



RONALD BENEDICT
ATS TRUSTEE
1938 - 2012



We sadly report the death of ATS Trustee Ronald Benedict. He died on Sunday, November 18, 2012 at the age of 74. He was born October 1, 1938 in New Castle, PA. He is survived by his wife, Marie whom he married in September, 1958; his son John Benedict (Betty); daughters Christine Hennon (Rich), Connie Verlotte (Brett) and Cyndee Patton (Rich); eight grandchildren, two step-grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

After graduating from high school, he entered the US Navy Reserve and at the completion of his 5 year tour of duty he attained the rank of 3rd Class Petty Officer. He later enrolled at the Republic School of Maintenance, took a course in welding at Lincoln, and attended Youngstown State for their German language classes. Ron worked for 33 years at Carbon Limestone as a welder. He retired from Tanner Plating in 2011, where he was a trustee in their union.

He served as President and Treasurer of the German American National Congress, President and Treasurer of the Eintracht Männerchor. He served as President, Treasurer and Trustee of Branch 25. He was a member of the New Castle Saxons bowling

team.

He was very a very active member of Christ the King Church, and its men's club. Ron was a lifetime member of the Johnson Club, Croatian Club and S.N.P.J. He was an avid Pittsburgh Steeler, Pirates and Penguin fan.

Ron was elected to the ATS National Board of Directors in 2006 and served on the Future Planning Committee, Insurance Sales and Investment Committee and the Cultural Promotion Committee. He was a dedicated officer and will be truly missed by his fellow ATS officers.

At his mass burial service which was held at St. Lawrence Church of Christ the King Parish in Hillsville, PA the Priest reiterated what all his family and friends knew: that he was dedicated to volunteering his talents and helping out wherever he could. The Priest said he never saw so many people attend visitation at a funeral home than those who paid their last respects to Ron. He touched the lives of so many with his kind-heartedness.

He loved singing with the Eintracht Männerchor and enjoyed bowling with the TSBA and was a devoted lifetime member of ATS Branch 25. We were so fortunate to have such a loyal hard-working member in our fraternal family. We send our heartfelt sympathy to Marie and the Benedict family and will keep them in our prayers as they go through this difficult time.

BRANCH 19, SALEM
By Robert P. Vogt, Sr.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving. We are now officially into the holiday season. The stores and some radio stations have been into the Christmas season for quite some time. I noticed two of our local stores were displaying Christmas items right after Halloween. It seems as though it starts earlier every year.

The Joint Social Christmas party was held December 9th at the Salem Saxon Club. At press time we are hoping for yet another nice turnout and an enjoyable

evening. Huge thanks to Branch 18 for putting this fantastic evening together. I'm sure the children (and adults), are hoping to have the Jolly fellow in his red suit make it for the event.

With the holidays upon us, let us not forget in our prayers, our Branch 19 members who passed away this past year, 50 year members, Clemens Vogt and Maurice Sechler, and all of our deceased members of Branch 18 and 19.

At our December meeting, election of officers was held. I guess the big news would be, after 25 years (or so), of serving as president for Branch 19, George Spack has finally said farewell to his office. A simple thank you is surely not enough for the many years of serving our club, but because your gold watch is out, THANK YOU George! Taking over as President for 2013 is no stranger to serving past and present. Congratulations to our new President, Henry Spack. Henry is currently serving as first Vice President. Thank you Henry for stepping up and taking over the reigns of Branch 19! All other positions, (except the vacant 1st vice) will remain the same. 2nd Vice Pres. Glenn Spack, Secretary Robert Vogt Sr., Financial Sec. Richard Vogt Sr., Treasurer Art Maroscher, Sergeant-At-Arms Francis Schleuter and Trustees Richard Spack and Rudy Maroscher. Thanks to all of our officers for continuing on for the upcoming year of 2013.

Have a safe and happy holiday season along with the new year ahead.
Fröhliche Weihnachten!
Bis zum nächstenmal.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Thomas J. Manning
ATS Nat'l President



I hope everyone is enjoying the Christmas holiday.

It is truly a wonderful time of the year. I realize that it involves a lot of extra work and is quite time consuming with all of the shopping, wrapping, writing of Christmas cards, baking, decorating, and preparing for that special Christmas dinner. Some time we stop and question if all of this is important and then when you sit back on Christmas and see the smiles on the faces of your children and grandchildren as they enjoy the cookies and they open their gifts you know that yes, it was worth your special effort and extra work. I also believe that sometime we tend to forget whose birthday we celebrate on Christmas. We should all step back and give it some serious thought. Be sure to give thanks before that wonderful Christmas dinner for all that has been given to you and your family. We should also remember those of us who are less fortunate than we are by making a donation to the charity of your choice that can provide them some assistance. I am sure that it would be appreciated.

I am sorry to report to you the passing away of Fred Werner on November 16, 2012. He was a long-time member of Branch 19 in Salem, Ohio, and served as an officer of his Branch for many years. He was also an officer in the TSBA. We offer our sincere sympathy to his family and friends. May he rest in peace.

With New Year's Day fast approaching it is the start of a new tax season. I know you will soon be gathering information in anticipation of filing your annual income tax returns. It would be nice if everyone would get a refund and plan to invest it in an ATS Annuity or Life Insurance Policy.

Quote of the Day: "Both tears and sweat are salty, but they render a different result. Tears will get you sympathy; sweat will get you change." It takes a lot of energy to whine and complain about how unfair things are - energy we are often too willing to expend. Maybe we're right. Maybe we really have been treated unfairly. Maybe someone has it in for us. Maybe it's raining on the day we wanted to take a picnic. We'd do better to figure out how to turn this situation into something positive - and we'd annoy our friends a lot less. If I'm tempted to complain and cry when things don't go my way, I can get myself moving instead. Do I need to work harder, try something different, or just change my plans? Chances are, what I need to do is simple and well within my control.

Liz and I wish all of you a very blessed and happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year. Frohe Weihnachten, und ein glückliches neues Jahr.

Take care until next time and may God bless the members of the ATS.

TIMELY - DO NOT DELAY
MAILED WEDNESDAY, December 19, 2012

Attention Postmaster: Send all Changes of Address to:
The Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons
5393 Pearl Road Cleveland, OH 44129-1597



BRANCH 30, YOUNGSTOWN
By Tom Fizet

As we approach the Birth of the Christ Child we greet you with very best wishes for a blessed Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

The Youngstown Saxon Club will close about 5:00 PM on Monday, Christmas Eve and remain closed on Christmas Day. We will close at about 5:00 PM on New Year's Eve and remain closed on New Year's Day. Don't forget to pick up your tickets for the Party in the Ballroom on New Year's Eve. Doors open at 7:00 PM and dinner will be served at 7:30 PM. The band will begin to play at 8:30 PM. Open to the public, tickets are \$35.00. Call or see Bill Karako 330-540-1262, the Office at 330-792-7973 or Barry Garhammer 330-788-4274. Tickets are still available, but don't wait.

