

THE SAXON NEWS

Volksblatt

Celebrating over 100 years of Saxon Fraternalism

Published by
The Alliance
of Transylvanian Saxons
Home Office: 5323 Pearl Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44129-1503
Tel: (440) 842-8442

ATS Founded in 1902

December 20, 2024

Issue 26



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Denise Aeling Crawford
ATS Nat'l President



I hope everyone is enjoying the holiday season. It's hard to believe that the year 2024 is almost over. I'm not sure where the time went. I swear, I was just traveling around Transylvania a month or two ago! The Home Office Staff, the ATS Board of Directors, and myself want to wish each and every one of you a wonderful Christmas, and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

I had the pleasure of attending the Youngstown Saxon Club's Christmas party on Sunday, December 8th. Prior to the celebration, I attended Branch 30's monthly meeting and installed their Officers for the upcoming year 2025. Thank you for the invitation. It was a beautiful day.

With the beginning of the new year, the ATS scholarship season will begin. The next issue of the Volksblatt will have scholarship information included. Make sure to tell your college-age children and grandchildren to be on the lookout for the information.

Did you know that the first known Christmas card was sent in 1611? According to Wikipedia, the card was sent by Michael Maier to James I of England and his son, Henry Frederick, Prince of Wales. The card was discovered in 1979 in the Scottish Record Office. The card was hand-made and incorporated Rosicrucian imagery. (Rosicrucian was an early 17th century spiritual movement and usually symbolized by the Rose Cross or Rosy Cross.) The card included the words "A greeting on the birthday of the Sacred King, to the most worshipful and energetic lord and most eminent James, King of Great Britain and Ireland, and Defender of the true faith, with a gesture of joyful celebration of the Birthday of the Lord, in most joy and fortune, we enter in the new auspicious year 1612". The words were laid out to form a rose.

The first commercially available Christmas card was commissioned by Sir Henry Cole and designed by John Callcott Horsley in London in 1843. Cole was a very popular, but busy, man. Christmas and New Year's letters were popular in England at that time. He was having a hard time keeping up with the correspondence and it was considered rude not to answer mail. He came up with an idea. Horsley designed Cole's idea as an illustration showing a family at the table celebrating the holiday, flanked by images of people helping the poor. He had a thousand copies made by a London printer. At the top of each was the salutation "To: _____," allowing Cole to personalize his responses. Each card had the generic greeting "A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year To You". Along that timeframe, the "Penny Post" was developed in England. The Post Office was able to offer a Penny stamp for mail delivery, as new railways

Continued on Page 3

TIME FOR AN UPDATE?



If your family benefit status has changed during the last year please let us know:

ATS HOME OFFICE
(440) 842-8442
office@atsaxons.com

BRANCH 9, CHICAGO

By Rose-Marie Hauer

The meeting was held on December 2, with great attendance! President Thut brought the meeting to order and lit a candle and called for a moment of silence for all our past members including Sister Rosemarie Morgen. It was also brought to our attention that Brother Martin Linz passed away in Germany recently.

Thank you to all the members that attended the play "White Christmas" at the Marriot Theater and attended dinner. We all had a great time.

Sister Schmidt reported we have no one on the sick list.

By now you should have received an invitation for the Christmas Party on December 15. Please contact Rose Hauer (847) 685-9821 to make your lunch reservation. The party will go from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Donauschwaben clubhouse. There will be lots to do and I hear Santa may appear. Please bring a raffle prize and a bakery item if possible. Admission is free.

Elections were held and President Thut and the entire officers reaccepted their positions so we are good for 2025.

Hope to see you all at the Christmas Party!!!!!!!!!!!!

TIMELY - DO NOT DELAY
MAILED WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2024

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

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.



More deadly heart attacks occur on Christmas and New Year's Day

Strange, but evidently true: Deadly heart attacks spike during the holidays.

According to a study published in *Circulation*, the journal of the American Heart Association, more cardiac deaths occur in the U.S. on December 25 than on any other day of the year, followed by December 26 and January 1.

But it is not just the U.S. One medical journal study found a 15 percent overall increase in heart attacks in Sweden during the winter holidays. Heart attacks spiked 37 percent on December 24 (Christmas Eve), most often affecting people over 75 and those with diabetes or previous cardiovascular disease.

