



DANK Chapter 71
 German Heritage Society of Erie
Mitteilungsblatt



Volume 26, Issue 9

Oct- Nov 2016



Are you the missing part of our puzzle?



A puzzle needs all the pieces to be completed, but as it happens some get misplaced, occasionally 'lost' and to complete the puzzle we continue to hope it finds its way back into the box again. Our Chapter is somewhat like the puzzle...we know how many members (pieces) are listed but in trying to put them together, some are missing and we don't always get the full picture. There are various reasons why this happens. ➤ Time – family commitments, full schedules, time of day/evening. ➤ Dwindling interest – not enough programs / social events; insufficient personal time. ➤ Don't want to get involved with committees, etc. ➤ Age, Health can be contributing factors...some have difficulty driving at night or don't want to be dependent on others. ➤ Public Relations – insufficient information.

Whatever the reason, we hope that you know you are missed. Our concern is that you have not shared with us why you have 'slipped out of the box'. What can we do to encourage your participation? Our social events (even though they are relatively free) do not get participation. Embarrassingly we have had to cancel speakers due to a lack of response. Only you can help us fix the situation. We have tried to offer language classes, but we need a minimum of 10 persons to make it happen – if we can secure a teacher. Traditions like our Family Christmas celebration and our summer family picnics are getting smaller.

We have three Life Members in our Chapter, and ____ who live in out-lying areas from North East, Edinboro, Meadville, Florida to the State of Washington. The second group tries to attend meetings weather permitting. Perhaps you will be kind enough to share your thoughts and let us know what can be done to bring more pieces back into our puzzle. We are starting a new year soon and we want to make it better than this past year and share our heritage with more people. To make it easy for you, enclosed is **a self-addressed and stamped post card** that will take you just minutes to fill out and return. You can remain anonymous or you have the choice to sign your name if you want us to contact you to talk. Your card will have nothing to identify you as the sender. Please take the time to share your concerns so we can address the problems you encounter and hopefully can solve.



On October 29th, there was a Leadership Conference in Chicago to help the Chapters identify and find solutions to the problems the Chapters are experiencing across the country. Working together we hope to come up with suggestions, and hopefully solutions that will help us fill in the missing puzzle pieces. Pat Munz and Tom Schlaudecker volunteered to attend and represent Erie and they will share the results at a future meeting.

***Be sure to like us on FaceBook at:
 DANK Chapter 71
 and
 German Heritage Fest 2016 Erie PA***



Bißchen und Stückchen – Bits and Pieces



There just doesn't seem to be enough time in the day to get things done. No matter how good my intentions, I just seem to fall behind. I do apologize. I wish that someone would take over the responsibility of the newsletter, it would be a big help. *Happy Thanksgiving!*



We extend our sincere best wishes and prayers to our members who are struggling with health issues. If you know someone we have missed, please let us know.

*Susan Roehrl
Charlie Roehrl
Fred Huttel, Jr.
Glen Blodgett
Robert & Carolyn Brabender
Emil & Gretel Daeschner*

Memorable Dates



Oct 10	Mace M.	Bowersox
Oct 14	Margaret	Potocki
Oct 15	Joyce	Wilkes
Nov 6	Ava	Lesniewski
Nov 29	William	Koehle



Oct 7	Bryan & Kathleen	Bechler
Nov 18	Kathleen Gausman & Darren	Corsi
Nov 28	Frederick K. & Beverly	Huttel, Jr.



In Memoriam...

It was with sadness that we learned of the passing of a former DANK member,

Lydia Mowers.

December 15, 1929 – October 5, 2016.

Lydia was born in Mannheim Germany coming to Erie in 1952. She joined our DANK Chapter in 2009. Lydia was also a member of the American Legion Auxiliary of Post 773.

In her later years, she volunteered at the Metropolitan Hospice thrift Shop. A true giving person, Lydia was always there for family and friends.

Lydia is survived by her sons John R. Grenaway, Robert Grenaway, William, L. Grenaway and their spouses, fourteen grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

A Memorial Service was held on November 5th.

A remembrance gift has been sent to the American Legion Post #773 in Erie.



It seems like Rich and Mary Jane Hartman moved just yesterday, but I didn't have a forwarding address. Last month Rich called and said they are doing well in their new home. Here is their mailing and email address if you want to say hello.

Richard and Mary Jane Hartman
7905 Waterways NE Apt 204
Concord, NC 28027
Email: rohartman48@gmail.com

Lest we forget....