There will be a Valentine's Day, Dinner, and Variety Show in the Ballroom on Saturday, February 16, 2013. For entertainment; Sonny and Cher, June Carter and Johnny Cash, Sammy Davis Jr., Nancy Sinatra and more. Tickets will be available from the Office, 330-792-7973; price for the Dinner Show is \$ 30.00 per person.

As the year 2012 comes to an end the Memorial and Celebration Committee are thankful to the members who have gone above and beyond for the accomplishments we have made; Dave Schertzer Sr. who donated and installed 2 walk lights at the fountain, (no expense to the club), Tom and Gloria Hahn and their Committee for the decorations in the Club and Ballroom, John Stacey who donated the Light and stones for the area outside the ballroom, which were installed by Tom Hahn and his committee. John Stacey reworked the Arch used for Weddings. To Harry Clay who keeps the dishwasher and garbage disposal working and

installed a new water tank, he is here also to help Pete Karsti with set ups and when Pete polishes the floor. Joe Kubic Jr. and all the volunteer golfers for the Saxon funds Golf; this was the 2nd tournament. Carrie Sturgeon who organized and followed thru on a Bocce roll off tournament and the highly successful OHIO VS MICH. Game.

To every one who has contributed to the Memorial Committee, the new drive is nice and we hope you appreciate that and the many other upgrades the Restoration Committee has done. To all who have contributed to the "Thank You Fund." To Michelle Eberth for the Children's Halloween Party, Chris Nims for the Christmas Party, To Jim Mauch for the Pork and Kraut Dinners. To Ernie Roth for calling the Tuesday Night Bingo. To the Culture Group and Walter Benesch for the Wednesday Night drawing. All of these take a committee - we thank all who have helped in any way. Last, but not least, to all who support the Club by enjoying our meals and the drinks at the Bar. Thanks for being our regulars with your continuous support. Some have been left out but they are not forgotten, Barry, Tom Hahn and Harry. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Joyful New Year.

Coming up will be the Super Bowl, Carrie's committee has installed some additional TV screens over the Bar. My home phone is 333-792-7249. If no answer, please leave a message, twfizet@zoominternet.net

Upcoming events:
January 3, 2013 Couples Bocce meeting, Bocce starts Jan 7th 2013

January 20, 2013 Pork Dinner
So Goes the News.

MERRILLVILLE, BRANCH 40
By Helen Brooks

On December 2nd, the Men's Lodge 27 and the Ladies' Lodge 40 held our Christmas Party. There was no formal meeting. We all enjoyed wonderful friendships with our families. There was cheerful Christmas music, including some good German songs.

There was a wonderful meal

served, along with the ladies contributing their special sweet treats. What a wonderful time we all had!

I wish you all a wonderful and blessed Christmas.

Til we meet again.

P.S. Prayers go out for my sister Kate Mace who is in rehab. Thank you.

HAVE A NEW ADDRESS?

If you belong to a household receiving two or more *Volksblatts*, or if you have recently moved and have a new address, you can alleviate both situations simply by using the Change of Address Form printed in the *Volksblatt*. We ask that one *Volksblatt* per household be sufficient.

Also, the same form holds good for any of our members who would like to, but are not receiving the newspaper. If you are a member in good standing, you are entitled to receive our publication.

**2012 tax returns:
There's good
news and bad news**

The good news is that if you made more money in the slow economy of 2012, you'll have more tax bracket wiggle room.

Bad news: It's thanks to inflation.

Personal exemptions and standard deductions are higher for 2012 tax returns. Almost every return will be affected by the new exemptions, which, by law, must keep pace with inflation.

About two out of three taxpayers do not itemize and take the standard deductions, which are higher for 2012.

- Personal and dependent exemption, available to most taxpayers, is \$3,800, up \$100 from 2011.

- Standard deduction is \$11,900 for married couples filing a joint return, up \$300. It's \$5,950 for singles and married individuals filing separately, up \$150.

For heads of households, it's \$8,700, up \$200.

- Tax-brackets. In 2012 returns, you'll see more daylight between you and a higher income bracket. Every bracket is adjusted higher. For a married couple filing a joint return, for example, the taxable-income threshold separating the 15-percent bracket from the 25-percent bracket is \$70,700, up from \$69,000 in 2011.

- Earned Income Tax Credit. The maximum earned income tax credit for low- and moderate-income workers and working families rises to \$5,891, up from \$5,751 in 2011. The maximum income limit for the EITC rises to \$50,270, up from \$49,078 in 2011. The credit varies by family size, filing status and other factors.

- The foreign earned income deduction rises to \$95,100, an increase of \$2,200.

The basic exclusion from estate tax amount is \$5,120,000, up from \$5,000,000.

The increases in exemptions and deductions also affect Medical Saving Accounts and gift deductions.

See irs.gov for more information.

Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons
Home Office: 5393 Pearl Rd., Cleveland, Ohio 44129
Telephone: (440) 842-8442
E-mail: office@atsaxons.com Website: www.atsaxons.com

National Board of Directors

President -

Thomas J. Manning Br. 2 (814) 864-6072
1027 West 30th St., Erie, PA 16508

First Vice President -

Robert B. Cunningham III Br. 1 (216) 398-7520
9005 Memphis Villas Blvd., Brooklyn, OH 44144-2426

Second Vice President -

Joan Miller-Malue Br. 4 (216) 251-6036
17105 Hilliard Rd., Lakewood, OH 44107

Third Vice President -

John Boehm, Jr. Br. 30 (330) 821-5572
2416 Queensbury Rd. NE, Alliance, OH 44601

Secretary-

Monica M. Weber Br. 4 (440) 356-5936
19625 Riverwood Ave, Rocky River, OH 44116

Treasurer-

Denise Aeling Crawford Br. 8 (330) 821-5125
15970 Cenfield St. Alliance, OH 44601

Trustees-

Peter Karsti, II Br. 30 (330) 792-2281
4619 Canfield Rd., Canfield, OH 44406

Jacob F. Spor Br. 25 (724) 657-3773
2940 Plank Rd., New Castle PA 16105

Barbara Spack Br 18 (330) 337-7487
1389 Brookview Dr., Salem OH 44460

Hanz G. Hermann Br. 1 (440) 892-0436
29076 Fall River Dr., Westlake OH 44145

Chief Medical Examiner-

Dr. David E. Schuller Br. 33 Cleveland

National Committee Appointees-

Helen E. Aeling Br. 8 Alliance (330) 862-2563

Ingrid Weihs-Ferguson Br. 37 Detroit (586) 264-6136

Brianne Mueller Br. 10 Columbus (614) 834-1060

The Saxon News Volksblatt (ISSN 0894-1165), the official publication of the Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons, 5393 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44129-1597, is published Bi-weekly.

