



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

February 28, 2025

Issue 5

BRANCH 33, CLEVELAND EAST By Arline Krestel-Suts

Due to icy wintry weather, Branch 33 held its meeting virtually via Zoom on February 12. We were pleased to have 26 members signed in online.

We voted to make charitable donations to the Cleveland Saxon Dance group, Branch 4's Junior Committee to help with cost of children's parties, and Messiah Lutheran Church.

Condolences to the Kraus family. Our member Carol Kraus passed away last month. Born in 1936, she had been a member since 1979 and most recently living in Florida. Also, we were sad to hear Sheila Spack from the Salem branch passed away, our sympathies and prayers go out to Glenn and family.

We are still planning on baking Krapfen, but will delay that event until May. Members have been discussing other events we can do as a group; for instance, a Covered Bridges and Wine tour or a dinner cruise on the Lady Caroline in Cleveland. How about a tour of Progressive Field? If you have any suggestions or ideas, let us know. Reminder that the Westside Dance group is having their chili cookoff on March 15. Hope that many of Branch 33 members will be able to attend.

Happy birthday to all members who have a birthday in February including Elizabeth Friedsman who is 99 and Ingeborg Krestel celebrating 93 years young.

Messiah Lutheran Church meeting room will not be available so please remember our meeting for March will again be virtual, via Zoom, on March 12th at 7 p.m. Please watch your email for the Zoom invite, which will be sent out by Maria Phillips a couple days before the meeting. Stay warm and healthy in the meantime!

BRANCH 5, LORAIN By Michael Johnson

Due again to the extreme below freezing temperatures on the evening of our February meeting February 17, we canceled until our next scheduled meeting on Monday, March 17, 2025 starting at 7:00 p.m. at the American Slovak Club 2915 Broadway Ave, Lorain, Ohio. 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, please submit your dues by mail soon to avoid falling into arrears. Make your check payable to: **ATS Branch 5, Lorain, OH** and mail your check to: *Michael W. Johnson, 2151 Lakeland Ave., Lakewood, OH 44107.*

Remember, if you are currently ill and under a doctor's care or soon to be, you need to contact sister Jane Mowery at (440) 246-3004 to begin the process of receiving benefits due through your membership in Branch 5.

Happy Birthday to those members who will celebrate birthdays this coming month of March; Sister June Nau and Junior member Rhys Berlin. We hope your day will be a special one!

Until next time, continue to stay warm and safe as we continue in this season of winter.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Denise Aeling Crawford
ATS Nat'l President



I'm changing that old nursery rhyme "Rain, Rain, Go Away" to "Snow, Snow, Go Away, Come again another YEAR"!! I think everyone is a little tired of shoveling and blowing the white stuff from our driveways and sidewalks. Oh well, what would we complain about this time of year if not for the cold and snow?!

Preliminary planning is underway for the North American Transylvanian Saxon Heimattag to be held this summer. Please mark your calendars for July 11 and 12. This ATS National event will be hosted by the Youngstown Saxon Club. We're looking forward to renewing old friendships with our fellow Transylvanian Saxons from the USA and from Canada, as well as meeting new lifelong friends. This event will be here before we know it.

Plans are also underway for the Cleveland Saxon Dance Group's tour of Germany and Austria this June. They were selected to participate in the Federation's Cultural Exchange program. This program takes place every two years, in the alternating countries of Austria, Canada, Germany, Transylvania, and the United States. You may recall that in 2023, the band and dance group from Traun, Austria toured the U.S. and Canada. This year is the USA's turn to go to Europe. The next tour will be in 2027, with Germany sending a cultural group to the USA and Canada. Along these lines, the next Jugendlager will be held next summer, in 2026, hosted by Germany. Early next year, the Youth Activities Committee will be looking for teenage participants for this two-week international event.

Did you know that Silver Dollars were made legal on February 28, 1878? The Bland-Allison Act, providing for a return to the mining of silver coins, became the law of the land on this day. During the late 19th century, silver coinage was a topic of keen political and economic interest, according to History.com. Back in those times, money was generally backed by actual deposits of silver and gold, as opposed to today where American money is essentially secured by faith in the stability of the government. The silver and gold deposits were called the "bimetallic standard". The U.S. minted both gold and silver coins.

In 1873, Congress decided to follow the lead of many European nations and cease buying silver and minting silver coins, both because silver was relatively scarce and also to simplify the monetary system. Aggravated by a variety of other factors, this led to financial panic. Prices naturally dropped when the government stopped buying silver and many owners of western silver mines were hurt. Likewise, farmers and others who carried substantial debt loads attacked the "Crime of '73" as it was called. They believed that it caused a tighter supply

Continued on Page 4



TIMELY - DO NOT DELAY
MAILED TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025

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



SEE PAGE 3 FOR
2025 ATS SAXON
SCHOLARSHIP
INFORMATION
AND
APPLICATIONS

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



BRANCH 9, CHICAGO
By Rose-Marie Hauer

President Thut brought the meeting to order and welcomed all the members for our first meeting of the year. All the reports were read and approved.

On the sick report we have Sister Irene Drechsler and Sister Katharina Thut. We wish them both a speedy recovery.

Letters were received and read from the Palatine Food Pantry and the Advocate Children's Hospital for our charitable gifts over the Christmas holiday,

Events for 2025
Mark your Calendar
March 2, 2025 - Bowling Event - (see ad). Contact Liz Hauer (847) 685-9821 ASAP for your reservation.

June 29, 2025 - Picnic
August 20, 2025 - Event to be announced soon
September 14, 2025 - Banquet at Lone Tree Manor
December 14, 2025 - Christmas Party

At the end of the meeting each member received a Krapfen and a piece of cake to celebrate President Thut's birthday.

