



Deutsche Zeitung

of the German-American Society of Central New York

www.germanamericanscny.com

November 2012

Officers

Henry Pfaff, *President* Klaus Raith, *Vice President*
James Kozlowski, *Treasurer*
Erika Carneim, *Secretary*
Mickey Palumbo, *Financial Secretary*

Klaus Raith, *Honorary President*

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Helen Allman Kenneth Blechl
Robert Kline Brigitte Niebuhr Bill Nurk
John Ott Pat Palumbo June Pardue
Richard Schoeck

President's Report

In memory of **Emma and Rudy Stecher**, the Board of Directors has decided to establish a scholarship to be presented at our Scholarship Night. Anyone in our organization who would like to donate to this scholarship should send donations to: The German-American Society of CNY, PO Box 5548, Syracuse, NY 13220-5548. Your donation is tax-deductible, as we are a 501(C) 3.

Many thanks to all our volunteers who helped put **Oktoberfest** together and who attended the great Thank-You party.

Our next event will be the **Christmas Party** to be held Sunday afternoon, December 9, from 2 to 6 P.M. Let's have a great turnout again!

Nominations for Officers and Board of Directors have been posted in this *Zeitung*. Voting will be at the November 15 Monthly Meeting.

Enjoy a Happy Thanksgiving with your families!

HEINRICH PFAFF, *President*

Vice President's Report

Thanks again to everyone who helped out and attended **Oktoberfest!** The **Volunteer Party** was fun, and I hope you all enjoyed yourselves as much as I did!

The **Christmas Party** is coming up, and hopefully we can all get together for an afternoon of *Gemütlichkeit!* It's always fun for all.

And don't forget the Monthly Meeting at 7 P.M. on November 15 at the Turners. It's **Election Night**.

KLAUS RAITH, *Vice-President and
Oktoberfest Entertainment Chair*

Treasurer's Report

For a complete report on our financial status, please attend the Monthly Meeting on November 15 at 7 P.M. at the Turners. I hope to have more information on the Oktoberfest Financial Report available at that time.

JIM KOZLOWSKI, *Treasurer*

Financial Secretary's Report

As fate may have it, there were no new-membership applications at the Board Meeting, but less than ten minutes later at the Monthly Meeting, we had two: **Monika Loerzel**

of North Syracuse, sponsored by Rita Knapp, and **Theresa (Terry) Bowen** of Mattydale, sponsored by Sally Frenza. This will bring our membership up to 228 members when they are accepted at the November Monthly Meeting.

On a lighter note, **Rita Knapp** takes first prize for 2013 membership renewals, followed by (in order) **Margaretha Micho, Herb Bauerle, Sally Drago, Helene Smith, and Sally and Joe Frenza**. WOW!!! You kids are awesome!

Just a friendly reminder: Membership renewal dues are just around the corner. The Board has voted to make January 31, 2013, as the deadline for renewals at the renewal rate of \$15. Any dues paid later than that will be charged \$25. This is because we had members this past year renewing memberships as late as July and August. A reminder will be sent out in the November, December, and January *Zeitungs*. Please get those renewals in and get your 2013 sticker A.S.A.P.!

MICKEY PALUMBO, *Financial Secretary*

Sunshine Lady

Please contact me at 468-4541 to report any illnesses, surgeries, deaths, monumental birthdays, or other events that are deserving of a card.

MARGARETHA MICH0, *Sunshine Lady*

From the House Committee

Oktoberfest is over and I would like to thank the **Daughters of the Nile** and everyone who volunteered in the kitchen for doing such a great job. You all really helped to make things run smoothly.

The **Volunteer Thank-You Party** had a wonderful turnout, and everyone seemed to be having a great time.

Now we have to think about the **Christmas Party** on Sunday,

CLUB MEETINGS

Nov 15 Board Meeting, Turners, 6 P.M.
Nov 15 Monthly Meeting, Election Night, Turners,
7 P.M.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dez 2 Syracuse Liederverein Concert, Trinity
Lutheran Church, 3 P.M.
Dez 9 Christmas Party, Liverpool Fire Hall, 2 to 6 P.M.

December 9, from 2 to 6 P.M. at the Liverpool Fire Hall. It will be a dinner dance. The menu will be in the December *Zeitung*.

