

Due to the Covid-19 situation, the June 6th Spring Concert, Dinner and Dance and the NYS Saengerbund Saengerfest in Utica were cancelled and our April and May events were rescheduled. With today's uncertainties, **please check with KM&D for updated information.** Hopefully we can again share camaraderie and Gemuetlichkeit soon.

KAFFEKLATSCH

Alina reports that the First Sunday socials will resume this November with details in the September newsletter.

STAMMTISCH

Due to Covid-19 our lives have changed! The most pivotal is the absence of socializing and sharing "a good time together". So much is on hold including Stammtisch. The new culture of "online meetings" has grown as a real alternative to meeting in person. What does this mean for the Stammtisch? I am seriously thinking about transferring the Stammtisch to the virtual world as well, probably by hosting it in the form of a "zoom meeting". A meeting schedule has not been set up yet, but it will eventually continue to be every other Thursday from 5:30 to 7 pm (the question being only which one!). In any case, anyone who is interested in the Stammtisch in whichever form can contact me: MichaelScheunemann@ymail or (845) 527-4925. Thank you!

WURSTFEST – August 2

Delicious Wursts, homemade salads, desserts and beverages will be served for purchase from 1 to 4 pm with music by Joe Unger for your dancing and listening pleasure. Suggested donation for admission is \$5.00/pp. Reservations can be made by calling the club at (845) 338-3763.

FALL SUNDAY BREAKFAST - September 20

Enjoy our fabulous buffet of favorite breakfast foods from 8:45 to 11:30 am. The menu is always mm-mm good. Adults @ \$10.00/pp, Children under age 12 @ \$6.00/pc. **Reservations BY September 14th** are greatly appreciated. Information or reservations: Donna (845) 331-9372; the club (845) 338-3763.

LEBERKAESE LUNCH – October 4

Lunch will be served from 12:30 to 3 pm and will include light appetizers, Leberkaese and light desserts. Requested donation is \$12.00/pp. Reservations are appreciated by October 1. Take-out will be available. For information and reservations: Alina (845) 339-5969 or Hildegard (845) 757-5135.

GERMAN BEER TASTING ~ DEUTSCHE BIERPROBE – October 24 (Saturday)

Pilsner, Kolsch, Schwarzbier – what are they? Learn something new about German beers - the tasting will have something for everyone. Enjoy flavor sensations – the crisp, hoppy notes of German Pilsners, a warm, smooth Schwarzbier, a sweet, creamy Hefeweizens, as well as others. Bring all of your friends and get excited about a great night filled with fun and indulgence! (Under age 21, must be accompanied by an adult 21 or older.) Doors open 5:30 pm. Event begins 6 pm. Light snacks and a Weisswurst dinner will be served. Donations are \$30.00/pp; \$10.00/pp for non-drinkers (includes soda). Information or reservations: Marian Elflein, event coordinator at (845) 546-3534.

FALL CONCERT/DINNER/DANCE – November 15

Our annual Fall Concert event will be from noon to 5:30 pm with music provided by Gregory & The Brauhaus Boys. Please find details in our September 2020 Newsletter.

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**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS 2020**

|                |                                    |             |                             |
|----------------|------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| Bar            | John Bruening/Jeff Davis           | Scholarship | Edith Borchardt             |
| House          | Richard Edling/Bruce Wolf          | Webmaster   | Fran Thompson               |
| Music          | Hildegard Edling/Elizabeth Gregory | FaceBook    | Ana Linneman/Marian Elflein |
| Good & Welfare | Marion Hohn                        | Newsletter  | Annemarie Harms/            |
| Kaffeeklatsch  | Alina Nitzschner                   | Editors     | Hildegard Edling            |
| Stammtisch     | Michael Scheunemann                |             |                             |

## GOOD AND WELFARE

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We have too many members and friends who are going through difficult times. Our **BEST WISHES** for strength and healing go to: Members Heinz Holzhauer, Walter Vogt, Ed Brown, Josie Brendle, Inge Luetzger, Bob Schneller (now in Golden Hill), Jack Furman, Roswitha Tisch and Vivian Longto (both recovering from terrible falls), and Hans Reck and wife Helen, both in Ten Broeck Commons. Hopefully Ernie Mann is fully recovered. Also to our friends Waltraudt (Wally) McMillan, Joe Fink and Inge Martin. I hope we didn't miss anyone. A card or call would be very nice.

**HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES:** Our dear friend and dedicated member Christa Kohler passed away on January 20, 2020. She sang alto for many years, served as Trustee, and always had a friendly hello. Our condolences go to Heinz Holzhauer, her partner of 26 years, and her sons Mike and Ben and their families. Our sympathies also go to Bruce and Donna Wolf on the passing of his sister Barbara Burhans on April 18.

Former member John Denis Ludwig passed away April 20. He was active in Die Bergvagabunden Schuhplattler and is survived by his wife Ethel. Margaret (Peggy) Vogt, sister-in-law of Walter and Doris Vogt, passed away on January 9. She and her husband George were long-time supporters of our club. Ethel Butler passed away in March at age 105! She came for many years to our club to dance the night away. Rev. LeRoy Ness, formerly of Trinity Lutheran Church, passed on February 20, 2020. He partnered with us for German Christmas services, dedicated our new parking lot, and was a good friend. He served God and country exceptionally well.

## HAPPY NEWS

It's time to recognize some "**special birthdays**" ending in zero or five of several singers and workers in the first half of 2020. They are: Jody Hoyt - Jan. 22, Ruth Froehlich - Jan. 29, Gabi Davis —February 18, Doris Vogt - a really SPECIAL day - May 13, and Marion Hohn - June 18. Notice the years are missing to protect the "innocent"?

Three of our members have **recently retired** from the "work world". Waltraud Vianale was a pharmacist for a number of years at Health Alliance/Mary's Avenue Campus, what we old-timers still call Benedictine Hospital, or "Bennie". Vindora Wixom was the Director of Art Society of Kingston (ASK) for many years. She and husband Richard helped it grow and prosper. Annemarie Harms retired (again), this time as Shop Manager at Hudson River Maritime Museum. We hope to catch up with our retirees in a future newsletter.

**December 2019 Olde World Christmas Raffle Drawing Winners** : 1<sup>st</sup> prize - Paul Wereszynski won a decorated 6-ft. Christmas tree with gifts. 2<sup>nd</sup> prize - Linda Saccoman, the lottery tree. 3<sup>rd</sup> prize - Joanne Rex, the International Food Basket, Christmas quilt and pillow and Santa figurine. 4<sup>th</sup> prize - Debbie Lam, a handmade wreath figurine and sweet treats. All prizes were fabulous! Thank you, Terry Strini, for a great job.

**January 2020 Pizza and Raffle Party Winners** are listed in order of the drawings. \$25.00 each to the first 20. 1) Kathy Christerer 2) Yesi Fernandez 3) Mark Johnson 4) DiBella's Pizza Shop and Ristorante 5) Evelyn Fisher 6) Werner Wagner 7) Buddy Wolf 8) Laurens Riedener 9) Doris Vogt 10) Ronald Wolf, Jr. 11) Werner Wagner 12) Anna Marie Werling 13) Pat Zentner 14) John Bruening 15) Marian Elflein 16) Dagmar Davis 17) Valerie Sween 18) Walter Vogt 19) Ruth Froehlich and 20) Werner Wagner. Manuel Blas \$100.00, Cheryl Lang \$200.00 and Marion Hohn \$300.00.

## 2020 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

**The KINGSTON MAENNERCHOR AND DAMENCHOR** has awarded a scholarship for excellence in German and Music to Anna Marcotte from Red Hook High School. She has taken German courses since 7<sup>th</sup> grade, participating in both honors level and International Baccalaureate level classes and demonstrates enthusiasm for the German language and culture. Of particular interest to her is the commitment of Germans to renewable energy and other ecological measures like their easy recycling system.

Anna has played percussion in her school band since 4<sup>th</sup> grade, participated in chorus in school for three years and was in her church's children's choir for five years until she got too old for it. After graduating from high school as Valedictorian, she will be attending the University of New Haven for Forensic Science – Chemistry, enrolled in the Honors Program.

With her college degree, Anna would like to work in a crime lab for law enforcement. She hopes to fit in some study abroad during her graduate program.

