



Indiana German Heritage Society & IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center



Newsletter

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IGHS PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The history of the Indiana German Heritage Society is inextricably intertwined with the Athenaeum (or, if you prefer, Das Deutsche Haus). IGHS stalwarts such as Bill Selm, Eb and Ruth Reichmann, and Giles Hoyt were among those who led the effort to restore and protect the historic building back in the 1980s.

Today the Athenaeum bustles with activities that are consistent with its original purposes: the east wing of the building is devoted to physical fitness as it was in 1898, while the west wing continues to cultivate the arts; clubs and organizations still meet in rooms throughout the building, and friends and families gather as they always have for food and drink in the Rathskeller. If Theodore Stempfel, Bernard Vonnegut, Carl Lieber, or Phillip Rappaport walked into the Athenaeum today, they would feel entirely at home.

Given the Athenaeum's central role in Indiana's German heritage and in the cultural development of Indianapolis, a movement is under way to have it designated a National Historic Landmark. This is the highest level of recognition granted by the federal government to historic places. The Athenaeum is currently among over 80,000 sites that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. By comparison, there are fewer than 2500 National Historic Landmarks in the United States. This more exclusive designation will make it easier for the Athenaeum Foundation to apply for grants and other sources of funding that are needed to preserve the building. To that end, the Board of Directors of the IGHS has elected to underwrite the

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2009 ANNUAL MEETING & SYMPOSIUM

MARCH 27-28

AT THE DEUTSCHE HAUS-ATHENAEUM,
INDIANAPOLIS

This year's Annual Meeting and Symposium will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of IGHS. The organization grew out of a celebration of the Tricentennial of German Group Immigration which began in 1683 with the founding of Germantown, PA. Reflected in the program will be our work with other groups and partners we won over the last 25 years throughout the state; so will be our home base the beautiful Deutsche Haus / Athenaeum.



On Saturday, March 28, *Looking Back - Moving Forward: 25 Years of IGHS and Its Partners in the German-American Community* will start the day with an overview of the rich history of *Vereinsleben*

(German organizations and clubs) in Indiana prior to the wars given by Eberhard Reichmann. Ron Dunbar will also explore what happened after the Second World War, including the resurgence of interest in all things German, and the resurrection of *Vereinsleben* and Festival Life.

The academic side of Hoosier German-Americana, as seen in IGHS, Historic Landmarks, the Palatines and other such organizations, will be addressed by Claudia Grossmann of the IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center. We will meet its incoming Max Kade director and chair, Daniel Nuetzel, who will give us a glimpse of his work, as well as his vision for the MKC.

Representatives of Indiana's Sister Cities and other exchange programs will be invited to share their

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cost of preparing the reams of documentation that are required to win National Historic Landmark status for the Athenaeum. As he did more than two decades ago, Bill Selm is once again leading an effort to preserve the home of our society.

On a related note: we are in a position to support the Historic Landmark proposal because organizational funds have been carefully and responsibly managed by Fred Schramm and his predecessors. Fred has recently resigned from his role as treasurer of IGHS and has relocated to South Carolina. I want to publicly acknowledge the good work that Fred has done and thank him for his years of service. The Board has elected Giles Hoyt to fulfill the remainder of Fred's term as treasurer.

We have a full slate of Stammtisch presentations and other German heritage events to keep us engaged throughout the winter months. Announcements of future events can be found in this Newsletter and in e-mails that many of you receive through the listserv. Plans are also being made for our 25th Annual Meeting and Symposium, which will be held on March 27-28 at the Athenaeum in Indianapolis. Please take time to attend one or more IGHS-sponsored events in the coming months.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,

Greg Redding

[ANNUAL MEETING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1]

experiences with the audience. In a final session we will explore how we can better communicate and work together in the future.

The Annual Membership meeting will be held on Friday, March 27 at 5 p.m., followed by a dinner and program. At 7 o'clock, Dr. Giles Hoyt will present "The Deutsche Haus/Athenaeum-- Following in the Footsteps of the Founders," a brief history of the Deutsche Haus/Athenaeum followed by a panel discussion of present occupants of the house led by Athenaeum Foundation President Cassie Stockkamp.



RENEWAL NOTICE

Dear Friends and Loyal Supporters:

It is time to renew your membership in the IGHS. Our membership year runs concurrent with the calendar year. Check the newsletter label for your expiration date. Please use the renewal form in this newsletter or at <http://www.ighs.org>. If we do not need to send you a notice, it saves IGHS money and time. Also report any change of address or e-mail so we can update our records. If you already renewed, thank you.

Your Membership helps the Society to achieve its mission of collecting, preserving, interpreting and sharing Indiana's German-American history and heritage. As a not-for-profit membership organization, membership fees, donations and occasional grants provide the essential support for activities and programs of the organization as well as our quarterly Newsletter. IGHS members receive discounts of 10 to 20% on our publications and discounts on other publications, including *German Life Magazine* - a form to subscribe at the reduced rate can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

IGHS is connected to the IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center. Visit our web page at <http://www.ulib.iupui.edu/kade> to find some interesting items about the early Germans and German-Americans.

The Membership Committee:
Louise Lamkin, Ruth Reichmann, Lore Harle

	Indiana German Heritage Society & IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center Newsletter	
<p>The Indiana German Heritage Society was founded in 1984 as a statewide historical and educational membership organization aimed at preserving and celebrating Indiana's German Heritage. The Society is headed by a volunteer board of directors, it is a non-profit organization and qualifies for tax-deductible donations.</p> <p>The IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center provides support to maintain an interdisciplinary research center for German-American Studies. Its mission is to support this field through research into German-American history and heritage with primary emphasis on Indianapolis and the Hoosier State, and through teaching and service.</p> <p><i>The Indiana German Heritage Society Newsletter & IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center Newsletter</i> (ISSN: 1939-3261) is published quarterly by the</p> <p>Indiana German Heritage Society, Inc. 401 E. Michigan Street Indianapolis Indiana 46204 317-464-9004 http://www.ulib.iupui.edu/kade/IGHS/home.htm</p> <p>Managing Editor: Ruth Reichmann reichman@indiana.edu Editor: Steven J. Schmidt schmidt@iupuc.edu</p>		

DOWNTOWN LANDMARK EARNS MAJOR GRANT AND BEQUEST

The Athenaeum is on a roll. Already a downtown magnet for fun, fitness, and theater, the landmark received two major contributions that will help sharpen its market position and further restore its 1890s architecture. In July, a \$100,000 grant from Lilly Endowment arrived on the heels of a \$160,000 bequest from the estate of Marie Schoch.