Annual Subscription rate for non-ATS members
USA - \$15; Canada and Europe -\$50

Managing Editors HB Laser Communications,
PO Box 45198, Westlake, Ohio 44145.
"Periodicals Postage Paid" at Cleveland, Ohio.
Postmaster: Send address changes to the Saxon News Volksblatt, 5393 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44129-1597

SECRETARIES TAKE NOTICE:

THE DEADLINE DATE FOR ARTICLES IS WEDNESDAY - 12 NOON.

You may either

**MAIL: PO BOX 45198,
Westlake, OH 44145**

FAX: (440) 399-9339

E-MAIL: saxonvolksblatt@aol.com

Articles e-mailed will receive an e-mailed confirmation by Noon Thursday. If you did not receive a confirmation, please give us a call.

PLEASE NOTE NEW

DEADLINE DATES FOR ARTICLES:

DEADLINE	ISSUE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2012	FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, 2013
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2013	FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 2013
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2013	FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2013

Please have your articles in by 12 Noon.

Did you miss the deadline?

**Have you emailed your article past 12 noon?
Please call Hanz or Barb Hermann at (440) 892-0436.**



Thanks to members of Branch 4 for their donation of toys to Community Corners Christmas Gift Project that will benefit needy families.

BRANCH 4, CLEVELAND
By Joan Miller-Malue

It was wonderful to see the children enjoy the 2012 Christmas Party. The magician was great, and, of course, Santa Claus was the main man that day. He had a gift for each child. We wish to thank everyone who helped to prepare for the party, during the party and clean-up. For us working on the committee for so many years, it just amazes us to watch how the kids grow up. We just can't figure out how they get older and we don't! Thanks everyone who brought non-perishable food items for the Community Corners' food bank. They were truly grateful for your donations.

Branch 1 and 4's Membership Banquet was held on Sunday, December 16th. We were happy to honor our newly attained 60 year members: Marie Binder, Juliana Dorr, Katharine Dowhoshyia, Sara Downie, Sara Hermann and Sara Ordo-sch. Also, we recognized our newly attained 50 year member, Katharina Bernhardt. We certainly do thank these ladies for their many years of service to our fraternal society.

We do hope you join us for our Smoked Pork Chop Dinner on Sunday, January 13, 2013 at

1:00 pm. Cost is \$13 for adults and children age 12 and under \$8. Call Rob Cunningham at (216) 398-7520 to make reservations. We are holding these dinners to help defray expenses at the Sachsenheim. Please come and give your support.

Toward the end of January, the Sachsenheim will hold its Annual Winterfest on Saturday, January 26th. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m., the Cleveland Saxon Dance Group will perform following the dinner, and then dancing to a new band called "Spaß." Admission is \$18 for adults; \$7 for children age 12 and under and free for children age 4 and under. Send your check to Robert Cunningham, 9005 Memphis Villas Blvd, Brooklyn 44144. Make checks payable to ATS Branch 1. Deadline for reservations will be January 21st. Tickets will be held at the door. For more information call Rob at (216) 398-7520.

Good friends are hard to find, harder to leave and impossible to forget. With this thought, we wish our members, their families and friends a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

More people enjoy outdoor adventures

Greater numbers of North Americans are heading outdoors to hunt and fish for the fun of it.

Eleven percent more Americans, ages 16 and older, fished, and nine percent more hunters were in the field and wilds in 2011, according to a new five-year survey by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The higher numbers reverse a two-decade-long decline.

Higher participation numbers aren't due to population growth. The Fish and Wildlife Service's Director, Dan Ashe, says there is a growing realization that doing things outdoors is healthy.

Southwick Associates, a Florida firm that tracks the industry, noticed a rise in hunting and fishing licenses three years ago. They think more people want to do what they did growing up.

A softening of regulations by about three dozen states since 2004 is another factor in the increase, according to the National Wild Turkey Foundation. Reported in USA Today, the foundation's Tom Hughes says more states offer apprentice licenses that don't require hunting education for beginners who are accompanied by licensed hunters.

Urban fishing programs, targeting young people, and outreach efforts by state agencies, have increased, according to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. They are luring youngsters away from their computers and bringing them outside to fish.



ATS GENEALOGY MESSAGE BOARD

Many of our members are interested in tracing their family history and have often contacted the ATS Office for help. We do not have the records to help in tracing your family tree, but we can offer you a place to ask for help from other members. Under this column, you can submit a short paragraph requesting help in searching for family members. When possible be specific on names, places and dates. Send your short request to the ATS Home Office, 5393 Pearl Road, Cleveland, OH 44129 or email us at office@atsaxons.com. Include your name, email and/or phone number that you want listed in the *Volksblatt* that members may contact you directly.

The Youngstown Saxon Culture Group
Presents

"A Night at the Races"

Saturday, January 12, 2013

The Youngstown Saxon Club

710 South Meridian Road

Doors Open at 6:30 p.m.

Races begin at 7:00 p.m.

\$5 Admission



Horse Racing • Chinese Auction
50/50 • Poker • Black Jack
Food Available for Sale

Tickets may be purchased at the door the night of the event or at the Youngstown Saxon Club office prior to January 12th.

For more information call Bonnie at 330.501.2851

Six ways to use less energy and lower your heating costs

Cold weather is here and you're probably wondering how to pay less for heating than you did last year.

You could buy an energy audit for a detailed diagnosis of your home, or you could do a few things yourself that could lower energy costs significantly, say the experts at CNN-Money.com.

- Check your heating and cooling ducts. If they leak, as much as 30 percent of your heat might be lost. You can cover accessible ducts with less than \$100 worth of metal tape or mastic sealant.

- If it's time to replace your top-loading washer, a front-loader will cost more, but will use a third to a half of the water, and less energy and detergent. Go with cold or warm water to save money.

- Change your furnace filters! And do it every few months. That will save you money on the system you have today.



When the furnace needs replacing, consider an Energy-Star-certified model. It could cut power bills by more than \$200 a year, says the Environmental Protection Agency.

- Check the insulation in the attic. Floor insulation should stick up over the floor joists, says the EPA. If it's below the joists, add more for energy saving.

- Turn the water heater down to 120 degrees to save on energy use. Insulate the pipes and the

heater itself with an insulating blanket to reduce heat loss.

- Install a low-flow shower head and you'll cut hot water use 25 percent.

