

### BRANCH 33, CLEVELAND EAST By Arline Krestel-Suts

Greetings everyone!

Branch 33's November meeting started with members sharing a Saxon Pot-Luck supper. Main course was Wiener Schnitzel made by the Westside Cleveland Sachsenheim (thank you to Mike Bretz, our own 'Door-Dash' Delivery Driver), and members brought Kraut, fried Potatoes and potato salad, beans, beet salad & cucumber salad to name just a few of the side dishes. Bruce Schneider entertained us with a slide picture show of photos from the ATS Tour of Transylvania this past summer.

We held Election of Branch Officers. The slate of nominations included all current officers, with no new nominations. Unanimously re-elected are: President, Margie Ziegler; Vice President, Maria Phillips; Treasurer, Lisa Deaton; Recording Secretary, Arline Suts; Financial Secretary, Mike Bretz; ATS Secretary, Karyn Schmidt; Trustees, Barb Hum and Sue Guip. Personally, I have to say, it is a pleasure working with this group; all

are diligent and dedicated to the ATS and our Branch. Installation of officers will be at the January 8th meeting. And we will have our Saxon Sausage and Sauerkraut supper at 7 p.m. before the business meeting.

We elected to make several charitable donations this month: to the Cleveland Saxon Dance Group, to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, the American Heart Association, and to UNICEF.

Upcoming Events: please make reservations for Branch 33 Annual Christmas Banquet, Pine Ridge Country Club in Willoughby on December 15. Santa will be there! Call Sharon Volpe (440) 307-0268. Members cost \$15, non-members \$30, Children \$10.

Krampus Night is coming and also the Children's Christmas Party at Westside Sachsenheim on December 14th. Our Junior members received an invitation; always a great Holiday party and tradition, hope many of you can attend!

Our Sunshine Rep. reports that Donna Foisel and John Kraus are home recuperating from joint replacement surgery. Evelyn Keefer was visited and promised some of our sausage at the next visit.

It is with a heavy heart that I report the death of two active Branch members, our Brother Frank Hum, and Sister Katherine

Continued on Page 3




**Give Your Children A Gift That Will Last A Lifetime**

Why not give a gift that will grow in value and last a lifetime? Consider purchasing life insurance or an annuity from the ATS. Contact your local ATS Deputy or the ATS Home office for detailed information on our insurance plans and annuity plan.

**TIMELY - DO NOT DELAY**  
**MAILED WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2024**

Attention Postmaster: Send all Changes of Address to:  
The Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons  
5323 Pearl Road Cleveland OH 44129-1503



**Attention TSBA Bowlers**

The next session will be held in Cleveland West on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Please note a change in time and location. The bowling session will be held at Yorktown Lanes 6218 Pearl Rd Parma Heights, OH 44130. We will begin bowling at 12:15 p.m. for that session. Dinner will follow at the Westside Sachsenheim. Please send any meal cancellations to CJ Schmitz (440) 799-1940.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Denise Aeling Crawford  
ATS Nat'l President



The Board of Directors met on Saturday, November 23 for their final meeting of the year. The Third Quarter financials were reviewed, as well as various committee meetings and a recap of activities from 2024. The schedule for the remaining month of the year will include local Branches having their Christmas parties and celebrating the New Year. Branch Officers will be elected, if not already. The Board is looking forward to 2025 with our usual events on the schedule, such as the TSBA bowling season and the Children's Bowl Where You Are contest in February and March. Scholarship season starts in January for our high school seniors and our existing college students. May 17<sup>th</sup> will be our Branch Presidents Meeting hosted by Branch 10 in Columbus. Saxon Summer Camp will be the week of June 15<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars for the North American Transylvanian Saxon Heimattag on July 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> in Youngstown. ATS Family Day at Waldameer will be July 26<sup>th</sup>.

Our Culture Groups will have events planned throughout the year. Please support them with your attendance and donations. Make plans to travel to other Branch activities when you see them. Every Branch and Group needs all of our support in the upcoming years. It seems like people just don't want to "go to the Club" anymore like we did in the old days. Everyone always has fun after arriving, but you need to make the effort to get there first! Maybe you can make this your New Year's resolution – be more active in Branch and Saxon Cultural activities!