“We’re proud to be a lean operation,” says Athenaeum Foundation President Cassie Stockamp of the three and a half person staff who manages the 80,000 square-foot building. “But we’re grateful Lilly Endowment recognized our need for additional staff to concentrate on fundraising and marketing.

“The \$100,000 grant will pay for a development director for two years whose chief task will be to strengthen relationships with supporters and solicit contributions and grants for the building’s restoration,” Stockamp adds. The Endowment has been a steadfast supporter of the landmark, having provided significant grants including a \$5 million grant in 1999.

Designed by Bernard Vonnegut in the 1890’s to house German cultural, athletic, music and dining clubs, the institution remains true to its original mission of fostering a sound mind in a sound body. Author Kurt Vonnegut called the Athenaeum his grandfather’s masterpiece, and his favorite among the city’s many Vonnegut-designed buildings. The Athenaeum Foundation needs to raise money to continue the restoration of the National Register-listed landmark. The price tag for tuck-pointing alone is estimated at \$250,000. The windows need work, too, and the interior is not fully ADA compliant. A complete building assessment by Schmidt Associates has begun to be followed by a branding initiative.

The Athenaeum Foundation board, chaired by Jerry Lamkin, also recognizes the need for improved signage, exterior lighting and landscaping. A recent \$8,000 grant from Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana’s Marion County Preservation Fund will assist in developing the signage plan. To further the “sound body” aspect of its mission and complement the YMCA located in the building, the Athenaeum

is also considering adding bike racks and shower programs for those using the adjacent cultural trail or pedaling to downtown offices.

The late Marie Schoch was one who valued the Athenaeum’s German heritage and admired how far it had come in the past 15 years. So much so, that when she died in 2007, she included the Athenaeum in her will. When the estate was settled this summer, The Athenaeum Foundation received \$160,000.

“With help from Lilly Endowment, we hope to attract more gifts and bequests like the one from Marie Schoch,” says Cassie Stockamp. “And we also hope to win support on a more modest scale from everyone who loves coming to the Rathskeller and the Frenzel Kellerbar for German beer and pretzels.”

THANKSGIVING WITH A SPECIAL MEANING by Volkmar Schultz

After a number of years, some fifty friends of Indianapolis in Cologne were able to celebrate



Thanksgiving two days late, but in a classic American fashion, with turkey and pumpkin pie and Californian red wine. Yet, this year, there was, to us, a very special meaning.

We all agreed that we had to be most thankful for 20 years of friendship between Cologne and Indianapolis and between so many people on both sides of the Atlantic. This anniversary year was highlighted by our trip to our sister city, the Hoosier capitol. Most of us were first-timers to Indy, some even first-timers to America. They came as strangers... but they left as friends.

The arrival of the group late on October 1st was something special in itself: to the day 400 years after the very first German immigrants had arrived at Jamestown. German immigration, we learned, has had a tremendous influence on the development of the United States and in particular to the Midwestern states and the City of Indianapolis. No better way to learn about it than on a downtown walking tour guided by Giles Hoyt as a starter to an exciting program put together by so many dedicated

members of the sister city committee under the leadership of Sven Schumacher.

And there is no better way to acquaint the friends of Cologne with the visitors from Cologne than during the reception and dinner at the Columbia Club. This event on the eve of the Day of German Unity was to a large extent sponsored by the German side, namely Hans-August Stausberg. As the Chairman of the Cologne Friendship Circle, I was honored to introduce the German group to our friends in Indy, many of them being founding members of the friendship ties. To mention just a few: Ruth and Eb Reichmann, Louise and Jerry Lamkin, Cathy and Herb Blitzer, Ann and Carlton Curry, John Kraus, and Dolores Hoyt.

A very special guest whom I had the pleasure to welcome on that night was Dr. Werner Hoyer, a long time friend of mine and a sitting member of the German Bundestag from Cologne, who stopped by during a whirlwind tour of the US, to celebrate the anniversary with us. Dr. Hoyer celebrated the German unity and the friendship between the two cities with most fitting words, and early next morning he gave a breakfast talk to some 60 guests at the Independent Colleges of Indiana.

After that, we were ready to be out on the town again. What a stunning museum the Eiteljorg has become after its expansion and what a great treat for us to meet with representatives of the Miami Indian Nation of Indiana and have them explain to us some of their traditional ways. John Vanausdall was a most gracious host who provided us with an unforgettable travel experience. No less inspiring our Sunday morning worship of the Light of the World Christian Church, for which we have to thank Linda Enders. Hardly anybody in our group had ever been to an African American worship before. Indeed, unforgettable! Maybe, in the future, we will see more of the black community share our sister city relationship.

On Sunday afternoon our group was split up to experience Hoosier hospitality at its best, and had the bar at the Columbia Club been open that night, we would have sat there and exchanged our

experiences until morning! What a difference from any tourist program! In Germany we say *Wenn Engel reisen, lacht der Himmel* (When angels are travelling, the sun is shining). We must have been a bunch of angels, for we were blessed with exceptionally fine weather, which contributed to the joy of strolling through White River State Park, the Speedway, the Children's Museum, the IMA or the impressive State House. By far too little time to see all the beauties of Indiana, but at least, we got a glimpse of the modern architecture at Columbus and the overwhelming beauty of Brown County State Park. Ruth and Eb Reichmann shared some of their knowledge with us and made us understand, why German people recognized their Fatherland in those hills of southern Indiana and many of them decided to stay.