- Turning the thermostat down when you are asleep or gone can save up to \$200 a year. But a programmable thermostat will turn the heat back on before you wake up or get home. You won't have an icy cold house.

Cleveland Westside Sachsenheim
Presents

ANNUAL WINTERFEST
SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 2013

Dinner served at 6:30 p.m.

Program
Cleveland Saxon Dance Group
Dancing Entertainment
The new German Band: Spaß

\$18.00 Admission
\$7.00 for children 12 and under
Free for children 4 and under

Checks Payable to: **ATS Branch 1**
c/o Robert Cunningham
9005 Memphis Villas Blvd
Brooklyn, OH 44144-2426

For Additional Information please call
Robert Cunningham 216-398-7520

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS
IS JANUARY 21, 2013

Please list your seating preference
Tickets will be held at the door

FRATERNAL CALENDAR

NATIONAL EVENTS

2013

- May 18, 2013
ATS Branch Presidents' Meeting
 Host : Detroit Branch 37 Celebrating its 100th Anniversary
- June 21-23, 2013
North American Saxon Heimattag
 Kitchener, Ontario Canada

LOCAL EVENTS

- December 24, 2012
 Youngstown, Club closed Christmas Eve at 5:00 PM
- December 25, 2012
 New Castle - Club closed
 Youngstown Christmas Day, closed all day
- December 29, 2012
 Salem Peanut Night 8:00 p.m.- ?
- December 31, 2012
 Youngstown New Year's Eve - Club closed at 5:00 PM
- January 10, 2013
 Youngstown Retirees meet
- January 12, 2013
 New Castle 150 Club Banquet
 Youngstown Saxon Culture Group Night at the Races
- January 13, 2013
 Cleveland - Smoked Pork Chop and Sauerkraut Dinner
 Youngstown Spaghetti Dinner
- January 26, 2013
 Cleveland Br. 1 Winterball
- January 30, 2013
 Youngstown Pork Dinner
- February 3, 2013
 Youngstown Super Bowl Party in the Lounge
- February 10, 2013
 Youngstown Branches 22 and 30 meet
 Youngstown Spaghetti Dinner
- February 14, 2013
 Youngstown retirees meet
- February 16, 2013
 Youngstown Valentine Show and Dinner
- February 17, 2013
 Youngstown Pork Dinner
- February 24, 2013
 Cleveland Br. 4 Chinese Auction/Sausage Dinner
- March 6, 2013
 Youngstown Fish Dinner in the Lounge
- March 9, 2013
 Youngstown Saxon Culture Group Sausage Sale
- March 10, 2013
 Youngstown Branches 22 and 30 meet
 Youngstown Spaghetti Dinner
- March 13, 2013
 Youngstown Fish dinner in the Lounge
- March 14, 2013
 Youngstown Retirees meet
- March 17, 2013
 Youngstown Pork Dinner
 Youngstown Saint Patrick's Day Party in the Lounge
- March 20, 2013
 Youngstown Fish Dinner in the Lounge
- March 21, 2013
 Youngstown Golf Meeting - Joe Kubick
 Youngstown Presidents Goulasch Dinner
- March 27, 2013
 Youngstown Fish Dinner

BRANCH 37, DETROIT

By Susanna Fleischer

Branch 37 celebrated its annual Christmas party for members and friends at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, December 9th. The event was well attended and enjoyed by all, especially the children.

Before dinner was served, Dawn Wiseman, Laney and Trinity sang a prayer. After everyone was fed and their hunger was satisfied, we sang Christmas carols before Santa Claus made an appearance to present each child with a gift and listen to their wishes for a special request this year.

Sam Fleischer introduced the children, who either participated by playing an instrument, reciting a poem or singing a special song. The children who participated were: Catherine Leprich, Laney and Trinity Gadd, Kurt Fleischer, Derek Fleischer, Hannah Fleischer, Sammy Fleischer and Sue Fleischer.

A very special thank you to Santa for taking the time to visit the children at Branch 37. Job well done! The children were delighted with their gifts and, after visiting and taking pictures with Santa, they bid Santa farewell, since he had other stops to make.

As President of Branch 37, I would like to thank everyone who made this afternoon possible. Either by preparing food, buying gifts, cleaning up or just helping out wherever it was needed. Katie Moody and Marie Emrich prepared and served the food. Debbie Ferguson was a great help to Santa, by assisting in purchasing the gifts for the children. Without the dedication of these people, none of these activities would take place. If I forgot to mention someone by name, please forgive me.

Also, a thank you to all members who brought cookies, which were enjoyed by everyone after the delicious meal.

Our first meeting of 2013 will take place on January 6, 2013 at 12:30 p.m. at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. At this time the Officers for 2013 will be installed. A special invitation to all our young members, please come to our meetings and take an active part in our Branch, everyone is needed to keep the Branch alive and well.

Happy Birthday wishes to all members who are celebrating this special occasion during the month of December.

We wish everyone a merry and peaceful Christmas, also a blessed and healthy New Year.

**Why do we
play in recitals
and recite in
plays?**

New Year's Eve

December 31, 2012
 Youngstown Saxon Club

Doors open at 7:00 p.m.
 Dinner at 7:30 p.m.

Band "GUYS WITHOUT TIES"
 starts at 8:30 p.m.

Continental Buffet at Midnight
 with a Champagne Toast
 BYOB - Beer, Pop, Mixers,
 Coffee and Tea included
 \$35.00 per person
 open to the public

For tickets contact:
 Barry Garhammer 330-758-4274
 Bill Karako 330-540-1262

710 S. Meridian Road
 Youngstown, Ohio

LORAIN, BRANCH 11

By Monica Gilles

Our Christmas party/dinner was on December 1st at On the Avenue. We had around 40 people attend the dinner. The weather was unseasonable warm for December 1st which was a nice change of pace for our dinner. It is usually snowing and cold.

The meal consisted of roast beef, ham, redskin potatoes, green beans, and salad; plus a delicious cake for dessert.

To change things up a bit, we were entertained by The Lorain Four, a barbershop quartet representing The Golden Crescent Chorus. They provided us with some beautiful Christmas tunes that helped get us in the holiday spirit. Each person in attendance received a small Christmas gift too.

I would like to thank everyone who helped with this year's dinner, especially Jeanne Petty, Ginger Romes, and Jane Mowery.

Happy Birthday greetings to Paula Dickason, Arlene

Jones, Molly Kirchner, Suzanne Koepke, and Nancy Kranstuber. I just realized that I neglected to send birthday greetings to the November ladies. Those members are Elaine Johnson, Juliana Johnson, and Robin Johnson.

Speaking of Juliana Johnson, in January she will be embarking on a new adventure. She will be interning for 6 months at Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL. We wish her the very best and will miss her very much.

