

KINGSTON MAENNERCHOR AND DAMENCHOR. INC.

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www.FACEBOOK.COM/MaennerchorandDamenchor

NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Friends of German Culture and Music!

I wish you all a happy, healthy, and fruitful 2022! Let us hope that this year will be better than the previous one. We have been going through some very rough 22 months and had some ups and downs. Overall, I would say: it could have been worse, and I am sure it will be even better.

Our organization lives and dies with the support of its members. It is by your participation, help, and support that we ensure the flourishing of the Kingston Maennerchor and Damenchor. Without you we will certainly not be around for a long time.

When reading through the newsletter and/or contacting Annemarie for the payment of your 2022 dues you will notice that we have raised our dues. The new dues are now \$45 per year for a standard membership, something that has not happened in more than a handful of years. The raise was long overdue, albeit it was a rather modest increase of only \$5 per year. However, this will not be a massive funds generator, but rather a small fluff to the money coming in.

Another way of helping this organization is the Adopt-a-Cost method. In this newsletter you will find an overview of recurring costs that can be "adopted" by members, a way of making sure that our costs are lessened by a small bit. We have tried this already and it worked. However, it seems to always be the same handful of people that chip in by adopting one of these expenses. I would be happy to see some other members contributing.

You can help out in other ways too. As most of you know, we try to have one big event per month, with the occasional double month or sometimes a skipped month. These events need people that help out, bring a dish, or even volunteer to fully chair an event. Like the adoption of a cost, it seems to always be the same familiar faces that run these events. Yes, it is a decent amount of work, but it is not undoable. And there is always the option of co-chairing with someone else. Please, take a look at the calendar of events included in this newsletter and see if you would like to (co-)chair one of them. We have members who have done this for many years that are more than happy to give guidance and advice. Some of those members have been doing it for so many years and are more than ready to step down from the lead roles of such events - and deservedly so. At the end of the day, it is definitely not an impossible undertaking. If everybody steps up by just a bit (offer to make 5 lbs. of potato salad, work 1 or 2 events a year, run one event, etc.), the burden will be less on those that "always do it" and everyone is willing to go on doing what they are doing. A system that relies on always the same few people is doomed to collapse!

Lastly, if you seem to be unable to do any of the above mentioned things, at the very least order a dish from a takeout or invite one or two extra friends to our events. When we had our Oktoberfest just a few months ago, I was appalled when I heard the pre-order numbers mere days before the event. One week before the event we had a grand total of only 10 (!) members for pre-order takeout or reserved seats - that included the ones

who were helping. Those were ridiculously low numbers and a slap in the face of those organizing the event. If it would not have been for Donna and Bruce Wolf's gamble of pre-ordering more chicken with the caterer and delaying the deadline by a few days (despite this causing massive headaches) the event would have been a big, fat minus in our books.

At the end of the January 2022 business meeting we will see Christa Scheitz stepping down from being our recording secretary for many (*Ed.: 2004 to 2021*) years. I would like to thank her very much for all those years! Thankfully, one of our newest members, Annette Hofmann, was willing to run for this position. We are looking forward to welcoming her on the Executive Board. I am happy that she was willing to run because it always seems such a hard task to find people to run for such positions. Yes, some offices do require more work than others. But generally speaking, there should not be a struggle to find people to fill the board.

That brings me to one last thing to talk about. I will not be running for president in the coming elections. This will be, for now, my last year as president. Think about whether you are interested in running for this position. The earlier you make that decision the better. This will mean more time to ask questions and to be involved in things to learn before my stepping down.

Of course, I will not end this message without some positive news. Although this is already a bit outdated, it is nevertheless a great piece of news. In 2019, the Pittsburgh based nonprofit organization 412 Food Rescue opened their first kitchen called the Good Food Project. They use groceries that are being discarded by stores to cook zero waste meals. These meals are being served to those in need through other nonprofit partners. Founded in 2015 by Leah Lizarondo, the organization saves millions of pounds of food from being dumped into landfills. (About 25% of all materials ending up in landfills are food waste.) With the help of an app the organization has spread to over 15 cities with 25,000 volunteers. This helped turn more than 70 million pounds of food into 57 million meals while simultaneously mitigating 30 million pounds of CO2.