And here is another ominous fact: More serious heart attacks occur on Mondays than any other day, according to the British Cardiovascular Society. This year Christmas Day (December 25) falls on a Monday.

So, why is this so? Doctors and researchers have their suspicions.

- People are busy. They ignore heart attack symptoms. Who wants to interrupt the party?

- People are traveling and may forget to take their medications.

- They are eating a lot of fatty, sweet foods. And this different diet may cause blood pressure to rise and heart rates to increase. Alcohol is probably also a factor.



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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 25, 2024

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 2025

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2025

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2025

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2025

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 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 30, YOUNGSTOWN
By Rosemarie Kascher

Upcoming Events:

- Wednesdays Dinner and Drawings
- Thursdays Bar Bingo, Queen of Hearts
- Fridays Fish Night, open to the public
- Sundays Breakfast and 2 p.m. meetings,
2nd Sundays
- January 6 Officers meeting
- January 12 Branch meeting
- January 19 Pork/Kraut Dinner
- February 22 Children's and Adults (Family) Bowling
- March 29 Goulash Dinner
- July 10,11 Heimattag
- Closure dates: December 24 Christmas Eve
December 25 Christmas Day
December 31 New Year's Eve
January 1 New Year's Day

There is a possibility of a Game Night on Tuesday; we'll keep you posted. Children under eighteen years of age will not be admitted.

Thanks for the Children's Christmas Party where all parents and grandparent are encouraged to attend and enjoy,

Thank you Rosemarie Zarnary and Julaine Gilmartin for a great Christmas Party with all the trimmings. It was an honor to have our ATS President, Denise Crawford, there. We thank her so much for installing the new officers for next year. We are truly fortunate to have such outstanding

ATS Officers as Denise, as our leaders.

There are raffle tickets now to support the Scholarship Fund available in the Bar Room.

Your fee for membership is due for the next year now; \$35.00 per person ladies and gentlemen alike for this small amount to retain your membership. Please do not wait to have a card sent to you as a reminder. Make your checks out, please, to: The Youngstown Saxon Club c/o Val Thomas, 5747 Tippecanoe Rd. Youngstown, OH 44406 or to the office. Thank you.



Branch 30 Youngstown 2025 Officers

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Cont'd from Page 1

were being built and helped with the delivery of the mail. Cards became very popular because they could be posted in an unsealed envelope for one halfpenny – half the price of an ordinary letter.

The first Christmas cards usually had pictures of the Nativity scene on them. In late Victorian times, birds (robins) and snow-scenes became popular. Christmas cards appeared in the United States in the late 1840s but were extremely expensive and most people could not afford them. In 1875, Louis Prang, a printer originally from Germany who worked on Christmas cards in the UK, started mass producing cards at his print shop near Boston so more people could afford them. His first cards featured flowers, plants, and children, rather than a Christmas or holiday image. The card

read "Merry Christmas". Appreciation of the quality and artistry of the cards grew in the late 1800s, spurred in part by competitions organized by card publishers with cash prizes offered for the best designs. People soon collected Christmas cards like they would coins, and the new crop each season were reviewed in newspapers, like books and movies today.

The modern Christmas card industry began in 1915, when a Kansas City based fledgling postcard printing company started by teenager JC Hall published its first holiday card. JC was later joined by his two brothers. The Hall Brothers company adapted a new format for their cards – 4 inches wide, 6 inches high, folded once, and inserted in an envelope. This new format allowed people to write more than they could on a

postcard without having to write a whole letter. This new "book" format began with colorful cards with red-suited Santas and brilliant stars of Bethlehem, as well as cheerful clichéd messages. Card companies reached out for new ideas, and started commissioning famous artists to design new ones. Salvador Dali, Grandma Moses and Norman Rockwell were just a few who designed cards. The name of the Hall Brothers company was changed to Hallmark in 1928.

For some, sending Christmas cards in the mail is a lost tradition. Digital or social media greetings have taken the place of traditional Christmas cards, with approximately 500 million sent yearly. However, over two billion cards are still sent in the US each year. Merry Christmas everyone!

Until next time...

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 27th.
Pick up Friday, January 24th 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 130th Strongsville, OH 44136.

