary member. Thank you for your long-time membership and service! There were no new members to present in January. We currently have 163 members. Please continue to encourage your circles to join the society! The strength of our society depends on the participation of all our members, so we hope to see everyone at upcoming meetings and events! If you have someone to propose for membership, have the person complete a membership application and

CLUB MEETINGS

Feb 15	Board Meeting, Syracuse Turners, 6 Monthly Membership Meeting, Syracuse Turners, 7
Mär 21	Board Meeting, Syracuse Turners, 6 Monthly Membership Meeting, Syracuse Turners, 7
Apr 18	Board Meeting, Syracuse Turners, 6 Monthly Membership Meeting, Syracuse Turners, 7

UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr 29	22nd Scholarship Night, Syracuse Turners, 5-9
--------	---

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.germanamericanscny.com or by email. Checks need to be made out to The German American Society of CNY.

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. Thanks!

NADJA E. ALLMANN, *Financial Secretary*

House Committee

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported our events and activities in 2023. We now need to think about 2024. We will be planning a *Maitanz* again this year, as well as a summer Picnic and a Christmas Party. More information will be in future editions of the *Zeitung*.

What additional activities would you like to see? Please bring your ideas for additional events and activities to any of our meetings or 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.

See you at the February 15 Monthly Membership Meeting, with your ideas in hand! Thank you.

SALLY FRENZA & BRIGITTE NIEBUHR, *House Committee*

Sunshine Lady

This month we lost one of our lifetime members, **Willy Bechteler**, who in past years was a very active member of the German American Society and the Stein Club, helping with events such as the Oktoberfest. At our functions, if Willy and Virginia were not on the dance floor, they could be found sitting at a table, beer in hand, laughing with their friends. Also, a sympathy card was sent to member Peter Schneider and his wife Board Member Jackie Schneider-Rivette on the loss of his daughter. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of the individuals who have recently passed away.

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

MARGARETHA MICH0, *Sunshine Lady*

Installation of Board Members and Officers

At the January Monthly Membership Meeting the following were installed: *Board Members:* **Eric Gang, Mark Gondeck, Jackie Schneider-Rivette, and Willi Rohrbach.**

Officers: **Jim Heckathorne**—Treasurer, **Sally Frenza**—Secretary, and **Nadja Allman**—Financial Secretary.

Scholarship Program Enters Its 22nd Year

We're now in 2024, and starting to get ready for our wonderful scholarship program that is now entering its twenty-second year! We typically provide not only scholarships but a wonderful, fun-filled evening for the Scholarship recipients, as well as 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.

The scholarship applications have gone out to the area high schools who teach German. German Student Scholarship Night is planned for April 29 at the Syracuse Turners. If you have never attended this wonderful event, why not make this the year?

As I have mentioned in the past, to continue 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.

I have started to receive donations of German clothing to sell in support of the Scholarship Program. Three pair of *Lederhosen* in good shape are now added to the mix as well as a man's shirt that still has the tags on it! There are also a couple of blouses. So if you're cleaning out your closet and have German clothing in good shape, please consider donating it to the German American Society. Be sure to clean any donations prior to donating them. If you have any questions, please contact me at the number noted above in this report.

The German-American flag pins are always 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 go to help fund our Scholarship Program. Thank you for your support!

SALLY FRENZA, *Scholarship Chair*

From the Editor

Before I begin, I'd like to relay some information. I received a call a few days ago from our member **John Bested**, a musician with the **Syracuse Oktoberfest Band**. His wife **Sue**, who is also a member of the German American Society, is currently recuperating in rehab at St. Camillus. John asked me to please stress to everyone the importance of knowing how to administer CPR. You never know when you may need to use it to save a life.

Now on with my article. Although Groundhog 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 (Pennsylvania German: *Grundsaudaag*, *Grundsow Dawg*, or *Murmeltiertag*) traces its origin to Germans who settled in Pennsylvania. The animal chosen was the groundhog as there were plenty of them available. According to information I have read on the internet, a diary entry from 1841 (predating the Punxsutawney tradition) by a storekeeper in Morgantown, PA, is one of the earliest records of groundhog weather prediction. The Historical Society of Berks County in Reading, Pennsylvania, 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. It has grown into a huge celebration over the years. 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. A presiding official of the club 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!" and 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, go to <http://visitpadutchcountry.com/groundhog-day-and-the-pennsylvania-dutch/>.

Groundhog Day is yet another tradition that can be traced back to Germany. Groundhog Day has become quite a tourist attraction and a time for fun and celebrating in this small area of Pennsylvania that Punxsutawney Phil calls home.

A few members have asked me if I could put some recipes in my column. So, below is a recipe for *Fastnachts* (German donuts) that was given to me by a German friend who is no longer with us. These donuts are usually made on Shrove Tuesday to use up the lard before Lent.

