



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

**BRANCH 4, CLEVELAND**  
By Joan Miller-Malue

Wishing a very blessed and beautiful New Year to all our members and their families. May you all have a healthy, joyful and memorable year. Let's work together to prepare for a very eventful year at the Sachsenheim.

The first special event will be the Cleveland Saxon Dance Group's Liquor Barrel Raffle that will be held on Steak Night at the Sachsenheim on Friday, January 24, 2025. There are still a few raffle tickets available so contact a Dance Group member. This is a fundraiser to help support their European tour this summer. The raffle will be held at 8:00 p.m. but the winner need not be present. However, why not be there to enjoy a delicious ribeye or strip steak dinner (of course, our usual fish fry menu will also be offered). Tickets for the steak dinners are presale only. Please call (216) 651-0888 to order your steak dinners or stop at the Club to purchase your dinner tickets. Ribeye steak dinner is \$24.95, and strip steak is \$21.95. Each dinner comes with a baked potato and mixed vegetables, choice of soup or salad, dinner rolls and dessert. What a deal! Steak dinners will be served in the dining hall starting at 5:00 p.m. It is going to be a fun night, don't miss it. Purchase your liquor raffle tickets from a Cleveland Saxon Dance Group member and prepay for a sizzling steak dinner for a fun get together on Friday, January 24th.

On Sunday, January 26, our manager will host the annual Bar Room Chili Cook-off. This competition has become popular with our regular weekly customers and friends.

Come February, the Sachsenheim will have a Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 9 and we will hold our annual fundraiser, the Chinese Auction/Sausage Dinner that will be on Sunday February 23. We appreciate all the support we receive from our members and friends that have made this event very successful. Profits from this fundraiser helps to defray expenses at the Sachsenheim.

March will bring a festive air at the Sachsenheim

starting with Jaeger Night on Saturday, March 1, then a Mardi Gras celebration on Tuesday, March 4, the Cleveland Saxon Dance Group's Chili Cook-off on Saturday, March 15 and a special St. Patrick's Day Branch Meeting on Monday, February 17.

These are our first quarter planned activities for 2025. In addition, you can always enjoy our Taco Tuesdays, Wednesday Wing Night, Thursday afternoon and dinner specials, Friday fish dinners and weekend sport watching in the bar with good food and drinks. We have a lot of Gemütlichkeit to offer you, please come and support your Club. We need your support!

Our first Branch meeting for 2025 will be held on Monday, January 20 at 7 p.m. We hope to see you that evening.



National Hug Day  
January 21

**TSBA**  
**January 26, 2025**  
**11 a.m.**  
**Rebman Recreation**  
**5300 Oberlin Ave**  
**Lorain, OH 44053**

**Please call Monica**  
**at 440-309-7894**  
**for meal cancellations**  
**or additions**  
**by Tuesday, January 21.**

**SEE PAGE 3 FOR**  
**2025 ATS SAXON**  
**SCHOLARSHIP**  
**INFORMATION**  
**AND**  
**APPLICATIONS**

**TIMELY - DO NOT DELAY**  
**MAILED TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024**

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

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



By Denise Aeling Crawford  
ATS Nat'l President

Wow! What a lot of snow we've had in northeast Ohio as well as where most of our members are located. In the last few years, it seems like it would snow and then melt the next day. We've had snow on the ground for a good week or so this time. I hope everyone is staying warm!

The ATS Home Office is busy at this time of year. We have thousands of mailings that go out. Annuity and IRA owners receive their annual statement for their accounts. Anyone who took a distribution from their Annuity or IRA account will receive a 1099-R at the end of the month. IRS regulations state that we must have them postmarked on or before January 31<sup>st</sup>. Then, depending on the various post offices, hopefully they will be delivered timely! In addition, if you have your life insurance dividends on "accumulation" status, meaning they stay in your account and earn interest, if that interest is over ten dollars, you will receive a 1099-INT for that interest. This interest amount will go on your tax return. You can avoid the taxable interest by changing your dividend option to the "purchase additional insurance" option. This option is more bang for your buck and is not taxable to you. Call the Home Office for more information on this dividend option on your Life Insurance policy. Please remember not to file your taxes until you have received all of your 1099 forms.

Those of you who have a Traditional IRA account with us and are turning 73 this year will be receiving a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) letter this month. Starting in 2023, the age to begin taking RMDs was changed to age 73 by the Secure 2.0 Act. (Prior to Covid, this age was 70 1/2.) The IRS requires people to take a minimum amount out of their Traditional IRA account each year. Once you start taking RMDs, you will always be required to do so. All of our other, older Traditional IRA owners will be receiving their letter, also. If you have multiple Traditional IRA accounts in different locations, you can combine the total RMD figure and withdraw it from just one account, if you wish. If you don't need the funds that you're required to withdraw, you can always deposit those funds into a different annuity account with the ATS if you wish. You could also take those funds and start a new Annuity account for your grandchild, if they don't have one already. If they do have one, consider making a deposit into their account with your RMD. Remember, these RMDs are only for Traditional IRA accounts, and do not apply to Roth IRAs or our regular Annuity accounts.

Did you know that the old group "The Monkees" got their start on January 17, 1966? On this date, the National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) requisitioned 32 episodes of a new TV show for its

Continued on Page 4



## 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.

## SALEM SAXON RETIREES By Norma Byers

Salem Saxon Retirees met on Wednesday, December 4th with 18 present and one guest.

We were happy to see our President back and realize she takes good care of herself even though she has a broken arm, she settled everyone down so Tony could give the invocation. Then we said the Pledge of Allegiance.

We had 18 present and one guest, Mert Geho! Thank you to Katie for helping out so graciously when I couldn't be here.

This year, as always, we are adding to the "Dress a Live Doll" so we have purchased clothes for boys and girls!

We had the 50-50 drawing and it was won by Mary Lou Weingart.