Questions or shipping options, contact Amanda Donnellan at adonnellan5@yahoo.com or 216-235-5240.

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



FRATERNAL CALENDAR

NATIONAL EVENTS

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

January 19, 2025

Youngstown Saxon Club Pork and Kraut Dinner

February 16, 2025

Youngstown Saxon Club Pork and Kraut Dinner

February 22, 2025

Youngstown Br. 30 Family Bowling

March 16, 2025

Youngstown Saxon Club Pork and Kraut Dinner

March 29, 2025

Youngstown Br. 30 Goulash Dinner



Alliance of
Transylvanian Saxons

Super easy (and cheap) ways to decorate

Gone are the days when we had the time, energy, and money to deck the halls for the kids and family.

Yet, a little festive decor does tend to brighten a winter evening.

Here are some super easy and very cheap ways to usher in the season.

- Cranberry floaters. Get out a pretty clear glass or vase. Maybe put a sprig of real or plastic evergreen in the bottom and fill with water. On the top, load it up with Christmasy red cranberries. It will last for weeks.

- Christmas candy. Get some old fashioned hard Christmas candy for your table and pour it into a pretty dish. Try a covered dish if your feline friend scouts around the table!

- Super cheap LED lights. You can buy a string of multi-colored LED lights for under a buck at aliex-



press.com. That's right -- about 99 cents. Use some tape to attach them to a window frame or anywhere you want. They are powered by USB, generally the same cable that powers a phone.

- Set a pretty table with nice placemats, pretty dishes, and candles. Leave it out the whole month and then use it on Christmas with a special dinner.

- Put a Christmas wreath on the inside of your door!

- Get a pre-lit tabletop tree. Just a foot or so tall, they use very little electricity, but deliver the right festive mood.

BRANCH 5, LORAIN By Michael Johnson

The First Transylvanian Saxon Sick Benefit Society of Lorain Ohio; Branch 5 of The Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons for 2024 is just about over. It's hard to believe that this branch which formed 120 years ago in July of 1903 is still together. While reading this article, take a moment to reflect on the people and the history of this organization and how it has been a part of your life. Then take a moment to either write an email and send it to me at mikjo79@gmail.com or a letter addressed to Michael Johnson, 2151 Lakeland Ave, Lakewood OH. 44107 so I can share that with the readers of this publication. May we continue to press forward with hope for the future upholding the values and traditions passed down so long ago.

We met on November 18 for our final meeting of 2024 to wrap up business for the year so we could begin again in January with a clean slate. The evening concluded with election of officers for 2025 by a unanimous vote of present members to have those in office maintain their current positions for another year. All officers agreed to maintain their positions at the current salaries set in the constitution. The officers again are: Monica Gilles - President, Jane Mowery - Vice President, Ginger Romes - Treasurer, Brian Gilles - Recording Secretary, Michael Johnson - Financial and Dues Secretary, Sergeant at Arms - Arlene Gilles, Trustees - Barbara Gilles, Jeanne Petty, and Brian Gilles.

A unanimous vote to again give an annual donation for the holidays to The Mary Lee Tucker Clothe-A-Child, Saxon Relief Fund, the Saxon artifact museum Schloss Horneck; located in Gundelsheim, Germany, and two new donations to the Friendship APL of Elyria and the Riveon Mental Health and Recovery Center were approved.

On the evening of December 7th, members enjoyed a festive Christmas dinner at Diso's Bistro at All Nations in Lorain. On behalf of those who could attend, I would like to thank Sister Jeanne Petty for her time that went into arranging with the staff, all of the reservations for the

delicious meal combinations that were served. It was a most pleasant evening which I believe left all of us with that full holiday feeling.

At the time of this writing, there is no member receiving sick benefits or reporting any illnesses. We hope to start the new year with everyone healthy and in good spirits.

Our next and first meeting of 2025 will again be held at the American Slovak Club 2915 Broadway Ave. Lorain, Ohio on the 3rd Monday of the month of January the 16th, 2025 starting at 7:00 p.m. If you are a dues paying member, please come prepared to pay your dues

(which would be the same annual amount you paid last year) by either cash or check payable to: **ATS Branch 5, Lorain, OH**. If you are not going to be attending, you can submit your dues by mail. Please make your check payable to: **ATS Branch 5, Lorain, OH** and mail your check to: *Michael W. Johnson, 2151 Lakeland Ave., Lakewood, OH 44107.*

Happy Birthday to those members celebrating birthdays this month of December; Sisters Arlene Jones, Nancy Kranstuber, Brother Daniel Paghi, and Junior member Kyle Smith. Hope your day will be a special one!

