



Indiana German Heritage Society Newsletter

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Summer 2004

The Deutsche Haus-Athenaeum Mission Accomplished

In 1983, the forerunner of IGHS, the Tricentennial Commission for German Group Immigration (1683-1983), began meeting at the Athenaeum and stayed on as it transformed itself into the Indiana German Heritage Society. Included in the IGHS mission of preserving German-American culture is the preservation of historic landmarks. None became more important than the Deutsche Haus-Athenaeum, our home base. IGHS was to serve as a catalyst for: 1. preservation and restoration of the building, 2. cooperation with in-house organizations, such as the Turners and the Damenverein, and 3. sponsoring, coordinating and implementing cultural and educational activities in the spirit of the house and its founders.

IGHS initiated a lecture/program series known as the Stammtisch Program that

brought us speakers and performing groups like the Cologne Männerchor, and it revived St. Nikolaus Fest and Karneval. To aid in a better understanding of the building's role, Giles Hoyt with an editorial group published a bilingual (G/E) reprint of Th. Stempfel's 1898 Festschrift: 50 Years of Unrelenting German Aspirations in Indianapolis (1848-1898), a companion volume to The Germans in Indianapolis (1848-1918), by Th. Probst and Eb. Reichmann. IGHS members aided the late Martha Enyart and the Athenaeum Turner archives committee to organize the Turner documents. They were eventually transferred to the IUPUI Archives, where many of the Athenaeum historical materials were already housed.

In 1983 the grand old building, like many of the city's landmarks, had fallen into

disrepair, while a shrinking and aging membership struggled to maintain its cultural identity. By 1991 the Turners were \$97,000 in debt and the operation of the restaurant was losing money. In October of that year the Turners could not even pay for the steam heat service. The roof was leaking, the electrical network was severely burdened, heating and air-conditioning equipment was antiquated, bricks and mortar on the exterior were deteriorating, and the woodwork of the East Wall overlooking the Biergarten was decaying. After nearly a century of service, it had become of vital importance to restore this architectural treasure.

1991 had been a banner year for IGHS. Helen Moore was president, Eberhard Reichmann, VP, with Richard Hofstetter serving as 2nd VP/Counselor, Rosalind (Buddy)

McCart as Secretary and Ruth Reichmann as President Emerita. In June of 1991 the Turners had hosted the 48th National Turnfest of the American Turners and, for the first time since 1905, Turners from Germany participated again. IGHS was intensely involved in bringing the German Turners to the Turnfest, and the German-American Center hosted a Symposium on "Sports, Society and the Turners."

Significant change came about in 1991 when the Athenaeum ownership changed. The Sozialer Turnverein Stock Association (established in 1868) conveyed title to the building to the rescue team's newly created Athenaeum Foundation, Inc.

In a series of transactions between July and December 1991 board members of IGHS (Hofstetter, Selm, Reichmann, Kunz, Hoyt) with Dr. Hugh Enyart, President of the Athenaeum Turners and Dr. Carl B. Sputh, President of the Sozialer Turnverein Aktiengesellschaft, founded the Athenaeum Foundation, a not-for profit 501 (c) (3) organization. IGHS V.P. Richard R. Hofstetter, an Indianapolis attorney, served as its first President; Wm. L. Selm, Indianapolis city historian as Foundation V.P., and Ruth Reichmann served on the long-range planning and program committees.

For nearly a century the Deutsches Haus-Athenaeum had housed a variety of German-American organizations offering cultural, charitable, and amateur athletic programs. The mission of the program committee was "to develop, sponsor, coordinate and implement social and cultural activities within the Athenaeum." The challenge was to find uses that would make the Athenaeum financially viable while preserving the spirit and original purposes of the house. The Rathskeller Restaurant was refurbished, the American Cabaret Theatre signed a new lease and the YMCA moved in. The Max Kade Foundation of New York provided funds for renovating several rooms and establishing an outreach office for the Max Kade German-American Center, an IUPUI academic unit. Many groups began holding meetings and enjoyable dinners in the Rathskeller. The Athenaeum Pops Orchestra and the Maennerchor add the musical touch for Fests - as they did in the 19th century.

Renovating the massive building would be a challenge. Rick Hofstetter and Bill Selm initiated the enormous task of raising the millions of dollars needed. In 1992, as a first step a campaign was initiated to rebuild the massive roof. They vowed that it would be again of natural slate, and every detail of the original - the dor-

mers, cupolas, flashings, cornices, hips, valley, cresting and chimneys would be meticulously rebuilt. A sign-a-slate program was put in place. If, in a hundred years, someone will look at these slates s/he will find names and messages written on them. As a fundraising stunt young David Willkie camped out on the roof of the Athenaeum for 60 days. David is the grandson of Hoosier-born Wendell Willkie, Republican candidate for president in 1940. The Willkie's are long-time Athenaeum supporters and a room is named for them. Thanks to Willkie's antics nearly \$157,000 had been raised when a \$645,000 matching grant donation from the Lilly Foundation was announced. It covered more than half of the 1.2 million needed to replace the roof.

On August 18, 1993 the restoration of the roof was initiated with a ceremony and many dignitaries present. One of the speeches at the ceremony was presented by Senator Richard Lugar.

An appreciation of the Athenaeum by Richard Lugar

The Athenaeum building first entered my consciousness during Easter visits to the elderly Scheller sisters who lived in the 500 block of East Michigan. The Schellers were remnants of a strong German-

American neighborhood, which had originally included my great-grandparents, the Hoereths, and my grandmother Anna Green. Just across the street and a short distance to the east was the Athenaeum building, which had been a focal point of life for the Schellers and the Hoereths. By listening carefully and asking questions, I learned of the impressive building.

Many years later after my father died, my mother married Howard Caldwell Sr. They enjoyed inviting their children and grandchildren to the meals in the Athenaeum on special occasions.

During my first term as Mayor of Indianapolis, I invited mayors from Europe, Latin America and Asia to an International Conference on Cities, stimulated by my appointment to the NATO committee on the Challenges of Modern Society.

Each of the nationalities represented at the conference attempted to pull together citizens of Indiana who had kinship with distinguished visiting guests. The Athenaeum was the center of many of these gatherings, vividly demonstrating the remarkable ethnic history of Indianapolis.

Others will testify to a myriad of historical events, which have taken place in the Athenaeum. But my memories are very personal ones of boyhood wonderment, evoking strong feelings of roots.

In Spring of 1999, a most generous grant of \$5 million came from the Lilly Endowment, to be used for infrastructure improvement such as a sprinkler system, renewal of the severely burdened electrical network (the building was gas-lit when it was built) and replacement of the antiquated heating and air-conditioning equipment, repairing deteriorated brick and mortar on the exterior and replacing damaged windows. Some of the money was invested in other improvements and in the reconstruction of the East Wall overlooking the Biergarten.