Nancy Stumperth announced the birthdays for December. It was Susan Cutlip.

Helen and Nancy together gave us our humor for today!!

We had a good luncheon, prepared by Lori Polen, daughter of a member.

The tables were decorated with poinsettias, so before we left, we had a drawing for all of these beautiful flowers! Thank you!!

We stood and said the Lord's Prayer and reminded everyone we don't come back until the 5th of March and that is an "if", depending on the weather! We will let you know if it is cancelled!

Take care, eat healthy, live, love, laugh, stay well and we'll hope to see everyone on March 5th!

TOODLE- OO!

**A bird in the hand is always safer than one overhead.**



**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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The Saxon News Volksblatt (ISSN 0894-1165), the official publication of the Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons, 5323 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44129-1503, is published Bi-weekly.

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

Managing Editors HB Laser Communications,  
29076 Fall River Dr, Westlake, Ohio 44145.

"Periodicals Postage Paid" at Cleveland, Ohio.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Saxon News Volksblatt, 5323 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44129-1503

## 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, JANUARY 22, 2025

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2025

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2025

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2025

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 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



**FRESHMAN ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS**

To be eligible for a Freshman Academic Scholarship Grant you must be a high school senior with an accumulated grade point average in high school of 2.8, or better.

TWENTY-FOUR Scholarships will be awarded to new freshmen in undergraduate study at an accredited college or university in the United States.

- \$1,000 Four Year Renewable Grant from the Victor Deptner Memorial Scholarship
- \$1,000 Four-Year Renewable Rev. & Mrs. John Foisel Memorial Scholarship
- \$3,000 Rev. & Mrs. John Foisel Memorial Scholarship
- \$2,000 New Castle Branch 27 Scholarship
- \$1,000 Past ATS Officers' Memorial Scholarship
- \$1,000 Henry Schindler Scholarship
- \$1,000 Michael W. Schassburger Memorial Scholarship
- \$1,000 Jon Weber Memorial Scholarship
- \$1,000 ATS Branch 33 National Scholarship Endowment Award
- \$1,000 Julia & Martin Konnerth Memorial Scholarship
- \$1,000 Julia & Martin Konnerth Memorial Scholarship
- \$1,000 Branch 10 – Columbus Scholarship
- \$1,000 Branch 14 – Canton Scholarship
- \$1,000 Davidson-Schuller Appreciation Scholarship Award in honor of ATS and Branches 33 & 34
- \$1,000 John F. Spack Memorial Scholarship
- \$1,000 John and Mary Guip Memorial Scholarship
- \$1,000 Branch 5 – Lorain Scholarship
- \$1,000 Dale & Rose Segedi-Kaufman Memorial Scholarship
- \$1,000 Dale & Rose Segedi-Kaufman Memorial Scholarship
- \$1,000 Dr. David E. Schuller Appreciation Scholarship in honor of his parents Elsie and Daniel S. Schuller
- \$1,000 New Castle Branch 27 Scholarship
- \$1,000 Donzella Herman Scholarship
- \$1,000 George R. Spack Sr. Appreciation Scholarship
- \$ 750 Niles-Branch 20 National Scholarship

Applicants for the Scholarships listed must be ATS Members in good standing with a minimum of two years' continuous membership prior to the scholarship application deadline of April 15. High School Seniors must have maintained a 2.8, or better, grade point average in high school.

**Complete the Request Form below to receive your Application. Please note: upon our receipt of the Request Form, an official ATS Scholarship Application Form will be mailed to you. The completed official ATS Scholarship Application Forms from the applicant and school must be received at the ATS Home Office before April 15, 2025.**

**REQUEST FOR ATS HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP**

\_\_\_\_\_

Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Address

\_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code

Tele: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Br. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Cert. No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Request must be received by March 14**

MAIL SCHOLARSHIP REQUEST FORM TO:  
 ATS Home Office  
 5323 Pearl Road  
 Cleveland, Ohio 44129-1503  
**Request Forms must be received by March 14, 2025**  
*Please note:*  
*Only official ATS Scholarship Application Forms will be accepted for consideration.*

**UNDERGRADUATE CONTINUING ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS**

The ATS is offering TWENTY Academic Undergraduate Continuing Education Scholarship Grants to our members who are not current year high school graduates and are not entering college in their freshman year of study but are in an **undergraduate program.**

- \$2,000 Branch 18 - Salem, OH Scholarship
- \$2,000 Branch 37 - Detroit, MI Scholarship
- \$1,000 Award in memory of Marie Stirner
- \$1,000 Award in memory of Marie Stirner
- \$1,000 Award in memory of Marie Stirner
- \$1,000 Award in memory of Marie Stirner
- \$1,000 Award in memory of Gertie & Ernie Gottschling
- \$1,000 Lorain Saxon Ladies Branch 11 Scholarship
- \$1,000 Joan Miller-Malue Scholarship
- \$1,000 Award in memory of Donald G. Miller
- \$ 750 Erie Branch 2 Scholarship
- \$ 750 Erie Branch 2 Scholarship
- \$ 750 Award in memory of George H. Schneider
- \$ 500 ATS Branch 34 Cleveland East Scholarship
- \$ 500 Award in memory of Karl & Charlotte Klamer
- \$ 500 Farrell - Branch 7 Scholarship
- \$ 500 ATS Scholarship Award
- \$ 500 ATS Scholarship Award
- \$ 500 ATS Scholarship Award
- \$ 500 Award in memory of Gerard Slusny

Applicants must be ATS members in good standing, with continuous membership for a minimum period of two (2) years. They must have a grade point average of at least 2.8. They may be any age; however, they cannot be a current year high school graduate or entering their freshman year of college.

Applicants must be enrolled in an **undergraduate program** as a **full-time student** at an accredited college or university in the United States.

