

KOLPING *BULLETIN*

A Monthly Report from Catholic Kolping Society New York • www.kolpingny.org • DECEMBER 2015 • No. 132

note the date

december

**6 Mass & Christmas Party/
St. Nikolaus Day**
Kolping-88th Street

**8 The Feast of the
Immaculate Conception**
The feast focuses on the
concept that the Virgin Mary
was conceived without sin.

22 January Bulletin
Last day to submit material

25 Christmas
Commemorates the birth of
Jesus Christ.

january

**1 The Solemnity of Mary,
the Mother of God**
On this holy day of obligation,
we are reminded of the role
that the Blessed Virgin played
in the plan of our salvation.

6 The Feast of the Epiphany
Epiphany, the 12th day after
Christmas, celebrates the visit
of the three wise men to the
Christ Child.

DECEMBER

Kolping 88th Street Annual Christmas Party & St. Nikolaus Day Celebration

Sunday, December 6, 2015

The day will begin with Fr. Richard Bretone celebrating mass at 10:30 am
and immediately after our new members ceremony will take place.

During the course of the day we will also be honoring all those that have
reached their NY Catholic Kolping Society membership milestones: Peter
Buchholz, Bud Gramer, Marion Ulrich and Christine Weltner will be honored for
their 25 year membership. And we congratulate our 65 year member Norbert
Dengler. We hope they will all be able to join us to celebrate this great honor.

Our NY Kolping Society members of the year will be announced and
they will receive a distinguished service award plaque.

We are so pleased that Wolfgang Hahn and Giovanni will be cooking our holiday
feast. They are planning a delicious menu of chicken with mushrooms, roasted
pork, mashed potatoes, sauerkraut, lots of vegetables, and the wurst salad that
everyone looks forward to. There will be holiday cookies and cake for dessert,
along with coffee and tea. The cost is \$16 per adult and \$8.00 per child under 12.

Plan a great holiday family event at the Kolping House and visit with your old
friends, make new friends and enjoy lots of Christmas carols. St. Nick will be there
with toys for children under 10. Traditional German holiday specialties including
stollen, cookies and brandy beans will be available for purchase.

Please call or email your reservation to Jan Kessler
at 914.462.7649 or jkessny@aol.com.

**Be sure to let us know how many children under the age of 10
will be attending so that St. Nick has a special gift for them all.**

*Wishing everyone a
Merry Christmas and a
happy & healthy New Year!*

— The Kolping Bulletin staff
and contributors.



MISSION STATEMENT: We, the members of the Catholic Kolping Society of America, extend the vision of our
founder, Blessed Adolph Kolping, by promoting the development of the individual and family; we foster a sense
of belonging and friendship through our program of spiritual, educational, charitable and social activities.

KOLPING BULLETIN

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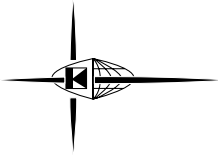
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Milestones & Passages



Everyone could use the power of prayer now and again. If you or anyone you know is in need of prayer, please let us know and we will be happy to include them within the "in our prayers" list. Please contact Jan Kessler (914-462-7649) or email jkessny@aol.com when you know of a member who is ill, in the hospital, or has passed away. We want to be sure to remember them.

Rudolph Koller passed away at age 95 and our prayers and sympathy are with his family and friends. Rudy was a member for over 25 years and will be greatly missed.

Our deepest sympathy and prayers are with the family and friends of **Marion Ulrich**. Marion passed away November 5th and she was a Kolping Member for over 25 years. She always enjoyed attending the Kolping events and will be greatly missed by her Kolping family.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THOSE BORN IN DECEMBER:

Daniel Allen, Richard Bennet, Laura Beyrer, Dina Breitschwerd, Stacy Connolly, Sean Crowley, Michael Cunningham, Daniel Dengler, Justin Dengler, Christine Duffy, Ernst Endrich, Michael Flannery, Laurie Fonseca, Kathleen Fuchek, Sophie Gallagher, Greta Grossmann, Lily Gruno, Bridget Horan, Jennifer Horan,

Michael Horan, Matthew Imbimbo, Matt Keller, Anita Kelley, Katelyn Krupa, Kelly Krupa, Patricia Kummer, Jim Leech, Irene Leili, Michael Macaluso, Stefan Manz, Stephen McGuire, Gabrielle Melamed, Amanda Mersits, Peter Mersits, James Minarik, Ingrid Mohapp, Jack Mongiello, Edward Monks, Sabrina Ostroff, Lorna Ponnaiya, Brian Rafford, Andrew Reitter, Charles Roberts, Wilfriede Roessler, Erik Severin, Charles Smith, Hertha Stang, Patrick Tandy, Niklas Umland, John Unger, Alfred E. Vogl, Jr., Adam Ward, Debra Weigand, and Michael Weinborg.