**The OTTO AND HELENE BORCHARDT SCHOLARSHIP IN GERMAN AND MUSIC** was awarded to Evan Rohrmeier, also from Red Hook High School. He has been in band since 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, plays percussion, and has not missed a single concert or event. While he was a member of the band, they won Gold with Distinction twice and Gold once at the NYSSMA Major Ensemble Festival (New York State School Music Association).

Evan has personal reasons for studying German, curious about his roots and the country his relatives come from. As a child he visited Germany, France and Switzerland and felt very much at home while abroad. That's why he chose to study German in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, continued to study it throughout high school, never wants to stop learning it, and hopes to visit Germany once more on an Education First tour with his class. He wants to get a Master's degree in Finance and include international study in his program at one of these institutions: Villanova, Lehigh or Lafayette.

Both Anna and Evan expressed great admiration and enthusiasm for their "fantastic" German teachers at Red Hook High School, who made learning German "a joy".

Submitted by Edith Borchardt, Scholarship Committee Chairperson

### **INTRODUCING – Meet our new Members**

**Lilah S. Scheunemann** recently has joined the Männerchor and Damenchor as a junior member and singer. She was born in Rhinebeck in 2011 and resides in Kingston with her father, Michael Scheunemann, and half of each month with her mother Kathleen. Currently in third grade, she attends Chambers Elementary School. For as long as she can remember, her Papa has spoken German with her, and she speaks it very well, especially since she has been to Germany every summer for the past five years, visiting her *Oma* in Bonn and her *Tante* in Pötenitz near Dassow, not far from Lübeck.

Her hobbies are Martial Arts and reading, especially *Harry Potter* and *Anne of Green Gables*. Her favorite subject in school is English, and she would like to become a writer herself. In the future, she would like to learn to play the flute, violin, or trombone. She loves cats and dogs. Unfortunately, her cat Oliver passed away, and now she has a dog called Sophie, a border collie mix. Lilah also sings in the Church Choir at St. John's Episcopal Church in Kingston.

Submitted by Edith Borchardt

**Brent Wasser** went online searching for a singing group and found the Maennerchor on the internet. Double bonus was that he also wanted a place to practice his German. The rest is history as they say.

Brent was born in California and grew up in Sacramento. He has studied baking, pastry making and cheese making both in the United States and in Germany. Brent holds an MA in food studies as well. His professional work history includes being a cheesemaker, teaching culinary arts and managing a sustainable food project at Williams College in Massachusetts. He is fluent in German having lived in Tübingen, South Bavaria, Germany and Innsbruck, Austria.

He and his wife Carrie own and operate Willow Pond Sheep Farm in Gardiner where they raise sheep for meat and milk. They are looking to produce sheep's milk products with an emphasis on yogurt. Brent was sponsored by Hildegard Edling for membership. He became a member on January 8, 2020 and sings bass with the chorus.

Submitted by Hildegard Edling

### **WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**

Erika Whitaker sang in the Kinder Chor and enjoyed singing and learning German in the process. She also took an independent study course in German while in High School. After graduating from Rondout Valley High School in 2012,

Erika attended SUNY New Paltz. She graduated in 2016 with two BA degrees: Psychology with a minor in Disaster Studies and Sociology with a concentration in Criminology. The “rest of the story” follows, as told in Erika’s own words. Enjoy!

Then I was the Office Manager at Ulster County Youth Build for a year. I enjoyed my time there working with youth and young adults who were working toward passing their high school equivalency exams, as well as learning construction skills to build homes for first time home owners in the community. I also volunteered with the Crime Victims Assistance Program as a representative on the crisis hot line. This was another rewarding program in the community that will always need volunteers!

I then moved to Albany the summer of 2017 for graduate school. I graduated last May with my Masters in Social Work and passed my licensure exam in November. During my first year I had a field placement working with undergraduate students at SUNY Albany. The summer of 2018 I was able to spend in Nottingham, England with relatives. From there, I was able to visit my family in Germany for a week. This was something I had been longing to do as I hadn’t been in Germany since I was seven, when I first understood my heritage.

Last year I was in a specialized aging program and had my field placement at the Stratton Veterans Affairs Hospital in Albany. I was able to work with social workers in various departments throughout the hospital, as well as meet with veterans at home who were in the Home Based Primary Care program. After I graduated in May, I continued my interest in geriatric medical social work and currently am working at Shaker Place Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, formerly known as Albany County Nursing Home. I have actually been practicing my German with a few German residents at the nursing home.