Until next time, may everyone have a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!


Branch 5 Christmas Dinner





**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



**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.**

Robert Teutsch
Age 86
Died: November 20, 2024
Branch 1 Cleveland West

Darlene Reed
Age 77
Died: November 27, 2024
Branch 18 Salem, OH

George Breckner
Age 92
Died: December 4, 2024
Branch 37 Detroit, MI



*Our hearts grow tender
with childhood memories
and love of kindred, and
we are better throughout
the year for having, in spir-
it, become a child again at
Christmas time.*

Laura Ingalls Wilder

*Happy, happy Christmas,
that can win us back to
the delusions of our child-
ish days; that can recall to
the old the pleasures of his
youth; that can transport
the sailor and the traveler,
thousands of miles away,
back to his own fireside
and his quiet home.*

Charles Dickens in 1836

**Radu Nebert new chairman
of the Transylvanian Forum**

Martin Bottesch, who has held the office of chairman of the Transylvanian Forum since 2013, did not stand for re-election at the representative meeting of the Democratic Forum of Germans in Transylvania (DFDS). Radu Nebert was elected as the new chairman and Andrea Rost as deputy chairman on 16 November in Sibiu. Winfried Ziegler, Managing Director of the Transylvanian Forum, and the new chairman Radu Nebert thanked Martin Bottesch for the many years of cooperation.

“As a new board of the Transylvanian Forum is elected today and I am saying goodbye after eleven years in which I held the chairmanship, I would like to thank everyone for the friendly cooperation. We are united by the awareness that it is worthwhile to stand up for the German community in Romania, that the preservation of language and culture means at the same time the preservation of our identity. We are happy to work for this. I am retiring from the leadership because it is time for younger people to take responsibility, but I will remain committed to the work and goals of the forum,” says Martin Bottesch.

In the political review of the agenda, the problem was pointed out that many members of the German minority believe that the minority automatically has a member of parliament: The Romanian Chamber of Deputies allocates 330 seats according to proportional representation. Minorities must also reach a certain number of votes to have a member of parliament. It is therefore important to go to the polls so that the MP of the German minority gets a strong mandate. Of the three upcoming elections, the parliamentary election on December 1 is the most important for the German minority, Bottesch stressed. The Forum is running with


a list headed by former MP Ovidiu Ganț. In the four-hour meeting in the Hall of Mirrors of the Sibiu Forum headquarters, the budget for 2025 was also discussed. The chairman and the representatives of the commissions presented their reports: Christiane Neubert (Fogarasch) reported on the work of the cultural commission, Stefan Gorczyca (Sighisoara) from the economic commission, Ilse Philippi (Sibiu) from the social commission and Verona Onofrei (Mühlbach) from the school commission. A debriefing on the Great Saxony Meeting 2024 was also on the agenda. Thomas Şindilariu, Undersecretary of State at the Department of Interethnic Relations (DRI), reported on his work. The membership fee, which is forwarded to the Transylvanian Forum and the National Forum via the local forums, has been set at 10 lei per year.

The assembly elected the heads of the four commissions: While Christiane Neubert (Culture), Stefan Gorczyca (Economics) and Verona Onofrei (Schools) applied again and were elected, Ilse Philippi did not stand for re-election after a longer term of office. Elisabeth Köber (Neppendorf) is now responsible for the chairmanship of the social commission.

Aurelia Brecht (ADZ)
SBZ Online
December 1, 2024



Generation change: The newly elected chairman Radu Nebert, the long-time chairman Martin Bottesch and the newly elected deputy chairman Andrea-Bettina Rost. Undersecretary of State Thomas Sindilariu (from left to right) is happy with them. Photo: Beatrice Ungar.



Liebe Freunde aus der Föderation,

am 16. November fanden Neuwahlen beim Siebenbürgenforum statt. Dabei wurde Radu Nebert, bisheriger stellvertretender Vorsitzender, zum neuen Vorsitzenden gewählt.