**Requests for official ATS Undergraduate Continuing Academic Scholarship Applications may be made by calling the ATS Home Office (440) 842-8442, or by completing the Form printed below by March 14, 2025.**

**Completed official ATS Applications for scholarship grants must be received at the ATS Home Office before April 15, 2025** Undergraduate Continuing Academic Scholarship winners will be chosen in a random drawing conducted by the ATS Scholarship Committee

**REQUEST FOR ATS UNDERGRADUATE CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP**

\_\_\_\_\_

Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Address

\_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code

Tele: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Br. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Cert. No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Request must be received by March 14**

MAIL SCHOLARSHIP REQUEST FORM TO:  
 ATS Home Office 5323 Pearl Road  
 Cleveland, Ohio 44129-1503

**Request Forms must be received by March 14, 2025**  
*Please Note: Only official ATS Scholarship Application Forms will be accepted for consideration*

**•• Scholarship winners will be notified by mail. ••**

**It matters not  
 where you were born,  
 or where you live,  
 but what's in your HEART.  
 Be Proud to be  
 Transylvanian Saxon!**

**VOCATIONAL & TRADE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP**

The ATS is offering scholarships for eligible Vocational & Trade School education programs. Applicants may attend a vocational school, trade school, technical school, certification training program, or credential program. Eligible fields of study include, but are not limited to, advanced manufacturing, automotive technology, computer technology, construction, cosmetology, culinary arts, electrical, HVAC, health care, industrial maintenance, machining, plumbing, or welding.

Applicants for this scholarship must be an ATS member in good standing, with a minimum of two (2) years' continuous membership prior to the scholarship application deadline of April 15. Applicants can be a high school senior or any adult.

**Requests for official ATS Vocational & Trade School Scholarship applications may be made by calling the ATS Home Office (440) 842-8442, or by completing the Form printed below by March 14, 2025**

**Completed official ATS Applications for scholarship grants must be received at the ATS Home Office before April 15, 2025.**

**REQUEST FOR ATS VOCATIONAL & TRADE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP**

\_\_\_\_\_

Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Address

\_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code

Tele: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Br. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Cert. No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Request must be received by March 14**

MAIL SCHOLARSHIP REQUEST FORM TO:  
 ATS Home Office 5323 Pearl Road  
 Cleveland, Ohio 44129-1503

**Request Forms must be received by March 14, 2025**  
*Please Note: Only official ATS Scholarship Application Forms will be accepted for consideration*

**•• Scholarship winners will be notified by mail. ••**



**Infinite monkeys won't work**

You have heard the old monkey theory: If an infinite number of monkeys had an infinite amount of time they would eventually type Shakespeare's works on a keyboard.

Well here's a debunk you didn't need. Mathematicians Stephen Woodcock and Jay Falletta tested the theorem and found it wanting. The Australian mathematicians calculated that if every chimpanzee alive today could type one key per second for the entire lifespan of the universe Shakespeare's 885,000 words would never be reproduced. In fact, they theorized that a single chimp had just a 5 percent chance of randomly typing the word banana within its 30-year lifetime. The odds of a chimp typing a short phrase are 1 in 10 million billion billion.

Other mathematicians questioned the need for such a study. After all, billions of humans on the internet haven't done it either.

## 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  
 June 14, 2025  
 TSBA Convention Host: New Castle  
 July 11 - 13, 2025  
 North American Saxon Heimattag  
 Host: Youngstown Saxon Club  
 October 18 - 19, 2025  
 ATS Open Bowling Tournament

### LOCAL EVENTS

January 19, 2025  
 Youngstown Saxon Club Pork and Kraut Dinner  
 January 24, 2025  
 Cleveland Sachsenheim Steak Night  
 January 26, 2025  
 Cleveland Sachsenheim Bar Room Chili Cook-off  
 February 9, 2025  
 Cleveland Sachsenheim Super Bowl Party  
 February 16, 2025  
 Youngstown Saxon Club Pork and Kraut Dinner  
 February 22, 2025  
 Youngstown Br. 30 Family Bowling  
 February 23, 2025  
 Cleveland West Br. 4  
 Chinese Auction / Sausage Dinner  
 March 1, 2025  
 Cleveland Sachsenheim Jaeger Night  
 March 4, 2025  
 Cleveland Sachsenheim Mardis Gras  
 March 14, 2025  
 Cleveland Saxon Dance Group Chili Cook-Off  
 March 16, 2025  
 Youngstown Saxon Club Pork and Kraut Dinner  
 March 29, 2025  
 Youngstown Br. 30 Goulash Dinner  
 June 29, 2025  
 Chicago Br. 9 Annual Summer Picnic



**Alliance of  
 Transylvanian Saxons**

**BRANCHES 14 AND 17, CANTON**  
 By Cheryl Schnebelen

Despite dodging rain and snow, and dealing with interesting temperatures, I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. The Canton Saxons had their standard meeting on Sunday, November 3, and the ladies met for a lovely Christmas get together on December 15. We will be meeting again on February 16, at 1:00, at Meyers Landing. We hope you will join us.

As always, if you know of

any current, past, or direct descendants of the Ladies lodge who are in need, please let us know. There are moneys available, so just contact me by email at [sherlee5@aol.com](mailto:sherlee5@aol.com), text or call me at (330) 312-5112, and I will forward your request on to others in the branch. We are looking forward to hearing from you and please join us at Meyers Landing on Sunday, February 16, at 1:00.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Cont'd from Page 1

upcoming fall schedule. Little did the producers know that this fake pop music band would become a real pop culture sensation.

The inspiration for The Monkees came from the Beatles. The theme of the show was to be a situation comedy (sitcom) in which a four-piece band had wacky adventures each week and occasionally burst into song. The financing came from TV and film production company Screen Gems and the music came from music producer, talent manager and songwriter Don Kirshner, according to History.com. An ad was placed in the Daily Variety and the Hollywood Reporter in September 1965. The ad said: MADNESS!! AUDITIONS Folk & Roll Musicians-Singers for acting roles in new TV series. Running parts for 4 insane boys, age 17-21.

