

KINGSTON MAENNERCHOR AND DAMENCHOR, INC.

37 GREENKILL AVENUE, KINGSTON, NEW YORK 12401 (845) 338-3763

www.KingstonMaennerchorandDamenchor.org
www.FACEBOOK.COM/MaennerchorandDamenchor

NEWSLETTER ~ MAY 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Friends of German Culture and Music!

It is time for spring to finally come in full force, am I right? After the heavy rainfalls, we are all eagerly awaiting warmer weather with lots of sunshine. Just like the weather, our organization shall also be coming back to life from the long "season of Covid". Once more, I would like to thank each and every one of you who have helped in any way, shape or form to get us to where we are today. If it was not for all the helping hands in front and behind the scenes we would not have made it this far. You are all vital! Thank you!

I would like to end this (unusually short) President's Message with some good news from Nova Scotia. A local man, Robert Perkins, created a wetland sanctuary for the local wildlife in his back yard despite his property being in the middle of a suburban development. The whole creation was inspired by the love of his life, Rhonda, whom he met randomly on a sidewalk in 1974. Their shared love for animals drove him to create this dwelling after Rhonda's suicide in 2006. He aims to establish a paradise where both the fauna and the spirit of who he considers his first love can dwell in peace. Now, on any given day, the area is populated with beavers, frogs, herons, snapping turtles, and other animals living in harmony with each other. Although the pain of her loss plagues him every day, whenever he walks through the grounds he knows she's present.

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

HONORARY PRESIDENTS: Ernest Mann and Hildegard Edling

~~~~~ *Please SAVE THIS PAGE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE* ~~~~~

**AN IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT OUR EVENTS:**

With the uncertainties of Covid-19 and its variants, we continue to follow CDC guidelines. Please be prepared to adhere to any current guidelines and protocols. We strongly advise that you make **RESERVATIONS BY EVENT DEADLINES**. If there are EVENT CHANGES, the event committee will be able to contact you.

**EVENT INFORMATION SOURCES:**

KingstonMaennerchorandDamenchor.org; Facebook.com/maennerchoranddamenchor; hall phone messages at 845-338-3763; Contact(s) listed with Newsletter Event Listings; Flyers; E-mail Blasts; local print and radio Media Announcements, and of course Word of Mouth.

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

WELCOME SPRING KAFFEEKLATSCH – SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Celebrate the return of spring and our Sunday Kaffeeklatsch at our hall with members and friends. Enjoy delicious desserts, coffee, tea. View a “secret” DVD. Donation \$5.00/pp. Questions? Contact is Alina at 845-339-5969.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE – Wednesday, June 1, Noon to 5 p.m.

Held at Maennerchor hall. To sign up, visit <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=kmdi>. If you don't have an online account with the Red Cross, click Create My Account and input your information. If questions or no access to a computer, please leave a message for Erin (Event CONTACT) at 845-797-8633. **NOTE:** KMD is in charge of marketing AND getting donors to sign up. MEMBERS – please contact Erin to be on a “wait list” to fill unfilled or no-show appointments. Also, a few VOLUNTEERS are needed to run the Red Cross food canteen and registration on June 1. Tell all your friends. Your donation will help save three lives!

152nd ANNUAL SPRING CONCERT, LUNCHEON and DANCE – Sunday, June 12, Noon to 5:30 p.m.

The concert will have a maritime theme including sea chanties and songs both familiar and new to us. Doors open at noon. Hors d'oeuvres served until 1:00 p.m. Concert begins 1:00 p.m., followed by a luncheon, dessert and coffee/tea. Music by Bud Gramer from 2:30 - 5:30 p.m. Admission is \$40.00 per person. **Reservations MUST be made by June 4th**. Please call Marian Elflein at 845-546-3534 to RSVP.

GERMAN BEER TASTING ~ DEUTSCHE BIERPROBE – Saturday, August 6, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Pilsner, Kolsch, Schwarzbier – what are they? Learn something new about German beers! This tasting will have something for everyone. Enjoy flavor sensations – the crisp, hoppy notes of German Pilsners, the warmth and smoothness of Schwarzbiers, or the sweetness and creaminess of Hefeweizens (and others). Bring your friends for a great night filled with fun and indulgence! Doors open at 5:30 pm. Event begins at 6:00 pm. Light snacks and a Weisswurst dinner will be served. For more information visit our website or Facebook page as the event draws closer. Information or RESERVATIONS: Call Marian at (845) 546-3534. Notes: Guests under 21 will not be served alcohol and MUST be accompanied by an adult 21 or older. NO Take-out.