Lieber Radu,
zu Deiner Wahl darf ich Dir im Namen der Föderation der Siebenbürger Sachsen herzlich gratulieren. Ich freue mich auf eine gute Zusammenarbeit in den nächsten Jahren. Dir und Deinem neuen Vorstand wünsche ich viel Glück und Erfolg in Eurer Arbeit für unsere Gemeinschaft in Siebenbürgen.

Lieber Martin,
Dir als bisherige Vorsitzenden danken wir für Dein besonderes Engagement rund um unsere Gemeinschaft. Die beiden großen Sachsentreffen, die in Deiner Amtszeit 2017 und 2024 stattgefunden haben, sind jetzt schon Meilensteine in unserer grenzüberschreitenden Zusammenarbeit. Ich wünsche Dir weiterhin viel Schaffenskraft für unsere sächsische Gemeinschaft.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen
Rainer Lehni
Präsident der Föderation der Siebenbürger Sachsen

Dear friends from the Federation,
new elections took place at the Siebenbürgenforum on November 16th. Radu Nebert, former deputy chairman, was elected as the new chairman.

Dear Radu,
I would like to congratulate you on your election on behalf of the Federation of Transylvanian Saxons. I look forward to a good collaboration in the coming years. I wish you and your new board good luck and success in your work for our community in Transylvania.

Dear Martin,
We would like to thank you, as the previous chairperson, for your special commitment to our community. The two major Saxony meetings that took place during your term of office in 2017 and 2024 are already milestones in our cross-border cooperation. I wish you continued creativity for our Saxon community.

Best regards
Rainer Lehni
President of the Federation of Transylvanian Saxons



Former ATS Trustee Helen Aeling, newly elected Deutsche Forum Chairman Radu Nebert, and ATS President Denise Aeling Crawford.



BRANCH 1, CLEVELAND
By Robert Hanek

Our Christmas Sausage Sale was a great success again this year. It was truly wonderful that we had a large number of volunteers who took the time to come and help. We had many new and younger faces that made our sale go smoothly. Our sausage sales are decades old fund raisers for the Branch that goes a long way in maintaining the Sachsenheim. Thank you to everyone!

It was also great to see our children also come to help at our sausage sale. I cannot emphasize enough that our kids should experience food preparation and know where their food comes from. Chocolate milk doesn't come from brown cows!

Sachsenheim's house band, the Gemütlichkeit Clevelander Musikanten, held its annual Krampus Night last weekend. The Cleveland dance group also performed.

Sold out again, you may have a chance at Christmas in July where you can experience the Krampus night in shorts next year.

I would like to extend a heartfelt Thank You to Sachsenheim's staff and our manager, Amy Osbourne, for their hard work throughout the year. You have helped to keep our home open to our members and the community.

On a lighter note, Santa Claus/Weihnachtsmann/Father Christmas, has come a long way from my grandparents' time. He's now jolly with lots of cheer and toys for the girls and boys. A few generations ago, he carried a bag with gifts for the good children and a stick for the bad ones. The really bad ones went in the bag! How times have changed.

May everyone have a safe and Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Another successful Sausage Sale!
Thanks to all of our volunteers!



Wänn't Chrästdoch äs
Johanna Leonhardt

*Wänn't Chrästdoch äs, dro waundern meng
Gedonken färr dervun:
Ech säcken äng uch iwerol,
wat ich verluren hun.*

*Wänn't Chrästdoch äs do färr derhiem,
uch nierest stiht e Lächt,
dro gliewen ich, datt Kommer mir
uch Wieh det Härz zebrächt.*

*Wänn do derhiem dro Chrästdoch äs,
doch nemmest sainge wäll,
fold'n ech meng Hoind, ich dinken hiem,
bän undachtich uch ställ.*

*Wänn't Chrästdoch äs und do derhiem
as Orjeln, Gloke schwejjien,
wil ech, ich kent meng orem Härz
ä senger Niet bedräjjen.*

*Ech wil dro son: 't äs alles gat,
et sol dech glatt näst krinken,
raff dich norr af, un all daut Hiesch,
wä't iemol wor, ze dinken!*

*Wänn't Chrästdoch äs do färr derhiem,
zäh meng Gedonken dor.
Ech wängsche mir und wängschen dir,
et wer noch, wä't iest wor.*

