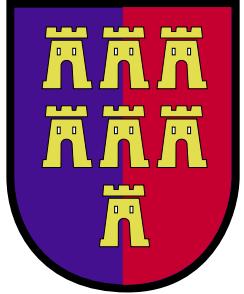


# TRANSYLVANIA CLUB

## *Nachrichten*

INC. 1951



41 RIVER ROAD EAST, UNIT B, KITCHENER, ON N2B 2G3

Tel: (519) 744-1191

E-mail: [transylvaniaclub@outlook.com](mailto:transylvaniaclub@outlook.com)

Nr. 532

Feb./Mar. 2026



*The Transylvania Club Group Leaders with President Dave Emrich at our Christmas Program*

Check **[www.transylvaniaclub.com](http://www.transylvaniaclub.com)**

to read your Nachrichtenblatt online.

Visit our website and select the Photo Gallery to view pictures of our Transylvania Club Events.

# SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

## VERANSTALTUNGSKALENDER

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February 7	<b>Frauenball – A Taste of Italy</b>	18:30
March 7	<b>Trachtenball &amp; Miss Transylvania Pageant</b>	19:00
March 22	<b>TCK – Annual General Meeting</b>	14:00
April 25	<b>Mitgliederabend</b>	16:30
May 24	<b>Hofbrau Band &amp; Choir Concert</b> Lunch at 12:00 & Concert at 14:00	
June 6	<b>Youth Group Fundraiser</b>	
June 13	<b>Waldfest Picnic</b> Hubertushaus	12:00
July 10-12	<b>Heimattag</b> Saxonia Hall - Aylmer	

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**Note:** All our events will be held at the Alpine Club unless otherwise indicated in the event schedule. Please order and purchase your tickets at the office or call in to pay by credit card or e-transfer at least two weeks prior to the event.

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***The office is open on Wednesdays from 09:00 until 12:00.***

*It may be easiest and most efficient to call and leave a message.*

*Our office phone number is 519-744-1191 and our email address is transylvaniaclub@outlook.com. Thanks.*

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT - PRAESIDENTEN BERICHT



*Dear Members and Friends!*

Happy New Year, and all the best to our members and friends as 2026 begins! I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year's season and that you were able to spend time with your family, friends and loved ones! I also hope that New Year's resolutions have been made and that you are keeping those resolutions! As January moves forward and we are blanketed with a healthy layer of the white stuff and cold, I pause and reflect on 2025 and look forward with anticipation to the New Year ahead of us! I want to thank everyone at the Club, our dedicated Board of Directors and members for the successful year we have had.

Since my President's report in November, we have had several functions and activities at the Club. On Saturday, November 15, we celebrated our first Fall Family Funfest! It was another great evening, where everyone who attended had a great time. The food was delicious, and I would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped out during the evening (including those who came out to set up and tear down). Thanks to the gigantic efforts and talents of Erika Schmidt, we had an entertaining evening filled with fun, competitive games and camaraderie. DJ Frank (Emrich) provided the soundtrack for the evening. The next day, on Sunday November 16, the Transylvania Hofbrau Band played at the Volkstrauertag event at Woodland Cemetery, honouring the German War dead buried there. The TCK was well represented by our Miss TCK, Juliana Hesch, who helped lay wreaths during the ceremony. Afterwards, the TCK hosted attendees from the event and served coffee and cake.

On Thursday, December 4, the Ladies Auxiliary hosted their annual Christmas Party. It was another well-attended event. There were representatives and attendees from all 5 local German Clubs! And, as tradition dictates, the men from the Board were happy to serve dinner, dessert, and coffee to the guests. It was great to be able to continue this tradition of taking care of the ladies this evening, as the Ladies Auxiliary does a lot for our club! Special thanks go out to Bob Schaus and Craig Moore, who volunteered to assist with the serving and cleaning duties. I think that all the men looked dapper in their serving outfits!

On December 21, the last Sunday of Advent, we celebrated Christmas with our annual Weihnachtsfeier along with members from the Alpine Club. By all accounts, it was a great program. The Club was full, and we even had to set up more tables before the program to accommodate all the guests. Bob Foster was the Emcee for the event and provided entertainment as only Bob can! Thanks Bob! The Transylvania Hofbrau Band and Transylvania Choir, under the direction of Andrea Emrich, performed for our guests, playing and singing traditional English and German Christmas music. The Kindergruppe, under the direction of Rick and Krista Hesch, Heidi Marie Hesch, and Bengt Nyman put on another great performance. It is wonderful to see the children's performance; they are the future of our Club. The Youth Group also provided laughs and smiles with their annual theatrical production. It was hilarious! We thank all these groups for participating. The highlight of the day came when we were visited by the jolly old elf himself, Santa Claus. Presentations were made to leaders of all of the various Untergruppen of the Club, as tokens of appreciation. Thank you to all these leaders for your involvement with the Club!