Did you know that on December 6, 1884, the Washington Monument was finally completed? As early as 1783, the newly formed US Congress decided that a statue of George Washington should be placed near the site of the new Congressional building. They didn't have a location for the Congressional building yet, but the statue would be near it. President Washington had asked the architect Pierre L'Enfant in 1791 to lay out the federal capital on the Potomac River. L'Enfant left a place for the monument at the western end of the sweeping National Mall. However, according to History.com, it was not until 1832 that anyone did anything about the memorial. This was 33 years after Washington's death. That year, a private Washington National Monument Society was formed. They held a design competition and chose an elaborate Greek temple-like design by architect Robert Mills. The Society started a fundraising drive to raise money, including an appeal to the country's schoolchildren. They raised \$230,000, way short of the \$1 million needed. Construction began anyway, on July 4, 1848, as representatives of the society laid the cornerstone of the monument: a 24,500-pound block of pure white marble.

Continued on Page 2

## Schloss Horneck needs OUR help!



Schloss Horneck located in Gundelsheim, Germany is the international location for our Siebenbürger Sachsen to house Sachsen artifacts, books and other historical documents and records. It is important to our worldwide Sachsen community to help in the maintenance expenses of this historical facility that will preserve our Sachsen culture and heritage.

The Federation of Transylvanian Saxons requests donations to help in the funding of the facility. If you are interested in giving a donation, please complete the form below and send to the ATS Home Office, 5323 Pearl Road, Cleveland, OH 44129.

Please make your check payable to the ATS.

### DONATION FOR SCHLOSS HORNECK

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Donated \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if donation is in memory  
or honor of someone

## ATS SAXON RELIEF FUND



We petition our Saxon fraternal community - members, branches, affiliate organizations, and friends to continue to support our Saxon Relief Program.

The need is still great and we ask our members and friends to continue to support our Saxon Relief Fund program with generous contributions.

Please send your contributions to our ATS office, 5323 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44129. Write checks payable to the "ATS SAXON RELIEF FUND". Thank you for your help!



**NOTE:** Gift packages can be ordered for delivery to a specific relative or friend in Transylvania for a minimal cost of **\$50.00**. Send your check payable to the "ATS Saxon Relief Fund" and the **exact name and address** of the recipient to our ATS Office. Please print or type for clarity. The package contents include non-perishable items such as: Coffee, Milk, Cocoa, Sugar, Rice, Flour, Margarine, Soup, Chocolate, Cheese, Sausage, Yeast, etc.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Six years later, with funds running low, construction was halted. Near the time the Civil War began in 1861, author Mark Twain described the unfinished monument as looking like a "hollow, oversized chimney." No further progress was made until 1876 (the year of the American centennial celebration), when President Ulysses S Grant authorized construction to be completed.

Made of over 36,000 blocks of marble and granite stacked 555 feet into the air, the monument was the tallest structure in the world at the time of its completion on December 6, 1884. On that date, workers placed a nine-inch aluminum pyramid inscribed with "Laus Deo", meaning "Praise Be to God", atop the tower.

In the six months following the dedication ceremony, over 10,000 people climbed the nearly 900 steps to the top of the Washington Monument. Today, an elevator makes the trip easier. More than 800,000 people visit the monument each year. A city law was passed in 1910 restricting the height of new buildings to ensure that the monument will remain the tallest structure in Washington DC. The monument is a fitting tribute to the city's namesake, our nation's first president, George Washington, who is known as the "Father of His Country".

Until next time...



**Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons**  
Home Office: 5323 Pearl Rd., Cleveland, Ohio 44129  
Telephone: (440) 842-8442 FAX: 440-842-5442  
E-mail: office@atsaxons.com Website: www.atsaxons.com

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## SECRETARIES TAKE NOTICE:

**THE DEADLINE DATE FOR ARTICLES IS WEDNESDAY - 12 NOON.**

You may either

**E-MAIL: saxonvolksblatt@aol.com**

**POSTAL MAIL:**

**Saxon News Volksblatt**

**29076 Fall River Dr**

**Westlake, OH 44145**

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

### DEADLINE DATES FOR ARTICLES:

DEADLINE

ISSUE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2024

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2024

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2024

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 2025

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2025

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2025

**Please have your articles in by 12 Noon.**

Did you miss the deadline?

Have you emailed your article past 12 Noon?