Stay well, healthy, and optimistic!
Marian Elflein, President

OFFICERS AND STAFF 2022

President	Marian Elflein	Trustee (2022)	Edith Borchardt
Vice President	Jeff Davis	Trustee (2023)	Donna Wolf
Treasurer	Angela Hartrum	Trustee (2024)	Michael Scheunemann
Recording Secretary	Annette Hofmann	Music Director	Dorcinda Knauth
Financial Secretary	Annemarie Harms	Assistant Music	Sherry Thomas
Archivist/Historian	Bruce Wolf	Director	

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS 2022

Bar	Jeff Davis	Webmaster	Jeff Davis/Marian Elflein
House	Richard Edling/Bruce Wolf	Facebook	Marian Elflein
Music	Liz Gregory/Waltraud Vianale	Newsletter -	
Stammtisch	Michael Scheunemann	Editor	Annemarie Harms
Scholarship	Edith Borchardt	Assistant	Hildegard Edling
Publicity	Allen & Gisi Vella	Editor	

HONORARY PRESIDENTS: Ernest Mann and Hildegard Edling

Due to the ongoing uncertainties of Covid-19 and its variants, we continue to follow CDC guidelines. Our Event Teams strongly urge you to **make reservations by the event deadlines** to ensure your opportunity to participate. Protocols might require masks and social distancing, so please be prepared to adhere to the guidelines. We hope you will participate in several of our activities, and perhaps give a helping hand too.

In selecting events for 2022, the Executive Board realizes that, for various reasons, we must remain flexible with our planning. Event information for 2022 will be updated as soon as possible via these **INFO SOURCES:** www.KingstonMaennerchorandDamenchor.org, [Facebook.com/maennerchoranddamenchor](https://www.facebook.com/maennerchoranddamenchor), hall phone messages at 845-338-3763, Newsletters (May and September), and word of mouth.

Please SAVE THIS PAGE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.

----- *Look what's coming up!* -----

WELCOME NEW YEAR! - Sunday, January 2, 2022, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Celebrate the New Year us at our Kaffeeklatsch, with coffee, cakes and Gemütlichkeit. A celebratory DVD of Andre Rieu and the Johann Strauss Orchestra will be shown. Donation is only \$5.00 for a delightful afternoon. Reservations would be appreciated. Please call Alina at (845) 339-5969.

WINTER WURSTFEST TAKE-OUT – Saturday, January 22 (Snow date Sunday, January 23)

Come and enjoy a delicious selection of traditional German foods, including Bratwurst, Weisswurst, Knackwurst, two side dishes, bread and butter, and dessert. **PICK-UP TIME** is noon to 1:30 p.m. Choices are a Platter with one Wurst at \$13.00 or a Platter with two Wursts (can select any two) at \$15.00. Additional Wursts are \$3.00 each. **PRE-ORDERS AND PAYMENTS** (check or credit card) are a must **BY JANUARY 12**. To pre-order, please call Marian at (845) 546-3534 or send a message on Facebook.

GERMAN FOOD TAKE-OUT – Saturday, February 26 (Snow date Sunday, February 27)

Menu and additional information as the event draws closer. Call the hall at or message us on Face Book.

BAVARIAN BREAKFAST – Sunday, March 27

Menu and additional information as the event draws closer. Take-out will be available. Call the hall or message us on Face Book.

LEBERKAESE LUNCH – Sunday, April 24, 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The Lunch Menu includes light appetizers, Leberkaese, and light desserts. Take out will be available. Lunch will be served from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Additional information will be available as the event draws closer. For RESERVATIONS, call the hall or message us on Face Book.

CHRISTKINDLMARKT

We will again host Christkindlmarkt in early December with co-chairs Marian Elflein (who will manage the café) and Annette Hofman (who will find vendors, set-up, etc.) at the helm. There will again be an Elves' Table with gently-used or new items for sale. They do not need to be Christmas-themed. So, if you are cleaning out your attics, garages, etc., please donate some nice items for the Elves Table. It has proven to be quite popular. Find more information in future newsletters. They will need many volunteers, so please consider that.

Our deepest sympathies to family and friends:

Our beloved Walter Vogt passed away on December 5th at age 91 after a courageous battle of illnesses. He was a stalwart supporter of the Maennerchor for 50 years. He is survived by Doris, his wife of 71 years, family, and many friends. Enjoy our Archivist Bruce Wolf's article about Walter.

Member Jack Straub's sister, Barbara Panchak, passed away August 14, 2021, at only 62 years old. She was a lifelong Kingston resident and had worked for the Kingston City Schools for many years.

Michele Funccius, wife of member Hans Funccius, lost her father Michael Cacchillo on December 6th.