The next monthly meeting will be held on Saturday, January 5, 2013. The trustees will be serving before the meeting at 7pm with the meeting starting at 8pm.

It is also that time of the year to pay your local dues. Plan on attending the next meeting to pay them or mail them to Sharon Powell, 2308 Mark Drive, Lorain, OH 44052.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our Saxon family and friends.

Cleveland Sachsenheim's Sunday Dinner

Smoked Pork Chop and Sauerkraut Dinner



January 13, 2013
 1:00 PM

Adults \$13.00

Children Age 12 & under \$ 8.00

Call for Reservation:

Rob Cunningham (216) 398-7520

Deadline for reservations January 7, 2013

INVEST YOUR
 SAVINGS IN
 AN ATS
 ANNUITY PLAN

CHURCHES



**St. Peter's
German and Saxon
Lutheran Church**
11423 Chicago Rd.
Warren, Michigan 48093
(586) 979-3850
stpeters_church@sbcglobal.net
www.stpeterswarren.or

**Rev. Waldemar Gies
Pastor**
pastorgies@sbcglobal.net

10:00 Bilingual Service
Nursery School
Coffee following service.
Bible Study, Senior Circle,
Sunday School, Church
Choir, Bell Choir

**St. Thomas Evangelical
Lutheran Church**
9509 Lake Avenue
Cleveland, OH
(216) 961-4870
**Rev. Dick Williams
Pastor**
Cell (330) 524-1718

9:00 a.m. German Service
2nd Sunday of the month
Pastor Susanne Carter

11:00 a.m. English Worship

Daily Devotion:
www.EarlyWord.org

St. John's Lutheran Church
1000 Ford Road
Highland Hts., Ohio
(440) 449-1334
**Rev. Karen Ullestad
Pastor**

9:00 Worship Service

College students suffer from sleep deprivation

Colleges are recognizing how sleep deprivation can harm students' health and grades. At the University of Delaware, psychologists say when students have depression or anxiety, 80 to 90 percent of the time it's a sleep problem.

Some colleges are giving new students ear plugs, sleep shades and napping lessons. They have found that healthy sleep habits can be a miracle drug for much of what ails students, including depression, physical health and academic troubles.

In addition to 24/7 activities, the Internet and students sleeping with their cell phones, it's no surprise that students are averaging six hours of sleep per night when they should get nine hours.

BRANCH 22, YOUNGSTOWN By Rosemarie Kascher

Greetings to each of you; may your Christmas be bright. I have three adult students in my class from three countries where they had to flee because, as Christians, they were being subjects for the death sentence. Thank heavens, we live in America.

"Thinking of you" was sent to Donna White, sympathy to Claudia Bair, father and husband, family of Kay Ruongrazio, and Marge Troll, loss of a brother.

Our new member taken in was Marcia Niefeld; we welcome her. We thank Margaret Peccio for the contribution of the lovely addition to the ladies' restroom; it adds so much. We also thank the members of the constitution revision committee and their hard work updating after ten years time. Especially, thanks go to Marianne Sawicki for the layout, editing and preparation for printing.

Our craft show proved to be an outstanding event and we thank all those in connection with it, especially Betty Garhammer, chairlady.

Birthdays are Marilyn Carole, Helen Fotiuk, Annaliese Kimes, Eleanor Laise, Margaret Troll, Christine, Golec, Tillie Stephanic and an anniversary for Ginny Salinas.

Upcoming events:

Monday, December 24,
Bar and Lounge party bar
closes at 5:00 p.m.

Monday, December 31,
New Years Eve Party, Ball-
room, see Barry Garhammer
for tickets

Wednesday, January 9,
Officers Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 12, Cul-
ture Group, Nite at the Races,
Ballroom

Sunday, January 13,
Branch Meeting, 2:30 p.m.,
L.L.

Sunday, January 13, Spa-
ghetti Dinner, ballroom
Sunday, January 20, Pork
and Kraut Dinner, ballroom
11:30-2:30 p.m. \$8.75

We salute our outgoing of-
ficers, Carmella Markel and
Marianne Sawicki in apprecia-
tion, and greet our new officers,
some moving up and two new,
Diane Kommel and Julianne
Gilmartin.

We are blessed to live in
America where we can worship
and thank God as we choose. A
wonderful Christmas to all and
New Year, too.

People don't
notice whether
it's winter or
summer when
they're happy.

Anton Chekhov

Ronald L. Benedict †

Ronald L. Benedict, 74, of Clay Street, Edinburg, passed away the morning of Sunday, Nov. 18, 2012, at his residence with his family at his side. He was born Oct. 1, 1938, in New Castle, and was the son of the late Leo F. and Edith L. Bidinotto Benedict. He is survived by his wife, the former Marie Minetti, whom he married Sept. 6, 1958. Ronald graduated from Bessemer High School and attended Youngstown State University. Ronald was a retired welder and had worked for Carbon-Limestone, Essroc Cement and Tanner Plating. He was an active member of Christ the King Parish and its men's club and enjoyed making Easter bread for the church. He did volunteer work at Union Elementary School. He was a Navy veteran. Ronald was a former president and current member of the Eintracht Singing Society and a member of the Eintracht Maennerchor. He was a trustee for the National Alliance Transylvanian Saxons and a member of the New Castle Saxons bowling team. He was a lifetime member of the Johnson Club, Croatian Club and SNPJ. Ronald was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. His greatest joy was the time spent with his family and he loved attending all his children's and grandchildren's activities. He enjoyed all sports and sporting events, especially those that involved his grandchildren. He very rarely missed a game watching and cheering them on. He enjoyed playing cards,



bowling and loved to sing. He was an avid Pittsburgh Steelers, Pirates and Penguins fan. In addition to his wife, he is survived by one son, John Benedict and wife, Betty, of Edinburg; three daughters, Christine Hennon and husband, Rich, of Bessemer, Connie Verlotte and husband, Brett, of Bessemer and Cyndee Patton and husband, Rich, of Edinburg; one uncle, Frank Bidinotto of New Castle; two sisters, Joan Pezzuolo and husband, John, of Hillsville and Elaine Zarlino and husband, Gary, of Lowellville, Ohio; eight grandchildren, Stephanie, Valerie, Ashlie, Jimmy, Shannon, Melissa, Jared and Jason; two step grandchildren, Scott and Sarah; and one great-granddaughter, Scarlet. Ronald was honored at his funeral with a full Military Rites Ceremony and Songs sung by his beloved Eintracht Manenchor Brothers. A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated by the Rev. James Downs of Christ the King Parish. Ronald will forever be loved and missed by all who knew him.