In Memoriam



*We respectfully honor the memory of the deceased members of
DANK Chapter 71.*

Clifford Arnemann
George Bablak
Hildegard Bahl
Daniel Barry
Eric Bayer
Richard Busick
Karl Caldwell
Italo Cappabianca
Vance Carter
Robert "Chip" Carter
Charles Chase
Thea Daubler
John Davis
Stuart Deaner
Luise Dudkiewicz
Charles Fuhrman
June Fuhrman
G. Paul Gerbracht
Maria Getchell
Wilfred "Bill" Getchell
Gunther Goebel
Geza Gruenwald
Marianne Gruenwald
Kenneth Halstenberg
John Heitmann
John Herte
Frederick Huttel, Sr.
Hilde Huttel



Joseph Kablach
Walter "Skip" Karsh
Edward Kloecker
Helga Laibacher
Irwin G. Leistner
Richard Kraus
Vincent Marshall
Edmund Mehler
John Menz
Lydia Mowers
Alta Munz
Gilbert Munz
Jeanne Nemenz
Maria Phelps
Joseph T. Pochatko
Edward Preibe
Florence 'Dolly' Priebe
Heddy Quest
Rolf Scheufele
Lorenz Spangenberg
James N. Thompson
Sonia Thompson
Wesley Thomas
Sharon Wallin
Bertl Weber
Russell Wertz
John (Bob) Wiegmann
Barbara Yeaman

November has the days that remember those who have passed on. Nov. 2nd "All Souls Day"; Nov. 11th – Veteran's Day (U.S.); and Nov 13th – Volkstrauertag (German Memorial Day/Day of Remembrance).

Lest we forget, Freedom comes with a price.....



An official German holiday, *Volkstrauertag*, is a traditional day of remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice, giving their life in the service of their country. Some were fortunate, in the loose sense of the word, to be taken a prisoner of war, enduring physical and emotional hardship.

But today it is more than that...it is a time to remember also the innocent victims. How can we not remember the suffering of the innocent civilians placed in war camps – families separated, some not reunited in a life time?

We cannot only grieve for the victims of WWI and WWII. As Americans of German heritage, fathers, sons and brothers saw their commitment to serve their adopted homeland. They served in Korea, Iraq and Pakistan and Afghanistan. The common bond is the fight to ensure democracy.

In civilian life, we fight the war on drugs and many forms of violence that also ends the life of innocent victims.

So let us honor all the victims of war, both military and civilian, and also remember the families who were left with a void in their family circle. May peace be with them and us as well. (*From our Volkstrauertag Service 2015,*)



Aus Oma' Kuche

Anisplätzchen

(Aniseed cookies)

4 eggs
1 cup plus 4 tsp sugar
¾ cup plus 2 tblspns flour

3 ½ tblspns cornstarch
¼ tsp baking powder
1 tblspn finely ground aniseed

Beat the eggs until foamy.

Add the sugar by the tablespoon full.

Mix together the flour, cornstarch and the baking powder. Sift and sprinkle over the egg mixture.

Fold together ingredients, adding aniseed at the end.

Form balls with a teaspoon and place on a baking sheet lined with baking paper.

Let stand one hour to dry.

Bake lightly for 12-15 minutes in a moderate (350° F) oven.

Store in tightly covered container.

Bißchen und Stückchen – Bits and Pieces Continued



It's almost that time!

What time is that, you ask? Well... In the even years, we elect our new officers for the coming 2017-2018 term. Candidates must be a member for one year to be eligible.

Our **President** has served two terms and would like to step aside to let someone else take over. Normally our **Vice President** steps up, however we currently do not have one. We also need a **Secretary** (Update: Pat Munz has volunteered to step up to be the Secretary.) to keep the minutes of our meetings to meet state regulations as a non-profit corporation. (No, we are not tax exempt!) – Then too, we need **two Directors** on the Board.

President's Term is for two years, but a change may be made, others are open-ended. Consider if you can help so we can make the nominations at our October meeting.

Contact Bev Pochatko with any questions. ErieOma@verizon.net or 814-456-9599.



Willkommen, neue Mitglieder

(Welcome New Members)

This month we are happy to welcome four new members to our Chapter. We look forward to seeing them at our meetings and other activities.

