



Kingston Maennerchor and Damenchor Inc.
 37 Greenkill Avenue Kingston, New York 12401 (845) 338-3763

www.kingstonmaennerchoranddamenchor.org

Founded 1868



CHOR NOTES - JANUARY 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am writing this message at the end of December and, as we all enter the new year, I am contemplating the major change in my involvement with the Kingston Maennerchor and Damenchor. After a record 10 straight years as President and a total of 13 (almost caught up with John Bruening's 15) I will step down as President at the close of the January 2020 meeting. The change is bittersweet. The Maennerchor is such a big part of my life and being president for so many years has been a privilege and an honor.

Right now the Maennerchor is at a pivotal point in its history. Following many years of difficulties in filling Executive Board positions, we are blessed with new members, both young and not so young, who sincerely want to be part of the decision-making process.

Marian Elflein, one of those "young" members, will be your new president. We also have two trustees who are newer members. Michael Scheunemann, who spearheads Stammtisch, will fill out Marian's term as Trustee and Edith Borchardt, who chairs the Scholarship Committee, will serve a full three-year term. Additionally, Elizabeth Gregory, also in the "young" members group, will be co-chairman of the Music Committee.

These changes within our organization, along with the revitalization taking part in our neighborhood and especially on Greenkill Avenue, will hopefully result in the kind of resurgence the Maennerchor felt in 1948 when it began its recovery from the stigma of WWII.

A huge thank you to everyone for their support over the years. I have been privileged to have a wonderful Executive Board and hardworking committee members.

As we enter this new decade, please join me in welcoming Marian Elflein as the new President of the Kingston Maennerchor and Damenchor. Let's strive to joyfully support him in whatever ways we can, including stepping forward and volunteering for the many events we hold.

~ Hildegard Edling, President

EVENTS 2020

| | | | |
|------------|-------------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| January 12 | Pizza Party/Raffle | June 6 | Spring Concert & Dance |
| March 15 | Spring Sunday Breakfast | August 2 | Wurstfest |
| April 5 | Leberkaese Lunch | September 20 | Fall Sunday Breakfast |

May 23 German Beer Tasting/
Deutsche Bier Probe

November 15 Fall Concert & Dance

MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC

Chorus rehearsals began February 3rd after a little winter break. If you or someone you know would like to join us, arrive a little before 6:45 p.m. rehearsal time, introduce yourself, and give it a try. We can help you with the German pronunciations. It's fun and you get to know the singers, sing in German AND English, and develop lasting friendships.