WURSTFEST – Sunday, August 28

A delicious assortment of Wursts will be on the menu plus side dishes, desserts and beverages. More information will be available as we get closer to the event. Please see Event Information Sources, above.

OKTOBERFEST – Saturday, September 24, Noon to 5 p.m.

Save the Date! Fabulous Menu: Chicken, Brats, Potato Pancakes, Applesauce, Sauerkraut, Pretzel, and Dessert. \$25.00, \$28.00 or \$30.00, depending on your orders. Bring your appetite and dancing shoes for a fun-filled afternoon. More information will follow. Contact: Donna at 845-331-9372.

CHRISTKINDLMARKT – Saturday, December 3

More details for this popular event will be in our September 2022 Newsletter and other sources. Questions? Contact Chairperson Annette Hofmann at 201-790-4453 via call or text, or e-mail annette4mk@gmail.com. Annette has the following requests. High-quality DONATIONS for the Elves or Crafts tables can be brought to our hall BY November 1st if possible. Items are being stored in the basement. Some items might be declined if they don't "fit in", so please do not be offended. Photo can be sent to Annette. Several VENDOR TABLES (8 ft.) are still available at \$25.00 each. Vendors so far will sell soaps and lotions, jewelry, and pickles. Many VOLUNTEERS are needed for baking, cooking for the Café, preparations, serving, and sales, in advance and day of the event. Helping out for this fun event can get us all in the holiday spirit!

MORE HAPPENINGS!

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

KINGSTON MAENNERCHOR AND DAMENCHOR AT KINGSTON STOCKADE FC

In the September 2018 Newsletter, Marian Elflein introduced our readers to the Kingston Stockade FC and its Fan Club, the Dutch Guard SG. Now, four years later, Marian has worked on connecting the Soccer club representing the Hudson Valley with our Kingston Maennerchor and Damenchor.

As with most sporting events, the National Anthem is being played at the beginning of each game. Dennis Crowley, the founder of Stockade FC, has always been very focused on deeply rooting the club in the community. Therefore, the Star Spangled Banner is not simply played from a CD but sung by local artists.

On Saturday, May 28th (Memorial Day weekend) at 6 p.m., Stockade FC will play a home game against Cedar Stars Academy from South Hackensack, NJ at Dietz Stadium, 170 N. Front St., Kingston – and our own chorus will sing the National Anthem! We are looking forward to representing the Chor to a crowd of 800 to 1,300 people, depending on the weather. Mark your calendars and come out and support us at Dietz Stadium!

Come on you Stockade boys! #wearestockade
Submitted by Marian Elflein

GOOD AND WELFARE

CONDOLENCES

After several years of declining health, **Inge Glaess-Luettger** passed away on April 5th. Inge was a singer since 1998 and was very involved as long as she was able. Her warm, gracious presence is sorely missed. Our deepest sympathies to her sons Floyd and Mark Glaess, her extended family, and her many friends.

Our deepest sympathies to member Peter Weitze, his wife Kathy and family on the unexpected passing of son James Weitze on February 16. Some of you might remember James' dear Oma, Hanna Condiff, who was our delightful friend and member of the Chor until her passing.

Member Joe Ingellis' wife Lois lost her sister, Peggy Conte Luhrs on February 22, to cancer. Our condolences to the family and friends for your loss.

IN OUT THOUGHTS

Too often Members and Friends of the Chor go through difficult times due to health concerns and sometimes due to isolation. Please send a card, make a phone call, or pay a visit. Special greetings and well wishes to **MEMBERS**: Carl Bell, Ed Brown, Charlotte Folkl, Jack Furman, Liz Hansen, Fred Planthaber (prayers for recovery), Bob Schneller, Tony Stegner, and Kurt Sulzbach. Some of our Members are recovering from various medical matters, but thankfully, we hear they are doing well and on the mend. They are: Maria Dijk-Pichelbauer, Hans and Hetty Gunderud, and Ruth Froehlich.