If you know someone celebrating a milestone birthday or anniversary, please let us know so we can include it in the Bulletin. Please email either me at editor@kolpingny.org or Jan Kessler at jkessny@aol.com.

NY KOLPING 2015 ADVENT PROJECT

Advent begins Sunday, November 29th. This year all donations received will go to the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart located in Peekskill, NY.

The international Congregation of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart was founded in 1861 on the border of the Austrian Alps by French noblewoman, Laura Leroux, Duchess of Beauvilliers, and a humble Franciscan Friar, Father Gregory Fioravanti of Rome. Our Order quickly developed a reputation for fine teaching

In Gratitude, a Blessed Past, a Promised Future. The Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart invite you to join in their Anniversary Celebrations as they begin their Year of Jubilee, commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the arrival of our first three Sisters in America.

Much more information is available on their website www.fmscusa.org and on facebook.

They are trying to raise money for a new boiler for the chapel and hotwater tank for the main house along with many other needs. Please send your donations to Catholic Kolping Society, ATT: Jan Kessler, 95 Montrose Point Road, Montrose, NY 10548.

OUR HOLY FATHER'S DECEMBER 2015 INTENTIONS

UNIVERSAL: EXPERIENCING GOD'S MERCY

That all may experience the mercy of God, who never tires of forgiving.

FOR EVANGELIZATION: FAMILIES

That families, especially those who suffer, may find in the birth of Jesus a sign of certain hope.

2015 DUES

If you haven't paid your 2015 dues yet, please forward your payment to Catholic Kolping Society, 95 Montrose Point Rd, Montrose, NY 10548 Att: Jan Kessler

Family: \$105
Individual: \$90
Student: \$45

50-year members: paid up forever!

Please take an extra minute to fill in the bottom of the letter **with your current email address**, any change in address, phone number, birthdays, and other information. Mail it back with your dues to our secretary, Jan Kessler. She will be updating the files and will include your email address on her email account. She will be sending out notices of new events to you via email.

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Kolping Member John Tripaldi

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AMBERLANDS TRAVEL INC.

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phone: 914-271-6663
email: ambertrvl@aol.com

Sadie Longobardi, Kolping member since 2005, is the owner of Amberlands Travel. Her travel agency is a full service agency—she works with individual clients, groups and corporate clients. She has been in the travel business for 31 years and handles travels to everywhere. Call her at when you are planning your next trip. She will do everything she can to get you the best price.

News & Notes



AVAILABLE FOR RENT: KOLPING-ON-HUDSON CARETAKER'S HOUSE

Available January 1, 2016. Monthly Rent \$2,000.
For any inquires please contact Lou Colletti:
LCookie1129@aol.com / (914) 275-7481

NATIONAL CONVENTION IN NEW YORK: SEPT 2-4, 2016

Our branch will be hosting the 41st National Convention in 2016. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet our Kolping brothers and sisters from all parts of the United States. If you are interested in getting involved with the Convention Committee, please email our President, Katrina Dengler, at **kdengler67@hotmail.com**.

DONATIONS NEEDED—KOLPING BROADCAST RADIO

The New York Kolping Society is broadcasting Catholic Radio on 102.3FM in the Somers area. Running and maintaining a low powered FM radio station takes time, energy, and money. Any donor of \$50 or more, will have the opportunity to record a Fr. Kolping "Thought of the Week" to be broadcasted on the air! Please contact Cecilia Portilla: cgdportilla@gmail.com or Katrina Dengler: kdengler67@hotmail.com for more information. Mail donations to: 165 E. 88th St New York, NY 10128, Attn: Radio.

DONATIONS NEEDED—PLAYGROUND AT KOH

The playground at Kolping on Hudson has been demolished and needs to be replaced under the current federal regulations. To make your tax deductible donation, contact Heidi Umland or mail a check to Catholic Kolping Society, 95 Montrose Point Road, Montrose, NY 10548.

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS FOR PURCHASE AT KOH

There are 4 stained glass windows at Kolping on Hudson available for purchase at \$1,500 each. They are already framed and a name could be etched on them at additional cost. Some members may want a name in memory of a loved one or just have your family name. The windows are available to be seen at KOH. If interested, please contact Heidi Umland or Rich Povolonis (914-736-0117).

