



Kingston Maennerchor and Damenchor Inc.

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

www.KMDChoir.org

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

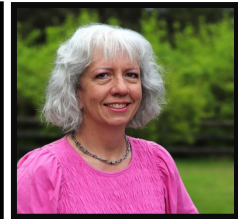


Newsletter ~ January 2026

Happy New Year to You And All of Your Families!

This is now the perfect time to honor our future President, Paul Gregory, who takes office officially on Jan 14th. As the past 3 years have flown by with him as the Vice President, I can say what a privilege and joy it has been to work with him. Whenever I needed to miss a meeting, there was no doubt in my mind that he could run the business meeting smoothly and efficiently. Paul has a young family and it's always a pleasure to see them at events. He is more than eager to run a fundraiser, brings his great sense of humor to the chorus performances, and is always willing to learn new things. (Like how to call Bingo numbers!) I wish Paul much success in his term as President and know you will all enjoy his leadership and camaraderie.

Thanks to all who helped me learn the ropes of KMD. As I will be enjoying my new title of "Grammy" soon, you will still see me around, and my wishes are for peace and joy to you all in 2026!



Annette Hofmann
President-Outgoing



Welcoming Paul Gregory, our former VP to position as President!

"Happy New Year to all! I sincerely hope everyone had an enriching holiday season with family and loved ones. With the beginning of a new year upon us, we often reflect on the many blessings we have received and the goals that we have achieved over the past year. I for one am blessed to be able to work with a highly dedicated team that make up the core of KMD. KMD would not be where it is today without your tireless efforts. Serving as vice president for the past 3 years I have had a unique opportunity to work with some wonderful people of diverse background and experience. One of those individuals is our outgoing president Annette Hofmann. Her infectious spirit and drive has sincerely contributed to our success as an organization. It's truly been a pleasure to work with and learn from her, and I know she will continue to prove a crucial member of our team. Enjoy grandma time!

A new year also brings new opportunities and challenges. I have often heard the phrase, "When you stop learning, you stop growing." This certainly comes to mind as I assume the role of President this year! Having spent most of my early years exposed to German American music and culture at the Utica Maennerchor, I joined KMD in 2018 in part because I missed that rich cultural experience that German song brought to my life. As the saying goes, time flies when you're having fun, and I can't believe it's been 7 years already since I joined. It's truly been a whirlwind, as during that time Liz and I welcomed our children, William and Olivia, Liz graduated her archeology masters program with distinction, and we have planted our roots here in the Hudson Valley.

In closing, I want to thank you all for your tireless support for our organization. Thanks to you, I know KMD will continue to thrive through 2026 and beyond. Heimat ist kein Ort; Heimat ist ein Gefühl (Home isn't a place; home is a feeling). Cheers!" cell 315-360-0289

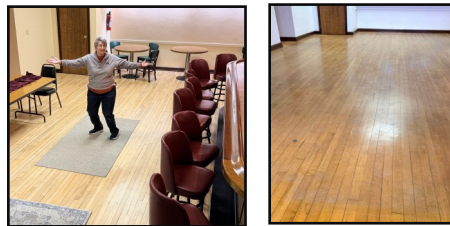
Welcome 2026 Events **Good & Welfare**

Sat. January 31st - Winter Wurstfest
Sat. February 21st - Annual Blood Drive
Sun. March 15th - Breakfast
Friday April 17th - Bougie Bingo
May - Event TBD
Sat. June 6th, 12-4 - Spring Concert

Christa Scheitz has sold her lovely mountain home in Halcott Center, NY and is moving to a senior community called Brightview in Shelton, CT in mid January. Her little pooch Rockie will be joining her. No more chopping wood or slipping and sliding on Catskill roads. We wish her the best of luck and health in her lovely new surroundings and know she'll find some fun things to keep her busy and content.

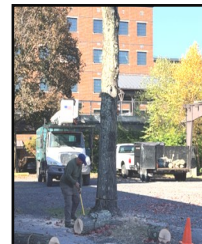
SUNDAY BREAKFAST
 MARCH 15
 8:30-11:30 AM
 KINGSTON MAENNERCHOR & DAMENCHOR
 JOIN US FOR A TASTY FUNDRAISER
 SIT AND ENJOY
 HOMEMADE PRETZEL ROLL BREAKFAST SANDWICH
 YOGURT WITH FRESH FRUIT PARFAIT
 HOME FRIES, AND CRUMB CAKE
 COFFEE/TEA/JUICE
\$15 DONATION
 RESERVATIONS REQUESTED
 TO ASSURE WE HAVE ENOUGH
 BY MARCH 11
 CALL TERRY 845-338-4094
 OR EMAIL: KMD.UPDATES37@GMAIL.COM
 PLEASE NOTIFY US OF ANY FOOD ALLERGIES
 37 GREENKILL AVE
 KINGSTON NY
 WWW.KMPCHOIR.ORG

"Things are a-changin'"



Hans Safer fell inside his home on January 2nd, and fractured his left hip again. He had surgery on Jan. 6th, and he is doing ok, and will be transferred to Golden Hill for rehab, on Jan. 8th. We wish Hans a swift recovery and as Maria wrote to me, he should recover well as he is tough!