- 1 cup lukewarm milk
- 1 fresh yeast cake
- ¾ cup soft butter
- 2 tbsps. sugar
- 6 eggs
- 6 cups flour
- 2 tsps. salt

1. Dissolve the yeast in lukewarm milk and set aside.
2. Sift flour and salt into a large bowl. Make a hole in the center and pour the dissolved yeast and all other ingredients into the hole. Mix until no longer sticky. Cover and let rise in a warm place till doubled.
3. Punch down and let rest for 10 minutes.
4. Roll out about ¼-inch thick and cut out the donuts with a round cutter (not the regular donut cutter with the hole in the middle). Let the donuts rise for about 20–30 minutes.
5. Deep-fry in fat or oil until light brown. Drain on paper towels, then, while hot, roll in sugar. Enjoy!

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.

SALLY FRENZA, *Editor*

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.

It's easy to get your name in print in the *Zeitung*. All you need to do is send in the \$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, it is now time to renew for 2024. Thank you for your continued support.

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 Frank Heine *in Memory of Wolfgang & Erika Heine*
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 Jackie Schneider-Rivette *in Memory of Rohe Schneider, Sr.*
In Memory of Richard Schoeck

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 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.

Contact the *Zeitung*!

Mail: Sally Frenza, 4 Commodore Cir., Baldwinsville, NY 13027
 Phone: 315-345-6253 E-mail: sallyzf@aol.com

Deutsche Zeitung

VOLUME XXI, ISSUE 2

Published monthly by the

German-American Society of Central New York
 P.O. Box 5548, Syracuse, NY 13220-5548



High School Exchange Year


Host an exchange student with **EF High School Exchange Year** and open your world!

Eric & Katie Gang
 T: 315-479-8281
 C: 315-447-8404
 mkgang84@gmail.com
 www.efexchangeyear.org



Tessy Plastics Corporation—with plants in Auburn, Baldwinsville, Elbridge, and Skaneateles—is a great place to work and earn money and benefits. Please email employment@tessy.com. Join us! We would love to have you!

Since 1932
Karl Lutz
 Monument Company, Inc.
 315-463-0621



Manlius, NY 13104
 315-682-6588
 William Kraus, Owner



4975 State Route 31
 Clay New York 13041
 315-699-7167
FreightYardBrewing@gmail.com
 www.FreightYardBrewing.com

GANG MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Funeral Service
 Since 1884
 315-463-6161



Mid-State Door
 Residential Sales & Service
 Garage Doors & Openers
 315-455-5736
 edearl@midstatedoor.com

JOSEPH J. ABT & SONS, INC.
 PLUMBING AND HEATING
 Edward C. Abt, Jr.
 PRESIDENT
 265 S. Edwards Ave. • Syracuse, NY 13206
 (315) 455-1611

Syracuse Oktoberfest Band & Dancers



John Besten
 jbesten@twcny.rr.com
 (315) 436-0696
 (315) 656-2593
 Specializing in German Music & Entertainment

EST. 1898
German-American Society
of Central New York
 P.O. Box 5548 Syracuse, NY 13220-5548



Arion Singing Society of Syracuse, Inc.

NON-PROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 SYRACUSE NY
 PERMIT 23

Electronic Service Requested



Come to Our German Festival in 2023!

3862 County Road 150
 Interlaken, NY 14847
 1-800-682-WINE
 www.lucasvineyards.com

Liehs & Steigerwald Meats
 1857 Grant Blvd.
 Syracuse
 315-474-2171
 www.liehsandsteigerwald.com

Thank You to the German American Society for Helping to Preserve Our German Heritage and Culture!
 In Memory of Richard K. Schoeck



EGON EHLINSPIEL
 Manufacturing Jeweler
 5914 Bridge St., E. Syracuse
 315-449-EGON (3466)

REID & ZUTANT INC.
Insurance Consultants
 SINCE 1929
 305 Vine St. • Liverpool, NY 13088
 315-463-8501
 www.reid-zutant.com
 insurance@reid-zutant.com



ALPINE AL
 Al Piatkowski
 Grammy Award Winning Accordionist
 Oktoberfest Music: Solo – Duo – Trio
 908-963-0828
 AlpineAlMusic@gmail.com
 Syracuse, NY

Syracuse Wire & Fence Works, Inc.
 Quality Commercial/ Residential Fencing
 Custom Iron Fencing, Railings, & Welding
 Dave Gunter, President
 Cell (315) 289-8145



Come Join Us!

619 N. Salina St., Syracuse, NY
 315-471-9851

Nichols Supermarket
 First Street, Liverpool, NY
 www.nicholsliverpool.com
 453-6328 (453-Meat)
 Try Our Store-Made Sauerbraten!

Buying All Old Items
 Contents of Attics, Basements, Garages, and Estates
 Clean-Outs Done. Junk Hauled.
Asa P. Forbes, Jr.
 315-247-8474



PO Box 18
 430 Winter Clove Rd.
 Round Top, NY 12473
 518-622-3751
 Enjoy a True German Experience!
 www.crystalbrook.com