

KINGSTON MAENNERCHOR AND DAMENCHOR NEWS

KINGSTON MAENNERCHOR AND DAMENCHOR, INC.
37 GREENKILL AVENUE
KINGSTON, NEW YORK 12401

(845) 338-3763; WWW.KINGSTONMAENNERCHORANDDAMENCHOR.ORG

May 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I sincerely hope that all of you have had a good start to 2019. The weather has been a challenge for all of us and to see daffodils blooming is a joy.

We are thrilled with this newsletter to recognize recipients of our scholarships. This year for the first time we have awarded a scholarship to a student who has excelled in choral music. As one by one the area school systems have dropped their German language programs we felt the need to reach out to another curriculum with choral music being the logical choice. Congratulations to these hard working students. Awards are recognized at the spring concert with all of us completely amazed at everything these young people do. We wonder when they eat or sleep!! Truly amazing young people.

Congratulations to our Stammtisch which celebrates its 5th Anniversary this year. This dedicated group under the leadership of member Michael Scheunemann welcomes all who wish to practice the German language through conversation. Please be sure to take the time to read Michael's overview elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our chorus is busily rehearsing many new songs for the spring concert on Sunday, June 2. Director Dorcinda Knauth is back after taking a short break to welcome her son Leander into the world. To his credit, Leander did try one rehearsal. His young counter-tenor voice simply wore out both parents!

If you have not attended a concert in a while, or perhaps never, this would be the one for you. The music is varied and includes some waltzes that just might have you up and dancing within a measure or two.

We look forward to seeing you soon,

Hildegard Edling
President

“Those who wish to sing always find a song.”
~ Proverb

“Stammtisch” after Five Years – a Resumé, by Michael Scheunemann

Here we are, in spring 2019, my daughter is eight years and the “Stammtisch” is five years old!

Both facts show me how relative time and our perception of its passing are, a phenomenon that we often summarize with: *“Unbelievable, how fast time is passing by?!”* Like raising a child, an institution needs a regular schedule, clear rules, persistency, perseverance and at times patience and always passion.

During the years, a few things at the Stammtisch have changed. Among these the written and printed agenda and the formal attendance list, to name a couple, but then, neither do I take as many pictures of my daughter as I used to. That means that an established routine requires sometimes fewer formal procedures. And the Stammtisch is informal, providing a family-like atmosphere and trustworthiness, talking to and among respectful friends, which is perceived as a real pleasure and delight by all attendees.

However, the pivotal pillars of persistency, passion, perseverance have not changed: We are still meeting every other Thursday, mostly from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., of course with the exception of weather-impeded days and of an approximately two months long summer pause. We still have only a couple of very clear rules, which are: mutual respect and using German as a language of communication.

The latter comes with the exception of a few occasional words of “sprinkled” English that will be translated into German and often serve as opportunities to enhance the idiomatic vocabulary in both languages of all the attendees. We are passionately talking about topics that are close to our hearts, the range is very broad and covers many individual personal and culinary issues but also recent German cultural and societal developments to keep informed about “our” country and culture of origin. And yes, we do so with the help of a lot of good and comforting food!

Regularly, we are privileged to listen to the literary gems of our regular attendee, Professor (emerita), Dr. Edith Borchardt, who has been reading her own German short stories to us with titles such as “Gypsy Girl”, “Der weiße Skarabäus,” [“The White Scarab”], and “Reisen auf der Prairie,” [“Travels on the Prairie,”] to name just a few. These intriguing and fascinating stories often serve as vehicles to enhance our conversations on all sorts of topics and have been published during the past year.

As an established institution at the Maenner- and Damenchor, the Stammtisch serves as an additional offering for members to keep their German language and cultural heritage alive by conversing on a regular basis in German in an atmosphere of trust and respect, under the guidance of a native German language teacher. As one attendee put it recently: *“The Stammtisch provides regular German conversation with spiritual and emotional nourishment.”*

The next meetings of the Stammtisch will be: *May 9th, May 23rd, June 6th, June 20th, Aug 22nd, Sept. 5th, Sept. 19th Oct. 3rd, Oct. 17th, Oct. 31st, Nov. 14th.*

In case of questions, please don't hesitate to contact: MichaelScheunemann@ymail.com

DUES

Dues for 2019 are due **no later than June 30th** and remain at \$40.00 per member (or \$20.00 per student). Checks are payable to Kingston Maennerchor and Damenchor, Inc. Please address the envelope to my attention. Either mail payment to the club or bring it in while the club is open, such as Thursday afternoons' "Social Hour" starting 2 p.m. After June 30 your membership is discontinued for nonpayment. To rejoin, you would complete a new Membership application form. After receipt of dues, you will receive your annual Membership card. If you have any changes such as your mailing address, phone number, or email address, please contact me so I can update your information. Thank you for your continued support of our 151- year old organization.