BRANCH 5, LORAIN By Michael Johnson

First, let me start by wishing you all a Merry Christmas and an honest heartfelt encouragement for the coming New Year! I say it like that because for many reading, it has been a difficult year for many marked by someone close to them having passed on, or maybe others still struggling to find steady employment. Whatever the case may be, beyond the pageantry of Christmas, we see the Savior who makes it possible to face the New Year with hope and confidence. How fitting to have these two Holidays so close together.

On December 1st, the Ladies of Branch 11 hosted a Christmas dinner at the Avenue banquet facility at Rebman's bowling lanes. The food was delicious, and the entertainment festive with a performance by members of the Lorain County Men's Barbershop Choristers. Thank you, ladies for the nice gift bags as well. I don't know how much food and non-perishable items were collected for the Harvest Food Bank, but it looked like quite a lot. Thank you to those who took part in this giving. Remember to bring your completed Christmas puzzle pack to January's meeting. I hear there's a prize for the

most correct answers!

I'd like to also recognize two of our junior members Chloe Zgola, and Grace Zgola for their participation in the ATS Bowl Where You are Tournament 2012. Although they did not win in their age category, I'm sure they still had fun where ever they bowled. Fellow members, parents, and grandparents, help be a part of encouraging and helping these young people be active in these events and programs put on by the ATS and other hosting Branches. They are the future of our club and will only be as involved as you are.

Ending out the year with Birthday wishes in December going out to Brother Daniel Paghi and junior member Kyle Smith.

Mark your calendar and join us for our first meeting of the year on January 5th, at the American-Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway Lorain, OH. at 8:00 P.M. We also invite you Brothers to join us for dinner at Chris Restaurant, 2812 W Erie Ave., Lorain at 6:00 P.M. that evening prior to our meeting. Give Brother George Schneider a call at (440) 346-3199, and let him know you'd like to attend.



We remember our Sisters and Brothers who have departed this life in recent days. Our sincere sympathy is extended to the members of the bereaved families.

Helen H. Ulrich
Age 91

Died: December 2, 2012
Branch 18, Salem OH

Marian C. Whipkey
Age 94

Died: December 9, 2012
Branch 18, Salem OH

Wendell Farragher
Age 85

Died: December 11, 2012
Branch 30, Youngstown OH

Here's how to 'go nuts' without gaining weight

It's no wonder that we like nuts. Scientific evidence shows it's a hereditary human characteristic passed down from the Stone Age to prehistoric nomads and Egyptian kings.

Some modern doubters say they do believe that nuts have great vitamin and protein content, but they are also high in fats. They think nuts can make them gain weight.

Doctors at Tufts University say it's true that eating a handful of nuts each day can boost your daily calories by 10 percent or more. But people who eat more nuts typically don't weigh more.

A 2011 Harvard University study shows that, over a period of 20 years, nuts ranked second only to yogurt as a food linked to weight loss.

Note that potato chips were found to be the top food causing weight gain.

Here are some nutty facts for you to consider:

- Almonds, peanuts and pistachios have the highest protein content of almost all nuts.
- Macadamias, Brazils, and pecan halves have the highest monounsaturated fat content (as in olive oil).
- Almonds, cashews and pistachios have the highest levels of potassium.
- All nuts have magnesium, zinc, copper, vitamin B6, folate, riboflavin, niacin, vitamin E and calcium.

You don't have to eat a whole handful to get benefits. You can sprinkle nuts on steamed vegetables, stir-fries, ice cream, frozen yogurt and salads.

CHICAGO BRANCH 9 CHRISTMAS PARTY



BRANCH 9, CHICAGO

By Rose-Marie Hauer

Our annual meeting with elections was held on December 3, 2012 with many members in attendance. It was so nice to see so many people present! President Thut opened the meeting with a moment of silence in memory of our deceased brothers and sisters in the year 2012 - Sister Irene Gunnesch, Sister Hilda Reif, Sister Emily Schiller, Sister Margaret Schiller, Brother Andrew Schuller, and Brother Andy Seimen.

Sick List: Sister Schmidts reported that we have many members that are recovering and many on the sick list. Good wishes are sent to Sister Maria Fandl, Brother Mike Haner, Sister Erna Klein, Sister Frieda and Brother Mike Kraus, Brother Reinhard Krestel, Sister Rosemarie Morgan, Sister Ella Reif and Sister Regina Salmen. Please remember these members with a phone call or a greeting card.

Events: Mark your calendars for the Stiftungsfest April 20, 2013 at the Donauschwaben Club in Des Plaines. Tentative Picnic date is June 23, 2012, more information to follow.

Elections: The elections were held after the general meeting. Thank you to Brother Bill Blatter and Brother Walter Drechsler for all their help in assisting to run the elections so efficiently. This year's officers are as follows: President: Diethild Thut; Vice President: George Thut; Secretary: Elfi Sanderson; Treasurer: George Thut; Financial Secretary: Hildegard Schmidts; Sergeant at Arms: Rick Hartig; Public Relations: Rose-Marie Hauer; Trustees: Regina Fleps, Anna Salmen and Claudia Schmidt.

Christmas Party: The Christmas party was held on December 9, with excellent attendance! It was so nice to see so many people and all the youth! A special thank you to Sister Elfi Sanderson and her committee for organizing such a beautiful event! The ham and sausage were outstanding as well at the sides! Thank you to all ladies that brought all the homemade pastries. Thank you to Brother Bill Blatter who played the piano for several hours and had all the guests in the spirit of Christmas! One highlight of the afternoon was the program where the youth sang songs, read poems and played musical instruments. The second was the arrival of Santa Claus who by the way did an outstanding job! Gifts were passed out and you guessed it everyone was happy!

As I finish this article I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Enjoy the time with your family and enjoy that Saxon Hunklich! What is Christmas without the tasty treat! Mom is better and I am going to learn how to make Hunklich for Christmas!

Next meeting will be January 7, 2013 at the DANK Haus at 8 p.m.

Frohe Weihnachten und ein glückliches neues Jahr!

WURST MACHEN IN CLEVELAND



The members of the Eintracht Saxonia Sachsenchor made over 4000 pounds of their delicious Saxon Sausage (Bratwurst) on December 6th, and as you can tell from the photo above, it was worth waiting in line for!



Photos: Nancy Kranstuber



Cleveland Sachsenheim's Children's Christmas Party



Left: Dylan and Sienna Axe singing "Go Tell It on the Mountain" Right: Connor and Kailey Hochevar singing "Jingle Bells"



Grace Zgola assisting the Magician – Drew Murray



Andreas Schobel a real showman assisting the Magician



Looks like Jason Zayac is staring down the Magician.