Miami Chief John Vanausdall presents a traditional Crane Blanket to visitors from Cologne.

The "Taste of Germany" event was a welcome place to meet Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard who promised that most likely he would come to Cologne in 2010. Applause! And those who would be interested in going along sign up with Sven Schumacher who has already begun to plan for such an event. We will try to be up to Hoosier hospitality.

Meanwhile, there is not slightest danger of forgetting the unforgettable trip. Jürgen Schumann is working long nightshifts to edit the video film which he worked on so intensely while in Indianapolis. We plan to have a public first night showing in the town hall of Cologne, and we are sure, our sister city Indianapolis will become more visible to the people of Cologne.

Once again, it was unforgettable! Thank you Indianapolis! Thank you Indiana!

Volkmar Schultz
Freundeskreis Köln-Indianapolis e.V.

THANKS TO OUR GREAT VOLUNTEERS!

The International Festival is now past. Our dedicated volunteers made our three booths such a success. Special thanks to Dr. Fred Yaniga and his students from Butler, who designed, put up and manned our culture booth. A yeoman job was done by Lore Harle who ran the sales booth and worked

with its many volunteers during the whole four days of the festival. Ralph Comstock and his volunteers efficiently worked the Bratwurst booth and looked great in their chef outfits.

And thanks to: Jeannette Footman; Fred Yaniga; Giles Hoyt; Claudia Grossmann; Louise Lamkin; Tyler Lamkin; Jim and Jane Feit; Michael Peake; Alison Shields; Boyd Obermeyer; Anneliese and Joe Krauter; Jim Gould; Eb and Ruth Reichmann; Robert Reichmann; Sean Saxe; Leah Krueger; Annie Ryhak; Elsa Carodeveto; Audrey Bertaux; Brandon Signiorino, Elizabeth Sagahan, Kirstin Rust; Zach Rodenhorton; Michael Vernon; Chris Dial; Indolfo A Luna; Kent Robinson; Dennis Gehlhausen; Nadine and Charles Most; Carl Miller, Steven and Carrie Schmidt; Bill, Alice, and Laura Selm.

INDIANAPOLIS GERMAN SCHOOL CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

The Indianapolis German School / Deutschschule was founded in the Fall Semester of 1983 by the German Department of Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). Classes meet on Saturday mornings during the semester on the campus of IUPUI.

The non-profit organization aims to capitalize on children's natural ability in learning another language. Classes emphasize the use of German, in learning everyday words, phrases or songs, or through hands-on activities and crafts. German traditions such as Karneval, St. Martin's and St. Nikolaus are celebrated and parents are actively involved. The school attracts children from IUPUI employees, the German-American community and the general public, including children of German-speaking families on temporary assignment in Indiana. Currently, the School serves children from pre-School through Elementary School age. In recent years, the School has also provided volunteer and service learning opportunities for college students.

Claudia Grossmann, German Program Director at IUPUI, has been Director of the German School since 1985. Free classroom space has been provided by the IUPUI Center for Young Children, thanks to its director, Beth Jeglum. For further information or

to register please contact: Claudia Grossmann, IUPUI, (317) 274-3943, cgrossma@iupui.edu.

A LETTER FROM THE GERMAN CONSUL GENERAL OF CHICAGO

Dear Mrs. Grossmann,
Dear Students, Parents, Friends and Supporters of the "Indianapolis German School"

As Consul General for the Midwest I congratulate you wholeheartedly on your 25th Anniversary and for all you have achieved.

The initiative that led to the founding of the school 25 years ago has become a success story. Indianapolis is a city that has had a strong input in its development by German immigrants.

Unfortunately, wars and changes over time curtailed the use of the German language in general and in schools as well. We are therefore all the more grateful to Indiana University Purdue University (IUPUI) for the strong promotion of the German language through giving children this learning opportunity. This goes together with maintaining German traditions, like the Nikolaus fests and St. Martin's lantern parades - and, of course, Carnival. Let's realize, all this serves not only the individual student but also German American relationships and friendship between Germans and Americans.

For all this, let me express my sincere thanks and best wishes on the occasion of your 25th Anniversary. May the coming years bring a successful expansion of the Indianapolis German School.

With best regards,

Wolfgang Drautz,
Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany

JANE OWEN WINS NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD



Jane Blaffer Owen of New Harmony, IN and Houston, TX received the prestigious Louise DuPont Crowninshield Award, the national preservation

movement's highest accolade, from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. She was among 22 national award winners honored by the National Trust during its 2008 National Preservation Conference in Tulsa, OK.

Preservation, whether locally or nationally, happens when a leader with vision steps forward and takes action. Jane Blaffer Owen has provided such leadership, dedicating herself to preserving and promoting with unyielding determination America's cultural heritage.

Determination drove Owen to launch an ambitious--and successful--effort to preserve and revitalize the historic Indiana town of New Harmony, purchased from the Harmonie Society and founded as utopian society by Robert Owen in 1825. She fell in love with the place from the moment in 1941 when she first saw it soon after her marriage to the third-great grandson of Robert Owen. She immediately went to work founding the Robert Lee Blaffer Foundation and transforming the tiny, long-neglected town in a major cultural center and visitor attraction. In addition to preserving and rehabilitating numerous historic buildings, Owen created an extraordinary array of artwork and gardens and even a restaurant and an Inn. Furthermore, she commissioned widely-acclaimed contemporary buildings from modern-day masters such as Philip Johnson who designed a roofless church and Richard Meier who designed the town's Visitor Center.

On the national stage, Owen helped to instigate the American Planning Association's discussion of a "cultural town" program that would identify places involved in community building in creative ways which resist the homogenization of America.

After five decades the innovative and exemplary preservation effort, this 91-year old powerhouse continues to be fully engaged in the cultural live of New Harmony and beyond. "Vision, Action, Leadership. Add them all together and the results are clear and inspiring," says Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "People, who care, people who lead, are the key to success in the all-important work of saving places that matter."