THE GERMAN HOUR is hosted by Hans Safer every Sunday from 10:05 am to 11 am with a variety of German music and announcements of coming events. Tune your radio to 1490 AM, 107.9 FM, or go to www.RadioKingston.org

~~~~ Look what's coming up! ~~~~

## **KAFFEKLATSCH**

These delightful Sunday afternoons of luscious desserts, coffee or tea, special selections of DVDs and camaraderie start at 2 pm. Requested donation is \$5.00 per person. All are welcome to attend. Alina Nitzschner, who continues to chair these events, has selected the following programs: February 2 – Eisacktal in Suedtirol, March 1 – Elb-Melodie, and May 3 – Fruehling in Wien-Woerthersee. If you wish to help out, please call Alina at (845) 339-5969.

## **STAMMTISCH**

Michael Scheunemann continues to lead these informal gatherings every other Thursday, weather-permitting, usually from 5:30 pm to 7 pm. You can get to practice German while discussing various topics. Michael gently assists with any needed help. The schedule so far is: January 2 & 23, February 6 & 20, March 5 & 19, April 2 & 16, May 14 & 28, and June 4 & 18. Questions? Please call (845) 527-4925 or email [michaelscheunemann@ymail.com](mailto:michaelscheunemann@ymail.com)

## **PIZZA PARTY/RAFFLE – Sunday, January 12**

Join us for another fun afternoon from 1 pm to 4 pm. Each \$20.00 ticket includes 20 drawings of \$25 each and three drawings for Grand Prizes of 1<sup>st</sup> Prize \$300.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize \$200.00 and 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize \$100.00. It also includes music by Paul Slusar, pizza, complimentary soda and bottled water. You can bring one guest on your ticket for an additional \$10.00, which includes all but the raffle. You don't need to be present to win. For more tickets or information, call the club at (845) 338-3763 and leave a clear message so your call can be returned.

## **SPRING SUNDAY BREAKFAST – Sunday, March 15**

Enjoy good company AND a fabulous breakfast, served from 8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The **MENU** includes buckwheat pancakes (some with blueberries), scrambled eggs, ham, bacon, sausage, herring, home fried potatoes, fresh fruit salad, rolls, bagels, cream cheese, jellies, coffee cake, juice, coffee and tea. (Yum!) Requested donations are Adults \$10.00, Children under 12 \$5.00. **Reservations by March 11<sup>th</sup> are greatly appreciated.** Information or reservations: Hildegard at (845) 757-5135, Alina at (845) 339-5969, or the club at (845) 338-3763. What are you waiting for?!!!

## **GERMAN BEER TASTING – DEUTSCHE BIERPROBE – Saturday, May 23**

“Pilsner”, “Kolsch”, Schwarzbier” – what are they? This is your chance to learn something new about German beers. The tasting will have something for everyone. You will be able to enjoy flavor sensations - the crisp, hoppy notes of German Pilsners, a warm, smooth Schwarzbier, a sweet, creamy Hefeweizens, as well as others. You are invited to an evening filled with fun and indulgence (and a little German music in the background). Mark your calendars, tell all your friends and get excited about a great night! (Those under age 21 must be accompanied by an adult 21 or older.)

Doors open 5:30 pm. The event begins 6 pm. Light snacks and a Weisswurst dinner will be served. Donations are \$30.00/pp; \$10.00 for non-drinkers (includes soda). For more information or reservations, please call Marian Elflein, event coordinator at (845) 546-3534.

## **MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETINGS**

Held on the second Wednesday of each month (with rare cancellations), meetings begin 7 p.m. and usually last about one hour, followed by some social time. Join us and learn what it takes to keep our organization running smoothly.

## **FINANCIAL SECRETARY’S DESK**

Well, folks, it’s that time of year again. We always appreciate our members’ payments of dues in January. They remain at \$40.00 per member (unless you’re a student or Honorary dues-exempt member) payable to Kingston Maennerchor and Damenchor. Please include my name on the outside of the envelope when you mail or drop payment off at the club. Dues must be received **BY JUNE 30, 2020**, or your membership will be discontinued because of unpaid dues. Signs are posted, reminders are sent and in the newsletters. You receive a membership card when renewing. Contact me if you wish to resign so I can remove you from our membership list. If you want to be reinstated, contact me and I will provide the information needed. (It’s painless.)

If you sponsor someone for membership, the applicant must complete a membership application form. The sponsor then signs the form. The applicant attends a business meeting to be introduced to the members, after which there is a brief interview by a trustee who also signs the application. The Financial Secretary introduces the applicant at the first and then a second business meeting, at which time the applicant is voted on for membership. It is best practice for the applicant’s sponsor to attend each of these two meetings whenever possible because the sponsor is the one who knows the applicant and can speak on his or her behalf.

Many thanks to all of you for helping the Kingston Maennerchor and Damenchor begin our 152<sup>nd</sup> year as an active organization and important member of our community.

Annemarie Harms, Financial Secretary  
(845) 336-7440; catskillanniesez@gmail.com

## **INTRODUCING – Meet our new Member**

Ana Linnemann was introduced to the Maennerchor and Damenchor by Michael Scheunemann to join his Stammtisch meetings. She was accepted for membership September 11, 2019 and she joined as a worker. Ana was born in

Muenchen, Germany. She came to the U.S. in 1985 and lived in Long Island, NY. She married and had three children, a son and two daughters. In 2004, the family moved to New Paltz, NY and Ana still lives and works there. Two of her children are in college and one daughter is a nurse at Albany Medical Center.

As I said, Ana joined as a worker and she noticed that even though the club has a website, we are not on Facebook. So with the help of Marian Elflein, she set up a Facebook page. Thank you both for that. Ana recently opened up a gift and souvenir store in New Paltz. It has an interesting name “The Kon-Tiki Trading Post” and comes from a famous sailing voyage a long time ago. She also is involved with Real Estate Investment. She is interested in arts and crafts, such as basket making. Ana also enjoys having animals. She has three dogs, a cat, a rabbit, fish, chickens, turkeys and last but not least, two goats. Welcome to the Kingston Maennerchor and Damenchor!

~ Submitted by Doris Vogt

## **NEWSWORTHY NOTES**

In November, Dr. Edith Borchardt, professor emeritus of German, participated in the 2019 Celebration of Scholarship and Creative Activity at the University of Minnesota, Morris, where she exhibited two of her recent publications, her short stories “Der weiße Skarabäus,” [“The White Scarab”] and “Reisen auf der Prärie” [“Travels on the Prairie”]. In addition to being an active scholar, for more than 20 years as a member of SCALG (Society for Contemporary American Literature in German), she has contributed short stories, poems, essays, and poetry translations to *TRANSLIT* and *TRANS-LIT2*, a refereed journal for creative writing in German, and presented her work at professional conferences and poetry readings. She previewed her currently published work in meetings of the German Round Table during the past year.