“Hellich Nuächt”
Günther Schuster

*Et äs gaonz reahjch, de Nuächt äs klör.
Eos ener Kärz äm Bäsch trepst Lächt
än't schär schiun eosgelufän Johr,
daot sich äm deffe Schnie verkrecht.*

*Hiu iuwen af'em Dannebüm
heocht de Erännerung und schroat.
Är Zehren flessen durch 'en Drüm
än diëm et teosend Belder schnoat.*

*Än deser Nuächt gefreßt de Zegt;
Sä huët sich sealwst verliuren.
Mät jedem Beld, daot em nea segt,
widd uch e Stärn gebiuren!*

*Wonn dron dä Stärn um Hemmel glähn
verzuwern sä mät Muächt
eas Härzen, dä nea alle brähn
und hellijen des Nuächt.*



**A quirky take on
the Christmas tree
has deep roots in
history**

If you have a quirky sense of humor and a big house, or maybe a tiny house and no space, you might consider the latest and strangest Christmas trend: An upside down Christmas tree.

It's not really a modern innovation, but instead a copy of a tradition begun in the 7th century by the German St. Boniface. He supposedly used an upside down fir tree as a way to teach about the Trinity. By the 12th century, a tradition began in Poland to hang a conifer tree upside down and decorate it with paper, ribbons, apples, nuts and shiny things. So its origins are not rude -- just ancient.

Today, this idea seems puzzling but, believe it or not, there are a lot of choices in artificial upside-down Christmas trees. Artificial trees are the best to use for this odd purpose, since real ones take a lot more effort to flip upside down and hoist to the ceiling.

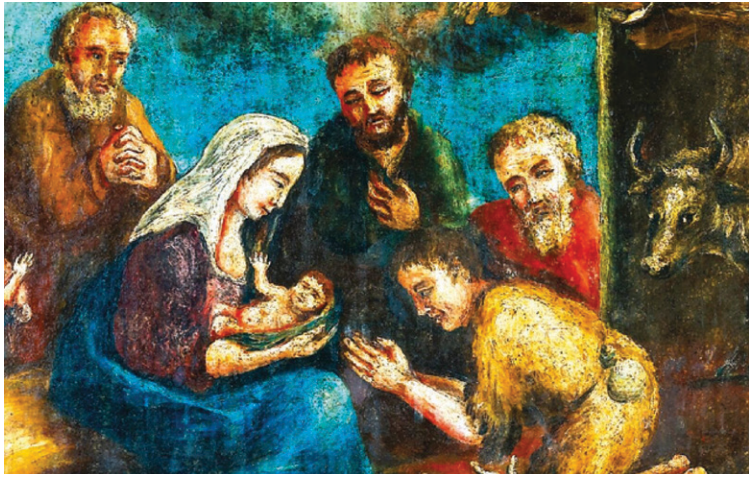
The idea is to apply garlands and lights to the artificial tree before hoisting it up to the ceiling, where it hangs tip down just a foot or so above the floor. Then more delicate bulbs and decorations are applied once the tree is up.

It takes up a lot less space on the floor, that's for sure. The space typically occupied by the widest branches is instead modestly filled by the tip of the tree and the floor space beneath can instead be filled with colorful gifts. That makes it ideal for a small space.



**The gift of Christ.
A Christmas story from Transylvania**

Christmas – who doesn't think of the tree of lights, of being together in a cosy circle, perhaps also of the Christmas celebration in church? However, there is also another Christmas...



Christmas picture in Katzendorf. Photo: Martin Eichler

Christmas Eve descends on the village. Under the starry sky, the path leads us past festively lit windows to one of the last houses. Its windows are dark, but that should not stop us from opening the door and entering unheard.

In the twilight we recognize an old man. He is lying in bed. He is breathing heavily. He is sick and lonely. Recently, a neighbor checked on him. Then she left; she also wants to celebrate Christmas. Now he is alone, all alone. His gaze wanders around the room and lingers on a small, yellowed picture: a young woman at the side of a man; in their arms they hold a child. "That was me, my little daughter. When we were still happy," says the sick man quietly. Memories rise in him...