IN OUR THOUGHTS

With our busy lives, it is too easy to forget to make a call or send a card to the friends and members who are no longer able to actively participate in Maennerchor activities. A great New Year's resolution would be to stay in touch with them. The following people have had challenges with health, and too often, isolation.

Special greetings and well wishes to our **MEMBERS**: Carl Bell, Ed Brown, Ernie Mann (in sunny FL), Charlotte Folkl, Jack Furman, Liz Hansen, Vivian Longto, Inge Luettger, Robert Schneller (at Golden Hill?), Tony Stegner (Mountain Valley Manor), and Kurt Sulzbach (another Floridian). Warmest wishes also to our **FRIENDS**: Arnie Johnsen's wife Ragnhild, Inge Martin, Hans Reck, Vinnie Werling, Paul Weresynski, and George Calabrese. Prayers to former member Walter Ackermann. He is Gabbi Davis' father and was our favorite bus driver on long-distance trips. Walter and Heidi recently moved to Charlotte, NC to be near their son Steve and for warmer weather. As of this writing, Walter is not doing well.

MEMBERS CORNER

LITERARY CORNER:

Our member Edith Borchardt continues her creative writing, which are often published in digital form. Enjoy her following submission.

In November of this fall (2021), Edith Borchardt, Professor Emerita of German at the University of Minnesota Morris, (re)published an autobiographical essay with the title "*Heimatbilder*" ["Pictures from My Homeland"] in the electronic journal *Glossen* (#48) as a complement to her contribution last spring, "*Grenzgebiete*," in *Glossen* #47 (May 2021), which deals with the topic of *Doppelidentitäten* [Double Identities] and cultural politics. The latest issue of *Glossen* also contains her review of Irmgard Hunt's *zueinander. Neue und alte Geschichten* (Leipzig: Engelsdorfer Verlag 2021). Professor Borchardt's short story, "*Die Astralreise*" ["Astral Travel"] appears in the 2021 fall issue of TRANS-LIT2, a peer reviewed journal published by SCALG, the Society for Contemporary American Literature in German.

"*Heimatbilder*" is an attempt to define the concept of "homeland" through her childhood experiences in Bavaria (Germany) and the Burgenland (Austria). It also contains adult recollections of visits in Vienna with relatives, exploring important monuments of modernism in art (like Gustav Klimt and Egon Schiele) and architecture (Otto Wagner and Josef Hoffmann): the Secession movement and *Jugendstil* (art deco). Her most recent story, "*Die Astralreise*," revolves around a clairvoyant dream.

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RETIREMENTS AND REPLACEMENTS:

Several Committee members have "retired from their duties". Hildegard Edling served as co-chair of the Music Committee with Donna Stegner from 2015 to 2017 until Donna's untimely passing. She then served as chair until Liz Gregory became co-chair in 2020. Under Hildegard's guidance, the numerous copies and folders of

music were organized into a greatly improved, user-friendly system. Waltraud Vianale has graciously agreed to co-chair with Liz.

Digital Volunteers: Fran Thompson did layouts for the Newsletter, a challenging task, until we were able to find replacements. She also helped set up our website and served as Webmaster for three years. Fran's current commitments prevent her from continuing this work. Jeff and Marian are now working on the website.

Ana Linneman set up our Facebook pages, a very helpful tool indeed! Marian is now managing Facebook.

As you read in the President's Message, Christa Scheitz is retiring as Recording after 18 long years!

Annemarie Harms handled Publicity for at least 15 years. Allen and Gisi Vella agreed to manage Publicity, for which I am extremely grateful.

A heartfelt "Thank You!" to all of you for your volunteerism, and with great appreciation to those who are taking over the assignments.

ANOTHER RETIREMENT

As many of you know, Hans Safer was a long-time host of the German Hour on Radio Kingston, previously known as WKNY. He retired this fall after 35 years of dedication. You can still find two years of his archived programs on RadioKingston.org. I had a recent conversation to learn a little bit about his radio experience.

Some of you might remember Bill Henle, who was the previous host. Sadly, Bill became ill and passed away. The radio station WKNY continued to play German music, but, without a host, it was just not "the same". Hans had been translating commercials for a funeral home into German. One day, he received a call from Ward Todd, the station manager in the 1980s. Ward thought that with three German clubs the German Hour could continue with German-speaking hosts. Hans initially declined – he just was not interested and did not want to do it. Obviously, Hans eventually said yes!

