



# Deutsche Zeitung

www.germanamericanscnyc.com

of the German-American Society of Central New York

Februar 2026

## Officers

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

## Board of Directors

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

**Please note:** Please call President Dave Gunter at 315-289-8145 if you are not sure whether there will be a meeting due to inclement weather.

**Please also note:** The February Board and Monthly Membership Meetings will be held at **Danzer's**, 153 Ainsley Dr., Syracuse. Please continue to check our website [www.germanamericanscnyc.com](http://www.germanamericanscnyc.com) for any additional information.

## President's Report

Unfortunately, the January Monthly Membership Meeting had to be canceled due to problems with the heating system at the Syracuse Turners. Hopefully the heating system will soon be up and running.

I would like to thank everyone who continues to attend the Monthly Meetings, which not only provides members with information on what is happening and planned for our great organization, but also gives everyone a chance to present ideas and offer suggestions.

Please plan to attend the February 19 Monthly Membership Meeting at 7 P.M. to obtain information on upcoming events. Also, there will be refreshments for you to enjoy while socializing with your friends.

Please remember: If you need anything 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. Hope to see you all at the February 19 Monthly Membership Meeting at Danzers! Thank you for your support.

DAVID A. GUNTER, *President*

## Vice President's Report

So here we are in the second month of 2026. We now need to start getting those new-member apps coming in. Let's work together and see what we can accomplish in 2026!

If you have any questions or ideas of how to continue to increase our membership, please contact me at [kraus193701@gmail.com](mailto:kraus193701@gmail.com). Thank you for helping to keep our organization strong as we forge into the future!

BOB KRAUS, *Vice President*

## Treasurer's Report

We haven't been able to meet for a couple of months, but don't worry, we're still here! And like everyone else, we

still have bills to pay, so please take a moment now and send in your dues for 2026. And stay warm—spring is just around the corner! As always, if you have any questions at all regarding our club's finances, come to our February 19 Meeting at 7 P.M. at Danzer's, or email me at [cnygermansociety@gmail.com](mailto:cnygermansociety@gmail.com).

*Liebe Grüße!*

JAMES HECKATHORNE, *Treasurer*

## Financial Secretary's Report

I hope everyone is staying warm. If you haven't already, please take a moment to renew your membership. Annual dues are \$25 for individuals and \$40 for a household couple. You can pay at the Membership Meeting on Thursday, February 19, or by mail. When sending payments for dues, patrons, or ads, please clearly indicate the purpose and the member's name. To pay via PayPal or Venmo, please email us to make arrangements.

As a reminder, members whose dues were not received by January 31 will receive a follow-up notice. Per the Society Bylaws, individuals who have not paid by March 15 will be removed from the membership rolls.

There is an exciting new event this month! **Freight Yard Brewing is putting on a Fasching Party** on Saturday, February 21, and would love for the membership to join in! **Alpine Al** will provide the evening's music and costumes are encouraged. You may bring your own food or purchase a meal from the food truck. The club will also provide some snacks. For more details, join us at our next meeting or visit our Facebook page.

We rely on your attendance and participation to keep our organization strong. We are currently discussing several

## CLUB MEETINGS

Feb 19	Board Meeting, Danzer's, 6 Monthly Membership Meeting, 7 Monthly Presentation: <i>Fasching</i>
Mär 19	Board Meeting, 6 Monthly Membership Meeting, 7

## UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

Feb 21	<i>Fasching</i> Party at Freight Yard Brewing, Clay
Apr 27	German Student Scholarship Night

future events, including an afternoon at **Bullfinch Brewing** and a **Maitag Social** at **Van Hassler Brewing**. More details will follow as these are scheduled. If you have suggestions for events or would like to assist with planning, please email [cnygermansociety@gmail.com](mailto:cnygermansociety@gmail.com).

Finally, please continue to encourage others to join the Society. To propose a new member, please have them complete an application and mail it with their payment to: The German American Society of CNY PO Box 5548 Syracuse, NY 13220-5548. Checks should be made out to The German American Society of CNY. Applications are available at all meetings, events, or online at [www.germanamericanscny.com](http://www.germanamericanscny.com).