Special greetings to our **FRIENDS**, who are hopefully getting better or at least well-cared for: Annegrete Barnum, Vinci Bell, Lieselotte Hatesaul, Ragnhild Johnsen, Manny Kastner, Inge Martin, Hans Reck, Paul Weresynski, Vinnie Werling, and George Calabrese, former Director of Germania's chorus, who is on the mend.

MEMBERS' CORNER

Hildegard Edling was recently asked an intriguing question perhaps one (or more) of our readers can answer. Do you have ancestors from Czeckeslovakia? If you do, please contact Hildegard at 845-757-5135.

After a long winter, it was great to see **Christa Scheitz** at the April business meeting. We had a little surprise celebration including a bouquet of spring flowers in honor of her 18 years as Recording Secretary. Danke!!!

Marion Hohn and her husband Hans had their 58th Wedding Anniversary on March 7th. They came down from the Catskill Mountains and their celebration included a visit to Adams Fairacre Farms' Annual Spring Flower Show where they enjoyed the beautiful displays and arrays of azaleas, lilacs, and more. They are the proud parents of Monika Pasquerello, Brigitte Watson, and Hans (Hansi) Hohn and seven grandchildren. Busy life!

On March 9th, **Bruce Wolf** celebrated his BIG SIX-0 at a surprise birthday party, surrounded by his family and friends that his family threw for him. Best wishes for many more, healthy, happy birthdays.....and parties!

Congratulations to member **Hans Gunderud**, who also belongs to the Sons of Norway Hudson Valley 3-432 Lodge. There is a great photo of Hans in the "Members in Action" section of their "Viking Magazine" March 2022 issue. Hans is making rosettes at the Lodge's November 2021 meeting and cookie exchange at their Elvedal Lodge outside Saugerties. Those rosettes look darn good.

Submitted by Hildegard Edling

INTRODUCING.....

Erin Hein came to Kingston from Poughkeepsie in April 2021 and, after attending a few events at the Kingston Männerchor and Damenchor, she decided to join as a singer to become more involved in our organization. She loves music and is very musical. She plays the flute and acoustic guitar and has been active as a singer in choirs since childhood: in her church's children's choir, continuing to sing in her high school's choir, where she was the leader of an *a capella group* for a year.

Erin has German heritage on her father's side. His ancestors came from Germany generations ago. She is making an effort to learn German now. Most of Erin's family lives in Kingston and Poughkeepsie, and she has lots of cousins in this area.

Since October 2021, Erin has been a Bilingual Family Worker at the M. Clifford Miller Middle School in Lake Katrine. She is an English/ Spanish translator/ interpreter. As a Sanctuary City, Kingston has a large

Guatemalan population. Out of 816 students, 216 (or about 25%) are Hispanic or Latino speakers of Spanish. She helps them to adapt to their new environment and translates for the parents in PTA meetings.

Erin's family has a ten year old Beagle named Chloe. Erin's hobbies are hiking and camping, cooking and baking, including Russian Tea Cookies at Christmas time. I am certain that Erin's baking skills will be welcome for some of our Chor events.

Submitted by Edith Borchardt

Let me introduce you to **Doris (Kastner) Vogt**, a 45 year member of the Maennerchor. Doris was born at home in Sleightsburg and was raised there. She graduated from Kingston High School in 1948, attended beauty school in Newburgh, worked at Micky's Beauty Shop for 30 years, and had her own Dorie's Beauty Shop. On August 12, 1950 she married Walter Vogt, the beginning of a seventy-one year adventure. They had two sons, Steven and Paul. Doris now has four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Both of Doris' parents were members of the Maennerchor and her father joined when the Maennerchor was still in the Rondout section of Kingston. As an active member Doris sang soprano, served as Good & Welfare chairperson for many years, was Financial Secretary from 2004 to 2008 and cheerfully helped wherever needed.

Doris is an avid reader particularly of mysteries, historical fiction and biographies. She and Walter loved to travel. They were in Hawaii and Germany as well as on bus trips with the Maennerchor which took them to Maine and Canada.