As you read this report, New Year's will have already come and gone, but our busy yearly calendar is just beginning. On January 10, 2026, the Alpine Club will have hosted Kameradschaftsabend. Every year, one of the five German Clubs in the region takes a turn hosting this event. It promises a

fun evening, attended by members of all the German Clubs and Organizations in the region. It is great to make and rekindle friendships that we have made over the years and allows us to make new friends as well.

**Upcoming events:**

We have several upcoming events coming up in the near future. The Frauenverein hosts their annual Frauenball Dance on Saturday, February 7, 2026, and it has an Italian theme this year with "The Taste of Italy"! Come on out to support the Frauenverein and join the ladies for a fun evening of great food, dancing and entertainment. There will be an Italian dinner prepared by the Frauenverein, and entertainment will be provided by "The Edelweiss Trio". Tickets can be purchased through the Club office for this event.

Trachtenball and the Crowning of Miss Transylvania will happen on Saturday March 7, 2026.

Music will be provided by the Transylvania Hofbrau Band, and TCK Choir under the direction of Andrea Emrich. There will also be performances from our dance groups, as well as participation by the Saxonia Dancers. Remember to wear your Siebenbürgen Tracht with pride and bring it out for this evening.

Finally, our AGM will be held on Sunday, March 22, 2026, at 2:00 pm. Come out, find out about the good things happening at the TCK, or have your voice heard. Coffee and dessert will be served at the meeting.

I look forward to seeing everyone out at our upcoming events. Be proud of your heritage and participate! Bring a friend along, we would love to see them!

*Happy New Year with best wishes and stay safe and healthy!*

Dave Emrich, President

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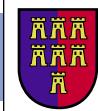
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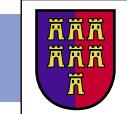
# WEIHNACHTSFEIER - CHRISTMAS PROGRAM





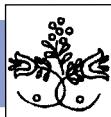
# WEIHNACHTSFEIER - CHRISTMAS PROGRAM





# WEIHNACHTSFEIER - CHRISTMAS PROGRAM





## CULTURAL GROUP KULTURGRUPPE

Happy New Year to all members and friends.

A new year has begun for our cultural groups and they are all very busy practicing for upcoming club events and their own fundraising events. Make sure you check the calendar and come out to support their hard work and appreciate the talent we have in the various groups.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Saxontreffen "TCK Fall Fun Fest" a great success. So much fun was had by all, and the sausages, sauerkraut, mashed potato bar, polenta and apple turnovers were delicious as always.

The Transylvania Club and Alpine Club Weihnachtsfeier was another full house. It was wonderful to see young and old come out to celebrate the Christmas season. The program was filled with so many wonderful things. We had Christmas music by the Hofbrau band, beautiful harmony from our TCK choir and superb performances by both our Youth group and Kindergruppe. Miss Alpine, Sarah McQuoid read "Twas the night before Christmas" to the children, our always entertaining Kindergruppe performed several dances and then sang "Ihr Kinderlein kommet" with the choir. It was beautifully directed by Andrea Emrich. The dance group's rendition of the movie "Home Alone", Saxon style, was hilarious as always. We are so blessed to have all this talent in our club and I hope they continue to showcase their talents for years to come. Our advent candles this year were lit by Juliana Hesch, Miss Transylvania 2025 and her family, Marcus Friedel (Alpine), Kriemhilde Hensel and Sarah McQuoid and her mom Marita, (Alpine). My favourite part of the program, besides when Santa Claus came in, is the singing of Stille Nacht / Silent Night with the choir, youth and children together while holding the lit candles and all other lights turned down. I always find that so moving as it

represents so many generations coming together. Thank you to all the group leaders and the group members, the ladies' who baked, the Frauenverein for making our tables look so lovely and serving the coffee and cookies, the Alpine Club for the very delicious Gluehwein, and everyone who helped make the day so special. A special thank you to Bob Foster and to Santa Claus for making a special trip to be there for all the children.