Admission will be \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door. Kids 12 to 18 years old will be \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door. Kids under 12 years old get in free. Please let me know how many of these youngsters will be coming, as there may be a surprise for them!

Please RSVP by December 4. Don't send cash. Checks should be made out to The German American Society of CNY and mailed to Brigitte Niebuhr, 319 West Ostrander Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13205. If you have questions, my cell number is 315-491-2573; and my home number is 315-469-5304.

We will also be holding the Annual Christmas Auction at the party. So, if you are able, please bring a baked good or something of your choice to raffle off. The raffle is always a lot of laughs and it makes some extra cash for the organization.

I hope to see you all there!

BRIGITTE NIEBUHR, *House Committee Chair*

THANK YOU

I want to thank everyone for the money donations as well as the other numerous donations that helped with putting together 14 raffle basket for our Oktoberfest. We raffled two party baskets, seven miscellaneous baskets, plus five baskets for our younger generation.

Again, thank you so much

MARY PFAFF, *Basket Raffle Chair*

Goethe and Schiller Monument

Summer is over, autumn is winding down, and winter will be here before we know it. Where did the year go? I want to make everyone aware that there is still an opportunity to purchase a brick to be installed at the Goethe and Schiller Monument in the spring or summer of 2013. A single brick is \$50, 2 bricks are \$75, and 3 bricks are \$100, with each additional brick being \$30. These bricks can be purchased to honor or memorialize a loved one, friend, organization, etc. Please call me at 451-1848 for further details or to get a form. Forms can also be obtained at any German American Society event or online at www.germanamericanscny.com.

As you may recall, bricks have been sold to help offset the cost of the Goethe and Schiller Monument Restoration Project that was a joint venture between the German American Society and the City of Syracuse a few years ago.

If you want to have a brick put at the monument, it's not too late. Just give me a call for additional information, and you can see your brick at the area surrounding the base of the Monument at Schiller Park next spring or summer.

BOB DOMACHOWSKI, *Goethe and Schiller Monument Chair*

Election Night November 17

This year's German American Society elections will be held at our Monthly Meeting at 7 P.M. on November 15 at the Syracuse Turners. The slate is as follows:

President—Henry Pfaff

Vice-President—Klaus Raith

Treasurer—Jim Kozlowski, June Pardue

Secretary—Erika Carneim

Financial Secretary—Mickey Palumbo

Board Members: Richard Schoeck, William Nurk, Kenneth Blechl, Patricia Palumbo, Rita Knapp

Please come out for the November 15 Monthly Meeting, as your vote counts!

BILL NURK, *Nominating Committee*

From the Editor

November is here and it is a time of thanks. **Veterans Day** is November 11, and a time to thank our veterans for serving our great country. So when you see a Vet, shake her/his hand and say "Thanks!"

I would like to thank the people who have helped to get the *Zeitung* to you in 2012. No matter what or how much I write, if it were not for them, the *Zeitung* would not get to your door. First is Rick Groff, who gets the *Zeitung* ready for publishing and off to the printer. It is then picked up, folded, and labeled by Henry and Mary Pfaff, assisted by Anna Bultjer, after which it is taken to the post office.

Thank you to all for their assistance. If it were not for your dedication to getting the paper out, no one would be reading this right now!

Thanksgiving is the time for us to reflect on the many positive things that have happened to us over the past year and to count our blessings. When my husband and I get together with our son and his family for Thanksgiving—before the blessing is said, or one morsel of food is touched—we go around the table and each person, including the children, tell one thing that happened over the past year that they are thankful for. It really puts a positive spin on the day, and makes us all think about our many blessings. We live in a free country, we have a roof over our heads and food to eat, friends and family, and of course, we have our wonderful German American Society. We should give thanks for being able to wake up in the morning to face whatever is in store for us.

Have a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving, and think about all we have to be thankful for!