More than 400 young men showed up to apply. Bob Rafelson and Bert Schneider spent the next four months shooting, cutting, market-testing, re-cutting and re-market-testing a comedy pilot they hoped would earn them a network deal. This happened on January 17, 1966. They spent the next eight months, along with the team of songwriters and studio musicians, as well as the four "insane boys" who had been chosen. They didn't want established actors for the parts or experienced rock and roll groups; they wanted guys who could play themselves.

Those four were Mickey Dolenz, Peter Tork, Mike Nesmith, and Davy Jones. Mickey had never played a drum prior to being cast, Peter and Mike had no or very little acting experience, while Davy was a singer and actor. Each of the four was given a different personality trait to portray: Dolenz was the funny guy, Nesmith the smart and serious one, Tork the naïve one, and Jones was the cute one.

The producer's strategy paid off and succeeded beyond all expectations. The television show found success against its Gilligan's Island competition, while the made-for-television knockoff of the Beatles soon had actual records. The show premiered

on NBC in September 1966. The group's first single "Last Train to Clarksville" became a number one hit a few weeks prior to the airing of the show. That song was featured in seven episodes.

At the beginning, the group's music and songs were written by others and performed by studio musicians, with their vocals. The Clarksville song, as well as the Theme Song from the show were written by the songwriting duo of Tommy Boyce and Bobby Hart. Neil Diamond, a songwriter prior to singing his own songs, wrote "I'm a Believer," which became his first number one song. The song hit number one for The Monkees the week ending December 31, 1966, and stayed there for seven weeks, becoming the biggest-selling single for all of 1967. This song was featured in four consecutive episodes of the series. Eventually, all four members of the group began writing and performing their own music. John Stewart, of the Kingston Trio wrote The Monkees third chart-topping single "Daydream Believer."

John Lennon, from the Beatles, called the group "the Marx Brothers of rock," but supposedly never missed an episode of the show. In 1967, The Monkees outsold both the Beatles and the Rolling Stones combined and went on to sell 50 million records.

As the second season of the television series was being produced, The Monkees tired of the sitcom format and refused to participate in a third season without a major overhaul. They wanted to turn the thirty-minute sitcom into an hour-long variety show with weekly guests. NBC did not want to make any changes, so the series was cancelled in February 1968.

Until next time...



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.

**Ann Klein**  
 Age 84

Died: December 7, 2024  
 Branch 30, Youngstown, OH

**Judith Bartholomy**  
 Age 81

Died: December 14, 2024  
 Branch 30, Youngstown, OH

**Ulricke Black**  
 Age 81

Died: December 20, 2024  
 Branch 30, Youngstown, OH

**Laura Henning**  
 Age 31

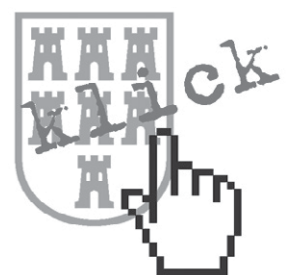
Died: December 27, 2024  
 Branch 4, Cleveland, OH

## CHURCHES



**St. Peter's  
 German and Saxon  
 Lutheran Church**  
 11423 Chicago Rd.  
 Warren, Michigan 48093  
 (586) 979-3850  
[stpeters\\_church@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stpeters_church@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.stpeterswarren.org](http://www.stpeterswarren.org)

**10:00 Service**  
**Nursery**  
**Coffee following service**  
**Senior Circle**



Ich bin ein  
 SiebenbuergeR.de

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



## BRANCH 10, COLUMBUS

By Donald Blum

### MONTHLY MEETING

January 20, 2025

Hickory House  
550 OfficeCenter Place  
Gahanna, Ohio 43239  
12 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.”

### CELEBRATION

Please join me in celebrating birthdays for Hedy Fleischer (January 1), Olga Hesch (January 12) and John Gellner (January 23). Alles Gute zum Geburtstag!

### Transylvania Trip

On this part of the trip, we will be treated to some of the distinct feature of the Maramures area. Maramureş is perhaps one of the most authentic regions in Transylvania, filled with a rich historical heritage, especially when it comes to traditional crafts. Our trip will demonstrate one of the countless well-preserved wooden churches in the area, houses with beautifully carved wooden gates, and cheerful locals dressed in traditional colorful clothes. We took advantage of the currency exchange and purchased some of the traditional clothing at the city retail businesses.

The building of wooden churches began in the 16th century when the Catholic Austro-Hungarian authorities prohibited the construction of Orthodox stone churches in the area. The government had seen how the sturdy built, and fortified churches of the past were almost impenetrable and were concerned about ruling and controlling the local communities. Initially, there were over 300 wooden churches built in the region, but today only around 100 are left standing. Most of them are Orthodox, but there are also some Greek-Catholic churches, and they greatly vary in terms of architectural style.

The wooden churches are built with high timber, and their most characteristic features are the tall and slim bell towers located at the western end of the building, as well as their massive roof that makes the whole main body look minuscule.

Inside, the churches are painted with biblical scenes by local painters, and many of them remained in great condition thanks to the local craftsmen and carpenters who constantly tend to them.