If you have any questions about your dues, please contact me at the number below. Thank you!

NADJA ALLMANN, *Financial Secretary*

## House Committee

**W**he Scholarship Night is planned for April 27. Please add to your calendars.

Community events are being planned as noted in the Financial Secretary's report and will be discussed at the February 19 Monthly Meeting being held at Danzer's.

If you would like more information on being on the House Committee, please contact Sally at 315-345-6253. Thank you.

SALLY FRENZA, BRIGITTE NIEBUHR (MEMBER EMERITUS)  
AND JACKIE SCHNEIDER-RIVETTE, *House Committee*

## Installation of 2026 Board Members and Officers

**W**at the February 19 Monthly Membership Meeting, the following Officers and Board Members will be installed for 2026:

*President:* David Gunter; *Vice President:* Robert Kraus; *Treasurer:* Jim Heckathorne; *Secretary:* Sally Frenza; and *Financial Secretary:* Nadja Allmann.

*Board Members:* Eric Gang, Mark Gondeck, Jackie Schneider-Rivette, Willi Rohrbach, and Karl Wuerslin.

Please try to attend the Meeting to lend your support to the members who will be leading our organization in 2026.

## Sunshine Lady

**Just a reminder:** 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

**W**he applications and criteria to apply for a 2026 German Student Scholarship have gone out. The Committee and I look forward to once again reviewing the wonderful applications that will be coming in from the high school seniors who meet the scholarship criteria. Please mark April 27 on your calendar for the 24th Annual German Student Scholarship Night. There will be more information in future issues of the *Zeitung*.

I want to thank everyone who participates in our fundraising efforts to help support the Scholarship Program. If

you would like to help keep our Scholarship Program going strong through a personal donation, please send a check or money order made out to The German American Society of CNY. Any amount would be great. Mail your donation to: The German American Society of CNY, PO Box 5548, Syracuse, NY 13220-5548, with a notation that it is for the Scholarship Program. 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 contact me. I can be reached by phone or text at 315-345-6253 or email at [sallyzf@aol.com](mailto:sallyzf@aol.com). I look forward to the opportunity to answer any questions you may have about the Scholarship Program.

**Please note:** There is an opening on the Scholarship Committee. If you are interested in filling this vacancy, or if you would like additional information, please contact me at the above number. Thank you everyone for your continued support!

SALLY FRENZA, *Scholarship Chair*

## Meeting Presentation Opportunities

**W**big thank-you goes out to everyone who provided a meeting presentation in 2025. The presentations help to make the meetings more than just business! Now is the time for you to get those presentation ideas together for 2026. These presentations are a great way for you to highlight your interests, talents, and family activities, so please don't hesitate to volunteer or offer your ideas for a presentation at our meetings or by emailing [cnygermansociety@gmail.com](mailto:cnygermansociety@gmail.com).

Sally Frenza plans to hopefully finally give the presentation on *Fasching* at the February 19 Meeting being held at Danzer's (153 Ainsey Dr., Syracuse, 315-422-0089).

The rest of 2026 is open, so step right up and don't be shy! Thank you!

## From the Editor

**E**ven though I hope to do a presentation on *Fasching* at the February 19 Meeting, I wanted to review a brief summary that I have previously written for those members who will be unable to attend.

Most people would probably say that the Munich Oktoberfest is the biggest bash in Germany. However, the greatest fest is none other than *Fasching* or *Fastnacht*, Germany's Mardi Gras. This is often referred to as Germany's foolish or silly season. There are thousands of costume balls or dances all over Germany. All events start at 11 minutes past the 11th hour on November 11th. Although it remains low key for the first few weeks, the action really gets started seven weeks before Easter.