Annemarie Harms, Financial Secretary

(845) 336-7440; catskillanniesez@gmail.com

Listen to *The German Program* with host Hans Safer every Sunday at 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Enjoy a variety of German music and announcements of coming events. Tune your radio to 1490 AM, 107.9 FM or www.RadioKingston.org. You might remember that the AM station is long-time radio station WKNY.

KM&D WISH LIST – MORE VOLUNTEERS

Anyone who has ever owned a home knows it takes time and effort to keep them in good condition. Our **House Committee** can always use additional help. We want to take good care of our "Home away from Home".

The **Bar Committee** needs additional bartenders for various assignments, including Monday night rehearsals, Thursday afternoons and events. We also need someone who is not far from the club to receive deliveries.

Each **event** requires many hands. Depending on the event, they require planning and organizing, publicity (usually with flyers), setting up tables and decorating. Food events need shopping, food preparers and servers, dishwashers, cashiers and help with clean-up after each event is over. I probably missed something, because it takes a lot of work to run the events.

First Sunday **Kaffeeklatsch** will begin again in October and Alina will need some help. You get to meet with members and friends of the club AND enjoy some fabulous desserts. So give it a try!

These are just a few ways members (and friends are welcome, too!) can help keep the Maennerchor a vibrant, well-run organization. By being involved, you get to know fellow members better and see how the club is run, and maybe enjoy a free refreshment while you're at it. You can contact the Events and Committee Chairpersons listed on the back page or event listings to see how you can help. Speak to them or leave a message on the club phone at (845) 338-3763 and someone will get back to you. ANY help you can provide will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Annemarie Harms, Newsletter Editor

2019 EVENTS

June 2 nd	Concert/Dinner/Dance
August 4 th	Wurstfest
September 22 nd	Fall Breakfast
October 19 th	Beer Tasting
November 17 th	Sing-Along Concert/ Dinner/Dance
December 8 th	Old World Christmas

OFFICERS AND STAFF 2019

President	Hildegard Edling
Vice President	Jefferson Davis
Treasurer	Angela Hartrum
Recording Secretary	Christa Scheitz
Financial Secretary	Annemarie Harms
Archivist/Historian	Bruce Wolf
Trustee 2019	Alina Nitzschner
Trustee 2020	Donna Wolf
Trustee 2021	Marian Elflein
Music Director	Dr. Dorcinda Knauth
Asst. Music Director	Sherry Thomas

Honorary President	John Bruening
Honorary President	Herman Koelmel
Honorary President	Ernest Mann

The newsletter committee is deeply grateful for the generous offer of friend Debbie Beaton to do the layout for this and future layouts. Danke Schoen ~ many thanks!!!

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Bar	John Bruening/Jeff Davis
House	Walter Vogt/Richard Edling
Music	Hildegard Edling
Good and Welfare	Marion Hohn
Kaffeeklatsch	Alina Nitzschner
Stammtisch	Michael Scheunemann
Scholarship	Edith Borhardt
Webmaster	Fran Thompson
Newsletter	Annemarie Harms/ Hildegard Edling

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE NEWSLETTER SUPPORTERS:

Ken Darmstadt and Darmstadt Overhead Doors, Christa Scheitz, John Bruening, Vivian Longto, Anonymous, Bruce & Carol Hoehn, Chris Kohler, Juergen & Rosemarie Kleuker, Annemarie & Vinnie Werling, Ernest & Hanna Mann, Eric Lorenz, Inge Martin

Kingston Maennerchor & Damenchor, Inc.
37 Greenkill Avenue
Kingston, NY 12401

Look what is coming up!

KAFFEEKLATSCH



On the first Sunday for many, many months, Alina Nitzschner has been faithfully hosting delightful social afternoons with her “helpers. Starting at 2 p.m. and for a nominal donation of \$5.00, members and friends enjoyed DVDs about Germany or German music, delicious desserts, coffee and conversation. This season’s last one, held on May 3rd, was about Budapest. After a summer break, these get-togethers will begin again, starting with October 6 and November 3. If you can lend a hand, please call Alina at (845) 339-5969.

151st Annual Spring Concert, Luncheon and Dance – Sunday, June 2

Doors open 12 noon. Hors d’oeuvres will be served until 1 p.m. Concert begins 1 p.m., followed by a Buffet Luncheon, coffee and cake. Dance to the music of Joe Unger from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$30.00 donation per person. Cash Bar. **Reservations MUST be made by May 30th.** For Ticket information or Reservations, please call Doris (845) 336-6534 or Virginia (845) 658-8441.