Please call Hanz Hermann at (440) 525-0020

**BRANCH 33  
Cont'd from Page 1**

(Schneider) Brusk. Both were taken too soon on the eve of All Saints Day and will be deeply missed. Kathie, a former Officer of Branch 33 and ATS Bowler, was hard-working and an inspiration to all. Wife to Don; Mother to Paul (also a bowler), Scott, and Heather; Oma to our Scholarship recipients Payton and Hudson. She was so proud of her family and spoke of them often. And Frank Hum, taken so suddenly; an ATS member since infancy (1950), son of Franz and Sophia Hum; brother of Henry and Georg; father to Brett Lipton; a career Machinist, so proud of his heritage, always cheerful and outgoing. Sent by V.P. Maria Phillips, with Sue Guip leading us in prayer for Kathie and Frank:

*"Into your hands O Lord we humbly entrust our brother and sister. In this life you embraced them with your tender love. Bid them eternal rest. Welcome them into paradise where there will be no sorrow, no weeping or pain, but fullness of peace and joy with your Son and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen".* Our sincerest condolences to their families.

Loss is so hard as the Holiday Season has begun with Thanksgiving and Christmas reminders everywhere. Don't forget to

**Frank Hum (above)  
Kathie Brusk (to right)**



**Frank enjoying Br 33 Banquet with his brothers, Georg (left) and Henry (center).**



**Branch Picnic-time with Cindy Schneider and her Aunt Kathie.**

take some time out of your busy days to enjoy family, friends and festive cheer. To everyone, I hope the Season fills your heart with love, your home with warmth and joy, and your life with laughter and health.

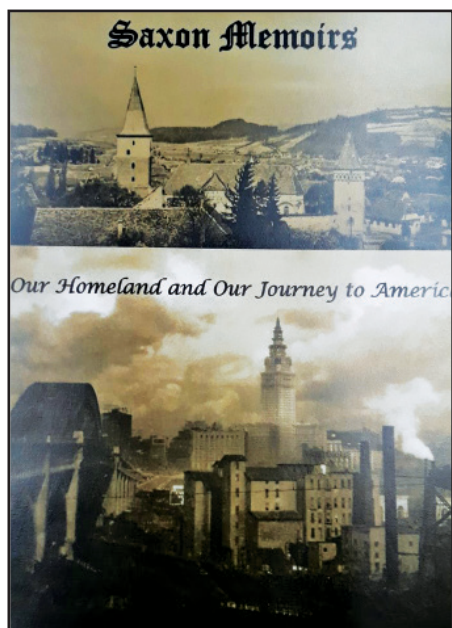


**Rare event:  
Hanukkah and  
Christmas coincide**

Hanukkah and Christmas Day coinciding is a relatively rare occurrence. Hanukkah is based on the lunisolar Hebrew calendar, and varies each year against the western calendar. Christmas, on the other hand, is fixed on December 25th.

Hanukkah starts on the 25th of Kislev in the Hebrew calendar, and this can fall anywhere from late November to late December.

The overlap with Christmas Day happens occasionally, but not frequently. For example, in recent history, Hanukkah started on December 25 in 2005 and 2016. After 2024, the next time Hanukkah will start on Christmas Day is in 2061. So while it does happen, it's not a common occurrence!



**Get your copy of the Saxon Memoirs!**

**Written by your fellow Saxons.  
Copies are \$25 each.  
Send checks payable to  
ATS  
5323 Pearl Road  
Cleveland, OH 44129  
Call the ATS Home Office at  
(440) 842-8442 for more information.**

**Salem Saxon Club  
Christmas Party  
Saturday, December 14  
5:00 p.m.**

Joint Social - Bring covered Dishes  
Meat & cookies provided!

Santa & Mrs. Claus will attend  
Games & Crafts for all ages

Each child will get a gift!

Please RSVP by calling or texting  
Chris Phillis at (330) 853-8834  
with number of children attending!

YOU'RE INVITED  
TO THE ANNUAL  
TRANSYLVANIAN SAXON SOCIETY  
BRANCH 9

**Christmas Party**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15th, 2024  
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
DONAUSCHWABEN HALL  
625 SEEGER RD, DES PLAINES, IL 60016

BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS  
THERE WILL BE LOTS OF FOOD  
CHRISTMAS CAROLS  
GIFTS FOR THE CHILDREN...  
AND OF COURSE, A VISIT FROM  
GOOD OLD ST. NICK!

There is NO admission  
Dinner will be provided at a cost of \$15.00 per adult  
\$10.00 for children ages 12 and under.  
Contact Rose Hauer at (847-685-9821) for reservations no later than December 7<sup>th</sup>.  
Baked goods and raffle prizes would be appreciated.

In the spirit of the giving season, please bring a donation of canned goods and/or dried food products.