Now, to some traditions in Germany:

You may have seen this before, but it is worth repeating. November 11 is Sankt Martinstag. Leading up to this day children can be seen walking in procession carrying candlelit lanterns behind "Sankt Martin" in his Roman uniform riding "Schimmel," a white horse. Children of all ages sing songs that celebrate the life of Martin of Tours. Long before the lanterns go out, the final verse of one of the most popular songs rings through the German streets:

*Ich geh' mit meiner Laterne,
Und meine Laterne mit mir.
Dort oben leuchten die Sterne,
Hier unten, da leuchten wir.
Mein Licht is aus,
Wir geh' nach Haus,
Rabimmel, rabimmel, rabum.*

The procession often ends at a huge bonfire, with a snack of a St. Martin Weckman, a sweet yeast dough "breadman"

with raisin eyes and a clay pipe. There's hot chocolate for the children and heated mulled wine for the "older" children. Afterwards, some of the children will go singing door to door to be rewarded for the originality of their lanterns and the quality of their singing with fruit, nuts, and other treats. (I do have a recipe for the St. Martin Weckman if any one would like it).

You may be wondering who St. Martin was. He was born around 316 A.D., the son of a tribune of the Roman army, which meant that he, too, had to join the Roman army at age fifteen. Legend has it that three years later he was riding through the gates of Amiens during a snowstorm when he saw a starving beggar with little to protect him from the icy temperatures. So St. Martin took his sword and cut his cloak in two and gave half to the beggar.

As he slept that night, St. Martin had a dream in which Christ appeared to him as the beggar, saying to the angels around him, "Here is Martin, the Roman soldier who is not baptized. He has clothed me." Not long after the dream, Martin decided that a life of fighting and killing was not for him and he later became a baptized Christian and a successful missionary. A much loved and exemplary man who until his death in November 397 led a simple, compassionate life, despite being made the Bishop of Tours in Gaul, modern-day France. Unlike those declared a saint before him, Sankt Martin was not a martyr, and over the years he has become the patron saint of, amongst others, France, beggars, soldiers, innkeepers, alcoholics, wine growers, tailors, equestrians and pet animals, including geese. In fact, eating a goose is a traditional meal on this November 11 holiday.

Now, a little about *Erntedankfest*: Thanksgiving in German Europe has a long tradition, but one that is different in many ways from that in North America. First of all, the Germanic *Erntedankfest* ("harvest festival of thanks") is primarily a rural and a religious celebration. When it is celebrated in larger cities, it is usually part of a church service and not anything like the big traditional family holiday in North America. Although it is celebrated locally and regionally, none of the German-speaking countries observes an official national Thanksgiving holiday on a particular day as in the United States. However, during harvest time, visitors to German churches will find a plethora

of fruits, vegetables, sheaves of grain, and also baked goods as decorations around the altars.

In the regions where wine grapes are grown, *Winzer* (vintners) present their new wines and allow for a public wine-tasting. A *Bauernmarkt* (farmers' market) allows visitors to purchase the freshest produce available, while the more immediate culinary needs are attended to in a *Festzelt* (party tent), where it can be assumed that some of the famous German beer will be available. For, after all, what is a German celebration without beer?

If you have a German holiday, celebration, or subject that you would like me to write about, please let me know.

Members and Friends

Syracuse Liederverein Chorus

We are an award-winning chorus that is always looking for new singers of all ages. You don't need to be able to speak or understand German to join our group. All you need is a love of singing, the ability to carry a tune, and the desire to preserve a very important part of German heritage and culture: singing.

If you would like more information on joining the only German chorus in our area, please contact George at 475-0282. Rehearsals are on Monday evenings at 7 P.M. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Shop City off Grant Boulevard. We are currently preparing for our annual **Christmas Concert** to be held on Sunday, December 2 at 3 P.M. There is still time to join us to sing in the concert. This year we are using a little different format and hope to have a *Kinderchor* (children's chorus) join us (it's in the works). More information to come in the December *Zeitung*.

Events at the Utica Männerchor

Upcoming events at 5535 Flanagan Road in Marcy:

- Nov 10 Schlachtfest Dinner Dance w/Fritz's Polka Band. Dinner at 6; dance at 7.
- Nov 16 Fall Pie Sale, during the Fish Fry
- Dec 14 Utica Männerchor & Jugendchor Christmas Concert at 8 P.M.

If you have any questions regarding these events, contact the clubhouse at 315-735-5882. Please try to support our friends in Utica by attending their events.

Your name could be here! \$15 for Patrons, \$10 for Sponsors, for one year. Send your check made payable to the German-American Society of CNY, attn. Sally Frenza, 4 Commodore Circle, Baldwinsville, NY 13027

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Contact the *Zeitung*!
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