A host of other donors, organizations as well as individuals, directly or indirectly supported the renovation. For IGHS this meant the loss of some members who had mainly been interested in the preservation of the Athenaeum - they now joined and supported the Athenaeum Foundation. The preservation of the building accomplished, IGHS would now, together with the Max Kade German-American Center, focus on providing a strong German-American presence in the building, work with the Foundation and the other original groups and new tenants towards preserving and implementing the purposes of the house, in the spirit of its founders. IGHS members continue to be involved on the board of the Foundation and its various committees. A museum com-

mittee was instrumental in the creation of both a permanent and rotating exhibits throughout the building to tell the Athenaeum story.

Ruth Reichmann

THE DEUTSCHE HAUS-ATHENAEUM - THEN AND NOW

The Deutsche Haus-Athenaeum is located at the edge of the old "Germantown" section (now Lockerbie) of Indianapolis, where Michigan and New Jersey, and Massachusetts Streets intersect, within walking distance of the center of town. It was built by the Sozialer Turnverein Aktiengesellschaft to serve as the headquarters of the Sozialer Turnverein and other German societies, including Der Deutsche Club, Musikverein, Deutsch-Englischer Schulverein and other groups who sought to foster cultural and physical development. The Athenaeum housed a restaurant, established 1894; gymnasium with facilities for physical exercise 1894; theater space, 1898; as well as a concert hall for the orchestra, founded in 1883, also meeting rooms and a Biergarten. The organization served as a social and educational center for the family.

Das Deutsche Haus was designed by Bernard Vonnegut, (grandfather of novelist and

Indianapolis native Kurt Vonnegut) of the architectural firm of Vonnegut and Bohn, who also served as construction managers. The German Romanesque portion of the Athenaeum (the physical fitness wing) was built in 1893-94 and the Renaissance phase (the cultural wing) in 1897-98. The building is on the National Register for Historic Places. It was named Deutsches Haus till 1917, when its name was changed to "Athenaeum" for Athena, the goddess of wisdom and culture.

Some twenty years ago a walk through this old Indianapolis neighborhood would reveal a dismal scene-dilapidated houses, broken sidewalks and vacant lots filled with high weeds. Much has changed since then. The Lilly gifts not only helped preserve the Athenaeum, but aided the renaissance of Lockerbie and the Massachusetts Avenue strip where much of the city's cultural and artistic life is now centered. Massachusetts Ave. has been selected as one of five "cultural districts" that would serve as pilots for the city's Cultural Tourism Initiative. The cultural district designation is part of an effort of the city's initiative to increase awareness and attendance among local residents, and also raise the perception of the city as a cultural destination. This helps also the Athenaeum Foundation's goal to make the

Athenaeum building more of a historical presence in Indianapolis and to make it more attractive to families and children, to make it an actual historical destination for schools, clubs, organizations and tourists. The Foundation would like to expand heritage-related seminars and programs as well as events by teaming up with IGHS and IUPUI's Max Kade German-American Center, with Spielgruppe, the German Women's Interaction Group and the other occupants of the building.

In "What has the Athenaeum become? Karl Zimmer, then chairman of the Foundation, writes in the Winter 1999 Athenaeum News "while we honor and pay tribute to the rich historical heritage that continues to inform our mission, that mission is now "What will we be?" But first we must consider "What have we become?" We have become a magnet in this community, attracting a diverse public - and I emphasize the word "Public" - to an incredibly popular restaurant: to a Treffpunkt, an award-winning theater that packs in audiences for its exciting performances; and a modern gym and fitness facility that is the city's only downtown YMCA, and much more. We proudly house the state's oldest orchestra: the M., nnerchor, founded in 1854, the German Heritage Society, and a chapter of the prestigious

Max Kade Institute. The Athenaeum is also a preferred venue for many organizations' luncheon meetings.

According to former four-term Mayor William Hudnut, speaker at the annual celebration of the 1894 Society in 1999: "You are helping the downtown by your commitment," "There's a tradition here of music, of culture, of free and open discussion," he said. "The Athenaeum is a social gathering place with a tradition of recreation and sports, very much in keeping with the Indianapolis theme."

Ruth Reichmann

Important Board Update

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear IGHS Members and Supporters,

After many years of avoiding responsibility, I have been elected

President of the Indiana German Heritage Society. I am not even going to pretend to be able to fill the shoes of my predecessor, who actually has served as President a number of times for more years than any other Prez, namely Dr. Ruth Reichmann. The Society owes a considerable debt of

thanks to her for her years of dedication and on-going work with IGHS. She continues to serve on the Board, as Managing Editor of our Newsletter and the honorific position "President emerita". That position guarantees IGHS that Ruth will never be able to quit serving IGHS.

On behalf of the Board and Membership of IGHS, I wish to thank Dr. Gabrielle Robinson who organized the wonderfully instructive and delightfully entertaining IGHS Annual Meeting and Symposium in South Bend. Her organizational skills are only surpassed by her scholarly abilities as evidenced by her recently published book *The Germans of South Bend*.

We also owe a debt of thanks to those who were elected to the Board, some of whom have served multiple terms in various capacities over a number of years. They are listed in detail in this edition of the Newsletter. I look forward to working with them to achieve the goals outlined in the Strategic Plan developed during a planning retreat held in April, which is also described in this Newsletter. Our IGHS is entering a new period of its existence with a new infusion of energy and vision from both the new Board members and from those who have already served longer. It will be necessary that all of the IGHS mem-

bership support our goals. These goals include: defining a new role for IGHS as a statewide organization that works with other organizations and individuals throughout Indiana to achieve its mission, enhancing the financial viability of IGHS through development and implementation of effective fundraising strategies, providing improved dissemination of knowledge about Indiana's German-Americans, encouraging and supporting more research in our German-American heritage. To achieve these ends an expanded and empowered committee structure has been developed, and a state council is being formed.

If you have ideas, concerns or words of advice, please contact me at ghoyt@iupui.edu or 317-464-9004.
Mit besten Grüßen

Giles R. Hoyt, Ph.D.

MEET YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the March 26th Annual Meeting in South Bend, the 2004 Board of Directors was elected by the membership. The Board of Directors elected the following Officers:

President: Giles R. Hoyt, Ph.D., is Professor of German and Philanthropic Studies and Director of the Max Kade German-American Research and Resource Center, an IUPUI academic unit located in the

Athenaeum. He serves on the boards of the Athenaeum Foundation and the Athenaeum Turners. In 1983 Dr. Hoyt was on the Indianapolis "Tricentennial Commission on German Immigration." He was a co-founder of IGHS and the Max Kade German-American Center, and is active in the Indianapolis-Cologne Sister Cities relationship. For IUPUI's international linkage, he brought about cooperation agreements with the Universities of Oldenburg and Bremen. He teaches courses and workshops on German Americana. His publications in the field include "The Germans," in *Peopling Indiana* and various articles in the *Encyclopedia Indianapolis*.

