

KINGSTON MAENNERCHOR AND DAMENCHOR, INC.

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www.FACEBOOK.COM/MaennerchorandDamenchor

NEWSLETTER ~ SEPTEMBER 2022

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

Here it is, September already! Almost time to clean up garden beds, finish pre-winter preparations and plant some festive, colorful mums. Now that the world has pretty much “opened up” again, there are so many things to enjoy – fall festivals, leaf peeping, savoring freshly-picked apples from local orchards, munching on fresh cider donuts and attending our Maennerchor events, just to name a few.

The Kingston Maennerchor, originally The Rondout Social Club, is winding down our 154th year. This is certainly a significant achievement. We were founded in 1868 in the bustling Village of Rondout. The area was teeming with immigrants; the largest groups being Irish, with the Germans the second largest. The major industry was shipping, and Thomas Cornell was the largest stakeholder throughout the Hudson Valley. Just imagine this – typical modes of transportation were steam boats, barges, horse and carriages, trolleys and walking. No need for Planet Fitness when walking those hills! Family-owned businesses lined the streets of 19th century Rondout, serving the needs of residents and workers. Breweries, bars and saloons were plentiful to quench the thirst of their patrons.

Today these streets are lined with restaurants, museums, art galleries, shops and docks for boats of leisure. Mode of transportation is the car, and the modern headache is enough parking and the parking meter. What remains the same is that people today, just as in the 1860’s, are still drawn to the water and still enjoy social activities and camaraderie.

In less than four months we will enter our 155th Anniversary. Our active members work hard to provide enjoyable activities and maintain our Mid-town Maennerchor hall. How will we successfully navigate our future? How can we continue as a viable, vibrant organization? What will our legacy be? I truly hope we find the answers as we move forward in our busy, constantly changing world.

Annemarie Harms
Newsletter Editor

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	

“Whether you think you can or you think you can’t, you’re right.”

~ Henry Ford

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS 2022

2.

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		

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

>>>> PLEASE SAVE THIS INFORMATION FOR FUTURE REFERENCE <<<<

### EVENT INFORMATION RESOURCES

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 (Daily Freeman) and radio Media Announcements, and of course Word of Mouth.

We strongly advise that you make **RESERVATIONS BY EVENT DEADLINES**. If there are changes for an event, the committee will be able to contact you.

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

Save the Date! Fabulous MENU CHOICES, prices per Dinner: Chicken Dinner \$20.00; Chicken Dinner with one Bratwurst @25.00; Chicken Dinner with two Bratwurst \$30.00; Bratwurst (1 Wurst) Dinner \$20.00; Bratwurst (2 Wurst) Dinner \$25.00. Each meal includes pretzel and mustard, potato pancakes and applesauce sauerkraut, and dessert. Eat in or take out. **PRE-ORDERS ONLY BY September 17 – NO WALK-INS PLEASE**. Bring your appetite and dancing shoes for a fun-filled afternoon. Music by Joe Unger. To order or inquiries, please contact Donna at 845-331-9372 or leave a message on the hall phone at 845.338-3763.

### **FALL CONCERT/HERBST KONZERT – Sunday, November 20**

After months of preparation under the guidance of Music Director Dorcinda Knauth and Accompanist/ Assistant Music Director Sherry Thomas, our Chor will present another enjoyable concert. Details will be available as we get closer to the annual event.

### **CHRISTKINDLMARKT – Saturday, December 3, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Come and enjoy your shopping in time for the holidays! Local vendors will offer soap and lotions, jewelry, handcrafted items, chocolates, jams and pickles, frozen lamb meat and sheepskins, and more. We will again have the Elves table with like-new products plus home-baked cookies. Our dine-in Café will offer tasty, authentic German foods for purchase.

Chairperson Annette Hofmann (phone 201-790-4453) might still have an 8-ft. VENDOR TABLE available. High-quality DONATED ITEMS for the Elves and Crafts table are being accepted until November 1<sup>st</sup>. The items do not need to be holiday items but must be in like-new condition and appropriate for the selections. Many VOLUNTEERS are needed for baking, cooking and serving for the Café, preparations, and sales before and day of the event. Helping out for this fun event can get us all in the holiday spirit! Reach out to Annette on how you can help, however you can.

### **STAMMTISCH – ONGOING**

These gatherings resumed during the summer months. Schedules have been “flexible” but are normally held on a Thursday evening beginning at 5 p.m. If you would like to participate in a casual, relaxed atmosphere to practice your German, please contact the Chairperson Michael at [MichaelScheunemann@ymail.com](mailto:MichaelScheunemann@ymail.com) or call 845-527-4925. He can bring you up-to-date on meeting dates.