One such church that we visited was Bodgan Voda Church - Kirche Sankt Nikolaus that was built in 1718. This church displayed all the characteristics of the traditional wooden churches with the beautifully carved wooden gate, slim bell towers and beautifully painted biblical scenes on the walls, ceiling and every area of the interior of the church that was available. Unlike most other churches, which stand on hilltops, the church of St. Nicholas is in the middle of the village, in the center of a flat cemetery yard. While we were treated to the beautifully painted scenes, we were not permitted to take pictures of the scenes in the fear that the picture taking could damage the integrity and preserving of the artwork. We were able to purchase a brochure that depicts the biblical artwork and story of the church. As you can see from the entrance to the church that the physical structure of the doorway to the church possibly indicated that the people attending the services were smaller in stature as everyone had to bend over to enter the church. We were fortunate in that a priest from a neighboring church made himself available to talk to us about the church. Additionally, we were fortunate that our excellent guide, Bogdan, would interpret the priest's story in English for us. The beautiful scenes, interior detail and chandelier were a real treat and would give you an idea of what people attending the church would experience when attending the services.

Also, a treat was the display of the beautifully wood-carved, triangular grave markers in the courtyard of the church's grounds. Everything about the church and its surroundings gave insight into the way of life and attending church over 300 years before. It was truly a treat and a wonderful memory for us. There was a stark contrast to the over 300-year wooden church and the beautiful large white, modern church just adjacent to the wooden church. It put it into perspective the old, traditional and modern church of today.

Some historical facts about the church is that

archaeological studies of the church area discovered that there was previously a stone church, dating back to 1330-1340, which was ruined/destroyed during the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Some of the valuable items of the current wooden church are the carved chandelier, a beautifully carved episcopal chair from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and a collection of rare books dating back to the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

This ends our journey for today and will pick up in coming editions the other interesting places we were fortunate to visit on our trip.

### FACEBOOK PAGE

Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons, Columbus Branch 10 (Facebook Group).

We are happy to announce that the group has grown to over 200 members. Please invite people to join our Facebook Group, that is open to all people interested in sharing or reading about our Saxon Heritage. We will continue to modify and improve the Facebook page as needed. While we welcome you to join the Columbus Branch 10, you do not need to be a member to join the Facebook Group. You are invited to join our Facebook group and share your Saxon history or just enjoy what others post. If you are interested in becoming part of the Facebook group you can request an invitation or send me your email address (donaldblum@prodigy.net), and we will set you up.

We are happy to say, we continue to add Saxon/German heritage individuals to the Facebook Group. Some of the new members include people from Europe and Canada. We encourage you to spread the word about our group.

Our Facebook Group is an excellent place to share pictures that anyone would have of the Transylvanian Trip. It's a good reason to join and become a part of sharing Heritage information.

**HUMOR** (compliments of Sara Alzner-Brown)

My wife asked me “Who is stronger? Man or woman?” I replied, “Of course the woman! It takes six men to carry a guy to his grave, but it only takes one woman to put him there.”

That's how the fight started!

## COLUMBUS TRANSYLVANIA TRIP





## COLUMBUS TRANSYLVANIA TRIP



"And you say you last saw him in the clothes dryer?"

## BRANCH 9, CHICAGO By Rose-Marie Hauer

Happy New Year! I wish you all a great New Year with lots of happiness and good health. May 2025 best one the best years ever!

The Christmas Party was held on December 15, with over seventy people in attendance. Thank you to Sister Sanderson and her committee to volunteers to make this event a success. Food was brought for the Palatine Food Pantry and a donation was made to the Advocate Lutheran General Hospital Children's ward for Christmas. The lunch was delicious along with all the home made bakery items made by our members. The raffle was a huge success. Thank you to all the members that donated raffle prizes. Thank you to Eric and Walter for the fabulous music and of course to Santa Claus. We had at least fifteen young adults who played games won prizes. There was a candy mint jar guessing game, trivia contests and some games for the adults. Sister Rose Hauer presented President Thut with a plant for all her services to the club. President Thut did a recognition thanking Sister Erica Hauer, Sister Liz Hauer, Sister Rose Hauer, Sister Elfi Sanderson and Sister Claudia Schmidt. They were presented with flowers and cards. It was a beautiful event! Thank you to everyone that attended and brought their children. We were totally blessed. Please come back next year!

The PICNIC has been scheduled for June 29, 2025! Please mark your calendars and details will follow.

There is no January meeting! Please remember to pay your dues! Send them to Sister Claudia Schmidt.

The meeting will be held on February 3, 2025 at 7 p.m.



## BRANCH 9 CHRISTMAS PARTY





# CHICAGO BRANCH 9 CHRISTMAS PARTY



Branch 9 Officers for 2025

## Fat cell memory linked to obesity

You can look at a donut and gain five pounds.

Funny -- but maybe even a tiny bit true.

A new study published in the journal Nature hints at a correlation between obesity and changes at the cellular level in fat cells that appear to remember obesity.

Weight loss experts have long noted that obese people who slim down tend to revert back to obesity -- the yo-yo effect. But the reasons were unclear. Was it merely that the people reverted to old eating styles or was there something else at play?

Now scientists think that, among the many reasons for re-gaining weight, at least one might be a sort of genetic memory.

In mouse studies, scientists put obese mice on a diet until

they slimmed down, and then compared their fat cells to mice who had never been obese. In the formerly obese mice, fat cells absorbed more sugar and fat than the cells from mice that never were obese. Certain genes were active in obese mice that were not active in never-obese mice. In fact, when

put on a high calorie diet, the formerly obese mice gained more weight faster than the never-obese mice.

The findings do not indicate that fat cell memory alone is the cause of obesity. It is also not known what factors, if any, can alter fat cell memory or if fat cell memory ever changes.



## Calculating how much paint you will need

Painting your home's interior is not only a lot of work, it's expensive. And because the color must be custom-mixed in some cases, you want to be sure you buy enough.

A second problem with paint: You'll have to store leftovers in a place where they won't freeze. That ruins paint.

To calculate the right quantity so you'll have enough but not too much, follow this advice from Martha Stewart:

- Determine the wall area by multiplying the height of a room by the width. Don't subtract any square feet for doors and windows unless they take up half of the room.

- Divide the total number of square feet in all the walls by 450. That's the number of square feet one gallon of paint will cover.

