

# KINGSTON MAENNERCHOR AND DAMENCHOR, INC.

37 Greenkill Avenue, Kingston, NY 12401 (845) 338-3763

[www.KingstonMaennerchorandDamenchor.org](http://www.KingstonMaennerchorandDamenchor.org); [Facebook.com/MaennerchorundDamenchor](https://www.facebook.com/MaennerchorundDamenchor)

## NEWSLETTER ~ MAY 2021

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello there! Spring is arriving in full force. Look at all the plants sprouting, budding, and blooming! I always love this time of year. It is full of joy and energy awaiting all the good the summer will bring.

One year into Covid-19 and we can begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Let's make sure not to stumble on the last steps of this marathon. The development, arrival and widespread (!) distribution of the vaccines are once more a great feat of science. The realm of numbers that ties this world together. Lovely, isn't it? It is the same concept of numbers and formulas that translates our bodies' efforts into soundwaves for our audience to enjoy at our concerts. Concerts – I hope you still remember those types of gatherings? I believe we are now closer to our next concert than our last and that is just another thing to be excited about. So let's all make sure that this will become a reality.

Lastly, some more uplifting news: Nepal just announced that over the past six years the populations of the endangered one-horned rhinoceros have increased by over 16%. In the 60s only about 100 of these majestic animals were left. Now their numbers have grown to 752 individuals. A funny tidbit: among 350 trained personnel employed in this documentation effort, the Department of National Parks and Wildlife conservations also used 57 elephants to sweep the jungles to count the rhinos.

Stay well, healthy, and optimistic!

Marian Elflein, President

### OFFICERS AND STAFF 2021

President	Marian Elflein	Trustee (2021)	Michael Scheunemann
Vice President	Jeff Davis	Trustee (2022)	Edith Borchardt
Treasurer	Angela Hartrum	Trustee (2023)	Donna Wolf
Recording Secretary	Christa Scheitz	Music Director	Dorcinda Knauth
Financial Secretary	Annemarie Harms	Assistant Music	Sherry Thomas
Historian/Archivist	Bruce Wolf	Director	

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS 2021

Bar	Jeff Davis	Webmaster	Fran Thompson
House	Richard Edling/Bruce Wolf	Facebook	Ana Linneman/ Marian Elflein
Music	Hildegard Edling/Liz Gregory		
Good & Welfare	Marion Hohn	Newsletter:	
Stammtisch	Michael Scheunemann	Editor	Annemarie Harms
Scholarship	Edith Borchardt	Asst. Editor	Hildegard Edling
Publicity	Paul Gregory	Layout	Brent Wasser
KM&D Email	Jeff Davis		

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

### **AN IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT OUR 2021 EVENTS:**

Information for most events is tentative. Due to changes of Covid-19 restrictions, it is impossible for the Chor to plan ahead with certainty if an event will be “in-house” or take-out. As an event date draws closer, please visit our website, [www.kingstonmaennerchoranddamenchor.org](http://www.kingstonmaennerchoranddamenchor.org), Facebook.com/maennerchorunddamenchor, or each event’s contact person(s) for **updated information**. Reservations by deadlines are highly recommended to ensure your opportunity to participate. We will require MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING until further notice. Thank you for your understanding, support and cooperation.

### **KAFFEEKLATSCH – Sunday, May 2**

Come join us from 2 to 4 p.m. for coffee, cake and Gemütlichkeit. The DVD is “Frühling in Wien” (Spring Time in Vienna). Donation is \$5.00. Seating is limited. For reservations call Alina @ (845) 339-5969.

### **KÄSESPÄTZLE MITTAGESSEN (Kaesepaetzle Lunch) – Saturday, June 5**

Pick-up time: Noon to 1:30 p.m. Pre-orders BY MONDAY, MAY 31.

Cheese Spätzle is a beloved and delicious Swabian comfort food. The menu includes Cheese Spätzle, tossed salad and fruit cup for \$12.50 per meal. Enjoy the music of Joe Unger as you pick up your order. We accept Checks and Credit Cards, and Cash at the door. Walk-ins after 12:30 p.m. while supplies last. To pre-order or for more information, call Hildegard @ (845) 757-5135 or Alina @ (845) 339-5969.