**CONDOLENCES**

Our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of the following departed:

Frederick (Fred) Planthaber died June 6 after a short battle with pancreatic cancer. He was a supporting member since May 1979. For those who knew Fred, he was a kind, caring, well-liked gentleman. He leaves behind wife Corinne, two daughters and their spouses, four grandchildren and two brothers.

Member Larry Riedener's mother, Nellie, passed away in August. She spent many of her summers in Larry's home. Nellie was always impeccably dressed. She enjoyed Thirsty Thursdays and other Maennerchor activities.

Friend Vincent (Vinny) Werling passed away July 24 after a long illness. He and wife AnnaMarie attended many Maennerchor events and loved to dance and twirl across the dance floor – a pleasure to watch. He had a delightful sense of humor and enjoyed telling jokes and stories. He is survived by AnnaMarie, his wife of 58 years (September would have been 59), a daughter and son, and five grandchildren.

**IN OUR THOUGHTS**

Special greetings to our Members and Friends of the Maennerchor who might be going through difficult times due to health concerns and sometimes due to isolation. Many of our Members and Friends cannot drive anymore. Please send a card, make a phone call, or pay a visit.

**MEMBERS:** Charlotte Folkl, Ruth Froehlich, Jack Furman, Liz Hansen, Vivian Longto, Bob Schneller, Tony Stegner, and Kurt Sulzbach. Hildegard, hope you are feeling much better.

**FRIENDS:** Annegrete Barnum, Lieselotte Hatesaul, Bruce Hoehn, Ragnhild Johnsen, Manny Kastner, Inge Martin, and Hans Reck.

*MEMBERS' CORNER*

**HAPPY NEWS**

The stork has been busy around here lately! Congratulations to the following new parents.

Olivia Grace Gregory was born July 1st to members Liz and Paul Gregory. William is very excited to be a big brother. Member Ron Wolf, Jr. and his wife Yuri welcomed baby Rudolph into the world on August 25.

Welcome to new supporting members David Vogt, Doyle Barger and Corinne Planthaber, and to re-instated members Susanna Bickert (supporting) and Helga Nowak-Razey (Singer).

Terry Strini put together several packages of goodies for an ongoing raffle. The drawing was held at the June concert. The lucky winners were Larry Riedener, Erin Hein, Karoline Flick and Maria Bruhmuller. Thanks Terry!

Congratulations to Zachary Hartrum, son of members Angela and Bob Hartrum and grandson of Alina Nitzschner. Zachary graduated last May from SUNY New Paltz with a Bachelors of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering, not an easy program. He interned at Champrene, Inc. in Beacon for over a year and was hired full time upon graduation.

Angela Hartrum began her new job as a Revenue Accountant on August 8 with Wrap Around Services. Prior to that she worked for the ARC Mid-Hudson for over 21 years. Much success and good luck to the Hartrums.

**VAGABONDS**

Marion Hohn thoroughly enjoyed a fabulous trip with her girlfriend in June to Alaska aboard the Princess' newest ship Discovery, thanks to daughter Monika who works for the company. From Seattle they took passage to Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway and Victoria on Vancouver Island, where they toured the fabulous Butchart Gardens. A trip of a lifetime, and on her birthday, too!

The Bruce and Donna Wolf family will also have stories and photos to share from their August trip to Switzerland. I got a sneak peek – overwhelmingly beautiful scenery!

Submitted by Annemarie Harms

## FAIR RESULTS

Congratulations to **Hetty Gunderud** who had a super “fair” year. At the **Ulster County Fair** she received seven first awards, five seconds AND Best in Show for a handspun, hand woven, hand dyed shawl AND Best crocheted item which was a bowl made of heavy weight cotton. At the **Dutchess County Fair** she received one first, four seconds, two thirds, two fourths, and one fifth place.

**Hildegard Edling** garnered two firsts in knitting (both shawls), one first, one second and one third for rug hooking all at the **Dutchess County Fair**.

Next up for Hetty will be the Sheep and Wool show. She plans on entering mittens, the special item made with the featured yarn. Wonder how many awards she will win at that show!

## REMEMBRANCES FROM DORIS

Remember last May issue’s remembrance about the women and men sitting on opposite sides of the hall for meetings??? Well, here’s another one involving separation of the men and women.

Keep in mind that this “activity” took place at a time when there was no mixed chorus. For rehearsals first the women would practice and then the men. While the men were singing the women were making open faced sandwiches for them. And yes, only for them. The men paid \$1.00 for this treat.

Eventually the women rebelled and wanted to participate. Negotiations ensued. Decision made that the women could join them for \$.50. What happened? If you knew the women of that era you would guess. They absolutely refused to pay. Final resolution? The practice stopped completely!!! Have to wonder whether the women simply quit, don’t you?

