



Kingston Maennerchor and Damenchor Inc.

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[Www.FACEBOOK.COM/MaennerchorandDamenchor](https://www.facebook.com/MaennerchorandDamenchor)



Newsletter ~ May 2023

Presidents Message

Hello Friends of German Culture and Music!

It's with great pleasure and some nervousness that I write my first President's message for our newsletter!! We have had a smooth transition of leadership mainly because Marian is still at my side on the Executive Board as Recording Secretary, and answers my text questions daily. Thank you Marian, and everyone with history in the KMD who helps with filling me in on how things have been in the past. I look forward to the future of doing things in a slightly new way, and growing our membership! If I haven't met you yet, please do attend something soon. We have many fun events coming up and they become more fun with YOU at them!

While I am not a singer or much of a drinker, my heart is in this organization and it makes me so happy to keep my German heritage in mind. Just a quick story about my family- my father was born here, but raised in Schweningen, Germany, and returned here at the age of 17. He was already connected to my mom's parents because his mom met them in a German butcher shop in Newark NJ. When he returned to the US, they were his sponsor and so, he fell in love with my mom and they were married in 1950. After moving up to Boiceville in 1967, my dad worked at Ulster Tool and Die in Kingston until he retired and moved back to Germany in 1990. Well, it just so happens that Marian worked at this same company until recently, and next week I am going out to dinner with some of his former fellow workers so they can tell me stories about my dad. How small worldish is that?! My mom's parents were also from Germany, around the Baden & Weinheim areas. My husband's grandparents were also from Germany, and while we don't speak much of the language, we did learn it in high school, as did our sons. I hope my connection to this group can show them how special our heritage is, and keep that pride going!

So, best wishes for this renewing time of spring, and I hope we can see you and some of your friends too, very soon!

Annette Hofmann



Annette Hofmann, President

WELCOMING OUR NEWEST MEMBER:

COLLIN WAGNER
WORKER

Custom T-shirt for
order:

- ◆ Crew or Vneck
- ◆ Personalized option for back
- ◆ <https://www.customink.com/g/adz0-00cr-4ys1> Crew neck Tshirt
- ◆ <https://www.customink.com/g/adz0-00cr-4z0k> Women's Vneck
- ◆ 20 orders are needed to get the best price!
- ◆ Check out the above links!

A Message From The Vice President

Liebe freunde der Deutschen musik und kultur,

First off, thank you for your support in choosing me as your next Vice President. I am honored to be serving in the position and look forward to making this year a truly great year for our Kingston Maennerchor and Damenchor (KMD). I am looking forward to working alongside the very capable Annette Hofmann as president. I know she will help us do great things in 2023. I also want to thank our previous president and vice president Marian Elflein and Jeff Davis for their unyielding support and dedication to our organization these past years.

I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about myself. Growing up in the Utica area, I was introduced to German music and culture at an early age through my mother, who has been a member of the Utica Maennerchor for over 30 years. Christmas and Spring concerts, Fasching, Schlachtfest, and the annual Bavarian Festival were just a few of the many events I enjoyed growing up in the Maennerchor. I also sang in the Jugendchor for several years. After graduating from Notre Dame High School in Utica, NY, I attended the State University of New York at Buffalo and graduated with a bachelors of science in civil engineering. After graduating I worked for several construction inspection and testing companies where I traveled throughout the Hudson valley and capital regions. I finally made my way to Kingston in 2016 with my dear wife, Liz, after accepting a job with Tectonic Engineering where I am currently employed. Ironically, Kingston happened to be conveniently located roughly halfway between our

jobs with Liz commuting to Albany and I south to Newburgh and beyond. Liz and I have really enjoyed our time in Kingston with its rich history and diverse culture and landscape.

Through the several Sangerfests I had attended growing up, I knew that Kingston had a German organization and I had thoughts of joining when I moved to the area. Liz and I became members of KMD in 2018 shortly after Kingston hosted Sangerfest. We were introduced to Marian, who had heard there were two young people interested in joining. Jokingly, I call it an arranged marriage between both the Utica and Kingston societies. Since joining, Liz and I have been active members of the choir and hold positions on the music committee. We welcomed son, William James, in June 2020 and daughter, Olivia Grace in July 2022. I am looking forward to watching them grow and take part in our German music and culture as I once did.

I want to thank all that have come before me, to make KMD the strong organization it is today. Thank you for your hard work and dedication. I look forward to a great year full of music, culture, and friendships. Our future is bright!

Yours truly,
Paul Gregory
Vice President



Paul, Liz, William & Olivia

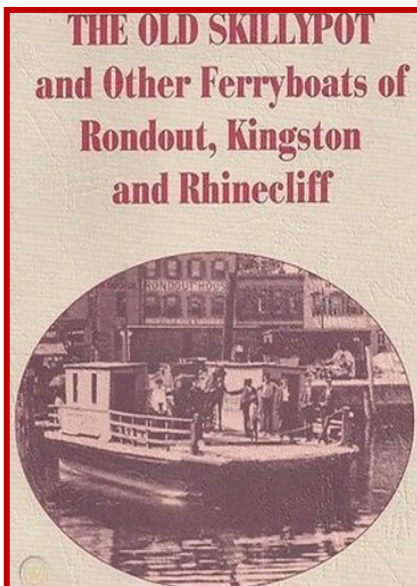
From the Archives

I would like to share a story of yesteryear taken from oral memoirs given by past member Pauline Kreisig. She and her husband Albert were both German immigrants who met at the Maennerchor's Rondout Social Hall and were soon married. Shortly afterward they started a moving business named Kingston Transfer Company. It was the first motor driven operation around while others still used horses, wagons and sleighs. In the cold dreary days of winter the Germania Singing Society in Poughkeepsie would set up dates for a winter dance. Being the early 1900s there were no bridges built yet. With the Hudson frozen solid the only mode of transportation was a floating chain-driven platform nicknamed the Skillypot. The Kreisigs were strong supporters of the German Dances and would clean out their moving truck and place long wooden benches inside for people to sit. The Skillypot would then pull the truck across the Rondout. The truck would then continue its way on a dirt road from Port Ewen to Highland. The travelers, rattled and shaken, would then exit the vehicle and continue on foot the rest of the way. When there was no moonlight they would carry lanterns to light their way. The half-frozen group would finally arrive at Germania Hall where they would dance and sing into the early wee hours. When it was time to leave they faced the same journey home. Arriving back in Kingston they would have just enough time to change their clothes and be ready for Sunday morning church. These trips continued for some time until the erection of new bridges brought them to an end. If they could have only just called an UBER!!

Bruce Wolf

Historian/ Archivist

The Riverside Ferry, which provided service between Rondout and Sleightsburgh by way of the Rondout Creek. Ferry service for this route was originally est. in 1850 by the descendants of John P. Sleight. The Riverside in particular ran from 1870 until 1922. A chain resting on the bottom of the Rondout Creek passed through the ferry's machinery to provide propulsion. It was nicknamed "Skillypot" by locals, a Dutch word meaning turtle.



*alles Gut zum
Geburtstag!*

Mai

5/3 Hans Gunderud
5/9 Marian Elflein
5/9 Ronald Wolf Jr.
5/13 Doris Vogt

Juni

6/2 Alina Nitzschner
6/3 Hans Safer
6/5 Annette Hofmann
6/6 Henry Bruck
6/18 Marion Hohn

Juli

7/8 Werner Wagner
7/17 Ernest Mann

August

8/3 Stephanie Martino
8/7 Lorin Johannessen
8/9 Vindora Wixom
8/13 Elizabeth Hansen
8/25 Elizabeth Gregory



**Hans and Hetty
Gunderud will be
celebrating their 60th
Wedding Anniversary on
5/11! Congratulations
and Happy Anniversary!**

**Thank you to all that
have donated to the
cost of the newsletter,
your generosity is
greatly appreciated!**

Our Sincerest Condolences to the families & friends of Gladys & Hank.



Gladys (Paulus) Skura, former supporting member of the Maennerchor from 2012-2019, passed away in Vero Beach, FL on 3/31 at the age of 90. She retired from teaching, which she loved, in 1988, then was an active volunteer. She and her husband were FL snowbirds but attended Maennerchor events whenever possible. She is survived by her husband Vince (68+ yrs. of marriage), sister and Choir member Susanna Bickert (Doyle Barger), brother Robert Paulus, 5 children, 7 grandchildren and 1 great grandson.

AND

Former member Henry "Hank" Buser passed away March 28th at age 93. He was an active Choir member and singer from 2006 to 2012. Hank served in the US Navy from 1949 to 1953 and was employed at IBM for 31 years. He often attended our events and brought many of his friends with him. He is survived by 5 children, 4 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, and many friends.



4 Game Night

UPCOMING EVENTS ~ 2023

MAY 20TH (SAT)-GUIDED BEER TASTING

JOIN US FOR THE BEST-EVER GUIDED GERMAN BEER TASTING EVENT! NOTE THAT RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT ARE REQUIRED BY MAY 8TH. THE EVENT INCLUDES A GUIDED TASTING OF 6 GERMAN BEERS, APPETIZERS, A TRADITIONAL BAVARIAN WEISSWURST DINNER, AND DESSERT. ALL FOR ONLY \$40! NON-DRINKERS CAN JOIN US FOR \$20. DOORS OPEN AT 5, THE EVENT BEGINS AT 5:30. LIMITED AVAILABILITY! FOR QUESTION AND RESERVATIONS CONTACT MARIAN AT 845-546-3534. PAYMENT CAN BE MADE BY VENMO TO @MARIAN-ELFLEIN OR BY MAILING A CHECK TO KINGSTON MAENNERCHOR AND DAMENCHOR, 37 GREENKILL AVE, KINGSTON, NY 12401. PROST!!

JUNE 3RD (SAT), 3-6PM SPRING CONCERT-DOORS OPEN @ 3PM, CONCERT @3:30. \$15 ENTRY FEE, SANDWICHES AND DESSERT A LA CARTE. SOCIAL HOUR, RAFFLE & 50/50 FOLLOWING CONCERT. RESERVATIONS NO LATER THAN 5/28 TO PAUL GREGORY, 315-360-0289 OR PAULGREGORY711@GMAIL.COM

JUNE 17-18TH SANGERFEST -THE SINGERS WILL BE PERFORMING IN UTICA

AUGUST - WURSTFEST - DETAILS TO COME!

SEPTEMBER 23 RD (SAT) - OKTOBERFEST - DETAILS TO COME! MUSIC BY JOE UNGER IS BOOKED!

OCTOBER - 155TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND RECIPE BOOK LAUNCH - DETAILS TO COME!

- 8TH- ITALIAN FEST BOOTH, 8-8PM

NOVEMBER - FALL CONCERT - DETAILS TO COME!

DECEMBER - TBD

Dessert anyone?



Goulash Day!



THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

EDITH BORCHARDT, CHAIR, ROSWITHA TISCH, AND ANNEMARIE HARMS
FOR WALTRAUD VIANALE

The committee has completed its deliberations and will be awarding 3 scholarships in the amount of \$500.00 each from the Männerchor and Damenchor. The winners are from Red Hook High School and Kingston High School.

1. Reilly Renée Michaud from Kingston High School received a scholarship for Excellence in Choral Singing and Individual Vocal Performance.
2. Olivia Martens and 3. Jillian Hunziker, both from Red Hook High School, received scholarships for Excellence in the Study of German and Music.

The three winners of scholarships from the Männerchor and Damenchor are:

Reilly Renée Michaud plans on attending Nazareth College in Pittsford, NY, formerly the Nazareth College of Rochester, to study Music Education with a focus on Voice. Having studied French already, she wants to minor in Italian and to study abroad. She has already traveled extensively in eight European countries. At Kingston High School, she enrolled in Choir for 3 years and Voice I, II, and III with a 7-song recital in June 2022. She participated in **Area All State** this year, performing the soprano 1 solo, "O Mio Babbino Caro" by Puccini and received a 99 on her **All-State solo** in April of last year. She also studies privately with her choir teacher Mr. Lohman.

Olivia Martens has been an excellent student of German in Middle School and at Red Hook High School. She composes and writes songs, loves piano music (Bach, Brahms). She plays guitar, flute, and piano: that was her foundation for song writing. She submitted a song to **NYSSMA Allstate** (New York State Schools Music Association) and was surprised that she won the Song Writers Competition. She was a finalist for the next two years. Wherever Olivia attends college, she intends to minor in Music Composition and intends to spend a year abroad in Germany. She wants to continue studying German and hopes to become fluent in it.

Jillian Hunziker's interests lie in music and language learning. She has been studying German for 5 years, in Middle School and at Red Hook High School. She plans to attend an American University in Europe to prepare for a possible career in International Relations and explore Germany and Europe. Jillian writes, produces, and performs music in her spare time. She began with singing in her church choir and caroling. She plays the guitar and piano and is a recorded artist, having released two original songs on all streaming platforms. She is the lead singer in "Chocolate Jam," a roots band that performs at gigs around the community. Her band prides itself in taking up gigs that promote involvement in the community, like at Four Corners Farm, Hardscrabble Festival, and the Community Center in Red Hook.

I see my life in terms of music ~ Albert Einstein

The winner of the **Scholarship in the name of Otto and Helene Borchardt for Excellence in the Study of German**

Sean Murphy Garabedian wrote an excellent essay about his love for German and German politics. He has studied German since 7th grade, preferring it over French and Spanish. He is interested in the refugee problem in Germany, comparing the way Angela Merkel handled the refugee crisis in Germany with the way the American government is dealing with it. Sean's love of history and politics has motivated him to learn enough German to be able to have discussions about such topics in German. He has visited Cologne and traveled in Switzerland, where he used basic Hochdeutsch to communicate, realizing how different it was from the Swiss German used there. For Sean, German opened the world to him, and learning the language taught him determination and perseverance.

Committee

Chairpersons: 2023

Bar– Jeff Davis

House– Bruce Wolf/Terry Strini

Music– Liz Gregory/Waltraud Vianale

Event Coordinator– Erin Hein

Good & Welfare– Marion Hohn

Stammtisch– Michael Scheunemann

Scholarship– Edith Borchardt

Webmaster– Annette Hofmann

Facebook- Marian Elflein

Publicity– Allen Vella

Newsletter:

Editor– Donna Wolf

Assistant Editor– Bruce Wolf

Officers & Staff 2023

President.....Annette Hofmann

Vice President....Paul Gregory

Treasurer....Angela Hartrum

Recording Secretary....Marian Elflein

Financial Secretary....Annemarie Harms

Archivist/Historian....Bruce Wolf

Trustee (2023)....Donna Wolf

Trustee (2024)....Michael Scheunemann

Trustee (2025)....Terry Strini

Music Director....Dorcinda Knauth

Assistant Music Director....Sherry Thomas

Honorary President & Archivist/Historian: Hildegard Edling

Monthly Business Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, starting at 7pm.

Reminder to please pay your dues ASAP or at latest 6/30

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**37 Greenkill Avenue
Kingston, NY 12401
Happy Reading!**