Hope to see you all at the Bowling event on March 2. The next meeting will on March 3, at 7 p.m.

Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons
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Before you give someone a piece of your mind, be sure you can spare it.



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

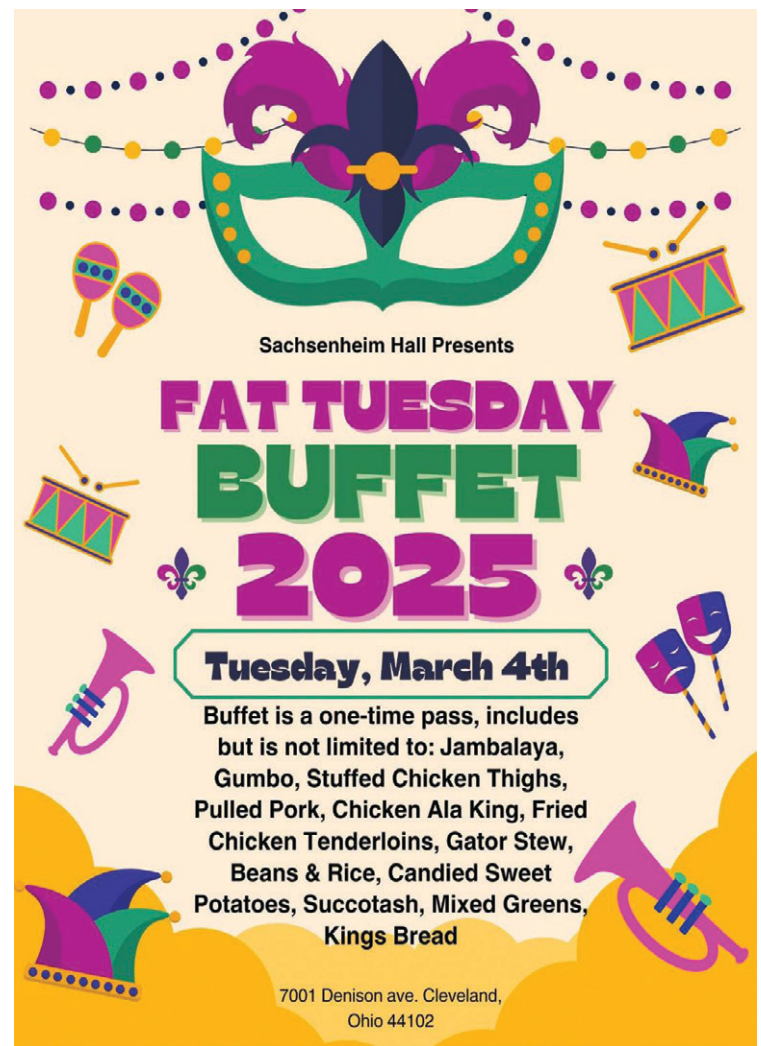
Articles e-mailed will receive an e-mailed confirmation by Noon Thursday. If you did not receive a confirmation, please give us a call.

DEADLINE DATES FOR ARTICLES:

DEADLINE	ISSUE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2025	FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2025
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025	FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2025
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2025	FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 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. ****

Make retirement plans to suit your needs

Traditional retirement advice is to plan to have enough income to cover 80 percent of the income you earn while working. That way you will be able to enjoy the same lifestyle.

That advice comes from the presumption that you won't be buying lots of work clothes, spending money on commuting, or contributing to your retirement account. Instead, you will be quietly living a retired life.

But, will you? If you plan to pursue lifelong dreams like travel, hobbies, adventures, or a beach retirement home, you won't spend less. You might actually spend more.

In addition, costs rise over time. For every cost of living increase in Social Security, there is an increase in supplemental insurance. Then there are the expenses with aging parents and adult children and other unexpected expenses.

According to Kiplinger, some financial advisors are recommending that people plan to replace 100 percent of the income. Long before you retire, get a clear picture of how much it costs to run your household, where you tend to spend, and where you can save.

If you plan to work in retirement, you can fund some of your fun expenses, but don't depend on that ability. You can't tell what the future may hold for your health, or wealth.

FRATERNAL CALENDAR

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Cont'd from Page 1

**BRANCH 30,
YOUNGSTOWN**
By Rosemarie Kascher

NATIONAL EVENTS

- 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
- June 15 - 20, 2025
Saxon Summer Camp at Camp Frederick
- July 11 - 13, 2025
North American Saxon Heimattag
Host: Youngstown Saxon Club
- July 26, 2025
ATS Family Day at Waldameer
- October 18 - 19, 2025
ATS Open Bowling Tournament
Host: Merrillville, IN

LOCAL EVENTS

- March 1, 2025
Cleveland Sachsenheim Jaeger Nacht
- March 4, 2025
Cleveland Sachsenheim Mardis Gras Buffet
- March 15, 2025
Cleveland Saxon Dance Group Chili Cook-Off
- March 16, 2025
Youngstown Saxon Club Pork and Kraut Dinner
- March 17, 2025
Cleveland Sachsenheim St. Patrick's Day
Corned Beef Special
- March 29, 2025
Youngstown Br. 30 Goulash Dinner
- April 4-5, 2025
Cleveland Sachsenheim Sausage Making / Sale
- April 11, 2025
Cleveland 250 Club Banquet
- April 12, 2025
Cleveland Breakfast with the Easter Bunny
- April 24, 2025
Cleveland Sachsenheim Clean Up Day
- April 26, 2025
Cleveland Sachsenheim Clean Up Day
- May 3, 2025
Cleveland Saxon Dance Group Trachtenball
- May 5, 2025
Cleveland Sachsenheim Cinco de Mayo
- May 11, 2025
Cleveland Sachsenheim Mothers' Day Brunch
- June 1, 2025
Cleveland Saxon Dance Group
European Tour Dance Program Performance
- June 15, 2025
Cleveland Sachsenheim Fathers' Day Dinner
- June 18, 2025
Cleveland Sachsenheim / Gemütlichkeit Musikanten
Pilsner Patio Party
- June 29, 2025
Chicago Br. 9 Annual Summer Picnic
- July 19, 2025
Cleveland Sachsenheim / Gemütlichkeit Musikanten
Krampus in July

of money, which in turn made it more difficult for them to pay their debts.