- Add about 10 percent to your order for future touch-ups.

- If you know you will be using two coats, double the amount of paint you will buy.

If you calculate correctly, you won't run out of paint, but you will still have to find a place to store the future touch-up material.

Because you won't have very much, you could put it in the back of a closet inside the house.

**YOUNGSTOWN SAXON CLUB**  
710 S. Meridian Rd

**PORK & KRAUT DINNER**  
JANUARY 19, 2025

11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
\$12.00

TAKE OUT AND EAT-IN  
PUBLIC WELCOME

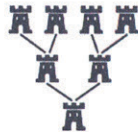






Genealogie der

# Siebenbürger Sachsen



Genealogy of the Transylvanian Saxons | Genealogia saşilor ardeleni | Az erdélyi szászok genealógiája

Der Verein für Genealogie der Siebenbürger Sachsen e.V. präsentiert hier genealogische Stammbäume der Siebenbürger Sachsen und weiteren, mit ihnen verbundenen Gemeinschaften. Zur Zeit sind folgende Ortsgenealogien verfügbar: Abtsdorf bei Marktschelken, Arkeden, BIRTHÄLM, Bonnesdorf, Bulkesch, Broos, Draas, Dunesdorf, Durles, Felldorf, Felsendorf, Gießhübel, Hahnbach, Haschagen, Heidendorf, Hermannstadt, Holzmengen, Jakobsdorf bei Agnetheln, Kleinschelken, Kreisch, Kronstadt, Malmkrog, Martinsberg, Mediasch, Michelsdorf an der Kokel, Mühlbach, Neppendorf, Nimesch, Rätisch, Rauthal, Reußen, Reußmarkt, Rosenau, Rothbach, Scharosch an der Kokel, Schirkanyen, Scholten, Seiden, Tarteln, Tartlau, Taterloch, Urwegen, Waldhütten, Wölz, Zendersch, Zuckmantel, und weitere kommen laufend dazu.



## Looking for your Saxon Roots?

The Verein für Genealogie der Siebenbürger Sachsen e.V. presents genealogical family trees of the Transylvanian Saxons and other communities associated with them. At the moment the following local genealogies are available: Abtsdorf bei Marktschelken, Arkeden, BIRTHÄLM, Bonnesdorf, Bulkesch, Broos, Draas, Dunesdorf, Durles, Felldorf, Felsendorf, Gießhübel, Hahnbach, Haschagen, Heidendorf, Hermannstadt, Holzmengen, Jakobsdorf bei Agnetheln, Kleinschelken, Kreisch, Kronstadt, Malmkrog, Martinsberg, Mediasch, Michelsdorf an der Kokel, Mühlbach, Neppendorf, Nimesch, Rätisch, Rauthal, Reußen, Reußmarkt, Rosenau, Rothbach, Scharosch an der Kokel, Schirkanyen, Scholten, Seiden, Tarteln, Tartlau, Taterloch, Urwegen, Waldhütten, Wölz, Zendersch, Zuckmantel, and more are being added all the time.

You can go to <https://vgss.de/genealogie-datenbank> to begin your research.

Interested in a seminar to help in your research?

Email [office@atsaxons.com](mailto:office@atsaxons.com) with SAXON ROOTS in subject line.

## Join us for the Cleveland Saxon Dance Group's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Cook-off Fundraiser

Westside Sachsenheim  
7001 Denison Avenue  
Cleveland, OH

Saturday March 15, 2025

Doors open at 6:00 p.m. with chili tasting beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets = \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Children under 12 = \$10.

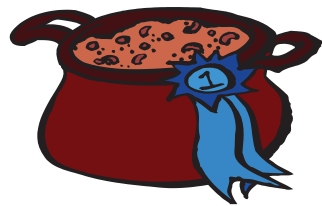
Contact any Dance Group member for tickets or purchase online at:

[https://15<sup>th</sup>-annual-chili-cookoff-csdg.cheddarup.com](https://15th-annual-chili-cookoff-csdg.cheddarup.com)

Includes admission, three chili samples, accompaniments and desserts

Additional chili samples \$1 each

A cash bar will be available, as well as the opportunity to take a chance on various raffle items!



Please contact us via email at [csdg7001@yahoo.com](mailto:csdg7001@yahoo.com) with questions or if you would like to enter a chili for judging in the contest. Registered contestants will be admitted to the event free of charge and prizes will be awarded to the top scoring entrants based on ballots cast by attendees.



## Here's a refresher course: Driving in snow

Before you start: Clear the snow and ice off your whole car, (not just the windows) so you have an unobstructed view of the road. Don't forget to clean the headlights. Carry a cellphone, shovel, sand or kitty litter, snacks and water in case you get stuck.

After a big snow, don't leave until the snow plows and sanding trucks have done their work. For a frozen door lock, heat the end of the key with a match. Turn your lights on when you leave.

- When renting a car during bad weather, ask for one with four-wheel drive. It won't solve all driving problems, but four-wheel drive can help you get through snow. Drive slowly.
- If you don't have much experience driving in winter conditions, practice your moves and check your car's response in a vacant parking lot before starting your trip. Warmer climates, such as in Atlanta, generally have a mix of snow and sleet.

On the road: Drive slowly and leave three times the amount of space you normally allow between your car and the one ahead.

Don't use cruise control. To stop, brake gently. If your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brake.

In a skid: If your rear wheels skid, stop accelerating and steer in the direction you want the front wheels to go. Apply anti-lock brakes with steady pressure. If you have standard brakes, pump them gently.

What if you get stuck? It can happen in your yard, in front of a house, or anywhere you happen to slide off the road for even a few feet. When it does, don't spin your wheels.

- Turn the wheels from side to side to push away the snow. Use a light touch to ease your car out. If that doesn't work, use a shovel to clear the snow from the wheels and underside of the car and put sand under the wheels. Try gently rocking the vehicle back and forth.