Hans originally recorded programs at the station's studio, where big reels were used for taping. To the younger generation, it would look like the stone age. At first he bought much of the music and included music of German culture, such as Austria, Germany, and Switzerland. He played a mix of old and new music to satisfy his audience's diverse tastes. People started giving Hans records, often from family estates. Eventually, Hans was able to access a huge selection from the internet. From the station's studio to do programming Hans eventually moved his programming on a computer from his home.

Hans welcomed guests for interviews and as hosts. Among them were musicians Joe Unger and Ingo Froehlich, our members, the late Poldy Funccius (who reached 100) and Helga Bruening, and NYS Saengerfest 2018 co-chairs Hildegard Edling and Annemarie Harms.

What especially stands out to Hans was that many people told him "the German Hour was the happiest hour of the week". He kept doing the program because it "made so many people happy". What better legacy can one wish for as that? Many, many thanks for a great job - well done!

Submitted by Annemarie Harms, Newsletter Editor

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INTRODUCING.....Meet our new members

Harold "Buddy" Wolf only recently started attending Thirsty Thursdays at the Männerchor and Damenchor. He learned about it from his brother, Bruce. He recently became a social member, but he'll help with work as his time permits. He has lived in Kingston all his life, except for the time when he was stationed in Germany with the Army from 1971 – 1972 in Giebelstadt outside of Würzburg in Bavaria.

“Buddy” was a Kingston police officer for 37 years. He retired 10 years ago and now works as a part time security guard for Kingston High School. His hobbies are hunting and fishing, and golfing in the summer. He has been married to his wife Peggy for 43 years and has two adult children. His son Ryan is attending the State Police Academy, and his daughter Caitlin is an occupational therapist for autistic children in Albany.

Danielle Wolf’s interest in becoming a member of the Männerchor and Damenchor goes back to her father, Bruce Wolf, and his position as the historian and archivist of our organization. Like him, she is interested in genealogy and her family history, which is Swiss German. She has been visiting our events with her parents, Donna and Bruce, for the past 10 years and has helped with activities like the breakfasts, pizza parties, and most recently, the Oktoberfest. She is our newest member as a Student and wants to be a worker.

Danielle has a BA degree from the University of New Haven in Nutrition and Dietetics. Currently, she is studying at Russell Sage in Troy to become a Registered Dietician. She is currently involved in a one-year internship with five rotations that include working at the Dialysis Center in Hyde Park, the Poughkeepsie Farm Project at Vassar Farm, the Pine Bush City School District in Food Service Management, Long Term Care at Alice Hospital near Schenectady, and Clinical Rotation at the same hospital. She enjoys kayaking, hiking, dining out, and visiting wineries and breweries with her parents and her twin sister Julia. Danielle used to play the violin and participated in the Color Guard of the Marching Band in high school and college. She is excited about being a member of our organization.

Submitted by Edith Borchardt, Trustee

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Well, folks, it looks like we have lost yet another cornerstone member of this organization. **Walter E. Vogt** passed away on December 5, 2021. Walter was born in the Bronx, NY, on June 9, 1929. After serving in the Marine Corps he moved to Kingston and joined the Maennerchor in 1971. He was awarded his 50 year membership’s Certificate of Recognition with a small gathering at the hall this past June. His father Heinz and brother Heinz, Jr. were also deeply involved members as well as his wife Doris.

Walter carried the titles of Vice President and Trustee but became heavily involved with the House Committee for years, starting in 1978. He played a huge role in major projects, such as the construction of the Hall and the purchase and demolition of the house that used to stand in the middle of our “new” parking lot. Walter was a genuinely nice guy with a wonderful sense of humor and his great big smile to go with it. Sadly, he is now departed from his beloved wife Doris after an incredible 71 years of marriage. He is probably having a Jaegermeister and laughing it up with John Bruening up there, but will be greatly missed down here.

Submitted by Bruce Wolf, Archivist/Historian

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“What experience and history teach us is that people and governments have never learned anything from history.”

Georg Wilhelm Friederich Hegel, German philosopher (1770 – 1831)

CALLING ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ~ We need your help!