Vice President: James Feit is a retired history teacher and President of the Indiana Chapter of the Palatines. With wife Jane he traveled extensively in Western Europe, including visits to his family home in western Pfalz near Zweibrücken. He researches in German libraries and archives on his own family and for others. James Feit is a ten-year member of IGHS, a three-year board member. He served as secretary to the board for several years and also on the program and finance committees.

Treasurer: Frederick Schramm is Transportation Coordinator with Union Federal Bank of Indianapolis, sub-

subsidiary of Waterfield Financial based in Fort Wayne, IN. He also has a small business providing Financial, Accounting & other Business Services to clients. He has been serving on the IGHS board and the finance committee for many years.

Secretary: **James D. Gould** is Community Events Coordinator for The Athenaeum Foundation. He is a descendent of Das Deutsche Haus co-founder, William Haueisen. He is interested in German-holiday antique and collectible decorations and German festival traditions. Jim is involved in IGHS Program, Community Relations/PR, and Education committees for all German-American heritage events staged at the Athenaeum: Oktoberfest, St. Martin, St. Nikolaus, Karneval, and St. Benno Fest.

New Board Members: In accordance with the By-laws, the IGHS Board of Directors may consist of 25 individuals. To bring new skills and talents to the organization, the Nominating Committee decided to invite four additions. These four were elected at the Annual Meeting by the membership. We are pleased to introduce them.

Chris Dial of Indianapolis, worked in the non-profit sector for the past eleven years for United Way of Central Indi-

ana. He holds a BA from the University of Indianapolis with majors in History and German, and traveled and studied in Germany and England. He also has radio and television experience including program production. He and wife Michelle are expecting their first child in July. Both have great grandparents that came from Germany.

Jane Meengs Feit is a retired teacher. Raised in Mishawaka, she attended Hope College in Holland, MI, graduated from Manchester College and holds a Masters in library sciences and elementary education from Butler University. Jane is the wife of Board member James Feit and has been actively involved in IGHS programs. She is a member of Palatines to America and of the Athenaeum Turner's Board of Directors.

Jeanette Footman was born in Berlin and is a graduate of OSZ School for Banking and Insurance, and the Instructor's Training School in Berlin. She is currently Public Relations, Marketing, Fundraising Chairperson and Teacher for the Indianapolis German Language Institute, of which she was co-founder. In the past she was Secretary for Germany's Honorary Consul of Indianapolis and a Training Instructor for Allianz Insurance Company of Berlin.

Marilyn McIntosh is of German descent and lives in Indianapolis. She holds BS and MS degrees in Education from Butler University. She was employed by the Marion County Mental Health Association, and from 2002-04 was Assistant Development Officer for Riverview Hospital Memorial Foundation. Her specialty areas include staff management, program development, event planning, budget development/administration.

Members continuing their tenure on the Board are:

Funds Development:

Maribeth Bailey possesses a strong funds development and non-profit background, skills greatly needed by IGHS. She worked in the for-profit, as well as non-profit, sector and is currently Director of Development for the John H. Boner Community Center.

Governance: **Renee Bilgram** majored in music education at IU and holds a Master's in Elementary Education. She taught music preschool through university level. She co-founded and co-owned a distributorship for electronic components. Prior to retirement she worked as Director of Funds Development and Director of Management Assistance for the Executive Service Corps, a non-profit established to assist other non-profits, government agencies and small businesses

in becoming better managed.

Newsletter Editor: Paul

Brockman is Senior Archivist at the Indiana Historical Society as well as being in charge of the Library's Ethnic History Collection. He has been editor of the IGHS *Newsletter* for 16 years.

Education: German-born

Claudia Grossmann has been teaching at IUPUI since 1985 and is a fellow of the Max Kade German American Center. She is German Program Coordinator at IUPUI and Director of the Indianapolis German School, a Saturday morning immersion program for children. She directs an internship exchange program in conjunction with the Berufsa-kademie of Mannheim and helped launch a new dual-degree program for German and Engineering at IUPUI.

Nominations: Nancy Hurley recently retired from the Indiana State Bar Association as Associate Executive Director. She served as Executive Secretary of the Indiana Bar Foundation (IBF) for ten years where she coordinated the activities of the board and committees, and performed budgeting and accounting functions. Nancy's expertise is in non-profit management.

Legal Counsel: Halbert Kunz, retired Indianapolis attorney, was a co-founder of IGHS and

since then has been serving as legal counsel and advisor in matters pertaining to the status of IGHS. He served as VP and president. He is best known as Pelznickel at St. Nikolausfest, as the "Jungfrau" (virgin) at Karneval, and on "The Fourth" as Uncle Sam.

Membership: Louise (Theilig)

Lamkin is a retired teacher with BS and MS degrees in Social Studies Education. She is involved with Indianapolis-Cologne Sister Cities and Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ. Her interests are travel in Germany, research and writing social and family history.

Rosalind "Buddy" McCart

holds an AB Degree from IU in Linguistic Science and Anthropology. She is of German ancestry and grew up in a Turner household. Her maternal family were original settlers of New Ulm, MN. Grandfather Hugo Fischer came to Das Deutsche Haus (Athenaeum) in 1898 as Director of Physical Education. Her Grandmother taught in the Indianapolis Public Schools and later at the Normal College at the Athenaeum. Buddy is on the board of the Athenaeum Turners. She was a founding member of IGHS, served as IGHS President and has been Chair of the German-American Day Celebration (October 6) at the Indianapolis City Market for the past 14 years.

Charlie McDonald is President of McDonald & Associates, Inc., founded in 1983 to provide Quality Assurance training and consulting services to manufacturing companies. Charlie served on the IGHS Board for nearly ten years and was Treasurer for much of that time. His interest in German Heritage stems from having three German/American grandparents (unfortunately his name came from the wrong grandparent). He is very much involved in the Indianapolis/Cologne Sister Cities program.

Susan McKee's professional background includes reporter and feature writer for a variety of Indianapolis magazines, and freelance writing for numerous publications. For three years she was a writer, consultant and researcher for the Polis Center at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. She has been president and board member of the Indiana International Council and the Indianapolis Council for International Visitors.

Community Relations/PR:

Charles Most, B.S. Chem. Eng., Purdue University. He served active duty as a chemical officer in a U.S. Strategic Army Command Unit. He joined Union Carbide Corp. and held several positions at various locations, including three years in Düsseldorf as General Manager for Union

Carbide Deutschland GmbH. His father, Carl Emil Most, an Indpls. businessman, was an enthusiastic participant in the M.,nnerchor and Athenaeum Orchestra; mother Anna Louise was active in the Damenverein and eventually became the first female president of the Athenaeum Turners. With a strong interest in German history and culture he often travels to Germany, also to visit with cousins in Berlin and Esslingen.

Preservation: Heiko Mühr was born in Bremen. He was a high school exchange student in 1979/80 in Plano, TX and came back to the U.S. in 1988 to study history at IU and the Universit,,t Hamburg. He is Branch Coordinator at IU's Geography and Map Library. He worked as an oral historian at the Center for History and Memory on several oral history projects that documented aspects of southwestern Indiana's German heritage.