She, along with fellow member Barbara Schlichting, became notorious at the Maennerchor for integrating business meetings! Yes, meetings were held in the main hall with men on one side and women on the other. One evening these "brave" ladies decided enough is enough and they sat with the men. I remember that meeting quite well and thinking "I'll join them next month" which is what I and a number of other women did. So much for that, gentlemen!

Thank you Doris for all you did over the years. You shared many recollections of your years at the Maennerchor and they will be shared in future newsletters. We continue to enjoy seeing you and wish you many joy-filled moments with your super family.

Submitted by Hildegard Edling

Vivian Longto is a Kingston native who loves her hometown. She married Joe Longto in 1945 and they had 43 good years together before he passed away in 1989. Although they had no children, Vivian has a devoted niece who stays in constant contact with her as well as a nephew who also stays in touch.

When she was 16 or 17 Vivian went to work at the Fuller Shirt Factory (a bit of Kingston history here). She began her very long career with the Kingston School District in 1950 where she worked in food service until full retirement in 2011 at the tender age of 85. She had semi-retired a bit earlier but needed to stay active so returned part time. This reporter recalls occasionally hearing Vivian say that she was going to work because one school or another needed cookies!!!

At age 96 Vivian is definitely the senior member of the Maennerchor. She joined the Maennerchor in 1988 and sang alto with the chorus up until the pandemic shut everything down. Her "buddy" John Bruening would pick her up and as soon as she came into the hall she'd ask "what can I do to help?" For many years she served as Liedermutter being responsible for the women's music - an archaic position which has since been dissolved. During that time and for a number of years afterwards, she was a valuable delegate to the NYS Saengerbund Music Committee meetings. Vivian also co-directed the Kinderchor (children's chorus) we had a number of years ago assisting with both music and German language.

Musically speaking, along with her involvement in the Maennerchor, Vivian was one supremely busy lady. For over 20 years she was organist at the Shokan Reformed Church and for 10 years was “substitute” organist at Mt. Tremper Reformed Church “until they found somebody!” For 20 years she played accordion, saxophone and keyboard with Filocco’s Music Makers. She also played with Harry Simon’s college band, sang with the Onteora Summer Chorus and with the Lyric Choroesters. There is more – she was one of the accordianists for Die Bergvagabunden Schuhplattler dance group.

If you ever have the chance to chat with Vivian about her life and work experiences, be sure to spend the time with her. She is a wealth of information about Kingston life during her young growing up years and a great sense of humor to go along with it. Thank you, Vivian, for all those memories.

Submitted by Hildegard Edling

Jack Straub was born in the Bronx but his family relocated to Boiceville, where he grew up and graduated from Onteora High School. After four years of service in the United States Navy, he returned to Ulster County and settled in Kingston where he met his bride-to-be. For over 25 years, Jack and wife Liz owned and operated the Delaware Deli in downtown Kingston.

Jack was first introduced to the Maennerchor as a guest on a “Thirsty Thursday”. He “found a home” and became a supporting member on October 13, 2021. He is willing to help out when and how he can.

Submitted by Annemarie Harms

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS 2022

The Scholarship Committee is very pleased to announce this year’s two highly qualified winners for Music Scholarships: Excellence in Choral Singing and Individual Performance.

Elizabeth Culp (Red Hook High School) has quite an impressive music résumé, participating in the Red Hook High School Concert Choir and Area All State Mixed and Treble Choirs with Solo Vocals in 2019 and 2020. She found her passion for vocal performance through German *Lieder* and sang “*Vergebliches Ständchen*” by Schumann as an All State NYSSMA. She is impressed with the depth and range of emotion German art songs convey. Schubert’s “*Gretchen am Spinnrade*” taught her a lot about the strength and versatility of her voice. She admires Schubert’s brilliance in “*Erlkönig*” and “*Winterreise*,” and performed “*Der Hirt auf dem Felsen*” with some friends in April 2022. Although Elizabeth has been accepted by Swarthmore College and Amherst College, she hopes to attend Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT next year because of its strong music department. She will also take private lessons wherever she will be in order to further develop her voice and will continue to explore German music.