Amanda Easterbrook (Sept 25th)
1416 A Nash Road
N Tonawanda, NY 14120

Timothy Lesnewski (b.d. Jan 3rd)
Melissa B. Lesniewski (b.d. March 19th)
(Anniversary – August 11th)
Ava Lesniewski (b.d. Nov 6th)
4612 Basin Circle Drive
Erie, PA 1650



Monday, December 5 at 5 PM- 10 PM
St. Paul's United Church of Christ
1024 Peach St, Erie, PA 16501
Admission FREE

The Second Annual Krampusnacht Festival hosted with combined efforts by St. Paul's United Church of Christ Erie, The Geek ERIE* presents Krampus & Company, and others!

Join us on December 5th from 3 PM to 8 PM as St. Nick and Krampus stalk the neighborhoods (and bars because it's winter and we'll need fortifying) of Erie looking to reward the good and punish the bad! In fact, we insist you join us DRESSED AS YOUR FAVORITE HOLIDAY MONSTER!! Don't have a costume? Not to worry – come all the same.

**Enjoy photos with Saint Nicholas and Krampus, join in a march around town lead by Saint Nicholas himself, and meanwhile enjoy visiting the vendors, possibly a bake sale; hot cocoa and perhaps beer!
Be sure to join us there!**

* The GeekERIE's purpose is to encourage reading and writing through direct involvement in the Creative Process. We believe that "perfection" takes time and lots of work, but along the way, the work should be fun. We currently offer tutoring services, but more services are on their way. Oh, yeah: we're also a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. If you'd like to help us bring more events and programs to Erie, please consider sponsoring us at Patreon!

Krampusnacht



Preceding The Feast of St. Nicholas (6 December), is Krampus Night or *Krampusnacht*. Krampus himself historically comes around the night of December 5, tagging along with St. Nicholas. Now Krampus isn't exactly the stuff of dreams: Bearing horns, dark hair, and fangs, the anti-St. Nicholas comes with a chain and bells that he lashes about, along with a bundle of birch branches meant to swat naughty children. Legend has it that throughout the Christmas season, misbehaved kids are beaten with birch branches or can disappear, stuffed into Krampus' sack and hauled off to his lair never to be seen again (so we were told).

He visits houses all night with his saintly pal and in these celebrations Saint Nicholas concerns himself only with the good children, while Krampus is responsible for the bad. Nicholas dispenses gifts, while Krampus supplies coal and the *ruten* (switches) bundles. On *Nikolaustag*, or St. Nicholas Day, German children look outside their door to see if the shoe or boot they'd left out the night before contains either presents (a reward for good behavior) or a rod (bad behavior).



We wondered what are the origins of this "Christmas Devil"? Truth be told, Krampus' roots have nothing to do with Christmas. Instead, they date back to pre-Germanic paganism in the region. Krampus, whose name is derived from the German word *krampen*, meaning claw, is said to be the son of Hel in Norse mythology. The legendary beast also shares characteristics with other scary, demonic creatures in Greek mythology, including satyrs and fauns.

The legend is part of a centuries-old Christmas tradition in Germany, where Christmas celebrations begin in early December. Krampus was created as a counterpart to kindly St. Nicholas, who rewarded children with sweets. Krampus, in contrast, would swat "wicked" children and take them away to his lair. During the 12th century, the Catholic Church attempted to banish Krampus celebrations because of his resemblance to the devil. More eradication attempts followed in 1934 at the hands of Austria's conservative Christian Social Party. But none of it held, and Krampus emerged as a much-feared and beloved holiday force.

In Lienz, Austria on the evening of December 5, an annual Krampus Parade, also known as Perchtenlauf or Klaubaufe, resurrects the centuries-old tradition: Young men in town dress up as the mythical hairy creature and parade through the streets in an ancient pagan ritual meant to disperse winter's ghosts. They march dressed in fur suits and carved wooden masks and carrying cowbells. The creatures dashes through the streets, chasing giggling children and adults alike, poking them with sticks and scaring some with the realization that they were naughty this year.

For some, the annual festival of child-hunting Krampus is fun—but concerns today that refugees in the Alpine towns that celebrate Krampus could find the tradition frightful has prompted some towns to consider taming the horror. This year, Krampus' scheduled arrival in the Alpine towns that celebrate him coincides with an influx of refugees from Syria and Afghanistan. Though the festival is well-loved, it gave rise to concerns that the new neighbors might be scared of the tradition and its nightmare-fueling costumes. Rather than cancelling the parade, town officials decided to educate the newcomers. The Telegraph's Rozina Sabur writes that refugee children in Lienz were invited to a presentation where they learned about the props, costumes and customs of Krampus.

