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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Federation of German-American Societies
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Rochester, NY 14xxx
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Contact : Glenn Call, President

Area German-American Community carries on “Karneval” traditions

On Saturday evening, February 2nd German-Americans from all around the Monroe County region will don festive costumes and celebrate Karneval, continuing an ancient tradition brought to our area by German settlers many years ago.

This colorful event, open to the public, will take place at St. Mary’s Ukrainian Church Hall, 3176 St. Paul Boulevard, beginning at 6:00 PM. Tickets are \$8.00 in advance and \$10.00 at the door.

In keeping with centuries-old tradition, Rochester’s Karneval includes music, dancing, costumes, raffles, contests, and of course, the political satire and general foolishness that marks any good German Karneval. Dating back into antiquity during the days of absolute monarchy, one of the important historical features of German Karneval tradition has been its political satire, led by the Prince and Princess of Fools. Music this year will be provided by “Die lustigen Almdudler.”

The reigning 2007 Prince and Princess of Fools, Prinz Tom Weisenburg of Henrietta, and Prinzessin Ute Amberg of Amberg Wineries in Clifton Springs, will pass the crowns and scepter to the new royalty, gardener Eddy Hundt of Brockport, and special education teacher Frau (“Linda”) Braun of Macedon. The new Royal Prince and Princess of Fools will then deliver their Royal proclamation, solving all the worlds political ills and commanding all present to let loose in true foolish German Karneval style.

Advance sales are available at Christel’s Hair Styling at 153 Stone Road or at any of the Rochester German Delikatessens: Ralf’s European at 1280 Dewey Avenue; Swan Market at 231 Parsells Avenue or Hartmann’s Old World Sausage Shop at 1256 N. Clinton.

Tickets and information are also available from the Karneval committee chairpersons Eileen Call: (585) 325-6387 or Mary Margaret Carney: (585) 872-3172.

Rochester’s annual Karneval is sponsored by the non-profit German Cultural Center of the Rochester Federation of German-American Societies, umbrella group for the twelve active German societies in the Greater Rochester area.

German Federation President Glenn Call, explains that the word Karneval, derives from the Latin “carne,” meaning ‘meat’ and “vale,” meaning ‘farewell.’ It’s the German equivalent of the New Orleans Mardi-Gras, the Carnevale di Venezia and the Carnaval in Rio – the last big blow-out before the forty days of Lent.

And a big blow out it is! “Karneval is one of Europe’s all-time great whing-dings,” says Call, “For hundreds of miles all up and down the mighty Rhine river, from Köln (Cologne) in the north down through Switzerland and on through Austria into Vienna, it’s an outrageous wild party for the last days

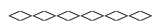
before Ash Wednesday – and if I do say so myself, the Rochester German community has always done it up in grand style!”

Traditional German food and drink from Swan’s Delikatessen, always a hit at Rochester’s Karneval, will be available throughout the evening.

The Federation of German American Societies of Rochester New York is an umbrella organization of 12 different local clubs. Federation helps the member clubs preserve and enjoy traditions of the German-speaking cultures. The member clubs include a sports club, choirs, folk-dancing groups, and insurance. Many of these clubs are over 100 years old.

Rochester, NY is steeped in German culture and many of the settlers and immigrants that populated Rochester through the 19th and 20th centuries were German. A quick look at company names (Bausch and Lomb, Ellwanger and Barry) show the entrepreneurialism of these German immigrants. Skilled German workers provided the basis for the high skill, technical, workforce that Rochester still employs. A quick look at street and neighborhood names reminds us of where these people lived.

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More information about the Rochester Karneval can be found at: <http://GoetheNet.net/Karneval/>
And <http://www.rochestergerman.com>

More information about the Lustigen Almdudler can be found at: <http://www.rochestergerman.com/almdudler>

More information about Karneval in Germany can be found at:
http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karneval,_Fastnacht_und_Fasching

More information about the Federation of German American Societies of Rochester can be found at:
<http://goethenet.net/federation/>