The National Preservation Awards are bestowed on distinguished individuals, nonprofit organizations, public agencies and corporations whose skill and determination have given new meaning to the communities through preservation of our architectural and cultural heritage. These efforts include citizen attempts to save and maintain important landmarks; companies and craftsmen whose work restores the richness of the past; the vision of public officials who support preservation projects and legislation in their communities; and educators and journalists who help Americans understand the value of preservation.

DR. CARL B. SPUTH HONORED

On November 10, at the Athenaeum Turners Annual Awards Banquet, Carl Brosius Sputh, Jr., M.D. was named Hoosier German-American of 2008. He was presented the award by IGHS President Greg Redding, with Dr. Robert A. McDougal presenting the nomination and with several IGHS members in attendance.

The plaque reads:

Hoosier German-American of 2008

Carl Brosius Sputh, Jr., M.D.

Presented by the Indiana German Heritage Society for lifelong commitment and leadership within the American Turners, the Normal College, the Deutsche Haus Athenaeum and the German-American Community

Dr. Sputh comes from three generations of a German-American family closely associated with the Turners. His grandfather Oscar Sputh was born in Saxony 1860. He studied at the Turnverein Seminary in Milwaukee to become a Turnlehrer or gymnastics teacher, graduating in 1882. George Brosius was the superintendent, and the Brosius name was given to Oscar's son and grandson! In 1884 Oscar was the Turnlehrer in the Indianapolis Verein and was technical director of the 11th Turnfest of the Indiana district.

Oscar married Indianapolis native Anna Schmidt, and their son Carl Brosius Sputh Sr. was born in Indianapolis 1884. Carl Sr. also attended the Turner Seminary in Milwaukee, graduating in 1905. Carl Sr. then came back to Indianapolis on the faculty of the Normal College of the North American Gymnastic Union. He took additional courses required for admission to medical school from Butler University, and obtained his M.D. from

Indiana University in 1912. He married, and moved to La Crosse, WI, where he organized the Physical Education department of the State Teachers College, and of the public schools, there.



IGHS President Greg Redding presents Carl Brosius Sputh, Jr. with the Hoosier German-American of 2008 Award.

Carl Brosius Sputh Jr. was born there in 1916, as well as his sister, the late Charlotte (Hash). The family returned to Indianapolis in 1917 where Carl Sr. became an Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat specialist, and remained active in the Turners as President of the Athenaeum Turners 1918-1943, the American Turners 1918-

1923, and the Normal College 1939-1942. During the latter period he negotiated with Indiana University President Herman Wells over the merger of the Normal College with IU, making it the oldest school of IU in Indianapolis, and the oldest school of physical education in the nation!

Carl Brosius Sputh, Jr. graduated as an M.D. from IU in 1941 and was certified as an Ear, Nose & Throat specialist in 1946. He remained active in the Athenaeum Turners. He was on the Board of Directors for many years, helped form medical teams for the 1983 and 1991 Turnfests, and headed the Festival Parade Committee. He was instrumental in saving the Athenaeum building as President of the Socialer Turnverein Stock Association (Socialer Turnverein Actien-Gesellschaft), helping to establish the Athenaeum Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, and converting the Association to the Foundation in 1991. He then became Chairman of its Trustees and is now Trustee Emeritus.

IUPUI German – American Internship Exchange Program

IUPUI sponsors an internship exchange program with the Berufsakademie Mannheim in southwestern Germany, a university of cooperative education specializing in professional training in the fields of business, engineering, and information science. The program has been in effect since 1989. It is made possible through a sister state arrangement between Indiana and the German state

of Baden-Wuerttemberg, an official agreement between IUPUI and the Berufsakademie, as well as corporate sponsors. There is no direct cost to the American host company since the internships in Indianapolis are unpaid. However, companies may wish to make a tax-deductible contribution to the I.U. Foundation in care of the exchange program.

German Student Intern Profile: The German interns are business administration, engineering, technology, or information science majors who have completed at least half of their academic training. They also have significant work experience through their German co-op employer, very good command of the English language, and are mature and willing workers. The internship in Indiana will be recognized as one of their required co-op sessions. Students arrive with a J-1 visa. The internship is unpaid. Host family placement and orientation is arranged through the IUPUI German Program.

American Student Intern Profile: American participants are students in their junior year, with prior German language skills, relevant work experience, and a GPA of approximately 3.0. Their fields of study are business administration, engineering, technology, science, or liberal arts. The credits earned through the internship are directly applicable to their degree.

Past participating host companies in Indiana have included Allison Engine Company, Eli Lilly, The Indiana State Senate, IUPUI and Roche Diagnostics. On the German side, past participating companies have included: ABB Mannheim, Deutsche Bank, IBM, Mercedes-Benz and Stadtwerke Heidelberg.

If you are interested in employing a German intern for a period of eight weeks or if you would like additional information please contact: Claudia Grossmann, Ph.D., IUPUI Dept. of World Languages and Cultures, 425 University Blvd. Indianapolis, IN 46202, Ph.: (317) 274-3943, E-mail: cgrossma@iupui.edu



AUF DEUTSCH!

PRESIDENT-ELECT BARACK OBAMA HAS GERMAN ANCESTORS



This is no joke. Several German papers have given genealogical proof of it. We are reprinting the story from the semi-annual *Hiwwe wie Driwwe* [*Here and There*], Vol.12, No.2 (2008) written in the Palatine dialect which is virtually identical with what we usually call

"Pennsylvania Dutch."

Are you ready for some of it? Try it before you read the translation that follows.

PALATINE DIALECT:

"YA, MER KENNE"

- OBAMA HOT DEITSCH VORELDRE

BISCHWEILER. Wann die Deitsche im alte Land saage darefte, wen sie gleiche deete fer der neegscht US President - sie deete der Barack Obama neischtimme. Baut 84% henn sell gsaat in August 2008. Nau wisse mer aa ferwas: En Kall mit Name William Addams Reitwiesner hot in die Schteets ausfunne, ass Obama au deitsche Voreldre hot. Es iss exactly 4,6875% deitsch! Sei Gross-Gross-Gross-Gross-Gross Grossdaadi war en Mann mit Name Christian Gutknecht. Seller Kall waar gebore in 1722 in Bischweiler in Alsace. In sell glee Schtettel henn die Leit deitsch gschwetzt-un die Alte duhne sell aa heit noch.

Wie der Christian Gutknecht 24 Yaahr alt waar, hot er en Meedli gheiert mit Name Maria Magdalena Grünholtz. Drei Yaahr schpeeder - 1749 - henn sie ihr Heemet verlosse un sin naach America gezogge. Wie sie datt annekumme sinn, hot der Christian Gutknecht sei Name verennert - erscht hot er sich "Goodknight" genennt, schpeeder dann "Goodnight." Christian Gutknecht alias Goodnight iss gschtarewe im Yaahr 1795 in Germantown. Barack Obama hot noch meh deitsche Voreldre. Deel vun sei Familie-Watzle gehne aa zerick ins Yaahr 1616, ins Schtettel Heilbronn, anneri in der Kraichgau.

TRANSLATION:

"YES, WE CAN"

- OBAMA HAS GERMAN ANCESTORS

BISCHWEILER. If the Germans in the old country had their say as to whom they would like to be the next US president, they would vote for Barack Obama. About 84% said so in August 2008 and now we also know why: In the US, a man by the name of William Addams Reitwiesner found out that Obama has German ancestors. He is exactly 4.6875% German! His great-great-great-great-great-great-grand daddy was a man by name of Christian Gutknecht. This man was born in 1722 in Bischweiler in Alsace. In that little town people spoke German - and the old folks still do so today.

When Christian Gutknecht was 24 years old he married a young woman by name of Maria Magdalena Grünholtz. Three years later-1749- they left their homeland and removed to America. Having arrived there, Christian Gutknecht changed his name - first he called himself "Goodknight," later then "Goodnight". Christian Gutknecht died in the year 1795 in Germantown. Barack Obama has still more German forebears. Part of his family Watzle goes back to the year 1616, to the city of Heilbronn [north of Stuttgart], others to the Kraichgau area [in northern Baden].



GERMAN OFFERED AGAIN AT THE ATHENAEUM

One of the benefits of being an IGHS member includes discounted tuition on the conversational German classes offered at the Athenaeum. IGHS will again offer two German classes in the spring.

Whether you want to brush up on your high school German, get ready for a trip to Germany, or simply enjoying learning a language; you will have fun learning German in the historic Athenaeum building in downtown Indianapolis.

Intermediate German Conversation:

Wednesday, 6 - 7.30 p.m.

Classes begin on Jan. 21, 2009

Beginning German Conversation:

Mondays, 6 - 7.30 p.m.

Classes begin on Jan. 26, 2009

Classes meet for eight weeks at a time.

Tuition:

\$ 90 per person, \$ 160 per couple

IGHS Member Price:

\$ 75 per person /\$ 135 per couple

The instructor for both courses is Renee Gregory, long-term associate instructor for German at IUPUI and IGHS member. For further information and to register please contact: Claudia Grossmann, IUPUI, (317) 274-3943, cgrossma@iupui.edu.

ST. MARTIN VISITS THE ATHENAEUM

For the sixth consecutive year members of the Indianapolis Spielgruppe, German IGEL Schule and the Athenaeum organized a very successful St. Martin's Day Festival for over 100 attendees on Saturday, November 8th. This year the group gathered in the auditorium before heading outside to brave the cold as the children processed with their lanterns through the streets of nearby Lockerbie.

Inside the warm auditorium the children practiced the traditional St. Martin's Day songs, displayed their lanterns and enjoyed potato pancakes and apple juice while the adults enjoyed some nice Glühwein (the drink stand was run by Butler University students). IGHS member Jeanette Footman again made the traditional "Weckmänner" or "Stutenkerle" (which are called "Dambedei" as this humble writer learned from one participant this year) which are like ginger-bread men with raisins for jacket buttons and eyes. Very cute and very tasty!

Another IGHS member Ina Roberts headed up the traditional winter coat collection while her daughter Isabella and Timmy Grotzer clanged the change cans driving in more than \$30 extra in donations for the Wheeler Mission. The generous spirit of St Martin was truly in the air!



As is custom, the children were greeted by St. Martin himself (played by Björn Gottschild) who told the story in English and German of how the Roman soldier, Martin, encountered a poor beggar man on a cold winter's night. Martin had pity on the freezing beggar and cut his own cloak with his sword, giving the beggar half of his coat. This experience was followed by a dream in which Martin saw the beggar again, but this time with the face of the Christ. Martin converted to Christianity and his faith took him far, even to the position of Bishop of Tours in France. His trusty steed "Colonol" was awaiting St. Martin and the children outside in the Athenaeum parking lot and led the procession of singing adults and children through Lockerbie. Soon the chorus was joined by flocking crows – all singing together for the candy of the Lockerbie neighbors.

FOX news covered the event and featured the St. Martin's procession on both their 10 and 11 o'clock news programs. St. Martin's Feast day is celebrated every year on November 11th.

Fred Yaniga

GERMAN–AMERICAN DAY 2008 ESSAY CONTEST

On the occasion of German–American Day (October 6th), the IGHS Education Committee resurrected the traditional essay contest for High School students with a twist. This year Indiana High School students were encouraged to submit an essay researching and discussing the lives of 3-5 German-Americans who had significant influence on their new home country, America. In addition, students were to present their findings in a PowerPoint presentation including text and images in a slide-show like presentation. These presentations can then be shown on a computer or projected on a large screen.

The response to the contest this year was tremendous with entries coming from Fishers High School, Oldenburg Academy and Batesville High School. Submissions included famous and lesser-known German-Americans such as Marlene Dietrich, Lauren Bacall, George Armstrong Custer, John Peter Zenger, Joseph Pulitzer, John Jacob Bausch, Gustav Goelitz, Andre Previn, Honus Wagner, Adi Dasslar and many, many others. The students really did a wonderful job selecting very fine examples of German-Americans who have made great contributions to our country and their PowerPoint presentations and essays were nicely done with care and attention to detail. Many thanks to the German teachers Robin Geisinger, Dawn McKenna and Andy Koors who promoted and assisted the students in completing and submitting the projects.

In the end the Education Committee was charged with selecting winners from the 21 entries received. It was a difficult task but in the end the following students were chosen and awarded with prizes:

- Julie Martin, Oldenburg Academy (1st Prize, \$200)
- Melissa Riggio, Fishers High School (2nd Prize, \$100)
- Kristen Giesting, Batesville High School (Runner Up, \$50)

- Amy Malin, Batesville High School (Runner Up, \$50)
- Chris Collins, Batesville High School (Runner Up, \$50)

Fred Yaniga, Ph.D.

Here is the 1st place winner of the essay contest from Julie Martin from Oldenburg Academy.

GERMAN–AMERICANS THEN AND NOW: FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND PRESS By Julie Martin, Oldenburg Academy



Americans are proud to have the First Amendment rights to freedom of speech and press, in which they may introduce new ideas, discuss controversial topics, and even criticize the government, verbally and in writing, without fear of punishment. These freedoms are taken for granted by those who live in the United States, but two German–Americans, John Peter Zenger and Joseph Pulitzer, actually influenced the development and further defense of these liberties. Today, all Americans as well as contemporary German-American writers, like Lisel Mueller, continue to enjoy these freedoms.



John Peter Zenger: Born in 1697, John Peter Zenger was a Palatinate child, growing up in the beautiful Rhine country of Germany. At that time, this region was unfortunately war-torn and in 1710, 3,000 Palatinates, including thirteen-year-old Zenger and his family, were forced by Queen Anne of England to sail to the colonies to work in New York. Hence, the Zenger family boarded a ship and prepared for their new life in North America.

Upon arrival in New York, Zenger soon began an apprenticeship which would influence the rest of his life. Zenger spent eight years learning from William Bradford, an American printing expert. Following completion of his apprenticeship, Zenger began printing a small Dutch paper that was of little significance or monetary gain. In fact, much of Zenger's work, excluding his printing of an

arithmetic book, was unimportant. It was not until 1732 that Zenger was promoted considerably. During that time, two governing factions in New York were in such opposition that each side claimed a newspaper to promote their purposes. The faction behind Governor William Cosby owned *The Gazette*, which was incidentally directed by Bradford, while the group supporting Chief of Justice Lewis Morris hired Zenger to print its paper, *The New-York Weekly Journal*. Zenger was merely the printer of the paper; the more brilliant James Alexander wrote most of the fiery essays. The Cosby faction soon realized the danger of Alexander's bold writing and tried to suppress the work of the *Weekly Journal*.

Though Zenger was not the culprit, he was arrested for printing the inflammatory writings. In November of 1734, Zenger was seized for printing seditious and libelous information. He was immediately jailed but was later rescued and defended by a hired attorney of the Morris group. In Zenger's defense, the lawyer pointed out that though the information printed was harsh, it was true. Consequently, after spending ten months in jail, Zenger was set free.

John Peter Zenger, a German immigrant to North American soil, became symbolic of the importance of freedom of the press. In retrospect, Zenger's case did not accomplish much right away: freedom of the press was not an immediate result. However, it demonstrated for Americans how to defend a basic right and gave them a desire for such freedoms.



Joseph Pulitzer: John Peter Zenger passed the proverbial torch to Joseph Pulitzer, whose writing style and influence in the newspaper business helped further the idea of freedom of the press. Born in April of 1847 in Budapest, Pulitzer immigrated to St.

Louis in 1864. Pulitzer was soon recruited to work for the German newspaper, the *Westliche Post*, and this began his career as a successful journalist.

Over the next ten years, Pulitzer was able to buy *The St. Louis Post*, the *St. Louis Dispatch*, and *The New York World*, which earned him tremendous money and the esteem of his professional peers. In these papers, he exposed business and government corruption, tax monopolies, published a reform for

U.S. taxes, and even criticized the government. *The New York World* became famous for the cartoons by Richard F. Outcault and articles by Nellie Bly. As an investigative reporter, Bly published news about poor treatment in insane asylums and the public raved about the newspaper's outrageous and evocative reports.

However, the most sensational reports came about when *The New York World* developed a rivalry with *The New York Journal*. Each publication tried to print more shocking news than the other. Because of these competitions, Pulitzer became infamously associated with "yellow journalism," or extreme news on the brink of scandal and libel.

The articles were so extreme, in fact, that Pulitzer was eventually tried for libel in 1909. He was accused of printing lies about President Theodore Roosevelt and J.P. Morgan but was finally acquitted of those charges. His victory in this case supported and expanded the First Amendment freedoms of speech and press.

By age 43, Joseph Pulitzer was nearly blind and was no longer able to work for his newspapers. Upon his death in 1911, he left an inheritance of \$2 million to fund a prestigious school of journalism at Columbia University. Following this, the Pulitzer Prize was established, in which journalists, writers, and cartoonists nationwide continue to be rewarded for their fantastic contributions to American literature.



Lisel Mueller: Because of Zenger and Pulitzer's influence on the rights of the press, German-American Lisel Mueller, a contemporary poet, is able to write freely. Born on February 8th, 1925, in Hamburg, Germany,

Mueller and her family first came to the United States in 1933 when her father fled Nazi Germany. They settled in Evansville, Indiana, where Mueller was suddenly forced to adapt to American culture. She was extremely self-conscious of her English and desperately wanted to fit in, so she spent copious amounts of time studying grammar and American culture. She was an extremely bright student and soon became fluent in English; she attended high school for only one year before attending the University of Evansville (then called Evansville College) and graduating at age 20 with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

After a brief writing hiatus following the death of her mother and birth of her two daughters, Mueller returned head-long into her writing and became fascinated with poetry. She educated herself about writers and techniques, all of which aided her in drafting her first book, *Dependencies*. Here, Mueller shows the relationship between life as a new mother and an artist. Though written in English, her second language, this book was a success and inspired Mueller to continue her writings.

Lisel Mueller is now acclaimed as a celebrated author. With the publication of *The Private Life* in 1976, this German-American was a Larmont Poetry Selection of the Academy of American Poets (Kitchen). Mueller's following book, *The Need to Hold Still*, was awarded the American Book Award for Poetry in 1981 (Kitchen). Perhaps her most important book was *Alive Together: New and Selected Poems*, which ironically won for her the Pulitzer Prize in 1997 ("Lisel Mueller").

Conclusion: Americans enjoy many freedoms and civil liberties that are due not only to their own influence, but to that of their allies, the Germans. Through the experiences and examples set by German-Americans, such as John Peter Zenger and Joseph Pulitzer, U.S. citizens have the pleasure of publishing ideas and expressing opinions without fear. In each case, precedent was set which further enhanced the right to freedom of speech and press. Writers today, such as Lisel Mueller, are free to pursue their journalistic passions on American soil. The right to free press and free speech is a cherished privilege which has been greatly influenced by German Americans and is now enjoyed by all Americans.

Julie Martin,
Oldenburg Academy



The 2nd place essay was submitted by Melissa Riggio, Fishers High School.

GERMAN-AMERICAN DAY ESSAY CONTEST
By Melissa Riggio, Fishers High School



"America took me into her bosom when there was no longer a country worthy of the name, but in my heart I am German - German in my soul." Even though the stunning actress Marlene Dietrich is no longer alive, she still is a household name for *film noir* fanatics and cinema enthusiasts in many countries. It is obvious from her statement that she, while having found a home in the United States, still has pride in her home country of *Deutschland*. Along with General George Armstrong Custer and Lauren Bacall, these German-Americans have either captured the hearts of their new homeland or led it into greatness.

"I appeal to you as a soldier to spare me the humiliation of seeing my regiment march to meet the enemy and I not share its dangers." General George Armstrong Custer was a soldier to his core, thus proved by his desire to march with his troops into battle where other commands would eagerly laze behind, out of the range of fire. Participating in two of major conflicts of the early American era (the Civil War and the Plains Indian Wars) the General certainly earned his stars in combat and in leadership. Custer's family, who had originated from Westphalia, Germany, initially had the name Küster. The family eventually settled in Hanover, Pennsylvania. His impact on America was a deep one—after his death, the citizens of America saw him as a hero to the public and tragic figure in the war. General Custer is now somewhat of a metaphor for a strong general or fighter, and the reference could be used in a literary or cinematic work, such as in *The Last Samurai* (2003), when after being told the story of Little Bighorn, a Japanese commander says that Custer died "a very good death".

On the other side of German-American icons are the movie stars, such as Lauren Bacall and Marlene Dietrich. Lauren Bacall, born Betty Joan Perske, was the daughter of Jewish immigrants who had emigrated from several countries, including Germany. She eventually became a fashion model and Broadway actress, which led to roles in hit movies and gained her fame. Her iconic pose was the tilting of the head downward and gazing up through her eyelashes, which adapted the nickname 'The Look.' Later on, in September 2006, she was awarded the first Katharine Hepburn medal for her achievements in life and as a woman. By winning

this medal, Lauren Bacall gave hope to those who came from parents that were not American-born proof that they too could succeed in the United States. She, however, was not overly proud of her accomplishments—in fact, she says, “I figure if I have my health, can pay the rent and I have my friends, I call it “content.”. She did not wish for the glamour and fame of today’s stars sing about ‘not having’- Lauren Bacall had all of that but never bragged.

Marlene Dietrich, along with Lauren Bacall, is one of the American Film Institute’s top 100 stars (she is number nine, while Bacall ranked 20 in the women’s list). The actress was born in Schöneberg, a quarter of Berlin, Germany, and performed in Berlin as a chorus and cabaret girl, cinema actress, and several other professions. Deeply influenced by her German artistic roots, she moved to the United States after landing a contract with Paramount Pictures. Marlene Dietrich became a massive hit among the public, similar to that of Marilyn Monroe or Greta Garbo; the actress and singer was adored as a star, while being respected as a woman.

Although the fact that in 1939, she became an American citizen, parts of her still believed in the strength of the “old Germany”- the one she had lived in and loved. However, she made quite the impact on the American soldiers, as seen by this quote from her- “There’s something about an American soldier you can’t explain. They’re so grateful for anything, even a film actress coming to see them.”

These three people share many things in common, but it is what rests in their blood that gives them the name “German-American.” Even though their families were not settled in America since the Pilgrims came seeking religious freedom, this man and these women were embraced by the public and, like Bacall and Dietrich, were admitted into the *American Top 100 Stars*. The success of the two actresses Lauren Bacall, Marlene Dietrich, and the legend of General George Armstrong Custer showed the immigrants and the Americans that achieving what you want is not out of limits for anybody.

Editor’s Note: Melissa tells us that her ancestry is more Eastern-European and Sicilian than anything- however, on her mother’s side, she is a mix of English, French, Irish, and German. She plans to

Major in college in both German and French, hopes for a career in translation. She chose German for its history and the lure of the culture, accents, dialects, slang that Germany presents.

Melissa Riggio,
Fishers High School

HAVE YOU SEEN THE BIERSTADT STAMP?



No, it is not a picture of a "beer city" but rather a commemorative US postage stamp (summer 2008) of a majestic western landscape by the eminent German–American artist Albert Bierstadt (1830-1902).

Born in Solingen he came to New Bedford, MA with his parents in the early 1830s. From 1853 to 1857 he studied at the Düsseldorf Art Academy, for some time a leading European school attracting many American painters. Bierstadt became friends with Emanuel Leutze (1816-1868) who also came to America as a child and became a key figure in the Academy and gained fame with his "Washington Crossing the Delaware."

A trip to the west in 1859 in the company of a US land surveyor led to Bierstadt's lifelong fascination with the grandiose nature of the Rockies which he visited repeatedly. He was a prolific artist with well over 500 paintings to his name.