- Don't gun the engine repeatedly, or you could ruin the transmission.

If none of this works, dial up a tow truck. Have a snack and a drink of water. Call your boss to say you'll be late, then just relax and wait for help.



Married couple from Schellenberg.  
Wood engraving around 1860.





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Salem, OH 44460  
(330) 332-8174  
sspack2@neo.rr.com

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Tom Simon  
538 S Schenley Ave  
Youngstown, OH 44509  
(330) 720-7988  
ts112063@gmail.com

**SECRETARY-TREASURER**  
Jenny Miller King  
25321 Conover Dr.  
Bay Village, OH 44140  
(216) 551-1728  
jmill411@yahoo.com

**STATISTICAL SEC'Y.  
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Carl J. Schmitz  
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(440) 799-1940  
cjsaintrite@aol.com

**TRUSTEES AUDITORS**  
Rich Baker  
232 Reiber Road  
Hermitage PA 16148  
(724) 854-0149  
Bob Lohr  
291 S Broad St  
Canfield OH 44406  
(330) 423-9894  
Rblohr1@gmail.com  
Monica Gilles  
3520 Beavercrest Dr Apt 107  
Lorain, OH 44053  
(440) 309-7894  
gillemo76@hotmail.com



## BOOKS

**The Saxon Cook Book - Third Edition**  
Over 400 Saxon/American Recipes \$12.00 per copy (postpaid)

**Fleeing to the Friendly Enemy** by Barbara Ohler Weber  
A true story of the author's experiences during World War II and her immigration to America in the 1950's.  
\$14.00 per copy (postpaid)

**Flucht aus Siebenbürgen** by Monika Görig/Maria Schneider  
Memoirs of Maria Schneider written in German describing her family's hardships when they had to flee from their home in 1944 and start a new life in Austria.  
\$20 per copy (postpaid)

**Saxons Through Seventeen Centuries**, author Rev. John Foisel  
A paperback which provides a romantic account of the customs and phases of intellectual development of the Transylvanian people. Not intended to be a history of Transylvania, rather a story of our people based upon seventeen centuries of history.  
\$15 per copy (postpaid)

**Why Can't Somebody Just Die Around Here?**, author Gerhard Maroscher. Tells the story of how his family was impacted by World War II. His mother fled Transylvania with two young sons and his father reluctantly served in three Axis armies and was a prisoner of war by the Russians. Family immigrated to the USA to live the American dream.  
\$24.95 per copy (postpaid)

All books unless noted have English Text.

Proceeds from book sales go to the Saxon Orphan Fund Program.

Order From:

The Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons  
5323 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44129  
Make Checks/Money Orders payable to  
**ATS ORPHAN FUND**  
ATS Member, please indicate Branch number.



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EINTRACHT MÄNNERCHOR  
Rehearsal:  
Every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.



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(724) 816-6866  
jonathanbaisch@gmail.com

**SECRETARY**  
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New Castle PA 16105  
(724) 674-7491  
paulgarmon1@gmail.com

**CLEVELAND SAXON DANCE GROUP**  
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6:30 p.m. Children  
7:30 p.m. Adults  
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csgd7001@yahoo.com

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Adonnellan5@yahoo.com  
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(216) 647-3229  
SAMiller55@sbcglobal.net

**YOUNGSTOWN SAXON CULTURE GROUP**  
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Saxnera@aol.com  
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**Are your  
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Let them benefit  
from our fraternal  
program and be a  
part of  
our history!**

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Meets 2nd Thursday 11:30 a.m.  
Youngstown Saxon Club  
(March - December)

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**SECRETARY**  
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Ashtabula OH 44004  
(440) 536-4661

**SALEM SAXON RETIREES**  
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- CHANGE  
 CANCELLATION  
 NEW to receive paper

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Old Street Address was \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

New Street \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

THIS CHANGE IS FOR:

- HOME OFFICE RECORDS & VOLKSBLATT  
 VOLKSBLATT ONLY

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Person Making Change \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons, 5323 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44129-1503

**ASK ...  
ASK YOUR  
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A CERTIFICATE  
OF  
MEMBERSHIP  
IN THE ATS  
CAN HELP  
YOU  
TO SAVE!**





The three-aisles Romanesque basilica, already strengthened by a defence wall, was equipped with a bell tower on the western side in 1290. At the beginning of the 15th century, both the tower and the nave were adapted to the Gothic style and a second ring wall was erected. The first defence wall was heightened up to 12 m and strengthened by seven defensive towers and an outer bailey. A third wall, which did not survive to this today, surrounded the moat that was filled up in 1814. A parapet walk was built on the inside of the first defence wall, which is partially preserved today.

Remarkable are the granaries and the rooms attached to the southern side of the church. The western tower, the tallest in Țara Bârsei, was provided with a new spire in 1794. The inner furniture mostly dates back from the 18th century. A pre-reformation chapel in the eastern tower is richly decorated with outstanding frescoes depicting the Last Judgement and the Punishment of Sinners among others. The valuable mural painting requires restoration work.

**Place and surroundings**

How did life in late Middle Ages look like in a besieged fortified church? In Hărman one can get a feeling for it even today, due to the numerous components restored. The fortified church was repeatedly besieged and attacked especially in the 16th and 17th Century, but it was never taken. In January 1612 the villagers even succeeded to defend the castle against a strong 7,000 men army of the Hungarian prince Bathori.

At that time the ensemble comprised three surrounding walls, a moat and many defense towers. The entire third fortification wall included storage space on the inside. Water supplies were provided by wells located within the fortifications. Living units were part of the church, which in case of a siege could provide accommodation for the mayor, the pastor and other key community representatives. Until today very well preserved remains can be visited, e.g. the powerful inner wall, the defense towers, and living as well as storage rooms in the precincts of the fortification.