Please mark your calendars for Trachtenball on March 7th. This is an event for the whole family and a great opportunity to show your children and grandchildren how we celebrate our heritage and let them participate in both the Kinder-aufmarsch and the adult Aufmarsch if they are still awake. It is also an opportunity to enjoy the performances of the Kindergruppe, Dance group, Choir and Band. The young girls love to watch the crowning of our new Miss Transylvania 2026 and hopefully be encouraged to want to be Miss one day. So, bring the whole family and celebrate with us. The program will start at 7:00 p.m. There will be no food available from the kitchen this year, but we will have some snack items available for purchase throughout the evening. We hope that the Saxonia Dancers and club members will be able to join us. Call the office to reserve your tickets. Admission is \$15 per person, children under 12 are free.

Just a reminder that the TCK annual meeting is on March 22, 2026 at 2 p.m.

Remember if you enjoy getting together with new people or old friends, like to sing or play a musical instrument or have children or grandchildren who would greatly benefit from our Kindergruppe, feel free to join these groups and get involved. New members are always welcome.

Keep your Saxon heritage close to your heart. Only through you will your family and children know where their roots are and learn to be proud of their Saxon culture.

*I wish you all a healthy and happy new year!*

Erika Schmidt

Kulturgruppe Leiterin / Cultural Group President

### Be part of our Saturday & Sunday Programs!

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**Saturday 6-8:30am**

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Ladies' Auxiliary



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**ITALY**

February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Doors open at 5:30 pm

Dinner at 6:30pm

Alpine Club of Kitchener  
Entertainment by Edelweiss Trio

**\$45 for TCK Members**

**\$50 for non-members**

Contact the office to reserve tickets.

519-744-1191 - [Transylvaniaclub@outlook.com](mailto:Transylvaniaclub@outlook.com)



## LADIES AUXILIARY FRAUENVEREIN

We rounded off the year with our Ladies Christmas Dinner and Weihnachtsfeier.

The ladies enjoyed the dinner, the entertainment by Mike and Anna Schatz and the excellent service provided by the men of the TCK board at the Christmas Dinner.

We served coffee and the cookies that we baked earlier at the Weihnachtfeier and enjoyed the entertainment provided by the choir, band, youth group and children's group.

We hope you had a wonderful Christmas season with family and friends and wish you a very joyous and healthy new year.

Margit Fritsch/Heidi Lowrick

Ladies Auxiliary Co-Presidents

## 2026 MEMBERSHIP FEES 2026 MITGLIEDSBEITRAG

Membership fees for the year 2026 are due at the rates shown below:

Mitgliedsbeitrag Membership Fee	bis/before March 22, 2026	nach/after Mach 22, 2026
Family	\$ 75.00	\$ 85.00
Single Adult	\$ 45.00	\$ 50.00
Senior	\$ 30.00	\$ 35.00
Youth	\$ 25.00	\$ 30.00

Please pay your membership fee via e-Transfer, by cheque or by calling the club office to pay with a credit card.

Bitte bezahlen Sie Ihren Mitgliedsbeitrag mit e-Transfer, mit Scheck oder übers Telefon mit Kredit Karte.



## CHILDRENS' GROUP KINDERGRUPPE

Hello everyone,

We hope everyone had a great Christmas. The kids were fabulous at the Christmas/Weihnachtsfeier performance on Sunday, Dec. 21. We would like to thank the kids for all their hard work and effort they put forward each night - everyone seemed to be having lots of fun. Thanks again to all of you, parents and grandparents, for bringing out your children/grandchildren and helping out with snacks, crafts and in any other way. Special thanks also to Nicole for work organizing and fitting the Trachts.

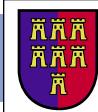
### What's next for 2026?

1.) We will be performing our dances at the TCK Trachtenball on Saturday, March 7.

2.) Kindergruppe will be starting back up again for our spring session on Wednesday, March 11th and will run weekly until Wednesday, April 22, at the Alpine Club from 6:30pm to 7:45pm. Mitgliederabend (Members Night) performance will be held on Saturday, April 25th. The format will be similar to the previous session, each Wednesday night we will have lots of fun activities for the kids including: games, crafts, Jr and Sr kids dance group, songs, snacks and much more. Please pass this message along to other kids/parents. We are hoping to see some new faces when we start back up again in March. It's a great opportunity for the kids to meet new people, develop friendships and learn about the Siebenburger Sachsen/Transylvania Saxon heritage. For more information or to join, please have them contact Krista or Rick Hesch at [hesch@rogers.com](mailto:hesch@rogers.com) or 519-662-4364.

Have a Happy New Year.

Krista & Rick Hesch, Heidi Hesch & Bengt Nyman  
Kindergruppe Instructors



# LADIES CHRISTMAS DINNER





## LANDSMANNSCHAFT

Liebe Landsleute,

On behalf of the Landsmannschaft, I hope you enjoyed the holiday season with your family and friends, and I wish you a happy and prosperous new year! I received holiday greetings from the Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons in the USA, the Verband der Seibenbürger Sachsen in Deutschland, the Sozialwerk der Siebenbürger Sachsen e.V., and the Landesverband Bayern, as well as from the Herzogenorau "Herzis" dance group, who visited in August 2025.

Our Transylvanian Saxon community has much to look forward to in 2026! Canada will host the North American Heimattag in Aylmer, Ontario, at the Saxonia Hall from July 10-12. The Federation Jugendlager will also take place this summer.

The Federation Jugendlager began in 1971, and the program has been running for over 50 years with 5 participants from each Federation country (Austria, Canada, Germany, Romania, and the USA). It is a wonderful way for the younger members of our Transylvanian Saxon community to explore our heritage outside of their home club setting, to meet fellow Saxons and to learn about our shared traditions as they are celebrated in other parts of the world. Past participants have enthusiastically shared their experiences with the members of their home youth groups upon their return, ensuring that the learning is shared among the next generation.

Each host country spends many volunteer hours planning and facilitating the program for the 25 participants and 5 chaperones to enjoy, as Canada has done most recently in 2024. Each participating Federation country has agreed to these program terms.

### 2026 Program Dates & Participant Eligibility

The 2026 Jugendlager will take place in Germany this summer, starting the evening of June 25 / the morning of June 26 (depending on flight arrivals) and running 14 days until July 9, 2026.

Germany has set the participant age limit to 16-20 years old, plus one chaperone. Each country is allotted 5 participant spots + 1 chaperone spot. The participant cost is 25 Euros per day or 350 Euros total. Participants and the chaperone are responsible for the cost of their flights.

Applications have been circulated to club presidents to share with members. If you have not received a copy of an application or if you have any questions, please feel welcome to contact me at [rebecca@saxoniahall.com](mailto:rebecca@saxoniahall.com)

Applications are due on February 28, 2026.

Rebecca Horeth

Bundesvorsitzende

## NEW MEMBERS NEUE MITGLIEDER

A warm Transylvanian welcome goes out to:

**Jack Hergott**

VINYL • ALUMINUM • PORCH • ENCLOSURES

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Read the story of (former) Transylvania Club Member Anna Bartesch and her family as written by her son.

Book is available on [www.amazon.ca](http://www.amazon.ca)

## TAKE IT WHERE YOU FIND IT

THE AMERICAN DREAM, EARNED AND STOLEN

### About The Book

In *Take It As It Comes: The American Dream, Earned and Stolen*, Heinz H. Bartesch takes readers on a deeply personal journey through the turbulence of 20th-century history. Born in a refugee camp in Austria, Heinz's story begins with his family's escape from the ravages of war-torn Transylvania, where they were caught in the chaos of World War II. The Bartesch family, rooted in the resilient community of the Siebenbürger Sachsen, faced unimaginable hardships as they navigated displacement, survival, and the weight of historical trauma.

This book delves into the author's reflection on his heritage, the events that shaped his identity, and the struggles of a people displaced by forces they never chose to encounter. From the grief of family loss to the devastation of war, Heinz maps out his beloved parent's journey of resilience, survival, and the indomitable will to find a place in the world. Their journey leads them from rural Transylvania to the bustling streets of Chicago, as they rebuild their lives and create the American dream, only to have it taken away from them 22 years later.

A captivating memoir that weaves together history, personal reflection, and the ongoing search for identity. *Take It As It Comes* is a testament to the strength of the human spirit, it is a call for reconciliation, the reclaiming of lost histories, and the universal quest for a better life against all odds.

### About The Author

Heinz H. Bartesch was born in 1952 in a refugee camp in Austria, the son of Transylvanian parents who had fled and immigrated after World War II. The displacement of his family shaped his upbringing, and the wars of war influenced his journey into adulthood. Heinz has spent decades reflecting on his family's history and the broader experience of the Siebenbürger Sachsen, a group that has remained largely forgotten by history. As a writer, he is dedicated to preserving this cultural legacy and sharing the untold stories of his people. Today, he lives in California, continuing his work on family history, culture, and the lessons that war, loss, and survival have to teach us.