*Happy Holiday*

**Keep your memories alive with this  
Wendell August  
ornament**

**\$20**

**"A Brief History of the Transylvanian Saxons" booklet**

**\$1**

Pre-paid orders for a single ornament can be mailed in the continental United States for an additional minimum of \$6.00. Postage will vary for multiple ornament purchases. Contact Judy Both at 724-654-0573 or [both1512@comcast.net](mailto:both1512@comcast.net)

# FRATERNAL CALENDAR

## NATIONAL EVENTS

December 8, 2024

TSBA Bowling Session Host: Cleveland West

January 26, 2025

TSBA Bowling Session Host: Lorain

February 16, 2025

TSBA Bowling Session Host: New Castle

March 2, 2025

TSBA Bowling Session Host: Youngstown

April 5 & 6, 2025

TSBA Season-end Tournament Host: Lorain

May 17, 2025

Branch Presidents Meeting

Host: Columbus Saxons, Br. 10

July 11 - 13, 2025

North American Saxon Heimattag

Host: Youngstown Saxon Club

October 18 - 19, 2025

ATS Open Bowling Tournament

Host: Merrillville, IN

## LOCAL EVENTS

December 8, 2024

Columbus Br. 10 Christmas Party

Berwick Party House

New Castle Br. 27 Christmas Party

Hunters Woods Clubhouse

December 14, 2024

Cleveland West Children's Christmas Party

Cleveland Sachsenheim/GCM Krampus Fest

Salem Saxon Club Christmas Party 5:00 p.m.

December 15, 2024

Chicago Br. 9 Saxon Christmas Party

Cleveland East Br. 33 Christmas Party

January 19, 2025

Youngstown Saxon Club Pork and Kraut Dinner

February 16, 2025

Youngstown Saxon Club Pork and Kraut Dinner

March 16, 2025

Youngstown Saxon Club Pork and Kraut Dinner

It's never too early to start  
saving for your retirement years



Alliance of  
Transylvanian Saxons

ASK YOUR DEPUTY HOW A CERTIFICATE OF  
MEMBERSHIP IN THE ATS CAN HELP YOU TO SAVE!

## Cleveland Dance Group Merchandise – Order Form



Sweatshirt – Red - Adult - (SM; MED; LRG; XL; 2XL, 3XL) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35 = \_\_\_\_\_

Sweatshirt – Red – Youth - (SM, MED, LRG) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35 = \_\_\_\_\_

Sweatshirt – Blue – Adult - (SM; MED; LRG; XL; 2XL, 3XL) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35 = \_\_\_\_\_

Sweatshirt – Blue – Youth - (SM, MED, LRG) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35 = \_\_\_\_\_



T-Shirt – Red - Adult - (SM; MED; LRG; XL; 2XL, 3XL) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15 = \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt – Red – Youth - (SM, MED, LRG) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15 = \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt – Blue – Adult - (SM; MED; LRG; XL; 2XL, 3XL) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15 = \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt – Blue – Youth - (SM, MED, LRG) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15 = \_\_\_\_\_



¼ Zip – Red – Men's - (SM; MED; LRG; XL; 2XL, 3XL) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35 = \_\_\_\_\_

¼ Zip – Red – Woman's- (SM; MED; LRG; XL; 2XL, 3XL) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35 = \_\_\_\_\_

¼ Zip – Blue – Men's- (SM; MED; LRG; XL; 2XL, 3XL) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35 = \_\_\_\_\_

¼ Zip – Blue – Woman's - (SM; MED; LRG; XL; 2XL, 3XL) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35 = \_\_\_\_\_



Polo – Red – Men's - (SM; MED; LRG; XL; 2XL, 3XL) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25 = \_\_\_\_\_

Polo – Red – Woman's- (SM; MED; LRG; XL; 2XL, 3XL) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25 = \_\_\_\_\_

Polo – Blue – Men's- (SM; MED; LRG; XL; 2XL, 3XL) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25 = \_\_\_\_\_

Polo – Blue – Woman's- (SM; MED; LRG; XL; 2XL, 3XL) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25 = \_\_\_\_\_



Hat – White with Black Logo \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20 = \_\_\_\_\_

Hat – Blue with White Logo \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20 = \_\_\_\_\_

Total Due - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Items will be available for pre-sale until December 27<sup>th</sup>.  
Pick up Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at Sachsenheim from 6 - 9 p.m.

Send completed order forms with check made payable to Cleveland Saxon Dance Group to:  
Cleveland Saxon Dance Group c/o Amanda Donnellan 9578 W 130<sup>th</sup> Strongsville, OH 44136.

Questions or shipping options, contact Amanda Donnellan at [adonnellan5@yahoo.com](mailto:adonnellan5@yahoo.com) or 216-235-5240.



To view additional styles / colors or order online scan here.

## Stollens make Christmas special



Commonly known throughout the world as a Christmas Stollen, this tasty dessert bread is laced with candied fruits and nuts.

It was first baked in Germany and Austria in the 1400s, but at the time people used up their meat and meat by-products, such as butter and milk, before the fasting period of Advent. Because of this, the Stollens of the era were fairly tasteless.

In 1650, bakers in Dresden appealed to Prince Ernst von Sachsen, who

successfully petitioned Pope Urban VIII to allow the use of butter before Christmas, creating a rich taste and a lasting baking tradition in seasonal Stollens.

### Christmas Stollen

- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 3/4 cup butter
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 eggs
- 2 egg yolks
- 5 2/3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 ounce active dry yeast
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon allspice
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 1/2 cup candied citrus peel
- 1/2 cup almond slivers
- 1/2 cup confectioner's sugar.

### Directions

Scald milk. Add granulated sugar, butter and salt. Cool to lukewarm. Add 2 whole eggs, and 2 yolks. Mix.

Add to 3 cups flour and yeast in food processor. Process and let rise until double.

Add spices, raisins, citron, almonds, and rest of flour. Process and put on floured board and knead. Let the dough rise in greased bowl.

When risen, cut into 3-4 pieces. Roll each into an oval, butter, and fold in half lengthwise. Put on greased baking sheet, cover, and let rise until double.

Bake at 375 degrees for 25 minutes. Remove to rack. When cool, dust with confectioner's (powdered) sugar.

As an option, the dough may be cut in half and a mixture of marzipan or other filling inserted before baking.

**BRANCH 10, COLUMBUS**  
By Donald Blum

**MONTHLY MEETING**

HICKORY HOUSE  
550 Officenter Place  
Gahanna, Ohio 43230  
**January 20, 2025**

Time 12:00 noon

Our meetings are the Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Monday of the month.

**Remember to bring a canned good item, household product or other food item.**

“The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.”

**CELEBRATIONS**

We wish Marlene Betts (December 25). Alles Gute zum Geburtstag!

**TRANSYLVANIA TRIP**

Our next stop on our Transylvanian journey was Schässburg (Sighisoara). There are several attractions in Schässburg including the Clock Tower and the infamous birthplace of Count Vlad (more commonly known as Vlad the Impaler or Count Dracula). Everyone is familiar with Bram Stoker’s version of Count Dracula. His version was a fictional character that was derived from Count Vlad the Impaler and his military brutal treatment of his enemies. In an effort to frighten his enemies Count Vlad would take his captive enemies and impale them alive on huge, tall pointed poles for display and to warn enemies of what they could expect if captured. Depending on his intent some of the impaled captives would die a quick death of a couple of hours or could take as long as a couple of weeks for these prisoners to succumb to death. This blood thirsty torturous death would serve as the premise of the character of the Count Dracula character of someone that would seek out the blood of his victims.

The Clock Tower is the main entry point to the citadel. It is an imposing structure at 64 meters tall. It is visible from almost every corner of the city. Its main purpose was to defend the main gate of the citadel and served as the town hall until 1556. It is considered one of the most expressive clock towers in all of Transylvania. An interesting building at the center of the city square is a building that has the head and antlers of a buck protruding from the corner of the building. Rumor has it that this was the prime location in the city square. There was a contest held and the person that snags the buck with the largest rack/antlers would be able to own that sight. The

person claiming the largest rack would be able to establish residence in this prime location. The rumor is that the person that claimed victory turned out to be a master woodworker. The antlers size that won turned out to be a configuration that the master woodworker actually made, not an actual rack from a buck. A little trickery earned him a prime real estate site, something that would make prime real estate moguls proud even today.

The real treat for us was the residence where supposedly Count Dracula was born. We actually had our dinner served in the room where it is rumored that Count Dracula was born. It was only fitting that libation that was served at dinner were Bloody Marys.

In order to get to the town square and the site of Count Dracula’s birthplace, we would be transported from the hotel in a novel train transport.