How beautiful it could have been, her life! They had what they needed to be happy. If only he had not allowed himself to be seduced by those who called themselves his friends!

It had started harmlessly, with the drinking, but before he knew it, he couldn't stop it... He was dismissed. His wife and child left him. And when he tried to forget this pain even more by drinking, he finally collapsed... It came now as it had to come: the

separation from the woman, the moving away from the home village. Somewhere among strangers, he finally found a makeshift place to stay in this half-dilapidated little house... How quickly the years have passed. Years full of defeats. A destroyed, miserable life that will soon come to an end... How painful it is to him that the woman died soon after the divorce before they could reconcile. He never saw his daughter again. Strangers have raised them. There is no connection between them...

So the old man let his life pass him by. He sighs deeply. In the distance you can hear the Christmas bells ringing. The sick man listens reverently to their sound.

Now memories from his childhood are awakened in him: a Christmas Eve on which he stood as a confirmation candidate under the burning Christmas tree in the church and was allowed to recite aloud the words: "Now it came to pass at that time that a commandment went out from Caesar Augustus..." The old man's lips laboriously form the Christmas story. "To you today the Saviour is born..." Here he pauses. "Oh, if only he had been born for me!" The tired man folds his

hands and speaks slowly and haltingly: "Lord, I am old and weak and carry a heavy burden. I have become guilty of my wife, and she has not forgiven me. I beg you, let me know that your Son was also born for me. Forgive me so that I can fall asleep in peace..."

The old man lies there, still with folded hands. The Christmas celebration in the church will soon be over.

Someone knocks on the door. A girl of about twelve years old enters. "Good evening, grandfather!" she says. "Our church community wishes you blessed holidays and sends you this package." She lays it on the bed of the seriously ill man.

A glow crosses his face. Then he thinks: He has never seen this child before, and yet it somehow looks familiar to him. "Grandfather" did she say to him? It goes through him: "She could be my grandchild!" He asks for her name and learns that the family has only recently moved to this community. "She's really my own grandchild and doesn't know it!"

"You are so alone," she says. "Can you celebrate Christmas without candles, without a Christmas tree, without presents?"

"My child," he says quietly, "look, I have something that is more than candles and Christmas trees. In my mind, I was also in church before, and I was able to pray again. God has heard me. You came to me and brought me this package."

"Wait, I will run home quickly and bring you a candle and a twig." Before he can reply, the girl is already outside.

"She will turn back again," he whispers. "Will her mother also come to me when she learns who I am? One thing I know for sure now: HE has forgiven me. That's all I need." Christmas joy radiates from the face of the terminally ill man. He folds his hands: "Lord, you have heard my prayer. You let my granddaughter come to me. I have come to know and can now be sure that you have forgiven me. The Saviour was born for me too, it has become Christmas Day for me too. Now I can close my eyes in peace. I thank you for your great gift..."

Berthold W. Köber

SBZ Online
December 25, 2023

Everyday Should Be Like Christmas

*Everyday should be like Christmas
to celebrate Christ's birth;*

*a special gift from God above
because He knew man's worth.*

*Each day's a unique blessing
A chance to live and dream;*

*To fulfill God's purpose
As part of the Savior's team.*

*Working together to spread the word
About why Jesus came.*

*When you know the reason
Nothing is the same.*

*If the hope of Jesus
guides you through each day;*

*The devil's sin and evil
Cannot decisions sway.*

*Yes, everyday should be like Christmas
To celebrate Christ's birth.*

*A chance to thank our Father
For our life on earth.*

An original poem by Judith E. Both Christmas 2024

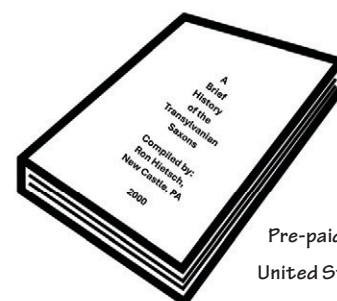


**Christmas representation from the altar in Grossau.
Photo: Martin Eichler, Munich.**



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Frohe Weihnachten

Joseph and Mary traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem. While there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region, there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. The angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:6-11

The ATS Board of Directors and Home Office Staff wish love, hope, and faith for you and your family during this Christmas Season and throughout the upcoming year.

Denise A Crawford
ATS President