Wurstfest – Sunday, August 14

Food will be served from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Delicious Wursts, homemade salads, desserts and beverages will be available for purchase. Listen and dance to the music of Joe Unger. Admission is \$5.00 suggested donation. Reservations can be made by calling the club at (845) 338-3763.

Fall Breakfast Buffet – Sunday, September 22

Come and enjoy this fabulous breakfast, served from 8:45 to 11:30 a.m. The menu is: Buckwheat pancakes, blueberry pancakes, scrambled eggs, ham, bacon, sausage, herring, home fried potatoes, fresh fruit salad, rolls, bagels, cream cheese, jellies, coffee cake, juice, coffee and tea. Requested donations are adults @ \$12.00, children under 12 @ \$6.00. Reservations are greatly appreciated. For information or reservations, please call Donna Wolf (845) 331-9372) or the club at (845) 338-3763.

Beer Tasting – Saturday, October 19

We are looking forward to this new event. Details will be included in our next Newsletter and on our website as soon as they are available. Hope to see you there!

MORE NEWS

Pizza Party Raffle Winners

We had another fun afternoon at the annual Pizza Party and Raffle drawing on Sunday, January 13, 2019. The 20 winners for the \$25.00 prizes: Anton Stegner, Eileen Rosenblatt, Steve Williams, Harald Johannessen, Heidi Froehlich, Jeff Davis, Werner Wagner, Christa Scheitz, Barb Genter, Christa Scheitz, Alina Nitzschner, Annemarie Harms, Ruthann Friss, Eric Christerer, Anton Stegner, Valerie Fatum, Hetty Gunderud, Vivian Longto, Hans Safer and Chris McCabe. And yes, a few names were drawn twice. \$100 winner was Anton Stegner, \$200 went to Sita Andersen, and \$300 was won by Tammy Kelley. Congratulations to all of the winners and to the committee for a terrific event.

Good and Welfare

Wishes for strength and healing go to: Members Inge Luetzger, Jack Furman, Chris Kohler, Heinz Holzhauer, Arnie Johnsen, Walter Vogt, Christa Scheitz, Ed Zeboris, to Marion Hohn’s husband Hans, to Hans Reck’s wife Helen. Also to former member Joe Fink and Assistant Music Director Sherry Thomas’ husband George. Condolences to Suzie Dehnert on the recent passing of her father, Rudi Dehnert, former club member and friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

I am pleased to announce that **Samala Rubin** and **Amber Vigil** from Red Hook High School have been selected by the Scholarship Committee of the Kingston Maennerchor and Damenchor as recipients of the 2019 scholarships of \$300.00 each for their excellence in German and music.

A new scholarship based on choral singing and outstanding individual vocal performance was created this year for the first time. This award, also in the amount of \$300.00, went to **Noelle Sahloff** from Kingston High School.

Edith Borchardt, Committee Chair, thanks Roswitha Tisch and Michael Scheunemann for their advice and participation in the selection process as members for the 2019 Scholarship Committee. The winners of the scholarship awards and their teachers and parents or guardians will be honored at the June 2nd Spring Concert at the Kingston Maennerchor and Damenchor.

An additional scholarship in the amount of \$300.00 was created last year by Edith Borchardt in honor of her parents, Otto and Helene Borchardt. This year, it was awarded to **Simon Dantzie** from Red Hook High School.

Submitted by Dr. Edith Borchardt (emerita)

DANKESHOEN UND AUF WIEDERSHEN

Dr. John Galish
April 7, 1940 – February 4, 2019

Thank you and farewell to our former music director and member of the Maennerchor, John Galish. Besides being our director for 15 years he also directed choruses in Gloversville, Albany, Troy and Poughkeepsie for a total of 33 years in the NYS Saengerbund. Here in Kingston he directed in the days when we still sang three categories: men, women and mixed chorus. That meant very long rehearsals and lots of “back/back/back” – an inside joke only singers would grasp but one which drove us all nuts and for which he will always be remembered. We laughed a lot and worked hard for concerts and competition. Thank you, John, our dear Dirigent, for all the song-filled memories and heartfelt sympathy from all of us to your beloved wife Angela.

Submitted by Hildegard Edling

WHERE ARE THEY NOW???

Erica Weitze, who was a member of our Kinderchor, is our first “Where are they now?” profile and I thank her parents, Maennerchor member Peter Weitze and his wife Cathy for the following.

Since graduating from SUNY Potsdam with a degree in Arts Administration, Erica has been working in the field. She has held positions with the Glimmerglass Festival in Cooperstown, New York and The Philadelphia Orchestra/Opera Philadelphia. Erica is now with the New York Philharmonic working in their fundraising office as the Campaign Manager. She is taking full advantage of her New York City life and regularly attends Philharmonic concerts, the opera and the variety of theater throughout the five boroughs.

Submitted by Hildegard Edling