A nationwide drive to return to the bimetallic standard ensued and many Americans place a near mystical faith in the ability of silver to solve their economic troubles. Missouri Congressman Richard Bland led the fight to remonetize silver. He had worked in mining and witnessed the struggles of small farmers. With the backing of powerful western mining interests, Bland secured the passage of the Bland-Allison Act in 1878. It did not provide for a return of unlimited silver coinage, but it did require the U.S. Treasury to resume purchasing silver and minting silver dollars as legal tender. Americans could, again, use silver coins and this did help some struggling mining operations. However, it had little economic impact. This battle over the use of gold and silver continued well into the 20th century.

Some other American money facts include the following. The Constitution only authorized the federal government to issue coins and not paper money. Largely, because the founding fathers had seen the bills issued by the Continental Congress to finance the American Revolution (called "continentals") become virtually worthless by the end of the war. The implosion of the bills eroded faith in paper currency so much that the Constitutional Convention delegates remained silent on the issue. Prior to the Civil War,

banks, and not the federal government, printed paper money. Notes printed by state-chartered banks, which could be exchanged for gold and silver, were the most common form of paper currency in circulation.

Prior to the passage of the National Banking Act in 1863 (and updated in 1864), some 8,000 different entities issued currency, creating an unwieldy money supply and rampant counterfeiting. The National Banking Act eliminated the overwhelming variety of paper money in circulation and created a system of banks chartered by the federal government, rather than by the states.

The highest denomination bill ever printed was the \$100,000 gold certificate. It was printed between December 18, 1934 and January 9, 1935, with President Woodrow Wilson on the front. These notes were never circulated and were used solely for transactions among the Federal Reserve banks. The highest bill in circulation was the \$10,000 bill. It did not have a president on the face, but had Salmon P. Chase, the Treasury Secretary at the time. Chase later served as chief justice of the Supreme Court. Printing of this \$10,000 bill stopped in 1969, along with \$5,000 bills with James Madison, the \$1,000 bill with Grover Cleveland, and \$500 bills with William McKinley. So basically, anything higher than a \$100 bill stopped circulating in 1969. \$2 bills are still printed periodically and are good legal tender. Just don't accept any \$3 bills!!

- Upcoming Events:
Wednesdays
Dinner and Drawing
Thursdays
Bar Bingo,
Queen of Hearts
Fridays
Fish Dinner
Open to the public
Sundays
Breakfast and 2 p.m. meetings on the second Sundays
March 3
6 p.m. Officers meeting
March 9
2 p.m. Branch meeting
March 16
Pork/kraut dinner
11:00 a.m. - 2 p.m.
March 29
Goulash Dinner 6 p.m.
Dues are \$40 for each individual member, man or woman. Honorary members are asked to pay only \$20 to help keep your Saxon building going. I am a proud payee as an honor member, too. Your officers are working very hard in your Saxon interests in spite of these economic times.

We encourage you to pay your bills at the Club in cash to avoid the restaurant tax on credit cards everywhere.

Make your dues checks out to Youngstown Saxon Club c/o Val Thomas 5947 Tippecanoe Rd. Youngstown, OH 44406 or to the office.

Scholarships from Branch 30 to YSU are possible for men and women, at any age, for full time enrollment. You need to be a member for two years and have a 3.0 average. This is a wonderful opportunity, so please contact Julaine Gilmartin (330) 799-5171.

Wishing each of you a good winter!

Global health experts propose a new definition for obesity

An international commission of 58 health experts recommend shifting away from high BMI as the primary clinical tool for the diagnosis of obesity. According to CNN, the commission recommends a more comprehensive assessment for excess body fat, such as measuring waist circumference, waist-to-hip ratio, and body fat percentage. Proponents hope that more individualized measurements will expand treatment options for obesity and related health complications.

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

YOUNGSTOWN SAXON CLUB
710 S. Meridian Rd

PORK & KRAUT DINNER
MARCH 16, 2025

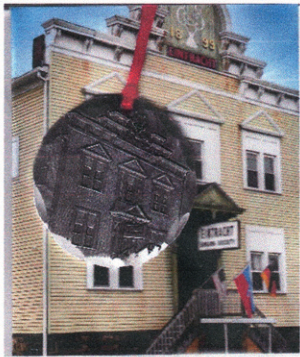
11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
\$12.00

TAKE OUT AND EAT-IN
PUBLIC WELCOME



**Alliance of
Transylvanian Saxons**

Keep your memories alive
with this
Wendell August
ornament depicting the
unique Eintracht building in
New Castle, PA



\$20



"A Brief History of the
Transylvanian Saxons"
Booklet \$1.50

Pre-paid orders can be mailed in the continental United States for an additional
fee. Contact Judy Both at 724-654-0573 or jboth1512@comcast.net



Siebenbürgen Sachsen Branch 9 & the ATS

are hosting the
"Bowl Where You Are" Tournament
Sunday, March 2, 2025 from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Arlington Lanes
3435 N Kennicott Ave
Arlington Heights, IL

Children ages 6-17 with an ATS policy - No Charge
Guests Bowling - \$22.00
Includes: shoes, two games, pizza & soda.

Reservations requested by February 25, 2025
Call Liz Hauer (847) 685-9821

News from Canada....