As we traveled through Transylvanian learning about the history of the places we visited, it made me proud to be a Saxon and see where my family began and how they lived. It was totally interesting to talk to the Mayor of Botsch and have him say he remembered my family’s names (even though they had left the town years ago), him saying I remember the names of Sollner, Fleischer, Boehm, and many others. It was like taking a step back in time and being there at the houses, church and town square where my parents, grand-parents and great-grandparents had lived their lives. Suddenly, it was personal, not just a tour or trip. That is what makes passing our heritage along to other Saxons gratifying.

We look forward to our next stop on our Transylvanian trip in the next Volksblatt. Also, we may have pictures from our Christmas party.

**HUMOR**

**Heaven Joke ----**

After dying in a car crash, three friends go to Heaven for an orientation session. They are all asked the same question: “When you are in your casket and family and friends are mourning over you, what would you like to hear them say about you?”

The first guy responds: “I would like to hear them say that I was one of the greatest doctors of my time and a great family man”.

The second guy says: “I would like to hear that I was a wonderful husband and a school teacher who made a

**SALEM SAXON RETIREES**  
By Norma C. Byers

Salem Saxon Retirees met on November 6, 2024 at the club with 17 present. Our dear president, Lois Whitacre has a dog and I understand during the night it wanted to go out, so she did but had trouble getting it back in again and it was dark and difficult to find, so she went after it, she fell and broke her arm! We really miss her, so our Vice President (Dora Lee Sandoe) took over, and brought our group to order so Tony could give the invocation and we all said the Pledge of Allegiance.

A delicious lunch was served.

I’m writing this on November 6th, one day after voting, so they announced on TV, we have a new President, Donald Trump. So now I hope everyone will settle down.

Oh, by the way it’s Tony’s birthday, so we sang Happy Birthday to him.

We then all said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Helen Aeling gave us her “Humor by Helen.” Thanks Helen!!

Secretary, Dianne and Katie both gave their reports, and Dora Lee conducted the 50-50 drawing. We stood and said The Lord’s Prayer.

Then here comes Tony with BINGO!

Next meeting and last meeting until March (2025). Please, all of you come on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

Stay well, eat healthy, live, laugh, love and we’ll see you next month.

Hope you enjoyed Thanksgiving, didn’t eat TOO much Turkey!!

TOODLE-OO.

**YOUNGSTOWN SAXON RETIREES**  
By Ro Dundon

Our November Meeting was held on the 14th. It was at Amen’s Restaurant in Girard Ohio.

We welcomed Dan Merkle and Reni to our group—so glad to have them attend.

Belated birthdays go out to Bev Meyers, Eileen Ring and Ro. Many, many more birthdays to all of you.

Sorry to say Bev is house bound for now. Get well, we miss you. Good to see both Kay and Eileen back at the meeting. We missed you both.

The Culture Group’s festivities were a success. They had a great turnout and everyone had a great time.

Remember the Branch Meeting on December 8th. The Branch Christmas Party follows the meeting.

Our next Retiree’s meeting is the Christmas Luncheon. It will be at Ruby Tuesdays in Austintown on December 12 at 11:30 a.m.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are looking forward to the coming holidays. Stay safe and healthy and bundled up. The winter weather is coming.

Until we meet again....As usual it’s RO

huge difference in the children of tomorrow”.

The third guy thinks for a while and then replies: “I guess I’d like to hear them say ‘Look - he’s moving.’”

**CHURCHES**



**St. Peter’s German and Saxon Lutheran Church**

11423 Chicago Rd.  
Warren, Michigan 48093  
(586) 979-3850  
stpeters\_church@sbcglobal.net  
www.stpeterswarren.org

**10:00 Service**

**Nursery**

**Coffee following service**

**Senior Circle**

*Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love! – Hamilton Wright Mabie*

**Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons Sales Deputies**

**Alliance, OH**

Helen Aeling  
(330) 862-2563  
Denise Crawford  
(330) 257-0267

**Canton, OH**

Helen Aeling  
(330) 862-2563

**Chicago, IL**

Randall Floyd  
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## SCHÄSSBURG FROM A COLUMBUS POINT OF VIEW



## It's a Wonderful Life: The unlikely story of a Christmas classic

Author and editor Philip Van Doren Stern came up with the idea one morning in 1938 while shaving. An eccentric stranger appears out of nowhere to save a despairing man from suicide on Christmas Eve and help him understand how much others love and value him.

Stern sporadically worked on the story for years, but didn't show it to his agent until 1943. Unfortunately, the story didn't sell, but Stern still liked it so much that he paid to have 200 copies printed as a pamphlet called *The Greatest Gift: A Christmas Tale*. Most of the pamphlets went to friends and family as a holiday card, but Stern wisely sent two to the U.S. Copyright Office at the Library of Congress.