BRANCH 18, SALEM By Barbara Spack

Our December meeting was held on Monday the 10th at the club. The officers thanked the ladies for the dinner held on the previous evening at the home of Kate Oesch. Kate hosted a wonderful event for the officers and guests, including outgoing Sergeant at Arms, Kathe Schneider. Kathe served for many years as our Sergeant at Arms, but resigned the office this year. Many special thanks to Kathe for her service. The new slate of officers for 2013 is: President Marilyn McNutt, Recording Secretary Barbara Spack, Financial Secretary Kate Oesch, Treasurer Jill Drotleff, Trustees Mary Ann Roth, Catherine Sanor, and Flo Spack, ATS Secretary Marcia Spack, and Sergeant at Arms Walli Spack. Sister Helen Aeling installed the officers at the December meeting.

Diane Kuttler was initiated as a new social member and Julia Clemmer was initiated as a transfer from juvenile membership of Branch 19. Welcome to Diane and Julia!

Sad news to report is the passing of 50-year member, Helen Ulrich, and member and past trustee of the Scholarship Fund, Marian Whipkey. Our condolences go out to the families of Helen and Marian. The ladies also extend our condolences to the family of ATS trustee Ron Benedict, who passed away in November.

The Salvation Army Angel Tree program was approved by the ladies to sponsor 30 children with the purchase of a new outfit for Christmas. Please see the pictures in this issue. Thanks to Flo Spack, Terri Spack and Richard Spack who did a fantastic job organizing and shopping for the clothing. Additionally, the Salem Saxon Retirees gave individual monetary donations and we thank them for the contribution.

Season's greetings, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

The Accident

"How come you're late?" asked the bartender, as the waitress came in.

"It was awful," she explained. "I was walking down Elm Street and there was a terrible accident. A man was thrown from his car and his leg was broken. His skull was fractured, and there was blood everywhere. Thank God I took that first-aid course."

"What did you do?" asked the bartender.

"I sat down and put my head between my knees to keep from fainting!"

BRANCH 18 SALEM DONATES TO SALVATION ARMY'S ANGEL TREE PROGRAM

Branch 18 sponsored 30 children in the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program, which provides a new outfit at Christmas to area children. Flo Spack, Terri Spack and Richard Spack organized the project and shopped for the clothing.



Branch 18 Trustee Flo Spack and Branch 18 President Marilyn McNutt with one of the outfits.



Flo Spack, Richard Spack and Terri Spack with outfits.



Terri Spack with the outfits for the 30 children.



"Merry Christmas! It's a squeaky hot dog, chew toy. I hope you don't already have one."



Siebenbürgische Bräuche zwischen
Weihnacht und Rosenmontag

Die zahlreichen siebenbürgischen Winterbräuche gipfeln im Weihnachtsfest und finden ihre Fortsetzung in der Neujahrsfeier, am Dreikönigstag und an einigen "großen" Namenstagen. Sie klingen in den Faschingsbräuchen oder den so genannten "Richttagen" aus, die am Aschermittwoch ihren Abschluss finden, bevor die Oster- und Frühlingsbräuche einen neuen Zyklus einleiten.

Von den Bräuchen zu **Neujahr** (Silvester) sind vielleicht ältere siebenbürgische Gepflogenheiten dem heutigen Leser weniger bekannt. So galt früher der "Neujahrmorgen" als eigentlicher Tag der "Wünsche" und Geschenke. An Patenkinder wurden "Giorsker" ("Johrsker"), "Jährchen", aus Zuckerteig ausgeteilt. Der Pfarrer erhielt traditionsgemäß bei wohlgesetzter Rede das "weiße" oder "grüne Jahr" (Eier, Obst) geschenkt. Zum Neujahrgeschenk der Schüler für den Lehrer gehörte der symbolische Apfel. Zu Verwandten und Paten ging man "wünschen". Aus Zwiebelchalen, Wintergrünblättern oder Bleiguss wurde in der Neujahrsnacht die Zukunft (Gesundheit, Wetter, Fruchtbarkeit) für das kommende Jahr "gelesen" und erforscht. Neujahrglocken und Turmbläser um Mitternacht ("Hört, ihr Herrn, und lasst euch sagen...", "Nun danket alle Gott") geleiten auch in der Gegenwart stillvoll das alte in das neue Jahr. Der Weihnachtsbaum oder Tannenzweige schmücken die Wohnungen über Neujahr hinaus mindestens bis zum 6. Januar. Neuerdings werden auch Mistelzweige als Schmuck gebraucht.

"Zwölfte" (zwölf Nächte) heißt die Zahl vom 25. Dezember bis 6. Januar. Sie gilt als unheimliche Zeit, weil in ihr die Geister Umzug halten, Spuk treiben und mit Opfern beschwichtigt werden müssen. Man tut gut daran, sich gewisser Speisen zu enthalten und einige Tätigkeiten zu unterlassen, während man sich für andere wiederum fördernde Wirkungen von dieser Zeit verspricht. Besonders aber hat sie wahrsagerische Bedeutung, und zwar so, dass jeder der 12 Tage für einen der kommenden 12 Monate vorbedeutend wird.

Epiphania, das Erscheinungsfest am 6. Januar, galt ursprünglich als das Geburtsfest Christi (ehe dieses um die Mitte des 4. Jahrhunderts auf den 25. Dezember verlegt wurde) und wurde später zu seinem Tauffest. In Zusammenhang mit dem Stern, der die Weisen aus dem Morgenland führte, wird Epiphania zum **Fest der Dreikönige**. Es bedeutet den wirklichen Beginn des

neuen Jahres und heißt darum auch "Groß-" oder "Hochneujahr". In der Ostkirche ist der 6. Januar der Tag der "Wasserweihe" (bei den Rumänen: Boboteaza), an dem die feierliche Weihe und Segnung des Weihwassers, der Flüsse und Seen stattfindet. Die Dreikönige sind die Weisen aus dem Morgenlande (Matth. 2), die die Legende zu drei Königen gemacht hat: Caspar, Melchior und Balthasar. Ihre Gebeine wurden 1164 von Mailand nach Köln überführt. Sie gelten als Schutzheilige der Reisenden, Helfer gegen Unwetter und Krankheiten und auch als magisch begabt. Ihr Festtag, auch Berchtentag genannt (Perchta, eine im deutschen Volksglauben der Frau Holle nächst verwandte Figur), wird mit dem Dreikönigssingen gefeiert. Aus vielen Ortschaften in Siebenbürgen ist das Sternsingen bekannt. Am Heiligen Dreikönigsabend gehen drei Schulkinder (in Schäßburg früher Kinder aus dem evangelischen Waisenhaus), als "Könige" gekleidet, mit Kronen aus Pappe, einem beleuchteten Stern, Säbel, Zepter, Sammelbüchse etc., in die Häuser und singen mit Vorführung: "Wir kommen daher in Regen und Wind und suchen das neugeborene Kind." Sie werden mit Geldspenden belohnt. Eine Variante (Text und Melodie) aus dem Jahre 1903 zeichnete Gottlieb Brandsch in Hermannstadt auf (Deutsche Volkslieder aus Siebenbürgen. Aus dem Nachlass von Gottlieb Brandsch, herausgegeben von Walter Brandsch, Neue Reihe I, Seite 39-42). Anklänge hierzu findet man auch in der Erzählung das "Herodesspiel" von Erwin Wittstock in dem Prosaband "Abends Gäste".