Fortified Churches Foundation  
www.kirchenburgen.org

**Nutty treat**

- Across**
1. Hippie's hangout
  4. Like thick smoke
  9. Carnival site
  10. Fancy feather
  11. Commercials
  12. Kind of colony
  13. Wobble
  15. Yours truly
  16. Sink feature
  18. Therefore
  20. Upward slope
  23. Slur over
  25. Stable diet
  26. More upscale
  27. Tear
  28. Go-getters
  29. Roswell sighting

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|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  |    | 4  | 5 | 6  | 7  | 8  |
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| 11 |    |    |    | 12 |   |    |    |    |
| 13 |    |    | 14 |    |   |    | 15 |    |
|    |    | 16 |    |    |   | 17 |    |    |
| 18 | 19 |    | 20 |    |   |    | 21 | 22 |
| 23 |    | 24 |    |    |   | 25 |    |    |
| 26 |    |    |    |    |   | 27 |    |    |
| 28 |    |    |    |    |   | 29 |    |    |

- Down**
1. Kind of fall
  2. White House staffer
  3. Gave medicine to
  4. Pacifiers
  5. Church official
  6. Jog

7. Prayer leader
8. Expunge
14. Wall Street figure
17. India's first P.M.
18. Dispatch
19. Assortment
21. Inexperienced
22. AutoCorrect target
24. Rink surface

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| O | F | U |   | S | R | E | O | D |
| P | R |   |   | R | E | C | I | N |
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| E | M |   |   | L | P | O |   | R |
| D |   |   |   | A | C | R |   | P |

The headline is a clue to the answer in the diagonal.

**Will Apple's new phone change your life?**

Will it recommend a new pizza place? Tell you that your top clashes with your pants? Help you deal with a surly teenager?

Apple Intelligence, which debuted on Apple's iPhone 16 late last year, might be able to help with the first thing, but you're still on your own for the others. Still, the tech giant hopes that the roster of new Apple Intelligence-powered features will goose stagnant sales and bolster revenue after it declined for several consecutive quarters.

So far, Apple has released only a few new Apple Intelligence-powered features, with plans to gradually release more features over time. But here are some highlights:

- Summaries of just about everything. Apple intelligence will boil down meandering emails, too-long text messages, and even wordy web pages if you like. But if you don't like, you have the option to turn it off.
- Siri gets a makeover. If you use Siri on an older model, you're probably familiar with the animating glowing sphere that showed



up whenever Siri showed up to assist you. With Apple Intelligence, Siri instead signals her presence with a glowing purple halo around the perimeter of your screen. Apple also claims that Siri will understand us better through verbal missteps and interruptions.

- Long-overdue photo editing features. Frustratingly, the Photos app has always lacked basic retouching capabilities, and users had to rely on their Mac computers (if they had them) or third-party apps if they wanted to remove dust and smudges from their photos. The new AI-enhanced Clean Up tool

in the Photos app analyzes your photos, suggests fixes, and, well, cleans up.

Will it organize your pantry, train your dog not to dig through the trash, or block out all bad news when you're not in the mood? No. But if you look for some advice, it will at least summarize it for you.

**Study: Vaping has immediate negative health effects**

New research presented recently at the Radiological Society of North America's annual conference showed that e-cigarette users experience immediate decreases in vascular function and oxygen levels whenever they vape -- even if their e-cigarette liquid does not contain nicotine. According to CNN, people who used vapes with nicotine experienced the greatest reduction in vascular function, even compared to conventional cigarette smokers. Poor vascular function can lead to complications such as blood clots and stroke.



**It's a new year! It's time to reflect on the past and plan for your future.** Are you on track with your retirement goals? Do you have enough life insurance? Do your loved ones have enough life insurance?



When we plan for the future, one of the things we count on is a continuing source of income for ourselves and our family. Should we die before our plans are completed, a new source of income must be found for our family. Life insurance is designed to replace lost income or pay for specific needs your family would have if you were not around. If you have a spouse, kids or aging parents who depend on you, an ATS Life Insurance policy can provide financial security.

Part of your plan for the future is retirement. Where do you stand right now with your retirement goals? If you are still working, begin saving or start transferring savings into an ATS Annuity where your savings will grow faster and your interest earnings will be tax-deferred. If you will be retiring soon, act now to have your lump-sum pension distribution rolled over to an ATS Annuity or IRA for continuing tax-sheltered growth until you are ready to make withdrawal decisions for retirement income. If you have already retired, consider transferring some of your savings into an ATS Annuity and upon your request, you can begin receiving regular planned income payments for as long as you live. An ATS Annuity can help to take away the anxiety that you may outlive your money.

**Contact your local ATS Sales Deputy or the ATS Home Office to learn more about our Life Insurance and Annuity Plans:**

- **Single Payment Life**—Only one premium pays this plan for life
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Michael Roth  
(614) 216-0008

**Detroit, MI**

Contact ATS Home Office  
(440) 842-8442

**ATS Home Office**

(440) 842-8442  
Office@ATSaxons.com  
www.ATSaxons.com

**Ellwood City, PA**

Lori Biddle-Berendt  
(724) 714-1217

**Farrell, PA**

Contact ATS Home Office  
(440) 842-8442

**Lorain, OH**

Monica Gilles  
(440) 309-7894

**Merrillville, IN**

Randall Floyd  
(219) 798-6908  
Jeff Szostek  
(219) 313-7854

**New Castle, PA**

Contact ATS Home Office  
(440) 842-8442

**Rochester/Monaca, PA**

Contact ATS Home Office  
(440) 842-8442

**Salem, OH**

Helen Aeling  
(330) 862-2563  
Barbara Spack  
(330) 501-1491

**Youngstown, OH**

Michael Teutsch, Jr.  
(330) 509-9670