Research/Publications: Eberhard Reichmann was born in Stuttgart. He is Professor Emeritus of German Studies, former director of IU's Institute of German Studies, and Fellow of the IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center. He served on Indiana's German Immigration Tricentennial Commission, and was a co-founder of IGHS and of the Max Kade German-American Center. The Indiana Foreign

Language Teachers Assoc. and the Indiana German Teachers Assoc. made him "Teacher of the Year (1990)," and his native Germany bestowed on him the Alexander von Humboldt Medal and the Federal Cross of Merit. He is editor-in-chief for IGHS and author and editor of numerous books and articles.

Managing Editor: Ruth Reichmann, MA in German and Ph.D. in Intercultural Education from IU, is Adjunct Assistant Professor of German and Fellow of the IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center; she served as Executive Vice-Chair on the Indiana Commission for the German Immigration Tricentennial (1983). She was the founding President of IGHS and served from 1984/88 and again 2001/04. She was a co-founder of the Max Kade German-American Center. Ruth served as State Representative for Sister Cities International. She is a "Sagamore of the Wabash," a recipient of the "German-American Friendship Award," and the "Federal Cross of Merit" from Germany's President in 1991.

Wm. L. Selm is a 5th generation German Catholic from Franklin County, IN (Brookville and Oldenburg). He earned a BA in history (German minor) at Indiana State University and an MA in Historic Preservation Studies

at Boston University. He served on the Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission. He is a free lance historian, preservationist, researcher, lecturer and tour guide, the award-winning doorman at the Westin Hotel since 1994, and part-time lecturer at IUPUI (Herron & Purdue School of Engineering) on architectural history. In 1983 he served on the Indiana German Immigration TriCentennial Commission. In 2003 Gov. Kernan appointed him to the Indiana State Historic Preservation Review Board. He is a co-founder of IGHS and has served as a board member since.

IGHS UNDERTAKES STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Indiana German Heritage Society (IGHS) was founded March 16, 1984, as a statewide historical and educational membership organization. Its mission was to "promote interest in the German-American heritage of the state and the nation and foster friendly relations with German-speaking countries." Ever since its founding IGHS has been dedicated to researching, documenting, and celebrating the contributions of Hoosiers with roots in the German-speaking countries and regions of Europe. During those years IGHS published a quarterly newsletter and, in cooperation with the

Max Kade German-American Center seventeen books, one of them electronically on our Website. As the successor organization to the Tricentennial Commission it pledged to continue raising funds and publish as a memorial to the Tricentennial a comprehensive Anthology, documenting the Hoosier German Heritage.

Another IGHS goal was to work with other German-American organizations in the Deutsche Haus-Athenaeum toward the preservation and restoration of the building, to cooperate with the Athenaeum Turners, owners of the building, and to sponsor cultural and educational activities in the spirit of its founders.

In the past three years not only has the organization continued to develop its mission, but it also realized it was at a crossroads. It was time to focus on creating a healthy internal structure so the organization could and will continue well into the future. By-laws were revised. The Nominations Committee became a vital part of IGHS and developed procedures to utilize in recruiting new, dynamic individuals for the Board. Orientation programs were developed and implemented for new Board members and for Committee Chairpersons. Committees along with their responsibilities were defined and each committee was asked to de-

velop an action plan for the year. Governance, funds development, membership and the community awareness/PR committees were especially successful in developing and utilizing plans to further their individual efforts. In addition, job descriptions were written for all Board officers.

Recently the Board has focused its efforts on strengthening relationships with other cities in the State, developing a State Council and planning and preparing for a strategic planning retreat.

IGHS has never developed a strategic plan or undertaken a strategic planning process. We do have a mission and have a fairly good idea of our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. However, we have not developed a vision for what we want to be in the future and a plan for how we are going to get there.

The Board determined that IGHS was no longer a small, unorganized entity, but was emerging as a vital organization. The basic structure was sound and it was time to undergo a strategic planning process and, most importantly, implement the results. Thus, the decision was made to employ an outside consultant to lead us through a planning process.

On April 16 and 17, twenty-

one members of the Board, as well as seven individuals who are not on the Board, met with Marilyn Bedford, the facilitator who is a part of the Human Resources Department of IUPUI, to undergo strategic planning. Those individuals who were not on the Board represented various cities or areas in Indiana, such as Terre Haute, Jasper, Knox County, Vincennes and South Bend. They brought fresh ideas and helped IGHS determine ways in which we might work with other cities.

During the retreat, the Mission Statement was strengthened and further clarified, a Vision Statement for the future was developed, and broad goals along with specific objectives were defined.

The Mission Statement is as follows: The mission of the Indiana German Heritage Society is to preserve, promote and celebrate German heritage. We are guided by a commitment to learn and an obligation to share our knowledge with accuracy, integrity and respect for all heritages. By our dedication to these ideas we strive to insure that present and future generations will have the opportunity to understand, appreciate and benefit from the contributions of German-Americans to the multicultural heritage of the state and the nation.

The Vision Statement is: The Vision of IGHS is to create interest throughout the State in the preservation and celebration of German and German-American heritage.

The broad goals that were defined are as follows:

1. Develop and implement a plan to increase and diversify the membership
2. Develop and implement a fund raising plan to achieve the vision of IGHS
3. Communicate more fully the mission of IGHS
4. Develop and implement a comprehensive statewide PR/community awareness plan
5. Build the IGHS statewide networking capabilities
6. Evaluate, assess and strengthen the internal structure of the organization
7. Strengthen all on-going activities including research, programs, and preservation

This document is seen as a "work in progress" and will be updated and revised as IGHS develops. We are thankful for the membership and founders who support the organization. Without their help we could no longer exist. Their support, along with a working strategic plan and active board of directors, will help us achieve our mission, vision and goals.

Renee Bilgram, Retreat Coordinator

REPRESENTATIVE FROM JASPER AT- TENDS RETREAT

By Patti Eckerle Goepfrich

I attended the IGHS Strategic Planning Retreat held on April 16 and April 17 at the Deutsche Haus-Athenaeum in Indianapolis as a representative of the Deutscherverein in Jasper, IN.

The Retreat was very educational and provided me with resources that I was able to take back to Jasper. There was active discussion on the strengths of IGHS and on how to improve areas of IGHS. All participants shared one major interest ... "how to preserve German heritage and language for the future". The Retreat provided me with the opportunity to meet and speak with individuals who believe it is important to preserve the German heritage and language. They told me of their links, some of them in the distant past, to German heritage and language and how they seek to improve and build upon the heritage and language.

Not all participants came from an immediate German background as did I. That is what impressed me the most. How those individuals were taking such an interest in a heritage that they had not been born into!!! It was so amazing and made me even more grateful for my German heritage. My

great-great grandfather left Pfaffenweiler in southern Germany in 1847 for a better life in America and settled in Jasper, IN.