The Thursday before Ash Wednesday is known as *Welberfastnacht* or Women's Carnival Night. On this day, the women dress up like old ladies and go door pulling jokes on people, especially politicians. (Way to go girls!!!) The women are allowed to cut off the tie or kiss (or both) any man within their reach! My son happened to be going to Germany one year during *Fasching*, and he was advised to remove his tie before he exited the plane or one of the ladies would take care

of it! During *Fasching* it is also tradition in many areas for the women to capture the local *Rathaus* (city hall) and take the key to the city. The following Monday is known as *Rosenmontag* (rose Monday). During this day there are parades and carnival floats. *Faschingdienstag* (carnival Tuesday) is the last day of *Fasching* and when most of the festivities happen. Usually workers get the afternoon off to celebrate.

In Munich from 2 to 5 P.M. on *Faschingdienstag*, the *Viktualienmarkt* pedestrian area is turned into a party zone. At night there are gala balls, the biggest held at the *Bayerischer Hof*. The Bavarians refer to *Fasching* as the “season of fools.” Some people dress in costumes and ski down hills. It is a great time of the year to be able to dress up in costumes, act like a fool, have a great time, and nobody cares! (I think I would really like that!)

Munich also features donuts (*Fastnachts*) during *Fasching*. They can be found everywhere! (See a recipe for *Fastnachts* at the end of this article). The story goes that in pre-Christian Europe it was customary to choose a man to be the “sacred king” of the tribe for a year. When his year in office was up he would be sacrificed and his blood returned to the soil to ensure a successful harvest. The method of choosing the sacred king was the King’s Cake. A coin or bean would be placed in the cake before baking and whoever got the slice with the coin was the chosen one. (I think that would have been a good time to

go on a diet of no cake!) In recent times the King’s Cake idea has evolved into donuts. Thank God, as I don’t think we would want to sacrifice any kings around here!

Below is a recipe for *Fastnachts* (German donuts) usually made on Shrove Tuesday to use up the lard before Lent.

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

Dissolve yeast in lukewarm milk and set aside. 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 till no longer sticky. Cover and let rise in a warm place till doubled. Punch down and let rest for 10 minutes. Roll out about ¼-inch-thick and cut out the donuts with a round cutter (not usually the regular donut cutter with the hole in the middle). Let the donuts rise for 20 to 30 minutes. Fry in deep fat till light brown. Drain on paper towels, then, while hot, roll in sugar. Enjoy!

To enjoy some *Fasching* fun, why not attend the *Fasching* being held on February 21 at **Freight Yard Brewing**? Call Freight Yard at 315-699-7167 or check their website for more information.

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? A poem? 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. 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. Thank you to our current Patrons, and a reminder that 2026 Patron ad payments needed to be mailed to the above address by January 31. We need your continued support as well as support from new Patrons to keep the *Zeitung* going strong.

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; Sally Frenza in Memory of May Barton; In Memory of Jack and Helga Bligh; Bev Loverock Gibbs in Memory of Ray & Mary Jane Loverock; Dave Gunter; Frank Heine in Memory of Wolfgang & Erika Heine; Tina L. Higgins; Udo John; Bob & Corinne Kraus in Memory of Willy & Virginia Bechteler; John LaLande in Memory of Professor George Koenig; Ursula Müller; Gerald and Heide Pietsch in Memory of the passed Pietsch and Huhn family members; 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 all the details for their upcoming events including cost and hours. You can also get information about their hours of operation, and information on how to join their organization, as well as how to rent their dining room or bowling alley for a special occasion.

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, the yearly cost is \$30 for a single ad and \$60 for a double. Please send a check made out to the German American Society of CNY and include a copy of how you would like your ad to appear to the attention of the Editor at The German American Society of CNY, PO Box 5548, Syracuse, NY 13220-5548. Put “ad” on the message line of your check. Advertising helps offset some of the cost of the *Zeitung*. Payment reminder letters will be going out to our current advertisers soon.

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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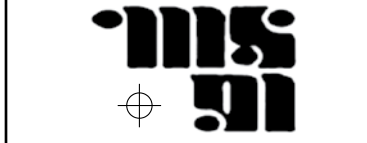


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