The following year, RKO Radio Pictures stumbled upon the pamphlet and purchased the film rights for \$10,000, and two magazines and a book had reproduced the short story for larger audiences to read by 1945. But despite its newfound commercial appeal, RKO shelved its own version of the film and re-sold the rights to Liberty Films, Frank Capra's newly-formed production company. Capra helped write a new script, cast Jimmy Stewart as the lead, and *It's a Wonderful Life* finally hit the silver screen on Dec. 20, 1946.

Just over two hours long, the film follows the humble and hard-working George Bailey's life and the mysterious angel Clarence Odbody as he tries to earn his wings. When a crisis hits and George wishes that he had never been born, Clarence grants his wish, and George realizes that his

modest life in Bedford Falls matters more than he ever imagined. At the conclusion of the film, George's many friends arrive to support him in his time of need and a bell rings to signify that Clarence finally earned his wings.

Critics had mixed opinions about the film, with some scorning the sentimental tone and setting while others appreciated the warmth and humor. *It's a Wonderful Life* was nominated for five Academy Awards, but collected no trophies and ultimately lost money. Over the following decades, ownership rights continually changed hands, and the copyright lapsed in 1974 after National Telefilm Associates neglected to renew it. Without costly royalties to pay, television broadcasters aired the film repeatedly during each holiday season, transforming it from a moribund flop into a nostalgia-laden holiday classic.

*It's a Wonderful Life* still has its critics. They call it sappy, overly long, smug, and simplistic. But as the late Roger Ebert noted, "Even the corniest scenes in the movie -- those galaxies that wink while the heavens consult on George's fate -- work because they are so disarmingly simple."

That celebration of the simple and honest and humble might well be the engine that powers the whole movie, and the thing that chokes millions of people up during each annual viewing. Life can be challenging, and *It's a Wonderful Life* reliably reminds us that even during our darkest times, no man is a failure who has friends.

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2024

1:00 p.m.

Westside Sachsenheim  
7001 Denison Avenue, Cleveland OH

Santa is planning to visit the Westside Sachsenheim on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> and you, along with the other girls and boys from Branches 1 and 4 and 33 are invited to join him.

The party will begin at 1:00 p.m. with the making of a craft, followed by performances by our Junior Members, and Major Scales Winter Special will entertain us with comedy juggling and more. Following entertainment SANTA CLAUS will arrive with holiday wishes (and gifts for all of the good boys and girls).

After visiting Santa, a light meal will be served to all.

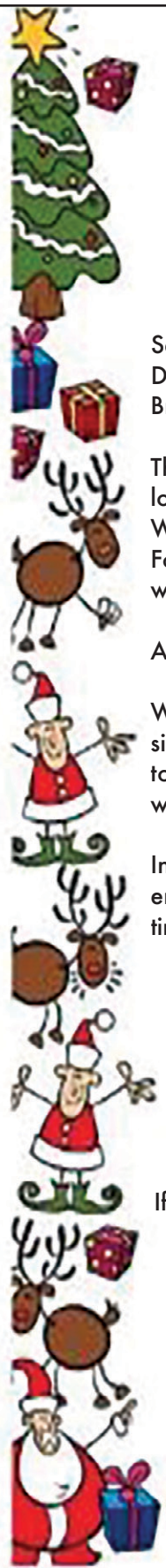
We invite you to participate in the program by reciting a poem, singing a song, playing a musical instrument, etc. If you would like to be included in the program, please let Joan Miller-Malue know when you make your reservation.

In order to be sure that Santa has a gift for all the children, reservations must be made before December 5<sup>th</sup> (Santa's elves need time to prepare the gifts).

Make your reservations early by texting or calling.  
Joan Miler-Malue at (216) 233-8631

If you reach the answering machine please leave your name and telephone number - Joan will call you back, she will need to know the name and age of each child OR:  
You can e-mail Joan at miller-malue@cox.net  
If e-mailing Joan be sure to list the name and ages of each child

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: DECEMBER 5<sup>th</sup>  
ATS Junior Members: Can or box of non-perishable food  
Adults: \$ 5.00  
Non-Member Children:  
\$20 plus a can or box of non-perishable food  
Note: The boxes and cans of nonperishable food will be donated to a local Food Bank



### American Christmas: A blend of customs

For more than a thousand years, we have evidence that Christmas has been a time of joy and celebration, but just what kind of celebration depends on time and place.