Mariantag (2. Februar). Der Name "Maria", der aus dem Hebräischen abgeleitet wird, ist trotz der mehr als 60 Erklärungsversuche nicht gesichert (volkstümlich = Meeresstern). Der Gottesmutter Maria kommt besondere Verehrung zu. Im heutigen Römischen Messbuch sind nicht weniger als 15 Marienentage im Jahreslauf verzeichnet. Obgleich der Marienkult vorwiegend katholisch ist, hat sich eine gewisse Marienverehrung auch bei den Protestanten erhalten. In Siebenbürgen wird der "Mariantag", ein sehr verbreiteter Namenstag, am 2. Februar gefeiert, mancherorts auch am 15. August (Mariä Himmelfahrt) oder am 8. September ("Mariä Geburt, fliegen die Schwalben fort"). Beziehungen zur siebenbürgischen Geschichte hat vielleicht noch "Mariä Namen" am 12. September, der als Erinnerung an den Sieg über die Türken bei Wien 1683 in diesem Sinne erhalten blieb.

Maria als Himmelskönigin und Patronin der Christenheit, als Helferin in aller Not ist in der Kunst die mit Abstand am meisten dargestellte Heilige: Altarbilder, Ikonen, Gebete, Gedichte, Lieder, Standbilder (Plastiken), Pestsäulen u. a. gehören zum wichtigen Bestand der siebenbürgischen Kunstgeschichte. In Siebenbürgen wird z. B. "Maria durch den Dornwald ging..." als Weihnachtslied gesungen. Mancherorts ist noch das alte Schifferlied bekannt: "Meerstern ich dich grüße, / O Maria, hilf, / Gottesmutter süße, / O Maria, hilf! / Maria, hilf uns allen / Aus dieser schweren Not."

Das größte dörfliche Kinderfest des Jahres war in Siebenbürgen der **"Blasi"** (St. Blasiusabend, 3. Februar), eine Feier der Schuljugend. A. Schullerus vergleicht ihn, was seine Bedeutung betrifft, mit dem Weihnachtsabend des Stadtkindes. Die Vorbereitung beginnt damit, dass der Lehrer am bestimmten Tag auf der Schultafel einen Fuchs oder ein Pferd gezeichnet findet mit der Überschrift "Blasius Fuchs". Der Klassenerste steht hinter der Türe, verbrennt in einem Topf Schafwolle und "bittet um den Blasi". Nach eingeholter Einwilligung des Pfarrers geht die Schuljugend in Gruppen geteilt "ansingen" - am Vortag die Mädchen - und sammeln Lebensmittel und Geld. Der Blasispruch lautet:

"Matter, gäf Batter,
gäf Schmalz,
Dad äs gad än Halz.
Wo er näst wällt gin,
Si frieß ich der Fuß de Hin."
Auch erbitten sie "Achen, Kokachen, e Stämpche Lächt", so wie auch in Luxemburg die Kinder am Abend vor Mariä Lichtmess mit den Bliesjen (Blasius-Lichtchen) ansingen gehen und Gaben sammeln. Aus dem eingesammelten Geld wird der Kettenschmuck für das Schulzimmer und der Wein für die "Adjuvanten" bezahlt, die am ersten Tag die Tanzmusik spielen. Die gesammelten Lebensmittel werden von den "Kirchenmüttern" zum "gefüllten Kraut" und zur "Kächen" zubereitet. Gemeinsam gesungene Lieder, Spiele und Tanz gehören zum Programm des Blasi (A. Schullerus).

Der Übergang zum Frühling

wird von den Faschings- oder Karnevalsbräuchen, in Siebenbürgen der "Fuesnicht", den so genannten "Richttagen", dem "Urzellaufen" und den Maskenbällen bestimmt. Dieses tolle Treiben findet am Rosenmontag und Aschermittwoch seinen Höhepunkt und Abschluss. "Rosenmontag"

ist etymologisch als "rasender, wilder, toller" Montag zu deuten (siehe auch das Wort "rosendich"); das Bestimmungswort lässt nur bedingt auf die "Rosen" schließen.

Walter Roth
SBZ Online
29. Dezember 2003

Ho-ho-ho, e Chrästmån kitt!

von Doris Hutter

*Ho-ho-ho, e Chrästmån kitt!
Säht nor, wä hie feest aftritt,
wonn e mät dem weiße Boort
lieft end mät Lachen net spoort.
Ho-ho-ho, se Monkel riet
bäs iwer de Stiwel giht,
und der Säck äs schwer uch grieß,
vool Geschinker, wä em wieß!
Af der Gäss dinkt munch e Kängd:
„Jäi, wä schätzich!“ und et wänkt.*

*Äwer än der Kirch dertän
hut derr Chrästmån niche Sänn:
„Chrästkängd“ hießt der Jesus Christ!
Wonn te än der Kirch dro stihst,
äs et ställ, em sängt end biët
und em pespert, wonn em riëd.
Wonn em dro de Glooken hiert,
äs et 'si, wä wonn em spiert,
datt der Härrgott as hut broocht
Fridden. Uch de Hellich Noocht.*

"Hellich Nuecht 1980"

Paul Rampelt

*Der Turm,
de Gassen, Giëßker
uch de Hesper
sen alle afgepiutz,
geschmäckt, geschminkt,
behangen –*

*Platten,
Rekorder, Kassetten,
Radio uch Färsähn
hu sanjt Däjen
iwer aol uch änjde wedder
„Stille Nacht“
geleiert, gekräschen
geseangen?! –*

*Viur esevelt Lächt
eos teosend uch awerteosend Kärzen,
verbriet än alle Wealt,
sen hekt,
um Hellijen Owend
de Stärn um Hemmel eosgegangen ...*

*Vergiëßt de Flimmer
uch de Lärm –
goht eos der Stadt
färr eoßen än de Bäsch;
do äs der Schnie noch kaolt uch rien
und glitzert af Millione Nolden ...*

*Eos schwarzem Deankel
huet der Härr
den Hemmel wedder bruecht –
und de Honjd,
dä sich vu sealwest faolden,
biëden und daonken:
HELLICH NUECHT!*