### **GERMAN BEER TASTING/DEUTSCHE BIERPROBE – Saturday, July 17**

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 all your friends and get excited about a great night filled with fun and indulgence! Doors open 5:30 p.m. Event begins 6 p.m. Light snacks and a German Weisswurst dinner will be served. For information or reservations call Marian @ (845) 546-3534. (Please note, guests under 21 will not be served alcohol and MUST be accompanied by an adult 21 or over.)

### **SUMMER WURSTFEST – Sunday, August 8**

This will be tentatively held in-house (see Notice, above). The Fest will be from 1 to 4 p.m. Meals will be served from 1 to 3 p.m., and desserts until 4 p.m. A delicious selection of Wursts, sauerkraut, salads, desserts, and beverages will be available for purchase. Limited Pre-order take-out for pick-up from 2 to 3 p.m. (Take-out Menu and price details below.) Music for your listening and dancing pleasure by Joe Unger. Admission \$5.00.

**Reservations strongly recommended BY FRIDAY, JULY 30.**

IF the Wurstfest is for Take-out only, Pre-orders by FRIDAY, JULY 30. Pick-up time: Noon to 1:30 p.m.  
MENU: Choice of Bratwurst and Weisswurst. Platters include Wurst(s), sauerkraut, potato salad, roll or bread, and dessert. Platters: One Wurst @ \$12.00, Two Wursts (Double platter) @ \$14.00. Additional Wursts cost \$3.00 each. We accept pre-payments by Check, Credit Card, or Venmo; Cash at the door. Walk-ins for Take-out only event by chance while supplies last. For Reservations, Pre-orders or more information, contact Marian @ (845) 546-3534 or Annemarie @ (845) 336-7440.

**NOTE:** Details for the next three events will be in the September 2021 Newsletter.

**DESSERT EVENT – Sunday, September 19**

Everybody loves dessert, so we will offer, for the first time, an afternoon where you can choose from a variety of yummy baked goods that will make your taste buds happy!

**OKTOBERFEST – Saturday, October 16**

Set aside this day from 2 to 6 p.m. for a fabulous afternoon of music, food, drink and camaraderie. Ein Prosit!

**CONCERT, DINNER & DANCE – Sunday, November 21**

We have high hopes that we can finally have a concert, dinner and dancing with music by Gregory and the Brauhaus Boys, from 2 to 6 p.m. So please save the date.

**MEETINGS, GATHERINGS AND EVENTS**

Our MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETINGS are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. They have been held via Zoom, but we hope to resume in-person meeting possibly starting June 9. All members welcome.

Rehearsals and Stammtisch are on hiatus until further notice.

Although the hall has had few social events for way too long, it has still been the scene of much activity. Here are just a few of the activities: Music committee members Hildegard Edling, Waltraud Vianale and Liz Gregory have patiently sorted, organized, filed and labeled all the drawers of our large inventory of sheet music. It will be so much easier to locate music and accompaniments. House Committee Richard Edling and Bruce Wolf continue to check the property for needed care and attention. Before winter, they and Marty Lennox trimmed trees, cleaned up debris, picked up litter, and whatever else needed doing. Curbs were painted by Terry Strini and Virginia Rossler. John Bruening used to faithfully take care of the bar. (Oh, do we miss him!)

The fabulous Spring Raffle drawing was held on March 20, right after the successful Bavarian Luncheon. Congratulations to the following winners:

1<sup>st</sup> prize – Tower of Gifts (\$500 value) – Adriana Fusco; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – Lottery Scratch-off (\$125 value) – Alina Nitzschner; 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – Gift Cards (\$100 value) – Darlene Villeneuve. Consolation Prizes: Donna Wolf, Sue Sulzbach, Fred Planthaber and Reisa Adato. Many thanks to the Herculean efforts of Terry Strini and to everyone who supported this very successful raffle with their donations and ticket purchases.

The Pampered Chef fundraiser headed up by Hildegard Edling realized almost \$800.00 for the Scholarship Fund. This fund helps sustain the Chor's ability to award annual scholarships to local graduating seniors. Thank you to all who participated and also made donations. Vielen Dank!

When you look at the Officers and Staff and the Committee Chairpersons lists, you get an idea of what is needed to keep our organization in good financial and physical shape. Our volunteers manage the many aspects of the Chor's needs, including bartending, hosting events, fundraising, clerical work, property maintenance (inside and out), and anything else necessary. Many thanks to all of you! We can always use more volunteers.

## FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Reminders for UNPAID 2021 DUES were sent in April to those who have not yet paid them. Please send to the Kingston Maennerchor and Damenchor to my attention. They are still \$40.00 each. If you wish to SPONSOR someone for membership, the completed Membership Application is returned to me. REMINDERS: Sponsors must be current members, and membership does NOT require German heritage. Please contact me with questions concerning membership and dues by calling (845) 336-7440 or email [catskillanniesez@gmail.com](mailto:catskillanniesez@gmail.com).

Annemarie Harms, Financial Secretary

## HAPPY NEWS

Congratulations to members Karoline Flick and Norberto Dominguez, who are the proud grandparents of Sanbee Dominguez, born June 10, 2020 to Henry and Lucky Dominguez of southern New Hampshire.

Better late than never. Joe Ingellis and his wife Lois have been married 51 years, as of last September. Belated congratulations! They moved from Port Ewen to sunny California a few years ago to be closer to family.

Best wishes to highly-respected U.C. Family Court Judge Marianne Mizel on her upcoming retirement in June. Long-time friend of our Chor, Judge Mizel earned a well-deserved time off after serving almost three decades in a difficult, demanding career.

## GOOD AND WELFARE:

### CONDOLENCES

It is with a heavy heart that the following people passed away. Members **John Bruening** passed away March 19 (see article) and **Harald Johannessen** died January 26 at age 82. Harald became a member in 2013 and especially enjoyed the camaraderie of “Thirsty Thursdays”, our Sunday breakfasts, and family and friends. He is survived by his children Lorin Johannessen, Tara Farner, Cheni Koch and their spouses and Clayt Johannessen, two grandchildren, and cousins in the U.S. and Norway. Our “Nachtigall” and 33-year singing member, **Irmgard Mueller**, passed away April 24 at age 93. She is survived by her daughter Christina and partner Buddy. We will miss our spunky friend.

**Heinrich (Heinz) Holzhauer** passed away April 8 at age 88. A member from 1993 to 2019, he thoroughly enjoyed singing tenor and attending many events. He is survived by children Raph Holzhauer, Debra Sickler, Karin Williams, Joann Shultis, their spouses and families, including eight grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren, sisters, nieces and nephews, and special friends, Ben and Mike Kohler, sons of Heinz’s dear partner, the late Christa Kohler.

**Juergen Kleuker** died in January at age 80. He and wife Rosemarie became members in 1997 after they retired from “Juergen’s” in Stone Ridge. My how he loved to dance! They moved to Florida in 2000. He is survived by his wife Rosemarie and family. **Sharon Harms**, wife of Dieter Harms and sister-in-law of Annemarie Harms, passed away on March 28. Gail Salewski died December 30, survived by Willy in Texas.

## IN OUR THOUGHTS

The following people are going through difficult times due to health and/or “isolation”. A card or call would be a kind and thoughtful gesture.

Special greetings to our Members: Carl Bell, Ed Brown, Charlotte Folkl, Jack Furman, Liz Hansen, Vivian Longto, Inge Luettger, Fred Planthaber, Hans Safer, Robert Schneller (in Golden Hill), and Tony Stegner (just moved into Mountain Valley Manor).

Warm wishes to Friends: Anneliese Duerr, Carol and Bruce Hoehn, Ragnhild Johnsen, Inge Martin, Corrinne Planthaber, Hans Reck, Vinnie Werling, and Paul Weresynski.

### **FROM THE ARCHIVES – IN REMEMBRANCE**

In this article, I would like to pay special tribute to long-time member John Bruening who recently passed away. John was born in Wachendorf, Germany in 1933. After coming to the U.S. he was introduced to the Maennerchor by Heinz Vogt, Jr., the elder brother to Walter Vogt, and accepted into membership on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 1955. (Sorry ladies, there was no Damenchor yet.) Since then John maintained an astounding 65-year membership and even received an esteemed 60-year pin from Germany. He held the titles of President, Vice-President, Financial Secretary, Trustee, Honorary Member, Honorary President, and was also heavily involved as a singer in the chorus. In recent years, John was bar chairman for the past 19 years. John was a genuinely good guy and was quick to help the organization and the people in it. He was present at every event! Surely we will miss his friendship, leadership, and support. Auf Wiedersehen my friend.

Bruce Wolf, Archivist

Editor's note: John received a special Certificate of Recognition dated November 2020 for his 65 years of service to the Maennerchor. He is survived by daughters Barbara McEvoy and Carolyn Karonka, their spouses and families, special cousin Gisela Hiller, good friend Jeff Davis, and brothers and sisters in Germany.