ZION-ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

339 East 84 St. (between 2nd and 1st Aves.), Manhattan
www.zionstmarks.org • 212-288-0600/212-479-7808

German Language Film: DREI HASSELNUESSE FUER ASCHENBROEDEL with Rolf Hoppe, Holger, Eckert will be shown on December 5th starting at 2 pm (doors open at 1:30 pm). Contribution \$7.

Advent and Christmas Celebration: December 13th from 1 p.m. till 3 p.m.

Enjoy our beautifully decorated parish hall, colorful Christmas Platters with the traditional Stollen, fruit, nuts and other Christmas goodies, coffee/tea. A fun raffle awaits the lucky winners. We will play Christmas music and sing familiar German and American Christmas songs. Contribution \$10.

If you would like to be on the mailing list please send an e-mail with your name and address to: church@zionstmarks.org

RECEIVE YOUR BULLETIN VIA EMAIL!

Call or email Jan Kessler (914.462.7649) or jkessny@aol.com if you would like to receive your copy by email. You can also visit our website **www.kolpingny.org** and find copies of the monthly bulletins, list of upcoming events and so much other information that you may find helpful.

GERMAN MASS St. Joseph's in Yorkville, 404 E. 87th St.

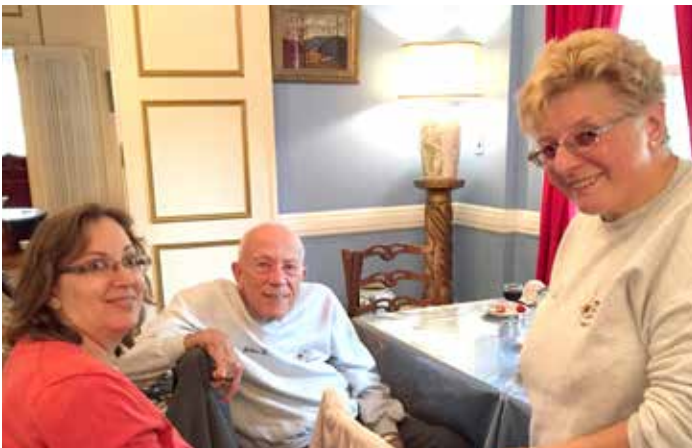
Every first Sunday of the month, the Holy sacrifice of the Mass is celebrated in German at 10am. Confessions in German before Mass. For information please call Julia Winter (347-852-3184). For information regarding counseling and sacraments in German, please contact Rev. James Boniface Ramsey, Pastor (212-289-6030).

Communion Luncheon at KOC submitted by Muriel Fullam

On November 1, 2015, All Saints Day, a beautiful Mass was celebrated at the Church of Saint Philip Neri in the Bronx. The celebrant was Fr. Arthur Welton; the Mass was said for Jack McGee, John Simons and Gloria Valender.

After Mass we proceeded to Kolping-On-Concourse where we were warmly greeted by KOC Manager, Tony Aguiluz. The KOC building looks wonderful—all bright and shiny. We especially liked the beautiful new insulated windows. Katrina Dengler said a few words to welcome us and to thank Tony and his crew, for all their good work. Alex Perez, Jose Lopez, Marco Gomez, Olvin Maldonado, Gabriela Gomez, Mercedes Perez and Elizabeth Coprio are the members of Tony's crew. They served us a wonderful meal—lentil soup, chicken cutlets, asparagus and baked potatoes followed by ice cream tartufo for dessert. We thank them for all their work cooking, serving and cleaning up after us.

John & Ada Brauweiler, Katrina Dengler and her mother Erna Dengler, Martin Kelly, Rosemarie Lambot and some friends, Franziska Schmitt & friend, Klaus Wolters, The Fisters, Linda Ahrens, Bob & Ann Hemsing, Bernie & Christine Preisser, John & Betty Reitter and a surprise visit from former KOC manager Jorge Paris who came with some friends were just some of the members who attended this wonderful luncheon.



West Point Cadets Visit K-88

submitted by Lou Colletti

The German Language Club cadets at West Point had been a big help with the Kolping clean up this past spring. Captain Charles Brown emailed Lou Colletti to see if they could be any help in demolishing the playground at Kolping-on-Hudson. Unfortunately that project had been completed (but they have already offered to help with the clean up next spring)!