Overall, I am enjoying this chapter in my life as I’m finally able to be more connected to my family in Germany while I continue my journey in Albany. I enjoy coming home to visit and have been able to have a few pints with current club members over the past few years. I am looking forward to attending more events in the future once we are all able to socialize again. Mit herzlichen Grussen, Erika Whitaker.

Submitted by Hildegard Edling

#### **CALLING ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ~ We need your help!**

Maintaining the Kingston Maennerchor and Damenchor hall and grounds has become increasingly more expensive. At a recent Executive Board meeting we discussed enlisting the aid of our devoted members and friends in helping meet these costs. Our expenses for the 2019 Fiscal Year (January to December) were \$28,771.84. Taxes and insurance costs make up about \$10,000 of this amount. Our income was \$20,951.00. Dues income is almost \$4,000 which does not begin to cover expenses.

We are very grateful for you, the members and friends of the Maennerchor, for your faithfulness in supporting us. Now we need your help to do a little more. Some of you are unable to support us by attending events or participating in other fundraisers. Perhaps adopting a cost or fraction thereof would be something you could support. Below are examples of how you could help us remain solvent while building up our fund balance.

| <u>ITEM</u>                              | <u>FULL</u> | <u>HALF</u> | <u>QUARTER</u> |
|------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| Landscaping                              | \$110.00    | \$ 50.00    | \$ 25.00       |
| Annual Fire Extinguisher Inspection      | \$ 70.00    | \$ 35.00    |                |
| Good & Welfare                           | \$120.00    | \$ 60.00    | \$ 30.00       |
| Music (for purchase of music and copies) | \$300.00    | \$150.00    | \$ 75.00       |

There are also many individual items that you could sponsor, such as cleaning products, paper towels, toilet paper, postage, etc. Donations to offset the cost of producing the newsletter are always welcome as are donations to the Scholarship Fund, which is totally independent from the general fund. Questions? Contact any of the Executive Board members or Treasurer Angela Hartrum for guidance. Please note what you are so kindly subsidizing. Donations should be made to Kingston Maennerchor and Damenchor with a notation in the memo line Adopt a Cost, then mailed to us.

**2020 MEMBERSHIP DUES MUST BE PAID BY JUNE 30, 2020** to maintain your current membership in the Maennerchor. Checks are payable to the Kingston Maennerchor and Damenchor, and still only \$40.00 per member. If you have questions, or any changes, such as phone number or address, please contact Annemarie Harms, Financial Secretary, at (845) 336-7440 or [catskillanniesez@gmail.com](mailto:catskillanniesez@gmail.com). Your continued support is always appreciated.

**CHORUS REHEARSALS** begin again in September after a long break. If you or someone you know would like to join us, arrive a little before 6:45 pm rehearsal time, introduce yourself, and give it a try. We can help you with German pronunciations. Have fun, meet other singers, and develop lasting friendships.

**MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETINGS** are normally every second Wednesday at 7 pm. Members are encouraged to attend. Learn what it takes to keep our organization running smoothly and share in some social time after the meetings.

**MANY THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS FOR HELPING SUBSIDIZE THE COST OF OUR NEWSLETTERS**

|                                            |                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Ken Darmstadt and Darmstadt Overhead Doors | In Memory of Willi J. Harms (1914 – 1990)          |
| Rosemarie and Juergen Kleuker              | Eric Lorenz      John Bruening      Karoline Flick |

**THE GERMAN HOUR** is hosted by Hans Safer every Sunday from 10 to 11 am with a variety of German music and announcements of coming events. Tune your radio to 1490AM or 107.9FM, or visit [www.RadioKingston.org](http://www.RadioKingston.org)

The **ANNUAL MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL** will be ONLINE this year on Sunday, **June 14**. It is again hosted by Reher Center for Immigrant Culture and History, 101 Broadway, Kingston. KM&D was invited to participate electronically and submit events and information. Go to [ReherCenter.org](http://ReherCenter.org) to see singing, dancing, and other performances and information.

**REMINDER:**

With current uncertainties, we HOPE to begin soon with our meetings and events. However, you can use the various means of information and contacts in the letterhead and event listings. In the meantime, please stay safe and well.

Kingston Maennerchor & Damenchor, Inc.  
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