A little sanding, poly, & paint, passing of the gavel & a big tree cutting!



A Tribute to America's 250th Anniversary -

Have you ever attended the annual German-American Steuben Parade in NYC? It is held the third Saturday in September, starting on 5th Avenue. Founded in 1957, it draws thousands of participants and spectators in celebration of German immigrants and German culture. But...do we remember who Steuben even was?

Friederich Wilhelm August Heinrich Ferdinand Freiherr von Steuben (whew!) was born September 17, 1730 in Magdeburg, Germany, then a fortress town in the Kingdom of Prussia. He joined the Prussian Army in 1747 and embarked on a career in the military, as his father had done. In May 1756 he joined the fight in the Seven Years War. Following the peace treaty he was discharged from the Prussian Army in 1763. By this time, Steuben had gained all of the military experiences that he later used in service of the American Revolution.

Following his discharge he served in various positions eventually for the Prince of Hollenzollern-Hechingen, who bestowed the title of Baron; thence he was frequently known as Baron von Steuben.

In search of military work he traveled to America in September 1777 as a volunteer. He was later compensated for his work. He arrived in York, PA in February 1778. He met with Congress with a letter of introduction from Benjamin Franklin. The letter referred to von Steuben as Lieutenant General. However, he was only a captain. His title was mistranslated from French to English in error.

In the greater scheme of things, his title did not matter. Congress sent the Baron to report to General George Washington at Valley Forge, where he arrived February 23, 1778. Up to this point the colonial troops had no cohesive training. As Inspector General, the Baron's task was to create one standard method of drills and maneuvers. He spoke no English so he wrote the instructions in French. He relied on his earlier extensive military training, and French was the military language at that time. His instructions were translated to English. His efforts resulted in increased professionalism of the Continental Army and eventually the winning of the American War against Great Britain.

Baron von Steuben helped demobilize the Army in 1783 and resigned his commission in 1784. He retired and moved to his 16,000 acre farm tract near current-day Remsen, NY, in the Mohawk Valley. He never married or had children. He died at home from a stroke on November 28, 1794 at age 64. A Revolutionary War hero, he was buried on his property at what is now the Steuben Memorial State Historic Site.



Januar

Fred Trodler~6th
Christa Scheitz~9th
Egon Schweppe~10th
Larry Riedener~10th
Tim Sheridan~14th
Ingrid Deising~17th
Jody Hoyt~22nd
Joachim Ingellis~23rd
Allen Vella~23rd
Lilah Scheunemann~27th
Ruth Froehlich~29th
Maria Dijk~30th

Marz

Waltraud Vianale~1st
Bruce Wolf~9th
Erich Nageli~9th
Paul Gregory~11th
Karl Rutter~30th

Alles Gute zum Jahrestag

Marion and Hans Hohn ~ 3/7

Annette and Tom Hofmann ~ 4/26

Febuar

Stefan Saffer~2nd
Richard Edling~2nd
Aaron McCasland~3rd
Hetty Gunderud~4th
Hildegard Elting~4th
Paul Agne~4th
Michael Scheunemann~6th
Angela Hartrum~20th
Ron Wolf~20th

April

Corinne Planthaber~2nd
Peter Weitz~5th
David Vogt~7th
Elizabeth Calabrese~9th
Heidi Froehlich~13th
Joann Petruski~16th
Rosemarie Steudlein~26th

CHORUS NOTES - 2025 WRAP UP

Thank you everyone for your support during 2025. We had quite a year. Our two concerts were well attended and the programs included a number of more contemporary songs. In the Spring Concert there was Carley Simon's "Let the River Run," "Souper Trouper" (Abba) and "Baba Yetu" which is a challenging Swahili adaptation of The Lord's Prayer. The Fall Sing Along was a rousing get up and dance, clap and sing event which included "Build me up Buttercup," "Sweet Caroline" and "Rock Mi." It was great to see our guests participating wholeheartedly.