They also mentioned that they were planning to visit Yorkville on Saturday, November 7. The cadets were interested to find out more about Kolping 88th Street, and were hoping to get a tour of the Kolping House library/community room, ballroom, dining room and Ratskeller. They were excited to hear about the history of the house and its German heritage. Geovanny was a great & gracious host, and gave them a tour & beverages.

They are planning on making the St. Nicholas Party, so we hope to see them there!



Stories of Interest

This is an article from THE TABLET, 27 August 2005. I found it in my archives thought it would be of interest. Enjoy! —Ingrid

HUGH O'SHAUGHNESSY

A family affair

Kolping began humbly as a haven for poor Catholic workers in Cologne. Now it is worldwide network valued by travellers of all kinds

ONE HAS to be careful where one stays in Bogotá these days. The daily death toll in the country as a whole is horrific and government forces – in overt alliance with the paramilitaries, the right-wing terror groups who earn enormous sums from drugs – are not to be trusted. On the left the guerrillas, themselves expert in the narcotics business, have little compunction in killing innocent people.

"Where should I put up?" I asked my friend Amanda, who works for an aid organisation linked to the Quakers, on the afternoon I arrived in the Colombian capital. "Oh, we put everyone in the Kolping and we have our meetings there when people come from outside Bogotá," she replied.

The Kolping turned out to be a big modern house in the lower-middle-class quarter of Teusaquillo where I was made thoroughly at home and given a pleasant, clean room equipped with a television set, a washbasin and loo and a good view over the cloud-covered mountains. One small room was set aside as a chapel and there was a crucifix in every room. On several mornings when I came down to breakfast I met country people in the dining room who were clearly unfamiliar with Bogotá – and indeed with hotels. There were visitors to Colombia from foreign non-governmental organisations and ordinary members of the Colombian public who shared my distaste for paying for hotel owners' marble and chromium fittings. At no point was I asked for a membership card, whether I was a Catholic or if I was in any way linked to Kolping. Men, women and couples were all equally welcome.

The house turned out to belong to an international Catholic network based in Germany which is active in many regions; I had been totally ignorant of it and indeed it is not well known in the English-speaking world. Subsequently, whenever I have found myself staying in a town which has one I have stayed with Kolping. If it can look after me in Bogotá, I felt, it can look after me anywhere, a principle which has made my visits to German-speaking countries and Latin America more rewarding than they otherwise would have been.

Kolping charges are very modest, and some premises are merely unexceptionable, but the eighteenth-century house in the German city of Trier, where I stayed with my wife, has some architectural pretensions and was once the home of an aristocratic family.

The network was the idea of Adolph Kolping, the fourth son of a shepherd, who was born in 1813 near the German city of Cologne. He left school at 13 to become an apprentice cobbler, following his trade from city to city as his articles demanded. After 10 years of that he decided to go back to school

Kolping is a Catholic social organisation seeking to anchor its members into family life rather than a political group

and become a priest. After studies in Munich and Bonn he was ordained in his native city in 1845 and was sent to the industrial parish of Wuppertal in the Ruhr.

By then the industrial revolution in Germany was breaking down a system under which apprentices lived with the families of their masters, a way of life that was hard on the young men. More and more people were forced on to the road as journeymen and later as commercial travellers or travelling salesmen. In 1846, a teacher, Johann Gregor Breuer, started a young craftsmen's self-help group which was an inspiration to the priest. Three years later Kolping started the Cologne Association of Young Craftsmen with seven members. The idea caught fire throughout Germany and neighbouring countries, stoked by Kolping's constant journeying and writing, activities that were seen by some at the time as not respectable occupations for a man of the cloth.

Yet by the time of his death in Cologne in 1865 there were 420 branches or "families" in Europe and North America. Some offered training and savings schemes, health insurance schemes and cooperative stores to members of what continued to be a self-help society. All offered help for those, members or not, who were seeking ways of living a more Christian life. The development showed its worth as industrialisation proceeded and country people emigrating to the cities found something of a "home from home". When Kolping was beatified in 1991 John Paul II declared him a pioneer of the ideas contained in *Rerum Novarum*, Leo XIII's encyclical that deals with protecting the rights of the individual, and John Paul's *Centesimus Annus*, which

marked its hundredth anniversary.

As what had originally been an association of lay people took shape, Kolping decided that each unit should be headed by a priest, although today deacons may also take the responsibility. The Kolping movement was always conscious that it was a Catholic social organisation seeking to anchor its members into family life rather than a political group. As one leading figure of Kolping says a little primly today: "Since Kolping was not one of the 'social reformers' who with a pre-established social Christian programme wanted to mend social relations, he was safe from the errors that they committed and from their dependence on the State ... modern efforts to make parishes into 'parish communities with family characteristics' can be seen as a correct sort of application of the concept that Kolping had worked out for his association."