HEINZ HELMUT BARTESCH

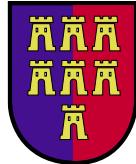
## TAKE IT WHERE YOU FIND IT

HEINZ HELMUT BARTESCH

HEINZ HELMUT BARTESCH

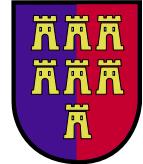
# TAKE IT WHERE YOU FIND IT

THE AMERICAN DREAM, EARNED AND STOLEN



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

### AGENDA



All members of the Transylvania Club Kitchener are cordially invited to attend the Annual General Membership Meeting which will be held at 14:00 hours on

**Sunday, March 22, 2026 at the Alpine Club, 464 Maple Street, Kitchener.**

1	Welcome and opening of meeting	7	Discharge of the Board
2	A moment of silence for lost members	8	Formation of an Election Committee
3	Adoption of the minutes of the March 23, 2025 meeting	9	Election of the new Board
4	Unfinished Business	10	Assumption of the new Board
5	Reports: Treasurer's report, Cultural Chair report	11	New Business
6	Discharge of the Treasurers	12	Resolutions



# FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS - FAMILIENNACHRICHTEN

Members that would like to announce an anniversary/birthday or other special event are asked to contact:  
Mitglieder die ein Jubiläum oder einen Geburtstag bekannt geben wollen, sollen sich bei den folgenden anmelden:

**Helgard Werner**  
**Heidi Löwrick**

**helgardr Werner@gmail.com** **519-884-7725**  
**hlowrick@gmail.com** **519-589-8122**

## MONTHLY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

We wish to extend best wishes to the following members who are celebrating a birthday in the months of February and March. If you have a birthday in these months and your name does not appear in the list, please call our office with the correct information in order that we can update our membership records and database.

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Dianne Lowrick  
Robert Hesch  
Andreas Klein  
Andrea von Weyhe  
Alison Gondosch  
Susan Kauntz  
Katharina Bidner  
Michael Schatz

John C. Werner  
Barbara Emrich  
Maria Gondosch  
Karen Kreischer  
Kelsey Tavares  
Krista Hesch  
Kriemhilde Hensel  
Michael Emrich

Gisela Emrich  
Isik Kayhan  
Christopher Emrich  
Hilda Konnerth  
Marli Pinnau Cline  
Heidi Lowrick  
Rick Hesch  
Ed Doering

Sean Arsenault  
Christa Gross  
Katharina Paulini  
Waldtraut Droeckfe  
Rosemarie Gellner  
Regina Karschti

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Robert Orendi  
Sophie Zinger  
Timothy Rich  
Klaus Burmeister  
Justin Frim  
Daniel Schmidt

Kolina Tavares  
Krystal Darling  
Hannelore Maiterth  
George Orendi  
Fred Maier  
Stephanie Klaehn

Jeremy Vandepas  
Heidi Tavares  
Brandy Gellner  
Maria Weissmueller  
Jackie Schmid  
Veronika Emrich

Siegfried Gottsmann  
Justin Schatz  
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Folgende Mitglieder treffen sich für freiwillige Stunden um für Sie das Monatsblatt vorzubereiten.

Helgard Werner, John Werner

**Herausgeber/Editor:**  
Heidi Löwrick.

## ATTENTION!

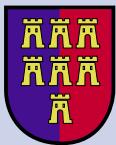
Articles for the next bulletin  
must be submitted by:

March 10th

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# TRANSYLVANIA CLUB KITCHENER

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Vice-President	Alfred Lowrick	Vizepräsident
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Treasurer	Peter Hamberger	Hauptkassier
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Special Events Director #1	Bob Foster	Veranstaltungsleiter #1
Special Events Director #2	Reiny Schmidt	Veranstaltungsleiter #2
Property Manager	Frank Emrich	Gebäudeverwalter
Newsletter Editor	Heidi Löwick	Presseleiter
Press Committee Member	Helgard Werner	Pressekomitee
Webmaster #1	Christine Schmidt	Webmaster #1
Webmaster #2	Katelyn Emrich	Webmaster #2
Social Media Director	Laik Sweeney	Social Media Coordinator
Okt-fest Committee Chairperson	Lori Moore	Okttoberfest-Komitee Vorsitzender
Okttoberfest Committee Member #1	Krista Hesch	Okttoberfest-Komitee Mitglied #1
Okttoberfest Committee Member #2	Rick Hesch	Okttoberfest-Komitee Mitglied #2
Okttoberfest Committee Member #3	Lorianne Schaus	Okttoberfest-Komitee Mitglied #3
Cultural Group Chairperson	Erika Schmidt	Kulturgruppenleiterin
Co-Presidents of the Ladies Auxiliary	Margit Fritsch/Heidi Löwick	Präsidentinnen des Frauenvereins