High award for Peter M. Boehm and John Werner

On December 2nd last year, Peter M. Boehm and John Werner were honored with a special award in the Senate of Ottawa: They received the King Charles III Coronation Medal (commemorative medal for the coronation of the British monarch King Charles III and his wife Queen Camilla on May 6th, 2023). Since Canada is part of the Commonwealth, Charles is also king of the North American country, for which a separate commemorative medal was minted.



Peter M. Boehm (left) wears his medal on his lapel, John Werner holds it proudly to the camera. Photo: Neil Valois

Born in Kitchener, Ontario, former diplomat Peter M. Boehm comes from a Transylvanian family. He was Ambassador to Germany from 2008 to 2012 and before that Deputy Minister for North and South America and Consular Affairs. Abroad, he was Minister at the Canadian Embassy to the United States in Washington and Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States. In his diplomatic career, Boehm also worked in Cuba and Costa Rica and held a number of high-level diplomatic positions. He served as National Summit Coordinator for the Summits of the Americas in Santiago and Quebec, Special Envoy to the Organization of American States Democratization Mission in Peru, and Personal Representative of the Prime Minister for the Summit of the Americas in Mar del Plata in 2005. Boehm served as Sherpa for the G8 Summit and subsequent G7 Summits, as well as for the Nuclear Security Summit from 2013 to 2017. From 2017 to 2018, he served as Deputy Minister for the G7 Summit and Personal Representative of the Prime Minister. He was appointed to the Canadian Senate in 2018 and currently chairs the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade. He received the Commemorative Medal "for his distinguished service while carrying out his numerous representative duties in the service of Canada."

John Werner was also born in Canada into a Transylvanian family. In the 1960s, he became a member of the Transylvania Club's youth group and was elected youth leader in 1969. In 1971, he took part in the first federal youth camp, received the Transylvania Club's badge of honor in 1987 and was a member of its board before serving as president from 1988 to 1994. Since 1997, he has been federal chairman of the Transylvanian Saxon Association in Canada. He works with great commitment to preserve the Transylvanian Saxon heritage, culture and tradition, as well as the German language in Canada, and to pass it on to young people who appreciate his "youthful energy," as his deputy Rebecca Horeth wrote in an article in the Transylvanian Newspaper on his 70th birthday in 2022. "He is truly someone who celebrates what it means to be a Transylvanian Saxon." Accordingly, he was awarded the Commemorative Medal "for his lifelong dedication to preserving the Transylvanian Saxon heritage in Canada and his leadership in promoting and supporting cultural identity and youth work in the community."

Both Peter M. Boehm and John Werner are lifelong members of the Transylvania Club Kitchener and are very proud to have received this high award for their services.

dr
SBZ Online 13.02.25



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 Auer
Age: 88

Died: January 21, 2025
Home Branch

Jean Freaney
Age: 94

Died: January 27, 2025
Branch 30, Youngstown, OH

Kathy Blumberg
Age: 77

Died: February 5, 2025
Branch 18, Salem, OH

Shelia Spack
Age: 82

Died: February 7, 2025
Branch 18, Salem, OH

Karen Purnell
Age: 78

Died: February 8, 2025
Branch 30, Youngstown, OH

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

When you develop yourself to the point where your belief in yourself is so strong that you know you can accomplish anything you put yourself into, your future will be unlimited.

Brian Tracy

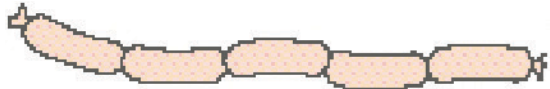
The grand essentials for happiness are something to do, something to love, and something to hope for.

Chalmers

INVITE

your relatives and friends to
join the crowd at ATS.

Youngstown Saxon Culture Group



Spring Sausage Sale

We are now taking orders for hot, mild, and garlic sausage.

All flavors come in 3 lb and 5 lb links or 3 lb and 5 lb bulk packages (each with a little overage).

A new item, 3 lb bulk, is available.

The price is \$4.00 per pound

You can call in orders to

Michael Bachinger 330-540-5168

Walter Benesch 330-398-5449

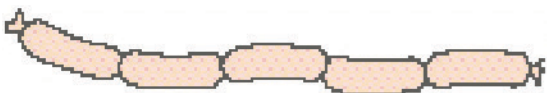
Robert Bachinger 330-980-0911

You can also email your order to
bman1017@gmail.com

Saturday, March 15, 2025

Pick-up is from
9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Pavilion

Orders will be accepted until March 10th, 2025



Join us for the Cleveland Saxon Dance Group's 15th 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://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 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.

42nd Annual Bowl Where You Are Tournament



Our Annual "Bowl Where You Are" Tournament

for ATS members between the ages of 6 and 17 will be held

February to March, 2025.

This tournament is designed to allow our young members to bowl in their home city and mail their scores. Scores must be submitted on an official ATS Score sheet which was mailed to each eligible youth member in January, 2025.

Winners (best total score for three games) will receive an award plaque for their age group. All participants will receive a T-shirt after the event.

Some Branches are organizing Bowling Parties to bring their young members together to bowl for this event. For tips on how to make this a family Branch event, contact Margie Ziegler, Youth Committee Chairperson, (440) 488-6421.

Lent begins March 5

Of all the Christian seasons, Lent is not exactly known as festive. It is a 40-day period of personal sacrifice and penance that culminates with the much more colorful Sunday of Easter, on April 20 in 2025.

In modern Christian tradition, people talk about giving something up for Lent. This tradition originates from early Christian practices of fasting and penance as preparation for the joyous Easter.

The 40-day period of Lent, established by the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD, was inspired by biblical events such as Jesus fasting in the wilderness for



40 days, as well as Moses and Elijah's fasting periods.

Early Christians initially observed Lent as a time of repentance and reflection, particularly for baptism

candidates who fasted before their initiation on Easter.

