

# DAS HAUS MARKS 50TH ANNIVERSARY



On Thursday, Sept. 16, The Historical Society of North German Settlements in Western New York celebrated its 50th anniversary with a guest speaker and presentation at the Wheatfield Community Center on Church Road.

Greg Kinal of Elma spoke on European immigration at the turn of the century, plus the experiences of Castle Clinton and Ellis Island. Focus was placed on why immigrants came to America, how they got here, where and how they lived, and the values they passed on to their children.

This community event was free and open to all. Refreshments were served. Among the highlights of the event were maps and information related to the



region and the communities in Prussia/Germany (dating back to the 1840s); a shirt dating from the time of the Ukrainian side of Kinal's family and its immigration story; as well as recreated cabins made to roughly demonstrate the first homes of Bergholz village.

Poems by the late Town of



From left, back row: Don Schroeder, Secretary Martha Haseley, Elaine Timm, Vice President John Milleville, President John Schultz, June Stenzel, Treasurer George Camann, Ruth Voelker and Ruth Camann. Seated: Dorothy Kew, Cindy Sileo, Diane Retzlaff and Justin Higner. Not present: Richard Williams and Lois Wiseman.

Wheatfield Supervisor Edward Greinert (1986) and John Cimasi of Buffalo (2020) were read by Das Haus board member and Town of Wheatfield Historian Justin Higner. This was, he noted, to "commemorate our ancestors'

personal sacrifices, hopes and trials in reaching the Americas in order to make new lives and worship as they chose."

This event was dedicated to board member Randall Warblow who passed away earlier this year.

Das Haus was founded in 1971 by historian emeritus and author Eugene Camann and faithfully continued under Wilma Lass and John Schultz and their respective boards, members, supporters and volunteers. *Submitted by Justin Higner*

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