During her 26 years (plus one semester) at the University of Minnesota, Morris, Professor Borchardt taught all levels of language and literature courses from the Middle Ages to the present, as well as German Cinema, Austrian Studies, and an overseas course, “Brunnenburg and Beyond” (in Italy, Austria, and Hungary). She has published numerous scholarly articles, book chapters, and three books: *Mythische Strukturen im Werk Heinrich von Kleists* (1987), *Women in the Shadows* (2008), and *Rudolf. Crown Prince and Rebel* (2017).

~ Submitted by Edith Borchardt

For historians, it is interesting to note that Marian Elflein is the first German immigrant to hold the position of President of the Maennerchor since the end of 1994. Since then there have been four presidents, two being first generation American born.

~ Submitted by Hildegard Edling

## **HAPPY NEWS and Congratulations to all!**

Marty Lennox, one of our “worker bees”, was honored as a Veteran of the Year for his many years of volunteer service to vets. He accepted the award at a testimonial dinner in September at the VFW Post, East Chester Street, Kingston from Ken Friss, Commander of Post 150 American Legion.

Hetty Gunderud is a woman of many talents. A fine soprano, she is also an amazing fiber artist. She received 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> prize awards this past summer and fall at the Ulster County Fair, Dutchess County Fair, and the Sheep and Wool Festival for her creations in weaving, crocheting, knitting, and the ancient Scandinavian art of Nalbing.

On Sunday, September 22, 2019 Maria Dijk-Pichelbauer and Hans Safer were married with family and friends in attendance in a lovely garden ceremony. Maria recently closed her popular Flowers by Maria shop. Hans continues programming the weekly German Hour on Radio Kingston – definitely for over 30 years.

Herman Koelmel, President of the NYS Saengerbund, recently shared the following news. (website: nyssb.org) Travis Sefzik moved to the capital region from Pittsburgh, PA, where he sang baritone with the Teutonia Maennerchor. He was very disappointed that there were no longer German-American choruses in his new home region so he founded a new chorus which he hopes can perform at the NYSS Saengerfest this June 13 & 14. If you know anyone in the Albany-Glens Falls-Troy-Schenectady area that might like to join, information is as follows: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/586233758795841/> or contact Travis at (724) 884-3796 or [tsefzik@gmail.com](mailto:tsefzik@gmail.com)

## **GOOD AND WELFARE**

2019 was often a very difficult year for many of our members and friends. Wishes for strength and healing go to: Members Inge Luetzger, Jack Furman, Chris Kohler, Heinz Holzhauer, Josie Brendle and Ernie Mann, who is hopefully healing well after his terrible fall. Member Hans Reck and his wife Helen are both in Ten Broeck Commons. Also to Friends and Former Members Peggy Vogt, Waltraut (Wally) McMillan, Joe Fink, Gladys Skura, and Gail Salewski, wife of Willy Salewski.

Our condolences go to the following members and friends. Hans Gunderud's sister, Lillian Ruth Gunderud Larkin, passed away on October 22. Long-time Assistant Music Director and friend Sherry Thomas lost her husband George on December 17 after his long, brave battle with cancer. Former long-time member Charlotte Ansong passed away on November 12.

## **CONSUMER CORNER ~ Prescription Pill Bottle Recycling Project**

What to do with all those prescription pill bottles when they are empty? They can proliferate like rabbits!!! Please do NOT throw them away. You may have noticed a box on the shelf over the coat rack at the Maennerchor Hall with a sign saying something like Pill Bottles – clean, labels removed and no residue.

This is a project that I am doing through my church. In developing countries such as Africa patients often receive their pills wrapped in paper scraps. There is no protection from moisture or the elements in general and certainly are not safety proofed.

So, the next time you have empty prescription bottles – those funky orange ones are best – wash them out, remove labels and residue and drop them off in the box provided. If the residue gives you trouble, as it could, don't go nutty!!! I've got a method that usually works and will do it if necessary. The ultimate drop off point for these bottles is the Northern Columbia Lions Club located in Kinderhook, NY. They then forward them to the appropriate agency.

If you would like more information or to begin such a mission at your organization, a good source of information is Matthew25: Ministries. You can find them at [m25m.org/pillbottles/](http://m25m.org/pillbottles/).

~ Submitted by Hildegard Edling

## **EDITORS' NOTE**

Our – your – Maennerchor board members are always looking for ways to make money and to save money for the club so that we can continue to be fiscally responsible to the organization and its members. If you are currently receiving the newsletters as hard copy but are willing and able to receive them via email, please let us know, as this can be easily arranged. You receive the news quicker and we save printing costs and stamps. If you wish to help defray the costs of these newsletters, your donations are always appreciated and will be recognized here. Just let Hildegard, Angela or me know so we can make arrangements.

We also welcome your ideas for future events and activities and any volunteer time that you can provide. Just let a Board member or committee chairperson know your ideas, suggestions, and when and how you can volunteer. Of course, whenever possible, please attend our events. We'd love to see you.

*“The ability to work hard is, perhaps, the most valuable aid to success.” ~ Theodore Roosevelt*

**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, Ann Marie & Vinnie Werling, Ernest & Hanna Mann, Eric Lorenz, and Inge Martin

**OFFICERS AND STAFF 2020**

|                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| President            | Marian Elflein      |
| Vice President       | Hildegard Edling    |
| Treasurer            | Angela Hartrum      |
| Financial Secretary  | Annemarie Harms     |
| Recording Secretary  | Christa Scheitz     |
| Historian/Archivist  | Bruce Wolf          |
| Trustee (2020)       | Donna Wolf          |
| Trustee (2021)       | Michael Scheunemann |
| Trustee (2022)       | Edith Borchardt     |
| Music Director       | Dr. Dorcinda Knauth |
| Asst. Music Director | Sherry Thomas       |

**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

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

*“In order to succeed, you must know what you are doing, like what you are doing, and believe in what you are doing.”*

~ Will Rogers

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