Submitted by Hildegard Edling

## INTRODUCING.....

**Alina Nitzschner** joined the Maennerchor in 1983. Alina’s husband met Walter Kaufmann through work, learned about the Maennerchor and for many years attended events. After her husband passed away, Alina joined the Maennerchor and embarked on quite an eventful time as a member.

But let’s back up a bit for some life history. Alina was born in Volkershausen, Germany and married Oskar Nitzschner on October 6, 1956. They came to the United States in 1960, first settling in Queens then moving to Ulster County in 1966. Alina has three children, Roy, Angela (treasurer of the Maennerchor) and Wayne, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. For 24 years Alina worked at National Micronetics and later worked at Charlton Precision until 2019 when she finally decided to really retire.

Since joining Alina has been singing soprano, served as both Vice President and Trustee AND created and ran the Kaffeeklatsch from 2012 to 2022. She mentioned that at the first gathering, December of 2012, there were 33 in attendance. Over the years everyone enjoyed her fantastic baking and cooking.

Besides baking and cooking, Alina is an avid gardener and thoroughly enjoys doing teeny tiny embroidery. She spotted four people playing MahJongg at a game night and has added that passion to her repertoire. Best of all though is Sasha. Just ask her and you will quickly learn about the joy of her life and the pleasure this little Dachshund gives her.

Alina complains that her voice is changing. Great for me as she then drops down to second soprano and I have company. Thank you Alina for everything!

Submitted by Hildegard Edling

**David Vogt** was accepted as a supporting member on July 13. You might recognize his last name – his uncle was the late, unforgettable Walter Vogt, and his aunt is Doris Vogt.

David was born in Kingston and is a Kingston High School graduate. (Go Tigers!) He is a retired NYS Correctional Officer. David now helps out at the Rosendale/Tillson American Legion Post 1219, where he met his Maennerchor sponsor, Jeff Davis. He resides in Tillson with his wife Vanessa and children Zander, age 19, and Kyra, age 17. Well, having two teenagers must certainly keep him busy!

**Doyle Barger** was accepted as a supporting member on June 8. He was introduced to the Maennerchor by his companion Susanna Bickert. Born in Elkhart, Indiana, he joined the US Army at 18 and served eight years. Doyle was often stationed in Mannheim and Heidelberg, Germany. He married Marie Freer of Esopus in 1953. Many generations of Marie's family are a part of the history of the Town of Esopus and region. They lived in West Esopus for many years while Doyle worked for IBM until retirement in 1990.

Doyle has two daughters and one son, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He and Sue live in Ulster Park, love their Bingo games, socializing with their neighbors, and hope to attend some of the Maennerchor social events. Thank you, Michael, for doing the interview with Doyle.

Submitted by Annemarie Harms

*“In three words I can sum up everything I’ve learned about life: It goes on.”*  
~ Robert Frost

### ***REMINDER***

Please, please, please.....

When parking in front of our property, park at least half a car length from the driveway so that exiting vehicles can clearly see oncoming traffic. Otherwise, the obstructed view creates a very dangerous situation. Also, do not drive onto the grass, stay in the actual parking lot. Thank you.

### ***A LITTLE GERMAN IMMIGRANT HISTORY***

While doing some research on good ol' Google I came upon an interesting article in UntappedNewYork.com written by Julio Yarce, dated January 28, 2021. It was about Little Germany - Kleindeutschland, in Manhattan.

The first wave of German immigration was 1683 – 1775; the second wave was during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Changes in maritime transportation across the Atlantic led to an era of mass migration, especially with the introduction of steamboats. From 1880 -1920, 5.5 million German immigrants entered via ports in NYC. The German population in 1880 NYC was 350,000, the third largest German-speaking city in the world after Berlin and Vienna. The German immigrants dominated some specialized occupations including shoemakers, furniture makers, furriers and brewer.

These immigrants were a heterogeneous group and included Catholics, Protestants, Jews, free thinkers and Forty-Eighters. These were political exiles from the 1848 Revolution from a multiplicity of German kingdoms and principalities.

Little Germany was also known by non-Germans as “Dutch Town”. According to the author, it consisted of 400 blocks, Ave. D to 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. and the Bowery, and from East 14<sup>th</sup> St. in the north and division St. in the South, later known as East Village. In your search engine enter Little Germany and learn so much more about this vibrant German community.

Famous buildings were Deutsche-Amerikanische Schuetzen Gesellschaft (Society), and the Ottendorfer Library. Tours are available at NYCgo.com.

Submitted by Annemarie Harms

~~~~~ *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).
 Friend: AnnaMarie Werling

MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

REMINDER – MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETINGS are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month starting at 7 p.m. We have been meeting in person and have also been using 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 September 12th 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.

“Sing like no one’s listening, love like you’ve never been hurt, dance like nobody’s watching, and live like it’s heaven on earth.” ~ Mark Twain

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