Today Kolping claims 450,000 members in 5,000 Kolping families in 53 countries. It defines itself as "a community of solidarity in which the members and Kolping families support and promote each other". In Africa, Asia, Latin America and central and eastern Europe they are "self-help groups aiding people to solve their daily problems" and are clearly part of the German Church's effort to reach out to the world's poorer countries. Kolping was certainly active when the Pope went to Cologne this month and organised a youth parliament during the world gathering for youth.

Yet membership is not demanded of those who avail themselves of the facilities for travellers which Kolping offers. These often include arrangements for small conferences and conventions. In some places there is space for long-term student accommodation. It could be argued that Kolping is an equivalent of the YMCA, although it feels friendlier and more openly committed to Christian life.

The website (www.kolping.net) in English, German and Spanish has full details of the organisation and where it operates. In Europe there are particularly big networks in Germany and Hungary, while elsewhere houses are spread from Albania and Bosnia-Herzegovina to Poland and from Portugal to the Czech Republic. In Latin America, apart from Colombia, there are establishments in Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay. In Africa, Kolping operates in Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa and Uganda. Some of the houses and conference centres are not to be found in the capitals or main cities.

For visitors – most of whom, I imagine, are unfamiliar with the organisation – Kolping is appreciated for the simple welcome and message of peace it extends to travellers. In an industry which is often preoccupied by tawdriness and conspicuous consumption, the Christian example it transmits by doing that is a powerful one. Perhaps Kolping should come to Britain.

** Hugh O'Shaughnessy is a journalist who specialises in Latin American affairs.*

Stories of Interest

“The Prima Donna and the Haunted Hotel” submitted by Martin A. Kelly

To many people, Halloween means dressing up in a scary costume or trick-or-treating or childish pranks. To others, however, it is the time for retribution on the part of the souls in purgatory who were abused while alive.

A recent article in The New York Post suggests that the mistreatment of a Wagnerian opera star is the source of the unexplainable “rumbling and trembling” in a modish New York City apartment building, the historic Osborne Apartments, built in 1885 cater-cornered to Carnegie Hall.

Johanna Gadski was born in Anklam, Prussia on June 15, 1872. A Wagnerian musical prodigy, she made her debut at the Kroll Opera House in Berlin at the age of 17. Her career took off like the proverbial rocket, and she was in demand in continental Europe, England and America.

She debuted at the Metropolitan Opera on January 6, 1900 as Senta in Wagner’s Flying Dutchman, and she soon starred there in other Wagnerian roles, like Brunnhilde and Isolde. But she mastered major Italian roles as well. But in 1917, after years of being one of the reigning divas at the Met, her career took a sad turn.

War clouds were gathering over America as World War I entered its third year. A part of public opinion wanted America to enter the war on the side of England and France. All sorts of outlandish stories were being circulated depicting the Germans as brutal Huns. Germany’s engagement in submarine warfare, among other things, did not win it many friends.

The decisive argument against neutrality was the Zimmerman telegram, sent on January 11, 1917. It was intercepted by British intelligence, which referred it to the U. S. State Department. In it Arthur Zimmerman, the German Foreign Secretary, sounded out Mexico on her possible actions in the event that Germany and the U.S. went to war. Within three months of the publication of the telegram a special session of Congress was called and war was declared against Germany and the other Central Powers.

America was not only at war on the land, the sea, and in the air but also on the home front. Some “super-patriots” were de-Germanizing American culture. Some streets were renamed in such a manner as to conceal their German roots, among them Liberty Avenue, Wilson Street, and Pershing Boulevard. On the Upper East Side in New York, Lenox Hill Hospital had once been called the German Infirmary.

Great artists were given the pink slip. Why? They had been born in Germany. A glaring example was Johanna Gadski, who was fired from the Met a week after the declaration of war. From then until 1921 she lived in a kind of internal exile in New York, at the Osborne Apartments, and in New Hampshire. In 1921 she was able to resume her singing career. In 1932 the great soprano died in an automobile accident in Berlin.

Perhaps the strange noises that one occasionally hears at the Osborne are the arrhythmia of the broken heart that Johanna Gadski must have suffered simply for being a German in America during World War I.



◀ The Osborne Apartments



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Kolping Ski Trip

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