We were honored to sing at Trinity Lutheran Church for their 150th Anniversary Service. For many years the Maennerchor referred to Trinity Lutheran as "our" church where we held a couple of our anniversary concerts and participated in the German Christmas Services.

At the Saengerfest (song festival) in Albany we sang as an individual chorus and in the 56 member Mass Chorus made up of singers from (Binghamton, Buffalo, Poughkeepsie, Syracuse and Utica). It was a rewarding experience for all of us to receive recognition of our musical growth from other chorus members and directors. As one director termed it "Kingston has turned a corner." Kudos to Dorcinda Knauth, our director, Sue Kiel, our accompanist, and all the singers for their dedication and hard work. New singers are welcome. If you are interested, leave a message on the hall phone, or call Hildegard at 845-757-5135, for information.

We look forward to seeing you on June 6 at our Spring Concert.

Hello,

My name is Angela Hartrum and I have been the treasure with KMD for 14 yrs. In that time, I have utilized my nearly 40 yrs. Experience as an accountant to help preserve the financial health of the organization. Having been raised in a German family it has been an honor contributing to the success of an organization which represents a sense of community as well as German culture and traditions.

Christmas Party 2025



A big WELCOME to our newest member and new officers.

New member Ray Feasel, sponsored by Ed Altenau, pictured together.

Ed is one of our new trustees as is Edith Borchardt .

Marian Elflein is now our new VP.



Hi All at KMD! 2026!

Heid G Froehlich here.....daughter of Ingo and Ruth. Niece of Manni Froehlich. The Singing Chef!

I have taken on the task of Financial Secretary for the Kingston Maennerchor and Damenchor~

The main duties being to "Welcome New Members", to maintain and update Membership status, collect and record Dues.

I look forward to meeting US, corresponding with, having lots of KMD FUN together!

Reach out anytime:

heidisworld137@gmail.com, 917 301 2022

Bongie Bingo
 Fundraiser to benefit
 Kingston Maennerchor & Damenchor
PLEASE JOIN US FOR A FUN NIGHT OUT WITH FRIENDS
FRIDAY APRIL 17, 2026
 DOORS OPEN 5:30 PM.... FIRST GAME 6:30PM

\$55 ADMISSION
 10 GAMES WITH A DESIGNER BAG AS FIRST PRIZE
 MANY OTHER FABULOUS PRIZES, TOO!
 ADMISSION INCLUDES: 3 BINGO CARDS PER GAME, A DAUBER,
 DOOR PRIZE TICKET, SOFT DRINK & SNACKS
 ADDITIONAL GAME CARDS CAN BE PURCHASED AT EVENT

PRE-PURCHASE TICKETS ON OUR WEBSITE
WWW.KMDCHOIR.ORG (SEE EVENTS TAB)
 OR CALL ANNETTE 201-790-4453 C

TICKETS ARE LIMITED AND MAY SELL OUT, SO GET YOURS EARLY!
 LIGHT FARE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
 MUST BE 18 OR OLDER TO ATTEND. NO WALK-INS

LOCATION: 37 GREENKILL AVE, KINGSTON, NY



Christkindlmarket

Committee

Chairpersons: 2026

Bar- Terry Strini

House- Terry Strini

Music- Hildegard Edling

Event Coordinator- Erin
Hein

Good & Welfare- Marion
Hohn

Stammtisch- Michael
Scheunemann

Scholarship- Edith Bor-
chardt

Webmaster- Annette
Hofmann

Facebook- Marian Elflein

Publicity- Allen Vella

Newsletter:

Editor-

Assistant Editor-

Officers & Staff 2026

President.....Paul Gregory

Vice President....Marian Elflein

Treasurer....Angela Hartrum

Recording Secretary....

Financial Secretary....Heidi Froehlich

Archivist/Historian....

Trustee....Annemarie Harms

Trustee....Edith Borchardt

Trustee....Edward Altenau

Music Director....Dorcinda Knauth

Accompanist....Sue Kiel

Honorary President & Archivist/Historian:

Hildegard Edling

****Monthly meetings are held on the second
Wednesday of the month, starting at 7pm.**

It has been a pleasure & an experience creating the newsletter for KMD, I need to take a hiatus at this time for personal reasons. Wishing all well and hope to see you soon! Ciao,

Donna Wolf

Kingston Maennerchor
& Damenchor, Inc
37 Greenkill Ave.
Kingston, NY 12401

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**Wishing you a
happy.
healthy. and
prosperous New
Year!**

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE