



independent
supra-regional

THE FRANCONIAN

Publication of The Franconian Society e.V.

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January 2018

STAMMTISCH EVENINGS

1st Friday of every month

The Society's meeting place is always
Turnerbund Sports Club,
Spardorfer Str. 79, Erlangen, unless
otherwise indicated

Stammtisch begins at: 6:30 p.m.
Programme begins at: 8:15 p.m.

STAMMTISCH PROGRAMMES

Fr 2nd Feb. Stammtisch + Talk by Prof.
Dr. Heiner Bielefeldt

Fr 2nd Mar. Stammtisch + Programme
with Sundaram Iyer

Fr 6th Apr. Stammtisch + Franconian
Easter Traditions

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Franconians,

*I promise to stick to these resolutions
for more than a week.*



I wonder how many of you have made a New Year's Resolution or two. Understandably they often begin with the word **QUIT**, like quit smoking, quit drinking, quit being a complainer or a procrastinator, and quit being a couch potato. Or with the equally short word **START**, like start helping others less fortunate than you, start being more understanding to your better half, start coming to the Franconian Society more often. Now if you think about it, that last resolution is rather clever, because in one fell swoop it takes care of a plethora of

other resolutions. People who go on our walks are hardly couch potatoes, people who come to our talks don't have time to smoke, people who are active members are certainly helping the less fortunate in society, and, believe it or not, the best way to have a better relationship with your lesser or better half is to go on a pleasant excursion with the same.

Perfect. Problem solved. Be a Franconian!

Looking back now over the last couple of months I have to admit that we have had one or two poorly attended events but also a number of activities that have obviously been quite attractive to our members. The most recent one, to my mind, was the potluck supper that was very successful in several ways. The food was phenomenally good, the atmosphere delightful, the games and the singing well thought out by our team of activists. Yvonne's Xmas quiz should be mentioned – Who was born on Christmas Day? Etc. – Valerie's "Pass the Parcel", Becky tickling the ivories while George, Eileen and

Sheila led us in song, and our queen of the classroom, Judy, who gave us a rendition of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" in southern American. It was a great evening and special thanks have to go to Teresa, our organizer-in-chief, but also to many others who decorated tables and helped clear up afterwards.

The two Stammtisch evenings in November and December focused on "Southern England" (Peter Hill) and the Franconian dialect (Helmut Haberkamm) respectively, both well presented talks which were much appreciated. It's always good to have our own members giving talks on their hobbies, adventures and travels, as Peter in fact has done several times now. If you would like to do the same, just let a committee member know.

We also visited the fascinating Horseradish Museum in Baiersdorf and enjoyed the re-vamped Transport Museum in Nuremberg, on both occasions with excellent guides. There are so many small, and not so small, museums in our region which are worth a visit. Do you have any recommendations? What about the Aischgründer Karpfenmuseum in Höchstadt, the Kunstvilla in Nuremberg, the Museum |22|20|18| in Kühnertsgasse, Nuremberg, or in the same city the Museum *Industriekultur*, the Zeidelmuseum in Feucht, the Geigenbaumuseum in Bubenreuth, to name but a few? Any feedback would be appreciated.

Our Dinner Club continues to explore different culinary venues such as the inviting Maalula restaurant in Erlangen with its Arabic cuisine. Teresa is busy planning her "Dinner with a Difference" scheduled for Saturday 20th January. More on that elsewhere in the Newsletter.

On the subject of the Newsletter, and for those who are unaware of this, may I point

out that our two ladies who do the editing are Becky von Tucher and Teresa Mills. I personally think they do a fantastic job and over the last few months have made huge improvements to the layout and design, making the Newsletter a really attractive read. They invest a huge amount of time and thought into what they are doing, and we should all be very grateful. They are, of course, committee members, and with the Annual General Meeting approaching in the early spring, it is worth pointing out to all our members that we are always looking for new blood to invigorate our committee and society activities. Why not step forward if you think you want to play a bigger role in the Franconian Society?

I'll refrain from saying too much about our future events, for one because our next Committee Meeting is coming up at the beginning of January when we will be finalizing our programme for much of 2018. You will be receiving this, of course, at the Card Game Stammtisch, on January 12th, and on February 2nd we have the pleasure of having Professor Heiner Bielefeldt talk to us on various aspects of his work. If you want to find out a little more about him, please look again at our last Newsletter.

It only remains to say that we, from the committee, wish all our members a great start to the year. May 2018 be a healthy and memorable one. And we hope to see you, at the very latest, at our AGM on 13th April,

Frank Gillard

NEWS OF SOCIETY'S MEMBERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PROUD PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS!

Eileen and Lothar Rettner's son Michael and his wife Magdalena had a baby boy on 29.12.2017. Leonard Scott weighed in at 4,104 grams and is 54 cm in length.

Valerie Hellmann

NEWS OF GREAT INTEREST TO OUR SOCIETY'S MEMBERS

LOOKING FOR A SPECIAL WAY TO SAY THANK YOU?

Then why not give a gift voucher for a meal at the Turnerbund's Blaue Traube Sports Restaurant? The menu is large, the portions generous, the food good, the ambiente and the service more than satisfactory. You decide how much the attractive floral voucher should be for, and the restaurant will do the rest. A perfect present for a birthday, an anniversary, or simply to say thank you. Just ask a member of staff.

Frank Gillard

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



NEW! HANDICRAFTS GROUP **NEW!**

A new handicrafts group is being founded. The initial get-together to make items to be sold for charity will be on **23rd January** at **3 p.m.** at the home of Hanne Schmidt.

Further meeting dates will be decided upon by the group.

If you are interested in attending the first get-together, please ring **Hanne** at **55203** or **email** her at:

jokaschmi@t-online.de.

Ed.

DINNER CLUB EVENINGS

The plans for Dinner Club for the next few months are as



follows. Please note the varying starting times:

It is my great hope that by the time this newsletter is published the planned **Dinner Club with a Difference** will be taking place at the:

Gemeindehaus of the Evang.-Luth. Kirche Erlangen-Altstadt, Bayreutherstr. 11.

on **Saturday, 20th January at 1 p.m.**

On **17th February at 7 p.m.** join us at the **Gasthof Schwarzer Bär, Innere Brucker Str. 19, 91054 Erlangen.** This restaurant has been operating in Erlangen since 1707.

To continue the Indian theme of the month, on **17th March** we will dine at **"Bollywood", Gerberei 8, 91054 Erlangen at 7 p.m.**

Reserve by contacting:

Teresa Carolin-Mills by **telephone 440795, mobile 0177 / 4647191** or by **email: tcarolinmills@franconian-society.de**

ERLANGER FRÜHLING 2018

Sunday, 18th March 2018, 1 - 6 p.m.

As in 2016 and 2017, the Franconian Society will be having a stand at this year's *Erlanger Frühling (verkaufsoffener Sonntag)* on the *Neustädter Kirchenplatz* on Sunday, 18th March. The purpose of this stand is to make our Society better known to the Erlangen public, with a view to recruiting new members, but also to make some money for our charity endeavours by selling cakes, hot and cold drinks, biscuits, home-made jams and sweets, and by providing entertainment for the children through various games and activities.

The Erlanger Frühling is quite a bit earlier this year than is usually the case and as the date is now fast approaching, we really need to start planning as soon as possible. Is there any way in which you, as Franconian Society members, can help us with our stand by:

- ◆ making a cake or home-made biscuits or sweets
- ◆ providing thermos flasks of tea or coffee
- ◆ helping to sell (I will need quite a few people here, as the weather could be chilly and therefore the shifts shorter!)
- ◆ helping to set up our stand in the morning or to dismantle it in the late afternoon?

If you feel you would like to be involved in some way on 18th March, please let me know by phone by the end of January at: **(09131) 25529** or by mail at: **bridget@ineichen.de**. I will be extremely grateful for any help you are able to offer.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon!

Bridget Ineichen

ASPECTS OF FRANCONIA

Wild Honey from the Forest

Two rather unusual German words are "Imker" and "Zeidler", the former usually translated as "bee-keeper", while the latter makes reference to the former occupation of "honey hunting" or "honey harvesting", that is taking the honey from wild bee colonies found in the forest. Those who did this, the "Zeidler", played an important role in centuries past, supplying the towns and cities with a very sweet and useful substance called honey! I'm sure you will all have eaten a good many Lebkuchen over Christmas and will realize that honey is an essential ingredient in their production. You might even have downed a glass or two of mead, sometimes referred to as honey-wine. Or you might be aware of all the wonderful medicinal properties of raw (= unprocessed) honey.

Whereas the "Imker" continues to gather honey from his own bee colonies, "Imme" being a Low German word for bee and "kar" meaning basket, the "Zeidler", now figures from the past, gathered honey from wild

bee colonies. To do this, of course, they needed the permission of the Emperor, the owner of the Imperial Forest. A document of 1266 refers to these extensive forests as the "bee garden of the Holy Roman Empire" and their exploitation for honey was soon granted to the "Zeidler" by imperial decree. It was a profitable activity and over time the market town of Feucht, about 15 kms from Nuremberg, became one of the centres of "wild honey gathering". Today this nearby town has a highly informative museum dedicated to the traditions and customs of the "Zeidler", in every way worthy of a visit.

The Feucht museum explains how the "Zeidler" went about their trade and makes very clear why honey was of such importance in former times. Sugar made from sugar cane was a very expensive commodity before the process for extracting sugar from sugar beet became commercially viable in the early 19th century. Honey, however, was a natural product and remained for centuries the major "sweetener" for preserving fruits, for making Nuremberg Gingerbread, and for producing the honey-wine known as mead. And for relieving sore throats.

The "Zeidler" were highly respected people, who for centuries enjoyed a good living thanks to imperial privileges. In return, they had a "policing" function where they were typically armed with crossbows, one of their duties being to accompany and protect the Emperor as he travelled through the sometimes dangerous Imperial Forest. That, of course, helps explain the coat of arms of the town of Feucht, a "Zeidelmännchen" with a crossbow over his shoulder, next to a beehive.



Frank Gillard

**THE FRANCONIAN SOCIETY e. V.**

Founded on 18th May 1984

by Dr. Paul von Tucher

MEMBERSHIP: January 2018**Annual dues (2017/2018):**

Student: € 12

Single: € 20

Family: € 25

Registration fee: € 10

Our fiscal year: **1st April – 31st March**

Bank Account:

The Franconian Society e. V.**(IBAN): DE08 7635 0000 0030 0009 84****(BIC): BYLADEM1ERH**

Stadt- & Kreissparkasse Erlangen

'THE FRANCONIAN'

Next Franconian **deadline dates** for your articles, announcements, events, requests, contributions, jokes, etc. are:

20th February and 20th April 2018.**Editor:** Becky von Tucher**Assistant Editor:** Teresa Carolin-Mills

See the next column for contact details.

CHANGES TO OUR 2016 DIRECTORY

We would like to extend a hearty welcome to our newest members:

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BOARD AND COMMITTEE**President:**

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Changes and additions to our Directory,
as well as new member applications,
should be sent to the Hellmanns.

*"Hope smiles from the threshold of the year
to come, whispering, 'It will be happier.'"*

~ Alfred Lord Tennyson

**BE SURE TO PICK UP YOUR NEXT
FRANCONIAN ON
2nd MARCH 2018
AT OUR STAMMTISCH NIGHT.**

CALENDAR FOR 2018



For more information on the listed events, go to the corresponding page number or visit our website www.franconian-society.de

January 2018			FEBRUARY 2018			MARCH 2018		
1	Mo	<i>New Year's Day</i>	1	Th		1	Th	
2	Tu		2	Fr	Stammtisch Prof. Dr. H. Bielefeldt	2	Fr	Stammtisch "India" by S. Iyer
3	We		3	Sa		3	Sa	
4	Th		4	So		4	So	
5	Fr		5	Mo		5	Mo	
6	Sa	<i>Epiphany</i>	6	Tu		6	Tu	
7	So		7	We		7	We	
8	Mo		8	Th		8	Th	
9	Tu		9	Fr		9	Fr	
10	We		10	Sa		10	Sa	
11	Th		11	So		11	So	
12	Fr	Stammtisch "Card / Game Evening"	12	Mo	<i>Clean Monday</i>	12	Mo	
13	Sa		13	Tu	<i>Mardi Gras</i>	13	Tu	
14	So		14	We	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	14	We	
15	Mo		15	Th		15	Th	
16	Tu		16	Fr		16	Fr	
17	We		17	Sa	DINNER CLUB page 3	17	Sa	DINNER CLUB page 3
18	Th		18	So		18	So	Erlanger Frühling p.3-4
19	Fr		19	Mo		19	Mo	
20	Sa	DINNER CLUB page 3	20	Tu		20	Tu	
21	So		21	We		21	We	
22	Mo		22	Th		22	Th	
23	Tu		23	Fr		23	Fr	
24	We		24	Sa		24	Sa	
25	Th		25	So		25	So	
26	Fr		26	Mo		26	Mo	
27	Sa		27	Tu		27	Tu	
28	So		28	We		28	We	
29	Mo					29	Th	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>
30	Tu					30	Fr	<i>Good Friday</i>
31	We					31	Sa	

YOUR PICTURE PAGES

3rd November 2017
Dr. Helmut Haberkamm
 introduced us to the
Franconian Dialect



12th November 2017
Visit to the
Horseradish Museum
in Baiersdorf

1st December 2017
Dr. Peter Hill gave a talk on
Southern England





10th December 2017
Visit to the
Deutsche Bahn Museum
in Nuremberg

16th December 2017 — “The Best Meal in Town”



See more pictures on our website: www.franconian-society.de

Many thanks to Bridget Ineichen, Frank Gillard and the Klesatschkes for sending us their pictures. We encourage all members attending our various events to take pictures and send them to Teresa Carolin-Mills (beebitfone@gmail.com) or Rebecca von Tucher (bwvontucher@gmail.com). They are an important part of our Society's Archives.

MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS

COMPLETE and FINISHED

No English dictionary has been able to adequately explain the difference between these two words.

In a recent linguistic competition held in London and attended by, supposedly, the best in the world, Samdar Balgobin, a Guyanese man, was the clear winner with a standing ovation which lasted over 5 minutes.

The final question was: 'How do you explain the difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED in a way that is easy to understand?' Some people say there is no difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED.

Here is his astute answer: "When you marry the right woman, you are COMPLETE. When you marry the wrong woman, you are FINISHED. And when the right one catches you with the wrong one, you are COMPLETELY FINISHED!"

He won a trip around the world and a case of 25-year-old Scotch!

Contributed by **Jackie Lincoln**

Thoughts From The Shower

- If you attempt to rob a bank you won't have any trouble with rent/food bills for the next 10 years, whether or not you are successful.
- Do twins ever realize that one of them is unplanned?
- What if my dog only brings back my ball because he thinks I like throwing it?
- If poison expires, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous?
- Which letter is silent in the word "Scent," the S or the C?
- Why is the letter W, in English, called double U? Shouldn't it be called double V?

- Maybe oxygen is slowly killing you and it just takes 75-100 years to fully work.
- Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty
- The word "swims" upside-down is still "swims".
- Intentionally losing a game of rock, paper, scissors is just as hard as trying to win.
- 100 years ago everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today everyone has cars and only the rich own horses.
- Your future self is watching you right now through memories.
- The doctors that told Stephen Hawking he had two years to live in 1953 are probably dead.
- If you replace "W" with "T" in "What, Where and When", you get the answer to each of them.
- Many animals probably need glasses, but nobody knows it.
- If you rip a hole in a net, there are actually fewer holes in it than there were before.

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### Overheard in Church

Two boys were walking home from Sunday school after hearing a strong preaching on the devil. One said to the other, 'What do you think about all this Satan stuff?' The other boy replied, 'Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your Dad.'

~"~

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, 'Why is the bride dressed in white?' The mother replied, 'Because white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life.'

The child thought about this for a moment then said, 'So why is the groom wearing black?'

A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible class. As she ran she prayed, 'Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!'

While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again! As she ran, she once again began to pray, 'Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...But please don't shove me either!'

~"~

Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, 'My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him \$50.'

The second boy says, 'That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him \$100.'

The third boy says, 'I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!'

~"~

A police recruit was asked during the exam, 'What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?' He answered, 'Call for backup.'

~"~

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied, 'They couldn't get a baby-sitter.'

~"~

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five- and six-year-olds.

After explaining the commandment to 'Honor thy father and thy mother,' she asked, 'Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and

sisters?' Without missing a beat, one little boy answered, 'Thou shall not kill..'

~"~

At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs.

Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and she said, 'Johnny, what is the matter?' Little Johnny responded, 'I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife.'

Contributed by **Hans-Albert Billesberger**

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### ***How much time is left for me?***

by **Mike Gibson**

*How much time is left for me*

*To give thanks for all I see*

*To welcome every day anew*

*I only wish I knew*

*How much time is left for me*

*To sit beneath a shady tree*

*To appreciate the morning dew*

*I only wish I knew*

*How much time is left for me*

*To see and hear the busy bee*

*To plan the things I ought to do*

*I only wish I knew*

*How much time is left for me*

*To see the ones I wish to see*

*To do the things I wish to do*

*I only wish I knew*

*How much time is left for me*

*To take grandchildren on my knee*

*To see them grow, watch what they do*

*I only wish I knew*

*How much time is left for me*

*My short span of mortality*

*When will I take my leave and go?*

*I'm glad that I don't know!*

**30<sup>th</sup> December 2017**