The practice has evolved over centuries, with strict fasting rules in the 5th to 9th centuries that gradually relaxed over time. By the Middle Ages, the idea of personal sacrifice during Lent became more common, symbolizing penance and spiritual discipline. This tradition remains rooted in the biblical and historical emphasis on fasting and self-denial as acts of devotion.

In 2025, Lent runs from March 5 to April 17. Holy Week is April 13 to April 19.



Saturday March 29

1:00 p.m.

Salem Branches 18 & 19

FAMILY BOWLING PARTY

**Hunt Club Lanes in Salem
188 Railroad St.**

Bring the whole family.

Pizza and drink provided.

**Lodge will pay for bowling
of all eligible youth bowlers.**

RSVP to Glenn Spack

or any questions.

(234) 320-4132.

**Transylvania Trip from a
Columbus Point of View**

MONTHLY MEETING

Due to weather and illness, we have not been able to get together for a meeting this year, yet. We hope the weather will be kind and everyone will have recovered from the flu that has been rampant.

March 17, 2025

Hickory House
550 Offcenter Place
Gahanna, Ohio 43239
12 Noon

Our meetings are the Third (3rd) 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.”

TRANSYLVANIA TRIP

On today’s Transylvania trip we visited Alba Lulia.

On this visit there seems to be a discrepancy on the stories of a couple people (Mike Roth and myself), getting lost from the group. It is our contention that Mike and I knew where we were the entire time, so it was the group that got lost from us. Regardless, it was a wonderful tour of Alba Lulia.

As with many of the larger Transylvanian cities it is a fortified city with walls and a system of moats used for protection, and a prominent central square. Also, there were mounds that housed artillery equipment overseeing the Mures River for additional protection. As you can see from the picture, Alba-Carolina Citadel has a distinct and unique design of a star-shaped fortress walls surrounding Alba Lulia.

As we came through the gates to the city we came upon the Alba Lulia Orthodox Cathedral. As was customary in many of the cathedrals of Transylvania was extremely ornate; decorated interior-wise with beautiful murals and designed with silver and gold portraits of various biblical individuals. There was no expense spared when it came to the design, most of which were done by artists from all over Europe. During some of the wars the beautiful floor to ceiling murals were protected with barriers to insure their safe keeping. As you toured the cathedral, you gained this feeling of connection with the past as you watched people in line to view the portraits, kneel, pray and kiss the displays. It was truly an overwhelming experience. One of the most amazing stories regarding the cathedral was its construction. The cathedral was going to be the site for the coronation of King Ferdinand I and Queen Marie. Understanding that the equipment used to construct the cathedral was not that advanced, this beautiful and ornate building was constructed in

less than a year.

Today, Alba Lulia (German: Karlsburg or Carlsburg) is a city that serves as the seat of Alba County in the west-central part of Romania. Located on the river Mures in the historical region of Transylvania.

During ancient times, the site was the location of the Roman camp Apulum. Since the High Middle Ages, the city has been the seat of Transylvania’s Roman Catholic diocese. Between 1526 and 1570 it was the capital of the Eastern Hungarian Kingdom from which the Principality of Transylvania emerged by the Treaty of Speyerin 1570 and it was the capital of the Principality of Transylvania until 1711. At one point it also was a center of the Eastern Orthodox Metropolitan of Transylvania with suffragan to Vad diocese. On 1 December 1918, the Union of Transylvania with Romania was declared in Alba Lulia, and Romania’s King Ferdinand I and, in 1922 Queen Marie were crowned in the Alba Lulia Orthodox Cathedral.

As was customary with European countries marriages and families were constructed and designed with the idea of creating alliances with other countries and insuring the strength of your own country. This can be seen with the families of King Ferdinand I and Queen Marie.

Ferdinand I (Ferdinand Viktor Albert Meinrad; 24 August 1865 – 20 July 1927), nicknamed (“the Unifier”), was King of Romania from 10 October 1914 until his death in 1927. Ferdinand was the second son of Leopold, Prince of Hohenzollern, and Infanta Antónia of Portugal, (daughter of Queen Maria II of Portugal and of Prince Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha-Kohary). His family was part of the Catholic Branch of the Prussian royal family Hohenzollern.

In 1886, Ferdinand became heir presumptive to the Romanian throne, following the renunciation of his father (in 1880) and older brother. From the moment he settled in Romania, he continued his military career, gaining a series of honorary commands and being promoted to the rank of corps general. He married in 1893 Princess Marie of Edinburgh, granddaughter of both Queen Victoria and Emperor Alexander II.

The Coronation Cathedral, dedicated to the Holy Trinity and the Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel, is a Romanian Orthodox cathedral. Built soon after and in commemoration of the Union of Transylvania with Romania, it is the seat of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese of Alba Lulia.



Marie (born Princess Marie Alexandra Victoria of Edinburgh; 29 October 1875 – 18 July 1938) was the last queen of Romania from 10 October 1914 to 20 July 1927 as the wife of King Ferdinand I.

Marie was born into the British royal family. Her parents were Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh (later Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha), and Grand Duchess Maria Alexandrovna of Russia. Marie’s early years were spent in Kent, Malta and Coburg. After refusing a proposal from her cousin, the future King George V, she was chosen as the future wife of Ferdinand, then crown prince of Romania, in 1892. Marie was crown princess between 1893 and 1914, and became immediately popular with the Romanian people.

After the outbreak of World War I, Marie urged Ferdinand to ally himself with the Triple Entente and declare war on Germany, which he eventually did in 1916. During the early stages of fighting, the national capital Bucharest was occupied by the Central Powers. Marie, Ferdinand and their five children took refuge in Western Moldavia. There, she and her three daughters acted as nurses in military hospitals, caring for soldiers who were wounded or afflicted by cholera. Queen Marie became endeared to the Romanian people and highly respected throughout Europe. After the war, on 1 December 1918, the historical region of Transylvania, following Bessarabia and Bukovina, united with the Old Kingdom. Marie, now queen of Greater Romania, attend-

ed the Paris Peace Conference of 1919, where she campaigned for international recognition of the enlarged Romania. In 1922, she and Ferdinand were crowned in a specially-built cathedral in the ancient city of Alba Lulia, in an elaborate ceremony which mirrored their status as queen and king of a united state.

The Orthodox Unification Cathedral was built between 1921 and 1923, following the plans of architect D.G. Ștefănescu and built under the supervision of engineer, T. Eremia. The frescoes were painted by Constantin in a traditional iconographic style. The first monarchs of the Unified Romania, King Ferdinand I and Queen Marie were crowned in the cathedral on 15 October 1922.

As we have seen in many of the cities of Transylvania, the brick and cobblestone stone roads, streets and walkways are meticulous and well maintained. As is customary

Continued on Page 8



in many of the cities the public bathrooms are maintained by charging a fee for use. There would be a person collecting a fee (with the advantageous US to Romanian exchange rate), usually ranging from 25 to 10 cents.

This ends another wonderful visit on our Transylvanian Trip. Follow us on our next stop on the tour, in the next Volksblatt.

CELEBRATIONS

Happy birthday to Mike Roth (March 21) and Rob Betts March 27). Alles Gute zum Geburtstag!

Happy Anniversary to Marlene & Rob Betts (March 22). Herzlichen Glückwunsch zum Jubiläum!

HUMOR (Compliments of Sara Alzner-Brown)

Granddaughter got a letter from Grandma. She is 95 years old and still drives her own car.

Dear Granddaughter,

The other day I went up to our local Christian bookstore and saw a bumper sticker that said "Honk if you love Jesus."

I was feeling particularly sassy that day because I had just come from a thrilling choir performance, followed by a thunderous prayer meeting. So, I bought the sticker and put it on my bumper.

Boy, am I glad I did; what an uplifting experience that followed.

I was stopped at a red light, at a busy intersection.

Just lost in thought in the of the Lord and how good He is, I didn't notice the light had changed.

It's a good thing someone else loves Jesus because if he hadn't honked, I would have never noticed the light had changed.

I found that lots of people love Jesus! While I was sitting there the guy behind me started honking like crazy and then he leaned out the window and screamed, "For the love of God! Go, Go, Go! Jesus Christ, GO!"

There must have been a man from Florida back there because I heard him yelling something about a sunny beach.

I saw another guy waving a funny way with his hand and a middle finger stuck up in the air. I asked my grandson who was sitting in the backseat what it meant. He said the man must have been from Hawaii and it was a good luck sign. Well, I never met anyone from Hawaii before, so I hung my hand out the window and gave him the good luck sign right back at him. My grandson burst out laughing. Why even he was enjoying this religious experience. A couple of the people were so caught up in the joy of the moment that they got out of the car and started walking toward me. I bet they wanted to pray or ask what church I attended. But this is when I noticed the light had changed. So grinning, I waved at all my brothers and sisters and drove on through the intersection. I noticed I was the only car that got through the intersection, I felt kind of sad I had to leave all the love we had shared. So, I slowed down and reached out the window and gave them all the Hawaiian good luck sign. Praise the lord for such wonderful folks.

Write again soon, Love Grandma!



By the dawn's early light:

The story of the Anthem

As the sun rises on March 3, we could raise the flag to mark the 94th anniversary of Congress' adoption of "The Star Spangled Banner" as our national anthem.

It was written by Francis Scott Key. Key was detained on a British ship during the War of 1812. From its location in Chesapeake Bay, the ship bombarded Fort McHenry throughout that night, putting Key into a state of high anxiety. McHenry was one of the forts that successfully defended Baltimore.

Key was so inspired by the battle that on the following day, he poetically described how his country's flag survived the bombardment on September 13-14.

A few days later, the piece was printed anonymously under the title "Defence of Fort McHenry" by the Baltimore Patriot. Set to the tune of the English song, "To Anacreon in Heaven," it soon became popular throughout the nation.

The first stanza of "The Star Spangled Banner" is well-known, but Key wrote four stanzas, some of which proclaim how the nation would survive the trials of future history. He predicted:

*O thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their loved homes and the war's desolation*

Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the Heav'n rescued land

Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation!

Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just

And this be our motto: 'In God is our trust.'

And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave

O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Turning What You Love into What You Do

By [Patrick J. O'Connor \(Northeast Ohio Boomer\)](#)



Bruce's uncle, WWII Captain George L. Baatz

Bruce Schneider from Solon has been enjoying an incredible, once-in-a-lifetime experience recently. The experience gives him a firsthand look at turning what he loves into what he does.

He's been an avid aviation fan all his life, including serving in the Air Force during the Vietnam War. He also has considerable memorabilia from his late Uncle George who piloted a B-24 bomber during WWII and was shot down over Belgium.

Bruce randomly learned that a small town in Belgium was hosting a celebration and dedication to the airmen, including his uncle, who were part of the liberation of Europe 80 years ago. The connection led to an invitation to attend a ceremony to honor Americans who helped in that liberation which the Belgian people hold so dear.

This article chronicles the mission Bruce's uncle and crew flew and the ceremony honoring it.



Uncle George's flight mission logbook

The Mission

WWII was raging when Captain George L. Baatz flew on D-Day, bombing missions as a pilot in the Mighty 8th Air Corps. A few weeks later, the 24-year-old captain, his crew and the B-24 H bomber (The Liberator) were shot down over Belgium (joining 26,000 air corps casualties).

One of the 10 crew members survived the crash. As the plane separated, tail gunner Gordon Adee parachuted into an orchard on the Van Hyfte farm. A young girl spotted him and alerted her parents. They tended to the wounded airman until the Nazis located him and spirited him off to a war camp (as one of 28,000 Air Corps prisoners). He endured a year in the camp and returned to the U.S. after imprisonment. Airman Adee passed away in 2003.

The Pilot and his Plane

Bruce never met his uncle George but felt like he had, since he heard many stories about him. He knew George had piloted a bomber that went down after D-Day. Bruce's parents and grandparents shared many stories, and he had memorabilia related to him. Numerous photographs, medals and other war memorabilia contributed to his understanding of his uncle and his war experience.

George Baatz Jr. was born on March 20, 1920 in Cleveland, graduating from Collinwood High School. He entered the service in February 1942, reaching the rank of captain before being killed in action on June 24, 1944.

His flight logbook indicated this mission (his 27th) was to bomb a power plant in France. After the mission, the airmen were returning to England when they were shot down. George flew in the 453rd Bomb Group of Squadron 732 of the Mighty 8th Air Force, known for their unparalleled valor. Over the course of the war, the Eighth Air Force became the largest air armada in the world earning 17 Medals of Honor, 220 Distinguished Service Crosses, and more than 420,000 Air Medals. Additional information on the Mighty Eight can be found on the following website, mightyeight.org.



Captain Baatz and Vampin' Vera

Captain Baatz flew a plane originally nicknamed Galloping Gertie, after his sister. He later changed the name to Vampin' Vera, after his fiancée. On the fatal mission, Captain Baatz and crew led the squadron formation in a new plane, to be named Vampin Vera II, while Vampin Vera I flew with another crew in a secondary position.

Random Connection

Bruce found a group of military enthusiasts on the internet last November. He contacted them and learned they were interested in a plane crash in Belgium from 1944. Bruce's uncle George was the pilot of the plane. Everything seemed to domino from there.

Soon, Bruce was talking with people in the U.S. and from Coxyde, Belgium who were planning a memorial to the plane crash and the airmen who flew the B-24H. It turns out the people in this village have revered this event for many years, as they saw it as part of their liberation from the Nazis. Since the 80th anniversary of D-Day was coming up in June 2024, they decided to host a celebration and dedicate a plaque to the event and the crew. Bruce was invited to join them. Some events happen once in a lifetime and Bruce saw this as one of them. He started making plans for a trip to Belgium.



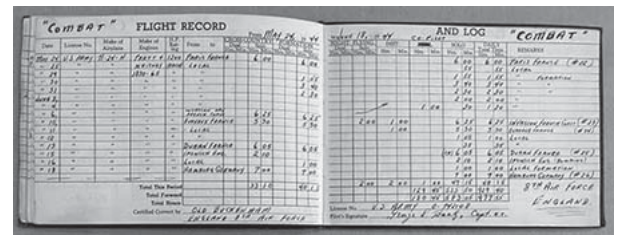
Crash site in Coxyde, Belgium

Memorial and Remembrance Ceremony

Bruce's visit to Belgium would include stops at the crash site, visits to various cemeteries and the town where his uncle and the crew were originally buried. He was also excited to meet and learn from many of the people in Coxyde who were so invested in the crash, the crew and his uncle. He would meet with Marc Demolder, a professor and military historian. Marc and his dad (who saw the crash) co-authored a book about the event. The anticipation built as the trip progressed.

The Ceremony

Bruce left for Belgium on June 18 for a 12-day excursion. The ceremony was planned for June 23.



Uncle George's WWII combat flight record

Belgium Village

The people in this region of Belgium have high regard for the events that occurred some 80 years ago. The area includes three cities: Coxyde or Koksijde (Cox-eed), Wulpen and Oostduinkerke (East Dunkirk). There is great reverence for the Allied soldiers who were part of the liberation from the Nazis. The residents remember several plane crashes in Belgium and the crews that went down with them.

This celebration was for the B24H Liberator that Bruce's uncle George piloted as part of the 453rd Bomb Group. Captain Baatz's family received a phone call after the crash with condolences from the group commander. Lieutenant Colonel James M. Stewart (AKA actor Jimmy Stewart) called them, as this was part of his role as operations officer for the 453rd Group.

Continued on Page 11



**NEW CASTLE, SECTION 6
EINTRACHT MÄNNERCHOR**
Rehearsal:
Every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.



PRESIDENT
Jonathan Baisch
3336 Plank Rd
New Castle PA 16105
(724) 816-6866
jonathanbaisch@gmail.com

SECRETARY
Paul Garmon
2305 Highland Ave
New Castle PA 16105
(724) 674-7491
paulgarmon1@gmail.com

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

PRESIDENT
Amanda Donnellan
9578 W. 130 St
Strongsville OH 44136
(216) 235-5240
Adonnellan5@yahoo.com

SECRETARY
Stephanie Miller
23500 Wingedfoot Dr
Westlake OH 44145
(216) 647-3229
SAMiller55@sbcglobal.net

**YOUNGSTOWN
SAXON CULTURE GROUP**
Meets: 2nd Sunday of Month
Youngstown Saxon Club

PRESIDENT
Erna Weber
525 Quarry Ln
Warren OH 44483
(330) 509-9421
Saxnera@aol.com

SECRETARY
Kevin McCarty
1636 Lexington Ave NW
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TRANSYLVANIAN SAXON BOWLING LEAGUE



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SECRETARY-TREASURER
Jenny Miller King
25321 Conover Dr.
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**STATISTICAL SEC'Y.
(Men & Women)**
Carl J. Schmitz
26652 Redwood Dr.
Olmsted Falls, OH 44138
(440) 799-1940
cjsaintrite@aol.com

TRUSTEES AUDITORS
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232 Reiber Road
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3520 Beavercrest Dr Apt 107
Lorain, OH 44053
(440) 309-7894
gillemo76@hotmail.com

**Are your
nieces and nephews
members of
the ATS?
Let them benefit
from our fraternal
program and be a
part of
our history!**



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 immi-
grated 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.

SAXON SENIORS

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

PRESIDENT
Rose Marie Zarny
3202 Starwick Ct
Canfield OH 44406
(330) 792-0388

SECRETARY
Rosemary Dundon
6000 Lake Rd W Apt 112
Ashtabula OH 44004
(440) 536-4661

SALEM SAXON RETIREES
Meets 1st
Wednesday of the month
Noon at 1980 NewGarden Rd

PRESIDENT
Lois Whitacre
15425 Lisbon St.
Minerva OH 44657
(330) 813-0400

SECRETARY
Dianne Kuttler
4282 McCann Rd
Salem OH 44460
(330) 428-1723

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Branch No. _____ Certificate No. _____ SS# _____

All information in the form
to the right and below must
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legibly written.

- CHANGE
 CANCELLATION
 NEW to receive paper

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



Crash site in Belgium

Wulpen is a small village with a population of about 600. Little has changed there since the B-24H crashed in June 1944. The people still farm as they did then. The farm and field where the plane scattered is still there, pretty much untouched by time. As he walked the field of the crash site, Bruce felt as if he was rewinding back in time some 80 years.

Cemeteries

There are numerous cemeteries in the area, with thousands buried in them. Bruce found the cemeteries to be immaculate, and visits to them were very moving. He was impressed with how everyone revered the cemeteries and honored those buried there. Most of those tending the sites are volunteer gardeners and stone masons.

The cemeteries are maintained by the American Battle Monuments Commission established by Congress in 1923. The Commission operates and maintains 26 permanent American military cemeteries in 17 foreign countries. They honor thousands of war dead from WWI and WWII. The mission of the Commission fulfills the promise of General John J. Pershing that "Time will not dim the glory of their deeds."



Wreath ceremony with Bruce, Jerry Adee and a village official

The Ceremony

The ceremony and dedication of the plaque was held in nearby Coxsyde, featuring several events to commemorate the crash, captain and crew.



Ten sculptures were created by local resident Guy Marteel. These were fashioned from plane debris gathered at the crash site.

Ten sculptures in all were created and Bruce received one from sculptor Guy Marteel. The son of surviving Airman Gordon Adee (Jerry) also received a sculpture.

Military historian and professor Marc Demolder gave a presentation sharing photos and information on the crash and crew. Professor Demolder and his dad wrote a book about the event. The presentation also included remarks from an American Embassy representative.

A plaque containing the names of all crew members was dedicated near a monument in the town center. Many people associated with the event attended including the girl, now 86, who found tail gunner Gordon Adee in the field. Airman Adee's son Jerry attended along with his son and grandsons. Appropriately, the ceremony concluded with a military flyover while taps played



Reflections on the Experience

Captain Baatz now rests peacefully next to his mother Katherina and father George Sr. at Acacia Cemetery in Mayfield Heights.

Bruce has visited them many times over the years. His future visits will be different now from this amazing once in a lifetime experience. He learned so much from the trip and it may take years for it to completely settle in.

On future visits, Bruce will reflect on his Uncle George the pilot, the crash, the crew, the cemeteries, and the many wonderful people he met on the trip. Most of all, he will cherish the additional closeness he now feels with his family. He is assembling a photo album with mementos of the entire experience. He plans to share it with his family members, present and future, so they can learn of this event and his uncle, Captain George L. Baatz Jr. This will help them to also feel the closeness he now feels.



Reprinted with permission of 'Northeast Ohio Boomer.'

Bruce Schneider is a proud member of Cleveland East Branch 33.

Bruce's father, Edward R. Schneider, served as ATS President from 1971 to 1984.



**I have saved money for
my retirement and I am
now ready to retire!
What do I do now?
What are my options?**



When you are ready to retire and are thinking about withdrawing money from your ATS annuity account, you have various options available to you. You can “annuitize” your account or you can leave it as it is. Annuitizing your account means that you will select a distribution or settlement option. You will need to put some thought into this option because once you make your choice, it cannot be changed. The alternative to annuitizing is you leave the account alone. This way, you can continue to contribute or to withdraw funds from the account, periodically, as needed.

One settlement option is a **Life Annuity**. This option offers a monetary payment **for your entire lifetime**. No matter how long you live, you will receive payments. A Life Annuity can be either **Straight Life** (your lifetime) or a **Joint and Survivor Life**. With the Joint and Survivor Life, a spouse is the most common person, but is not required to be. On the death of one of the payees, the survivor payee will receive either the same dollar amount or a percentage of the payment as long as the survivor is living, depending on how you set it up. Typical percentages for the survivor are 50% or 100%. A second settlement option is payment for a **Specified Period or Dollar Amount**. With a Specified Period option, a payment is made for whatever specified period you set up (ex: 5, 10, 20 years, etc.). If you pass away before that time frame is up, your beneficiary receives the remaining payments. A Fixed Dollar option will have payments set at a selected dollar amount until your account is depleted (ex: \$250 or \$500 monthly). If you pass away before the account is depleted, your beneficiary receives the remaining payments. A third settlement option combines both of the above features. A **Life Annuity with Period Certain** option guarantees that you will receive payments for your lifetime. Unlike the Straight Life option above, this option guarantees that the payments will continue to your named beneficiary if you pass away prior to the end of the set time frame (ex: 5, 10, 20 years).

Remember: an annuity is the only investment that can guarantee a stream of income that you cannot outlive!

- Most retirement plans have similar options available.
- You should consult your financial planner or tax preparer before annuitizing your account.
- Call the ATS Home Office at (440) 842-8442 for more information.