I was able to share with the group the success story of Jasper's sister cities arrangement with Pfaffenweiler, Germany. This Partnership will be 20 years old in 2005. We will celebrate the Partnership in August of 2005 when we will greet visitors from Germany to Jasper. This Partnership is a tribute to the individuals who left Germany in 1847. When we get visitors from Pfaffenweiler and they see our telephone book or visit our cemetery, they are amazed to find their own surnames in Jasper. When we walk the streets of Pfaffenweiler, we see people who remind us of our own family and friends in Jasper. That is only natural...our roots originate in Pfaffenweiler and those characteristics carry over.

We have had visitors from Germany come to Jasper through work and school exchange programs. They have been successful and it is great to be able to share that information with IGHS members. The IGHS provides Jasper with resources to further our search for our German heritage. It provides an avenue to further the German heritage and that is important to all of us. I am grateful that I was ex-

tended the invitation to attend this very informational and beneficial Retreat and hope to be able to support the IGHS whenever I can.

Calendar and Events

CALENDAR

Sunday, July 4, 5:30 p.m.: Independence Day Celebration at the Athenaeum Biergarten, Indianapolis (317 630-4569)

July 10/11: Lockerbie Square Art and Architecture Home Tour to include an Open House at the Athenaeum -- 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM (317 846-8613)

Sunday, July 11th, 7:30 p.m. at Indianapolis Art Center, 820 E. 67th St., La Monica will perform "The 17th Century in Germany or Out of the Depths" - Baroque Concert. Ticket information 317-251-5190

Wednesday, July 14: **5:00 p.m.** Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m. Stammtisch and 7:15 p.m.: Dr. Philip Reid, "America and the Turners." (Giles Hoyt 317 464-9004)

Sunday, Aug. 15, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.: P.O.W. Chapel Mass and Picnic at Camp Atterbury (Betty Randall 812 546-5328)

Wednesday, Aug. 11, **5:00 p.m.** Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m. Stammtisch and 7:15 p.m. "Why I returned to Indiana. German-American Writer Comes Home," with Jasper native son Norbert Krapf. (Giles Hoyt 317 464-9004)

Wednesday, Sept. 8, **5:00 p.m.** Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m. Stammtisch and 7:15 p.m. "German War and German History," by Kevin Cramer, Asst. Professor of History, IU-PUI. (Giles Hoyt 317 464-9004)

Sunday, Sept. 19 -- Athenaeum Turner and Indy G Walkers Volksmarch -- Registration will begin at the Athenaeum. Time and information forthcoming. (Buddy McCart 317 846-8613 or Kevin McCart (H) 317 776-2633 and (B) 317 542-5200).

Sunday, Sept. 26, 2004, 2-7:00 p.m. Family Oktoberfest & Ox Roast at the Athenaeum. Individual \$5.00, \$20.00 Family Maximum. Award Winning Polka Star, LinnMarie (317 630-4569)

ANNUAL JULY 4TH GARDEN PARTY AND CELEBRATION

On Sunday, July 4, beginning at 5:30 p.m., the Annual Independence Day Celebration will take place at the Athenaeum Biergarten in Indianapolis. Sponsored by the Athenaeum Turners and the Athenaeum

Foundation this family-oriented event provides fun, food, music and a spectacular view of the fireworks from the outdoor garden. The Athenaeum Pops Orchestra will play, followed by Jay Fox and the Bavarian Showtime Band. A traditional buffet is included in the admission price of \$20.00 for adults, \$10 for children (ages 3-11) in advance. At the door admission is \$25.00 Adult and \$12.00 for children. Under age of 3 no charge. For reservations call 317 630-4569 ext. 1. In case of rain the party will be in the Kellersaal. Reserved seating for parties of 8 or more.

ATHENAEUM OPEN HOUSE

July 10-11 -- An Open House at the Athenaeum is offered as part of the Lockerbie Square Art and Architecture Home Tour from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. both afternoons. It will include special activities, dance performances, music and song. Guided tours will be offered at 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. by the Athenaeum Turners and Damenverein. Food and drink will be available in the Biergarten and the Kellerbar. Information Buddy McCart at 317 846-8613.

FESTIVAL MUSIC SOCIETY PRESENTS GERMAN BAROQUE MUSIC

Sunday, July 11th, 7:30 p.m. at

The Indianapolis Art Center, 820 E. 67th St., La Monica, a baroque music group based on the West Coast, will perform "The 17th Century in Germany or Out of the Depths." They feature 17th century little-known works by German composers who were rapidly creating their own brand of Baroque style after its introduction to Germany by Heinrich Schutz. Works include sonatas of Rosenmuller, Schmelzer and Johann Kasper Kerll and Cantatas of Buxtehude and Franz Tunder. Ticket information: 317 251-5190 or access the website at www.emindy.org.

ANNUAL WINE AND BREW FEST

Friday, July 23, The Annual Wine & Brew Fest at the Athenaeum - Rain or Shine! \$20/person in advance; \$25.00/person Day of Event Tasting of over 200 beers and wine from all over the world will be from 5p.m. - 8p.m. **MUST BE 21 YEARS OLD TO ATTEND THE TASTING EVENT.** Luxury items such as jewelry, trips, sporting goods, and season tickets will be included in a silent auction, benefiting the Athenaeum Foundation. Patrons will have the opportunity to participate in four 50/50 raffles during the evening. Live music (after 8 p.m. no cover charge to enjoy music at the Rathskeller): Blue Note Trio (Jazz): 5 - 8 p.m. in the Kellersaal; The Nest

(Contemporary Covers): 6 - 8 p.m. in the Biergarten; Zanna Doo (Disco Hits): 8:15 - 11 p.m. in the Biergarten. Tickets can be purchased at the Rathskeller Restaurant. Proceeds benefit the Athenaeum Foundation.

ANNUAL JASPER STRASSENFEST

The 26th Annual Jasper Strassenfest will be held on Aug. 5th through 8th. Many activities are planned and German food will be served by the Deutscher Verein. Details of the Strassenfest may be found at www.jasperstrassenfest.org and information on Jasper may be found at www.jasperin.org or www.jaspergermanclub.org. Jasper has a very unique partnership with its Sister City Pfaffenweiler, Germany. They have been partners since 1985 and there are strong personal ties between the two communities. Their 20th anniversary will be celebrated in 2005, when a group from Germany will visit Jasper.

PROGRAM AT CAMP ATTERBURY AUGUST 15

You don't have to be Catholic to enjoy the Annual P.O.W. Chapel Mass and Picnic, scheduled for Sun., Aug. 15. The American-Italian Heritage Society is once again inviting members of the Indiana German Heritage Society to participate in this event, remem-

bering the Italian and German WW II P.O.W.s, confined at Atterbury. At 11:00 a.m. there will be posting of the colors, followed by a Catholic Mass and pitch-in at the "Chapel in the Meadow" under the tent. Please bring a dish. Table service, tents, tables and chairs are provided.