As you read in the President’s Message, we are again looking for financial support to help with the costs of maintaining the Maennerchor’s facility and programs. The following are the main expenses from 2021:

Bar	\$ 946.	Insurance	\$4400.	Telephone	\$ 431.
Buildings & Grounds	\$1957.	Accounting	\$ 680.	Water	\$ 297.
Electric	\$2700.	Taxes	\$6200.	Newsletter	\$ 395.
					TOTAL \$18.000

The majority of work is provided by volunteers at no charge. In fact, many “chip in” miscellaneous costs. Like a home, some years involve additional expenses, such as replacing or repairing hall property or equipment. You can understand it is no easy feat to keep the Maennerchor solvent. We are always grateful for the support our members and friends have provided over the years. Please consider helping with the **Adopt-a-Cost program** to help defray some of the expenses. Below are some suggestions to help with expenses.

ITEM	YEAR	HALF YEAR	QUARTER YEAR
Landscaping (flowers, soil, etc.)	\$ 80.00	\$ 40.00	
Snow Plowing	\$390.00	\$ 195.00	\$ 98.00
Good and Welfare (postage, cards)	\$120.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 30.00
Music (purchase music; copies)	\$300.00	\$150.00	\$ 75.00

Other items that could use underwriting are cleaning products, paper towels, toilet paper, etc. The annual Scholarship Fund is another option that is made possible through donations. The Newsletter issues are typically January, May, and September. The expenses are for printing and mailing paper copies. Sponsor names are acknowledged with each issue.

You can see the financial demands to keep our organization in the black. Questions? Please contact an Executive Board member for assistance. Checks can be made to Kingston Maennerchor and Damenchor with a notation Adopt-a-Cost in the memo line and a note to advise which specific item you are supporting.

MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

REMINDER – MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETINGS are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month starting at 7 p.m. in-person and using Zoom hookup. All members are welcome to attend. If you have **PHOTOS**, we would love to use them for our website. Contact Marian or Jeff, or leave a clear message on the Chor’s phone. Our **ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING is January 12, 2022**, when we will hold Installation of Officers.

MUSIC COMMITTEE NOTES – The Chor’s Singers will be contacted soon with information about Monday night rehearsals. After two long years, our Singers could finally perform at the November 21, 2021 Fall Concert, with Dorcinda Knauth as Director and Sherry Thomas as piano accompaniment. Helga Nowak-Razey and Maria Bruhmuller from Germania, Poughkeepsie, also participated. The program included a Memoriam in honor of our departed members John Bruening, Heinrich (Heinz) Holzhauer, Christa Kohler, and Irmgard Mueller. Thanks to all who helped make this a successful Concert.

Of course we are always looking for more singers. The ability to speak German is not required – we will help. The performances include songs in German and English. Just come with enthusiasm.

STAMMTISCH – Schedules have been “flexible” but are always on a Thursday evening. If you would like to participate in a casual, relaxing atmosphere to practice your German, please contact the Chairperson at MichaelScheunemann@ymail.com or call (845) 527-4925.

OMA’S BAKERY & CHRISTMAS MARKET

A handful of singers performed Christmas songs in both German and English to add live music to this wonderful Bruderhof-sponsored market in Ulster Park. Thank you, Marian Elflein and Erin, Hetty and Hans Gunderud, Richard and Hildegard Edling, Anemarie Harms, Paul Gregory, and Marta (a Bruderhof guest). We sang in the middle of the market with a captive audience. What a delightful afternoon we shared!

Submitted by Hildegard Edling

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Another year has flown by, and yes, **DUES ARE DUE!** Beginning January 2022, the amount for most memberships is \$45.00 per member. Students pay half, at \$22.50. Junior singers or workers under eighteen do not pay dues. Dues must be paid **BY JUNE 30 AT THE LATEST** to maintain membership. Please address envelopes to my attention. Information about **how to sponsor a new member** is in the current By-Laws and will also be posted on the bulletin board at the hall. Applications are available through a Board member. Completed applications go to the Financial Secretary. Feel free to contact me with any questions concerning membership. Home phone is (845) 336-7440 or when at the hall.

Submitted by Annemarie Harms, Financial Secretary

TO ALL OF THE NEWSLETTER DONORS ~

THANK YOU – DANKE SCHOEN - for helping defray the costs of our Newsletters. This is greatly appreciated.

Members: Charlotte Folkl, Angela and Robert Hartrum, Michael Scheunemann, and Fred Trodler.

Friends: Rosemarie Kleuker, and Eric Lorenz.

~~~ HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! ~~~ FROHES NEUES JAHR! ~~~

KINGSTON MAENNERCHOR AND DAMENCHOR, INC.

37 Greenkill Avenue

Kingston, NY 12401

"A loving heart is the truest wisdom"... Charles Dickens