Anna Adams, our first applicant from **New Paltz High School**, has belonged to All County Chorus since elementary school and the Vassar College Choir since 7th grade. She has participated in NYSSMA all the years when it was possible (except for the last two years of COVID). She enjoys singing songs in other languages, like Spanish and Hebrew, and has sung *Lieder* (art songs) in German (“*Bist Du bei mir*”) and Latin, overcoming the difficulty of learning a foreign language at the same time as coming to terms with difficult melodies. Every language is a different experience for her. She sang her first solo in French, “*Après un Rêve*,” at the All State NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association) and got into Area All State with that song. Anna will be attending Western Connecticut State University, majoring in Music Education and hoping to motivate her students to learn foreign languages through music.

Submitted by Edith Borchardt,
Scholarship Committee Chairperson

PRESIDENT'S EDITORIAL

After six months, the saga of our plumbing issues has hopefully found an end. The reason for three plumber's visits and about \$2,000 in plumbing bills? Paper towels being flushed down the toilets. Please, do NOT under any circumstances flush anything other than toilet paper and human waste down the toilets. The profits of two events have literally gone down the drain. Think about all the hours of hard work by our members being wasted on something that was completely avoidable. I cannot begin to describe how angry this makes me. Please, be more aware of the consequences of your actions!

Sincerely, Marin Elflein

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

DUES ARE DUE! REMINDER – Annual dues are payable **BY JUNE 30** every year or your membership is discontinued for non-payment. If this happens, you can request Reinstatement of Membership and pay full dues at that time. Effective as of January 2022, most membership categories are \$45.00 per member. Students pay half, at \$22.50. Junior singers or workers under eighteen do not pay dues. Please address dues payment envelopes to my attention. If you do not want to continue your membership, just let me know. Of course, you are always welcome to participate at the many events the Maennerchor has.

Members can request a copy of the Membership and Birthday lists. Just let me know.

To be a **SPONSOR for MEMBERSHIP**, a member should request an Application for Membership form from any Board member. The applicant completes the form which is then given to the Financial Secretary. The applicant must attend two business meetings, preferably with the Sponsor in attendance. After the first meeting, a Trustee will conduct a brief meeting before the second meeting, at which time a vote for the candidate's membership is taken. If unable to attend the monthly business meetings, the Executive Board can consider using the Exception clause per the By-Laws.

Membership to the Kingston Maennerchor and Damenchor is open to anyone who supports the purposes of our organization. Our mission is the preservation and promotion of German culture, heritage and tradition through music and song. It is not necessary for a candidate to be of German descent.

Please contact me with any questions concerning membership. I am often at the KMD hall, or leave a clear message with your name and phone number on my phone 845-336-7440, or e-mail me at catskillanniesez@gmail.com.

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: Vivian Longto, Christa Scheitz, Fred Trodler, and Anonymous (from two parties).

Friends: Rosemarie Kleuker, and Eric Lorenz.

>>>>>>>>>\*<<<<<<<<<<

*“The future depends on what we do in the present.”*

~ Mahatma Gandhi

## *FROM THE ARCHIVES*

I was recently given an old program booklet from the Great German American Tri-centennial celebration which took place in August of 1983. The program contained a detailed account of the birth of organized German immigration to America. On October 6<sup>th</sup>, 1683, thirteen families from Krefeld \* crossed the Atlantic on the vessel "Concord", which was dubbed the German Mayflower. Most of them were weavers by trade and of Mennonite faith. They arrived in Philadelphia on the invitation of the Quaker William Penn to come to Pennsylvania. In 1708 the second convoy came with 42 people and founded Newburgh on the Hudson River. 2,000 more German Palatines arrived in 1710 and settled on both sides of the Hudson near Germantown, Rhinebeck, and West Camp. This marked the beginning of German mass immigration to America that reached its height in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. And so here we are today.

(\* Editor's note: Krefeld is a port city located in North Rhine – Westphalia Land [state], western Germany.)

Submitted by Bruce Wolf, Archivist/Historian

## *MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS*

**REMINDER – MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETINGS** are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month starting at 7 p.m. We have been meeting in person but might be experimenting with hybrid Zoom meetings. 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.

**CALLING FOR SINGERS** – When rehearsals begin for the Fall Concert, please consider joining our singers for a fun Monday night of rehearsals. See Liz or Waltraud if you or a friend are interested.

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