Camp Atterbury is located 35 miles south of Indianapolis. Take 31 South to the Junction of 252 East, or 31 North from the Taylorsville/Edinburgh exit 76 of I-65. Turn west at Camp Atterbury sign and follow P.O.W. Chapel signs. (<http://www.italianheritage.org/index.html>); Sol Petruzzi 317 849-9731, or Betty Randall at 812-546-5328.

SUMMER FESTIVALS AT THE GERMAN PARK

8600 S. Meridian St., Indianapolis
Festivals dates are: June 12, July 10, July 24, August 7 and 14.
Gates open at 5:00 p.m. Admission \$2.00 per person, under 12 free
On Aug. 7 there will be the Liederkranz Summerfest at German Park with Jay Fox and the Bavarian Showtime Band. Oktoberfest at German Park, Sept. 3, 4, 5, and 10, 11. Sept. 5 is Family Day with special programs for children and the young at heart. As always: live music & dancing & food & drink. Information 317 888-6940

STAMMTISCH AND PROGRAMS

Programs are on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:15 p.m. in the Max Kade German-American Center Seminar Room, First Floor of the Athenaeum, 401 E. Michigan St., Indianapolis. Meet the presenter and members at the Stammtisch at 6 p.m., prior to the program, in the Athenaeum Rathskeller. **Please note Board Meeting starting time has changed from 4:30 to 5:00!**

July 14: Dr. Philip Reid, "America and the Turners". How the Turners realized, often in ways not foreseen by them, ideals of American citizenship based on Turner principles. A new look at the Turners in the U.S. Dr. Reid is a research scientist in cardiology at Lilly. One of his avocations is the study of German language and culture.

Aug. 11: "'Why I returned to Indiana.' German-American Writer Comes Home." Help us welcome home Jasper native son Norbert Krapf. He recently retired from Long Island University where he directed the C.W. Post Poetry Center. His poetry volumes include the trilogy Somewhere in Southern Indiana, Blue-Eyed Grass: Poems of Germany and Bittersweet, Along the Expressway: Poems of Long Island. His most recent collection of poetry: The Country I Come

From - a title borrowed from Bob Dylan who has provided inspiration for this book, along with native American poets and the great Walt Whitman.

Sept. 8: "German War and German History" Kevin Cramer, Asst. Professor of History, IUPUI. Germany historian Kramer, will share his insights into the life of Germans during WWII. Germans as Victims of war is a hot topic he is currently working on. This program had to be canceled last December.

Oct. 13: "Camp Atterbury, WW II - Today." German-born Col. J"rg Stachel, former commander of Camp Atterbury, will relate his experiences.

The programs--in English--are free of charge and open to the public. Information: Ruth Reichmann 812-988-2866, office 317-464-9004.

DONATIONS

Our appreciation and special thanks for their contributions go to:

Mr. & Mrs. John Deahl, Roger & Patricia Franke, Prof. Giles & Dolores Hoyt, Bert & Arlene Lachner, William & Norma Mueller, Rachel Schemmel, Ms. Elise S. Marshall and Jim Gould in honor of Ruth and Eberhard Reichmann.

The following donated \$100.00 or more and will have

their names listed in the Anthology: Fredrick C. Elbel, Marie Schoch, Willi Schwoebel, Bert and Arlene Lachner and Carol Weil in "Memory of Willard and Adella Rust Newkirk."

As a not-for-profit organization we depend upon membership fees and donations as our main sources of income. Donations are vital for our publishing program. For the Archives and the Museum we gladly accept books, hand-written or pictorial materials and other items. Just bring them to the Stammtisch meetings or send a description, Attention: Eberhard Reichmann. Remember: All donations are tax deductible.

PALATINES SPONSOR TRIP TO GERMANY

Have you wanted to visit Germany and see the *Heimat* of your ancestors? Now you can visit Germany and contribute to Palatines to America. A trip is planned for September 13-26, 2005. This trip's format will be similar to previous Pal Am trips. We will visit several archives and libraries for actual research opportunities, as well as, some general touristic activities. One of the highlights will be the visit to small villages where the tour members' ancestors came from. Imagine driving into the village your grandparents lived, worshiped, and worked in. Or imagine visiting the local

church and sitting in the pews and reflecting on how many of your ancestors sang, prayed, married in this same building. Contrary to popular history, not all buildings were destroyed in World War II. It is possible to visit churches, taverns, inns, homes that date from a time before the American Revolution. Join us this fall as we tour Baden-Wurttemberg and Bavaria and have the dream trip of all genealogists.

The price is set now for \$2995.00 -- with the understanding that \$200.00 will go to National PalAm. Hopefully we will be able to drop the total price in the next few weeks.

The 14 day tour includes:

- Round trip non-stop on Lufthansa from Dulles to Frankfurt and back
- First Class Hotels, buffet breakfasts and dinners throughout tour
- Visits to archives including Speyer, Berne, Nuremburg, Munich among others
- Sightseeing with 1/2 day cruise on Rhine River, the Black Forest, RT to summit of Mt. Titlis and other touristy locations
- Deluxe motorcoach, local guides, entrance fees, tips and portage
- \$200.00 of total cost will go to the sponsor of the tour, National Palatines to America
- All transfers to hotels from

Dulles to Europe and back to Dulles are included.

- One bag per person, plus underseat baggage & handbag will be allowed. Excess baggage will be charged at rates established by airline.

The tour price does NOT include:

- US taxes, overseas taxes (if any), laundry, telephone calls or other items of a purely personal nature.
- Airfare to Washington/Dulles from your home airport and back after tour. The first 40 passengers will be guaranteed a seat on the tour. Persons over the 40th passenger will be wait-listed.

Passports are required by US Citizens which are valid 6 months after reentry into the US. Travel insurance is advised and will be offered to all who sign up. Cancellation made after air tickets are issued are subject to penalties as imposed by the airlines.

Send check for \$400.00 for the PalAm Europe Tour - September 13-26, 2004 payable to POTTIEGER TRAVEL, INC. and send to Dr. Cecil Pottieger, P.O. Box 3371, Frederick, MD or Jim and Jane Feit, P.O. Box 40435, Indianapolis, IN 46240-0435

GERMAN IMMIGRANTS IN AMERICAN CHURCH RECORDS

In March 2003 Roger P. Minert, Prof. for Family History at Brigham Young University initiated a program for the extraction of vital data on German immigrants from the records of Lutheran parishes in the United States. Many Lutheran parish records contain far more vital data than do public records. Family history researchers have been able to use these records to identify the German home towns of immigrants, which are essential to researching in Germany.

Together with his students he is nearly finished with extracting data from the records of Indiana parishes on microfilm. He has collected data for more than 5,000 immigrants that will appear in publication in 2005. He has begun working on records from Wisconsin. This second volume should be published by 2006. Prof. Minert can be contacted at 801-422-2370.

GERMAN DAY CAMP

The International School of
Indiana Presents a German
Day Camp

Immerse your child (or grandchild) in the German language and culture this summer at the International School's German Day Camp! Together with ex-

perienced teachers from the Indiana German Saturday School at IUPUI and the Indianapolis German Language Institute (IGeL), your child will enjoy themed activities that present German language and culture in a manner that will excite and educate! Games, songs, crafts, role play, cooking and baking are just a few of the fun activities planned.

Two different classes, age groups 3-5 and 6 and up, will meet concurrently.

Dates & Times:

June 28 - July 2 - 1:00 - 4:00

July 12 - 16 - 9:00 - 12:00

August 2 - 6 - 1:00 - 4:00

Cost: \$145.00 per week

For more information, call the International School at 255-1951.

Indianapolis German School

Give your child an early start learning another language. The Saturday School at IUPUI will be offering German classes for children ages 4-13 on the IUPUI campus starting September 25. Children learn through an immersion approach.

Classes offered are Preschool/Kindergarten, Beginners, Intermediate, and Advanced. The cost for one child is \$ 135.00, with a discount for siblings enrolled. For further information contact Claudia Grossmann, (317) 274-3943, cgrossma@iupui.edu.

German Conversation Classes for Adults

The Indiana German Heritage Society will again be offering German conversation courses again at the Athenaeum, starting Tuesday, September 14. There will be a course for Beginners as well as an Intermediate course. Cost for IGHS members is \$ 60.00 (\$ 100.00 per couple) or \$ 75.00 for non-members (\$ 125.00 for non-member couples). For further information or to register contact Claudia Grossmann (317) 274-3943, cgrossma@iupui.edu.

Publications

THE HOOSIER GERMAN HERITAGE: AN ANTHOLOGY

Many a long-time IGHS member will recall that some 20 years ago we had plans for a comprehensive volume on the way of life of our forebears and their contributions to the shaping of the Hoosier state. The idea was born during the Tricentennial Year of Group Immigration from German-speaking Lands (1683-1983). The commission for the observation of this anniversary, appointed by Gov. Orr, pledged to create a suitable memorial honoring our pioneers by bringing together selections from widely scattered and often forgotten sources in an anthology on THE HOOSIER

GERMAN HERITAGE.

The Commission's fundraising for the project was continued by its successor organization, the Indiana German Heritage Society. Approximately \$12,000 were donated by over fifty members. Their and new donors' names (anyone giving \$100.00 or more) will be listed in the book. What kept us from going ahead then was the cost factor for this ambitious undertaking - the biggest of its kind in the country. So we had to postpone it. Now we are confident that additional big and small support will make the Anthology a reality by 2005/06.

Its contents will include chapters on Emigration - Choosing Indiana - Ethnicity, Religion and Community Building - Education - Customs and Traditions - German-language Press - Organizations - Music - Art and Architecture - Literature - Business and Industry - Politics and Public Service - Civil War - World War I - Becoming American - Comprehensive Bibliography.

While we have already collected numerous items - from articles to letters, stories and poems, printed and handwritten materials... we would appreciate getting your suggestions for additional selections, including reproducible illustrations (photocopy welcome, and all with source identification).

Rediscovering Indiana's German Heritage is an exciting historical adventure!

Eb. Reichmann, Editor



THE COUNTRY I COME FROM

Poems by Norbert Krapf Readers in Indiana, and especially members of the IGHS, will enjoy these sixty poems by Indiana's native son, Norbert Krapf. While he has lived and worked in New York for many years, his thoughts do not stray far from the native soil, and certainly this collection of poems represent a mature reflection on what it means to come from a certain place and to try to come to some understanding of what that place means. Norbert Krapf comes from Jasper, Indiana, a place whose cultural landscape is deeply determined by German-American community builders. The reader is led through several timescapes in the poet's life, past and present, where his geographic and cultural origins are.

These poems must be taken as a whole, because each one gives a different aspect of the place. In that sense, this is

probably one of the most cohesive collections of poems we have seen from this poet.

Prologue-the merging of the long past, time of the Indians known only through reading, the time of his mother and the household of fifty years ago with the present where the mind engages the memory of these things. They become concrete through the reflection on sense images, the white sheets with their fresh smell.

The search for the language of place. To reflect on the place and understand what it means for you, you must put it in language, not an easy task. You initially have no name for it and can only feel the emotion of it. In some poems the poet seems stuck in the ritual struggle, seeking recourse to intuition and "ancient rhythms" and even ritual of prayers. But the poet does succeed to find at least enough language to help us understand the place starting out by looking for the individual things, one tree, and then going beyond to the species, the whole.

He explores the land with the language of the Miami Indians, the precursors of the German settlers. These are difficult poems to read, it helps to read them aloud. It might have been useful not to fill each poem with so many such words, but to concentrate more on what each might mean

more fully.

The poet also explores his relationship with many people of his past and present. Particularly poignant are those that deal with his immediate family, the sister who died at birth, his ill mother, and the times of difficulty. They are all part of the personal Country of the poet's life, the space and time in which he dwells, and the perceptive reader learns a great deal about the broader life therein described.

As Krapf informs us in the final poem, he, the poet, will return "deep into woods where spirits rise." While that is open to interpretation at various levels, we can take it to mean his return to Indiana and access to the spirits here that will lead to new works reflecting on life as it is here presently.

Norbert Krapf. *The Country I Come From*. Poems. Santa Maria, CA: Archer Books, 2002. 139 pp. \$15.00.

*Giles R. Hoyt
IUPUI Max Kade German-
American Research and Re-
source Center*

MY VACATION READ- ING: DER BRAND*

No, I never had made up my mind not to read any of the hundreds of publications dealing with the air campaigns against British and German cities during WW II. I suppose

I simply wanted to leave this inhuman chapter of warfare behind me and without pondering the moral question: Are war crimes justified when they are in response - quid pro quo - to a dictator's ruthless aggression?

When, in August of 1945, I came home from the war and stood in front of the skeletal remains of the home of my childhood, I didn't feel any material loss because there, in big chalk letters, I read the Reichmanns were now at Vogelsangstrasse 17. That was all that mattered, my parents were alive.

Stuttgart's city center--so I now read in Jörg Friedrich's lengthy tome (592 pp.) *Der Brand. Deutschland im Bombenkrieg 1940-1945* (München, 2002)--after 53 bombardments, was 68% destroyed; 4,477 persons lost their lives, most of them in raging fire storms caused by area bombing with incendiaries. In 1945 I figured it would take at least 50 years to somehow rebuild my hometown.

Friedrich's book, a masterpiece in historical prose, combines British, American and German source materials, including eyewitness reports of the suffering and dying that went on for years. He also describes the loss of habitat, of works of art and cultural landmarks with a touch of their history--all with

an objectivity that seeks no blame. He gives accounts of the fate of millions in numerous towns from Hamburg, the Ruhr District cities, Köln, Düsseldorf, Hannover, Kassel, Berlin, Würzburg, Nürnberg, München, Darmstadt, Stuttgart, Heilbronn, Pforzheim, Freiburg, Dresden, and many more.