Not surprisingly, North American Christmas traditions are a blend of customs.

In England during the 1700s, Christmas was a time for parties, fox hunts, balls, and merry-making -- all the province of adults with no wide-eyed children in sight.

Meanwhile, in colonial Williamsburg, as you might expect, Christmas was treated very much as a religious holiday, centered first around church services, and then around friends, family -- and, of course, food. In these celebrations, children were almost certainly included and encouraged to participate, setting American colonists apart from their British contemporaries.

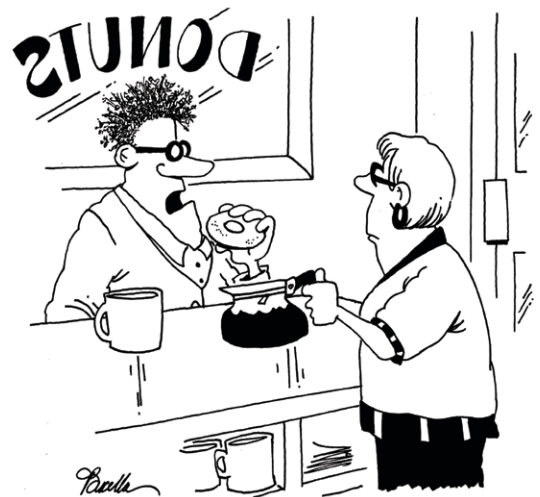
The tradition of the Christmas tree seems correctly attributed to Germans. More than 1,500 years ago, a monk who became known as St. Boniface used a fir tree to explain the Trinity to his German audience. By

the 12th century, the tree was commonly hung upside down from ceilings at Christmastide.

Although there exist reports of decorated trees in England and Germany in the 15th century, the custom of a Christmas tree didn't really catch on in England until 1848. At that time, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert of the United Kingdom were pictured in the Illustrated London News standing with family around a decorated tree. Suddenly, the Christmas tree was all the fashion.

While Americans are often accused of over-lavish Christmases, Victorian celebrations of the 1890s were really over the top: Heaps of toys, food, and trees crammed with every kind of decoration.

By contrast, on the vast American continent, traditions varied, but by 1900, all the elements of the modern Christmas were in place. Woolworths sold decorations and even little hooks to hang them on. Strings of lights were available. And people had fully embraced the tradition of giving gifts to loved ones.



I got it last Christmas. You know, most people aren't aware Chia Pet makes a hair replacement system."

### Christmas Blessing

A four-year-old boy was asked to give the meal blessing before Christmas dinner. The family members bowed their heads in expectation. He began his prayer, thanking God for all his friends, naming them one by one. Then he thanked God for Mommy, Daddy, brother, sister, Grandma, Grandpa, and all his aunts and uncles. Then he began to thank God for the food. He gave thanks for the turkey, the dressing, the fruit salad, the cranberry sauce, the pies, the cakes, even the whipped cream.

Then he paused, and everyone waited and waited. After a long silence, the young fellow looked up at his mother and asked, "If I thank God for the broccoli, won't he know that I'm lying?"

## KRAMPUS NIGHT AT THE SACHSENHEIM!

Saturday, December 14th, 2024 at 6:00 pm  
7001 Denison Ave, Cleveland, Ohio 44102  
Tickets \$15.00 @ [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)  
\$20.00 Cash Day of Show



## **Santa knows that starting your children and grandchildren on a secure financial future is the best gift of all.**

Most of us spend a lot of time trying to choose the perfect gift for our children and grandchildren during the Christmas season. The ATS can help make gift giving easy this year. Purchase an ATS Life Insurance policy or start an ATS Annuity for them!

When you purchase an ATS Life Insurance policy for that child or grandchild, they are already ahead of the game when they grow into adulthood. The older you are when you purchase life insurance, the higher the premiums. Also, it's possible that future health issues could make it harder for that person to secure life insurance. Knowing that they already have that financial burden checked off their list helps them to provide for their future family's financial security.

You're never too young to start investing in your future retirement. Opening an ATS Annuity when you're young just gives the account that many more years to grow. Our ATS Annuity accounts have no fees, so all earnings stay in the account and continue growing. If you were to start an ATS Annuity with \$300 and deposited \$25 a month for the next 60 years, you could have over \$76,000 saved for retirement (assuming the interest rate never changes). That's a pretty good bundle for just the minimum amounts deposited!

**Give your family a good head start in life with an ATS Life Insurance policy or Annuity!**