Jeremy Seghers, organizer of a Krampusnacht festival in Orlando, Florida, likes the idea of introducing Krampus to refugees in Austria. "I think it's wonderful that they want to get the refugees used to this sort of thing," he says. "You can't force people to adopt cultural traditions of which they have no basis or point of reference."

Perhaps you'll be the next to catch the Krampus spirit this holiday. After all, the horrible haunt could very well be watching you.



Celebrate an Old-Fashioned Christmas

Sunday, December 4th, 2016

Erie Männerchor Club

12:00 PM – Gathering – CASH BAR

12:30 PM – Lighting of the Advent Wreath followed by

Brunch Buffet (Juice, Scrambled Eggs, (2) Breakfast Meats, Breakfast style Potatoes, Danish Pastries, (2) Dinner Meats, (2) Side dishes, Pasta,, Fruits, Rolls & Coffee.)

BUFFET COST: \$ 8.⁰⁰ – DANK Member
\$14.⁰⁰ – Non-member / guest
\$ 3.⁰⁰ – Children 3 to 12 years of age**

WEIHNACHTSFEIER: beginning at 1:30 PM

Prefer not to come for Dinner? Then feel free to join us at

1:30 PM Opening thoughts and Christmas Program

1:45 PM Traditional German Christmas Music & Sing Along with
The Erie Männerchor Gesangverein

2:15 PM - Cookies, Desserts* & Hot Beverages will be served Door Prize Drawings

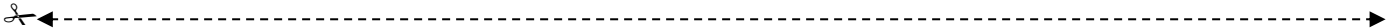
- Members are asked to please bring 2 dozen homemade cookies or baked goods to share.
 - **Donations of Door Prizes are always welcome. (Max. value \$7-10)**
- ** (Please bring a gift for your young guests)

OUR HOLIDAY PROJECT:

Remembering it is better to give than to receive, we ask that everyone bring a donation of coffee, tea, hot cocoa mix, coffee mate or sweeteners, we will take to the Upper Room on West 11th and Peach Streets for those who seek shelter from the cold. Cash donations also accepted.

All reservations must be made by Wednesday – Dec 1st, 2016

Please return this portion with your check a.s.a.p.



DINNER RESERVATIONS



Name: _____ Phone: _____

Number of DANK adults: _____ @ \$ 8.⁰⁰ Total: \$ _____

Number of Adult Guests: _____ @ \$14.⁰⁰ Total: \$ _____

Number of Children guests: _____ @ \$ 3.⁰⁰ Total: \$ _____ (name and ages please!)

WEIHNACHTSFEIER CELEBRATION 1:30 – 2:30 PM - Free – but Reservations also required!

DANK Member _____ Non Member Guests _____ Children (Name and Age) ** _____

Paid by Check # _____ payable to DANK # 71 in the Amount of \$ _____

Send to:

Beverly Pochatko
750 East 10th Street
Erie, PA 16503-1414
Phone: (814) 456-9599

All reservations must be received by December 1st.



DANK Chapter 71
 The German heritage Society of Erie
 750 East 10th Street
 Erie, PA 16503-1414

Please deliver by: Nov 26th



**Getting Ready for...
 Our Party on December 4th**

2016 Funktionäre / Officers

Präsidentin / President:

Jeffrey A. Chase 814- 823-3593
 1445 Hull Hill Road
 Youngsville, PA 16371

VizePräsident / Vice President:

Schatzmeisterin/ Treasurer:

Charlotte Chase 452-6063
 1425 East 7th St. Erie, PA 16503

Sekretärin / Secretary:

Past President: Margarete Potocki 835-1939

If you are interested in helping plan any Chapter activities,
 please call Jeffrey or Brigitte Chase at 814- 823-3593



**Mark Your
 Calendar**



Don't sit on the sidelines – Get involved!

Christmas Party ~ Dec 4th See insert

Next Meeting ~ 7 P.M. Jan 18th

**Important Meeting - 7 PM in the Diamond Room of
 the Erie Maennerchor Club - Program t.b.a.**

Come early (5:30) to enjoy dinner in the club dining
 room. Reservations needed. Please call Bev (456-
 9599) by Tuesday evening.