While in 1944 the average losses of lives were 127 per day, in 1945 the death toll jumped to 1,023 per day, not only in cities but also on the Baltic Sea where ships loaded with refugees from the East were sunk, on the rail roads were also hospital trains were bombed, and on roads where thousands of women and children fleeing from the advancing Red Army were mercilessly strafed by fighter planes--all in an attempt to break the Germans' will to keep on fighting. But any talk of surrender met with brutal punishment by the all-powerful regime.

Had it not been for the German security concept of cellars and bunkers, and an extensive air defense organization that brought civilians into sheltered areas within 10 minutes after the sirens sounded, the loss of life would certainly have far exceeded the approximately 600,000 men, women and children who perished--more than double the losses of Hiroshima and Nagasaki combined. The

United States Bombing Survey (1976) found this security concept to have been "the most tremendous constructional program in civilian or passive defense for all times." But even careful planning to meet the challenges of the air war did not guarantee survival. Square miles of firebombing left no oxygen, not even in nearly bomb-safe cellars where thousands suffocated.

In America, Jörg Friedrich's book, *The Fire: Germany Under Bombardment 1940-45*, (Propylaen Verlag, 2002) might well make the bestseller list of WW II books. In Germany and England it has provoked considerable comment, pro and con. The author's credentials, however, are impeccable also as a Holocaust scholar.

One of his reviewers, Douglas Pfeifer, of the Air Command and Staff College finds Friedrich lacking in acknowledgment "of the death and devastation that Germans inflicted on others during the Second World War." But this is not what the book is about, and more than 50 years of apologizing--and paying--for Nazi war crimes really deserve coming to an end.

The British press commentaries also show--understandably so--real concern with the book. But it neither denies the responsibility of Hitler's regime

for having started area bombing, nor does it encourage its readers to lean toward a revisionism that seeks to minimize the Third Reich's role as aggressor.

In my judgment, the book's tragic content will only strengthen the anti-war disposition the Germans have been embracing ever since 1945.

Eberhard Reichmann

*The military historian Jörg Friedrich's lengthy study titled "The Fire" (*Der Brand. Deutschland im Bombenkrieg 1940-1945*; München, 2002) became in the space of a few weeks a best seller. Mr. Friedrich's book chronicles the effects of the carpet-bombing of German cities with the painstaking accuracy of a historian and the eloquence of a novelist. He does not hesitate to declare that the "strategic bombing" of German cities, which cost about half a million civilian lives, did not bring the Allied victory over Nazism recognizably closer and was morally unjustifiable. The book, which has touched off major controversies both in Germany and Britain, poses the question whether a war crime is legitimate if it is a response to a fascist aggressor who first set the logic of war crimes in motion.

A WOMAN IN BERLIN - 1945

Eine Frau in Berlin: Tagebuchaufzeichnungen vom 20. April bis 22. Juni 1945, Eichborn

Verlag, Frankfurt, 2003
(English Version: *An Anonymous Woman Diarist in Berlin: Paraphrased from the Ruins of the Reich*, by Douglas Botting, Crown Publishers, Inc. 71-72)

The victors were not picky when it came to claiming their booty. Russian soldiers spared scarcely a single woman when they conquered Eastern Germany and Berlin in the spring of 1945. *Eine Frau in Berlin* (*A Woman in Berlin*) is a collection of diary entries by an anonymous woman in her early 30s about the events in her life in the last years of World War II and the first postwar year in bombed-out Berlin. Her manuscript--obviously the writings of a highly educated woman--was initially circulated among friends until one of them recognized its value. Kurt W. Marek, author of the bestseller *Gods, Graves and Scholars* (under the pseudonym Ceram) realized its documentary importance and arranged for its publication. It first appeared in 1954 in New York in translation and then in 1955 in nine languages. It was not until 1959 that the author agreed to a German-language edition. The German edition seems to have had little impact. There is little evidence that it was reviewed and read.

The anonymous young German woman was being raped,

as the Russians conquered the city, but eventually found a Red Army major who protected her from his men. Berlin's women expected no protection from Germany's men, knowing that if they tried to prevent Russian soldiers from raping their wives and daughters, they would be shot. The women of Berlin braved the artillery fire to forage for food and water in the streets. They fed the families, cleaned up the dilapidated city as best they could, looked after the sick, hid their young girls and took the brunt of Russian brutality.

The anonymous diarist developed a strategy to keep the worst of the men away from her. Making use of her knowledge of Russian, she found the highest-ranking officer in the neighborhood and made herself available to him in hopes of getting some of his rations in return. It was called "sleeping for food." She wrote of the "man-dominated Nazi world," which had glorified the strong man, that for German women the myth of man is over. "Today we women have a share in it." This, she wrote, "changes us" and "makes us rebellious."

Based on a book review by Hanna Leitgen, in *Literaturen* (monthly literary magazine), May 2003, Berlin, Germany

Indiana German Heritage Society

Membership Application/Renewal

Basic Membership Categories:

- ☐ Student \$5.00 (requires teacher's signature)
- ☐ Individual \$20.00
- ☐ Family \$25.00
- ☐ Library \$15.00
- ☐ Organization \$50.00

Additional Giving Categories:

All contributions above the basic will be recognized in the IGHS *Newsletter* unless indicated below. Anyone making an additional contribution will receive a copy of *The German Americans*.

- ☐ \$50.00 ☐ \$100.00 ☐ \$250.00 ☐ \$500.00 ☐ \$1,000.00
- ☐ \$2,500.00 ☐ \$5,000.00

- ☐ Thanks, but I want my donation to remain anonymous
- ☐ Yes, I am willing to help with activities

Name(s):

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

—

Telephone: ()

e-mail

Please make check(s) payable to Indiana German Heritage Society and send along with this form to:

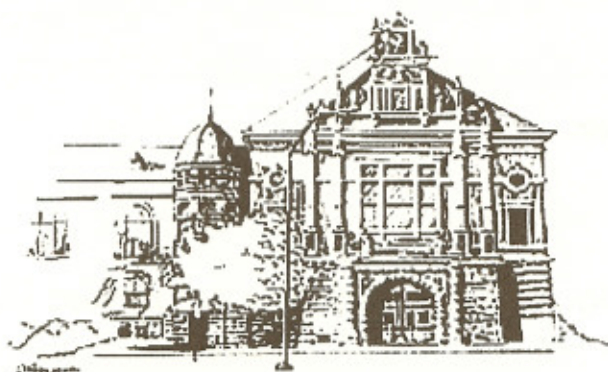
IGHS

Attn: Membership Chair,
401 E. Michigan Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

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*Read about the Deutsche Haus-
Athenaeum's Success Story on
Page 1 of this Newsletter.*