### **ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP**

I am pleased to announce that Tessa Husted has been selected by the 2021 Scholarship Committee of the Kingston Maennerchor and Damenchor as the recipient of a \$500.00 scholarship for German Language and Music. We applaud her many years of exceptional performances in her German courses, as well as her outstanding achievements in other areas at Red Hook High School. Next year, she will be attending Middlebury College, which is known worldwide for its leadership in language instruction and international programs. Tessa hopes to continue her studies in German at Middlebury and looks forward to studying abroad as well. Tessa learned her first German phrases from her grandfather and was inspired to take German in middle school and throughout high school. Music has always been a part of her life. She played clarinet in band from an early age in school and privately learned to play the piano. Her success in performing clarinet solos allowed her to participate in both the All County Music Festival and the Statewide Honor Band. While participating in the Rhinebeck-Rheinbach Musical and Cultural Exchange Program, she was able to play in the band with German students in Rheinbach and to practice German with her host family. In return, she hosted an exchange student from Rheinbach the following year.

On behalf of the Kingston Maennerchor and Damenchor, we extend our heartfelt congratulations and wish Tessa continuing success and good luck in all of her future endeavors.

Dr. Edith Borchardt, Prof. of German  
Chair of the Scholarship Committee,

With Committee members Roswitha Tisch and Waltraud Vianale

## INTRODUCING.....

Facebook made Allen and Gisela Vella, who live in Phoenicia, aware of the existence of the Kingston Männerchor and Damenchor and the variety of take-out special meals available at our Clubhouse. The Leberkäs Luncheon in April 2020 may have been their first. Both of them are very interested in German culture: Gisela (aka Gisi) because she is from Germany (Munderkingen in Baden-Württemberg) and is nostalgic for her homeland; Allen lived most of his life in Astoria, where there was a large German community and many German restaurants. His father was born in Sicily. (The name Vella originates in Southern Italy and is Maltese.) His mother, born in Pennsylvania, had Ukrainian parents. He is proud to be from Astoria, the home of the Steinway Piano, Showroom and Factory. In St. Michael's Cemetery in Astoria, he learned his first German words: "Hier ruht in Frieden...." He has a special love for music, plays the guitar and has played in a number of bands. He studied Music at Queensboro Community College, where he sang in the Chorus under the direction of Prof. Richard Specht. A bass-baritone, he might eventually be persuaded to join the Männerchor. In the meantime, Allen and Gisi would like to help out as workers at social events. Allen, a cabinetmaker (Schreinermeister) has experience with construction management, has renovated hotels and has a background in the hospitality industry. He is on the board of the Phoenicia Playhouse.

Gisi lived in Freiburg before coming to America and met Allen in 2008 in his favorite place, New Orleans, at the end of his one month stay there, overlapping with the beginning of the six months Gisi was living there. After a telephone courtship and visiting back and forth, they married in July 2009. Then Gisi lived with Allen in Astoria (Queens, NY) for about seven years. Allen, who had been coming to Phoenicia since the '70s, was struck by how much the area resembled the Black Forest and persuaded Gisi to move up here. They love the German Deli, Margarete Nolte's Phoenicia Delicatessen, and the Smokehouse of the Catskills: the Deutsche Metzgerei. Gisi was thrilled to see those two words when she moved here! She would be interested in joining the German Stammtisch to continue using her native language. She also found the idea of our Kaffeeklatsch inviting.

Allen has cousins and a son from a former marriage in Queens, as well as a sister in North Carolina. Gisela does not have any family and came to America for adventure. Having completed the Abitur [approximate equivalent of the International Baccalaureate], she studied Pharmacy and worked as Apothekengehilfin [pharmacy assistant] in Germany. After studying Diplom Ingenieur Pharmatechnik [equivalent of a Master's degree in pharmaceutical engineering] and taking the Pharma Technik exam in 2009, there were no jobs in that field for her, and she created her dog walking business in Astoria. Since May 2018, she has been the Director of the Pine Hill Library, creating new programs for the community.

Gisi is an avid reader, likes needlework, gardening and nature. Allen is "a huge music guy," has played in bands all his life and likes to read music biographies. Other hobbies include gardening with Gisi, woodworking, hiking, skiing, and ice skating. He has a lot of musical instruments, including 8 bass guitars, including some vintage instruments. He's considering selling some of them to finance vacations in Germany with Gisi. The Vellas recently lost their dog Savannah, who was with them for 13 years. Their second dog, Paris, acquired from the owner while they did dog boarding, is about 8 years old.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members Allen and Gisi Vella, who look forward to meeting everyone: Herzlich willkommen!

Submitted by prof. em. Edith Borchardt

**MUSIC COMMITTEE NOTES**

The chorus is still not able to rehearse so the concert planned for Saturday, June 5th has been cancelled. A Kaesespaetzle lunch take-out will take its place. To lift your spirits and to remind us of the joy in German music we have engaged Joe Unger to play for us. Also, weather permitting, we will set up tables outside so that you can enjoy the food and the music at the hall. (See Events for detail.)

The last month has been especially sad for the chorus as we have bid farewell to two tenors, John Bruening and Heinz Holzhauser. Their loss is huge for both their personalities and voices were precious to us. John and Heinz took their participation seriously and rarely missed rehearsals or concerts.

Dankeschoen and Aufwiedersehen, John und Heinz.

**CELEBRATING COMMUNITY AT ENERGY SQUARE ~ OUR NEIGHBORS**

As most of you know, we have a new neighbor where the bowling alley and parking lot used to be. The official opening ceremony for RUPCO’s Energy Square was taped in the fall of 2020, premiered on April 1, 2021 and is now available on YouTube. The beautiful tree at the back of our property was in full color and showing off!!! It served as a striking backdrop for the speakers’ podium.

So consider taking the time to watch the program and learn about the growth and changes that have taken place over the past few years in our Mid-Town neighborhood. You might be pleasantly surprised. I was.

**WALTER VOGT - CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP – APRIL 14, 1971**

Walter tells me that he began coming to the Maennerchor when his parents became involved but didn’t join until 1971. To say that Walt has been one of our most active members is definitely an understatement. He was a Trustee and also served six consecutive years as Vice President, from 1988 to 1993: 3 years under John Bruening and 3 years under Ernie Mann.

While Walter loved the time he spent bartending, joking, and telling stories, perhaps the biggest legacy comes from the many years he was chairman of the House Committee. During his tenure he directed the building of the main hall in the late 1970s and the house demolition/parking lot development on the adjacent parcel in the late 1990s. He maintained a tight ship and any teeny tiny weed that dared venture forth into virgin territory would be dispensed with immediately!

If you ever worked with Walter, you know he wanted everything done Yesterday as Today wasn’t soon enough and Tomorrow would be too late! Thank you, Walter, for all those wonderful years.

These three articles were submitted by Hildegard Edling

**“THANK YOU” TO ALL OF THE NEWSLETTER DONORS ~ greatly appreciated**

Members: Hildegard and Richard Edling, Karoline Flick and Norberto Dominguez, Charlotte Folkl, Angela and Bob Hartrum, Jody Hoyt, Fred Trodler, and Christa Scheitz., and Friends: Rosemarie Kleuker and Eric Lorenz.



“Though we travel the world over to find the beautiful, we must carry it with us or we find it not.”  
~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

**HONORARY PRESIDENTS:** Ernest Mann and Hildegard Edling

To all of those who served and are currently serving as President of the Kingston Maennerchor and Damenchor, our hats off for undertaking what can at times feel like a daunting task. Danke Schoen.

**TIME FOR MUSIC AND ART**

**THE GERMAN HOUR** is hosted by Hans Safer every Sunday from 1 a.m. to 11 a.m. Hans plays a wonderful variety of German music and provides announcements of coming events. Tune your radio to 1490AM or 107.9FM or on a digital device to visit [www.RadioKingston.org](http://www.RadioKingston.org)

**ArtPort Kingston** has a current showing, "Form or Function", until June 6. The exhibition features 18 artists. The ArtPort gallery is located in a historic building along the Rondout Creek, at The Cornell Steamboat Building, 108 East Strand, Kingston, next door to Ole' Savannah. Hours are Saturday and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. or by appointment. For more information about ArtPort and their exhibitions and programs, go to [www.artportkingston.com](http://www.artportkingston.com) or email [info@artportkingston.com](mailto:info@artportkingston.com). Thank you to our member Stefan Saffer for this information.

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"Don't let yesterday take up too much of today."

~Will Rogers, Cowboy, Writer, and American Stage & Film Actor

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