Eberhard Reichmann

ZUM NAZI VERDAMMT

by Anneliese Krauter

Zum NAZI Verdammt (Damned to be a Nazi) aired nationwide last summer in both Germany and France, as well as via satellite in other countries, especially across Central Europe via the ARTE channel system. The full-length documentary

records the story of more than 11,000 German – American internees imprisoned by the US Government during WW II. Their fate was similar to the 120,000 Japanese Americans, who were suspected "national security threats," rounded up in the early 1940's and kept in some 60 camps and detention centers all over the United States. The Japanese history is generally known. The internment of German–Americans is a story that has gotten little attention so far.

Zum Nazi Verdammt was produced by the French/German collaborative cultural TV network

ARTE, Munich's BAYRISCHER RUNDFUNK and Cologne's WESTDEUTSCHER RUNDFUNK partnered with TANGRAM-CHRISTIAN BAUER FILMPRODUKTION (Munich). I became involved with this production. It happened like this:

In May of 2007 I was contacted by Michael Luick-Thrams, Executive Director of TRACES Center for History and Culture, Saint Paul, MN and asked if I was willing to meet his "Buseum," a traveling bus-exhibit, housed in a school bus converted into a mobile museum with its own mini-theater, to present my family's internment experience here in the USA and its aftermath in Germany. Michael had found out about me through my book, *From the Hearts Closet - A Young Girl's WWII story*.

This "Buseum" brought the little known history of internment of both legal and illegal ("dangerous enemy") aliens at the outbreak of WWII to small town USA. I wound up joining the program in Noblesville, New Albany and Warsaw, speaking to busloads of very interested and participating audiences that were generally a mixed crowd of students, teachers, librarians, and elderly folks of "the greatest generation" - many of them WW II veterans - as well as a sprinkling of folks that spoke with foreign accents. I was in awe of their attention and the many meaningful questions they had, old and young alike. In fact, some of the high school students asked the most challenging questions. They wanted hear my thoughts on the current immigration issues our Government is struggling with.

No sooner had we completed our commitments with the BUSEUM tour through Indiana when Michael called, imploring us to join him in northwestern

Wisconsin, in early June. He informed us that the TRACES Museum had been contacted by a German filmmaker / documentarian and that the Museum had agreed to host a program.

As it turns out the German film crew covered the end of the three-month, eight-state tour, as well as film interviews with former internees that had been incarcerated in camps such as the Crystal Family Internment Camp in Crystal City, TX, and even at New York's Ellis Island.

The related exhibit "VANISHED" provided much further documentation. Ironically, the stationary exhibit is located in rooms once occupied by the FBI, during the period when Federal Agents (in what was then the Federal Courts Building) interrogated suspected German Americans.

SEARCHING HISTORY AT HOME

by James Feit

If you search the Internet for historical research, there is a new site that brings actual historical documents to your home computer. The name of the site is Footnote.com and most of the records are from the National Archives. There are many complete books also found at this site. Examples of historical records found on this site include the complete Lincoln Assassination Papers. These records are the NARA M599 reports, correspondence, and testimony of persons connected with the Lincoln assassination trial. There are Revolutionary War Records and Civil War Records for both the Union and Confederate Soldiers.

But, for the student of German-American studies there are the files from World War One of suspected enemy aliens. This section of the site does cost money to view. There is a subscription price, however, it is modest. You can search this data by geographic names or by family name. I found that by searching Indiana counties one can discover if great-grandmother was hoarding flour, or great-uncle was still writing letters to Germany and was considered a spy.

To use the site, just type in "Old German Files" in the first search box. You will see that 1,790,046 results will be searched. These are the Investigative

Case Files of the Bureau of Investigation 1908-1922. These are the complete files of the predecessor of the FBI. Basically, neighbors wrote to the bureau and reported suspicious activity of family members or neighbors.

Tighe was sent to Valparaiso in Porter County to investigate a case of interference with the sale of Liberty Bonds. Tighe talked with the Chairman of the County Council Defense who stated that on September 27, 1918 three men went to Liberty Township and called on farmer Charles Slont. They asked him to buy bonds. He said, "I haven't sold my wheat, but when I do sell my wheat, if I have any money left, I'll buy a bond." Charles' son Louis told his father not to let these men influence him to buy a penny's worth of bonds.

Both the father and son were arrested. Agent Tighe reports that there was no reason to arrest the men since Slont had purchased a bond, although he has not yet completed his payments. The agent ordered the men released from jail with a recommendation of no prosecution in this cases as no violation of the espionage law had occurred. From these files you can follow the case all the way from the first entry of a suspicion to the investigation and the results. There are many cases of people being arrested and sometimes even brought to trial, just for not buying the Liberty Bonds. Obviously, they were being forced to buy bonds and this was a way to prove you were loyal and a sympathizer with the USA and not Germany.

One of the stranger case files is about Grace Blyly, of Elkhart (case #214945). She was accused of violating the espionage law for distributing information from the International Bible Students Association. She was warned by the postmaster to stop mailing information to nonmembers of her church. She was reported for writing to a young man, Floyd Eckert, at Fort Harrison preaching resistance to war. In the original letter complaining of her actions, it was stated that Mr. Eckert was not her husband and she shouldn't be writing to him. It was also suggested she had a child out of wedlock with Mr. Eckert. Agents were dispatched to Elkhart to interview her employer, Oscar Kylin. He said, that she was "a very good girl who was imbued with her religion to the extent that she finds it a hard matter to talk on any other subject but religion."

After interviewing Ms Blyly the agent wrote that she had no relations with the soldier and is just a very deeply Christian girl. He closed the case by saying, "Miss Blyly and Mr. Eckert are just brother and sister in Christ" The agent closed the case and no more investigation was ordered.

The Chief of the American Protective League in Louisville, KY opened a file on suspicious Indiana citizens. For example a member of the Protective League was traveling through Indiana and overheard Mr. W. Kasting of Seymour saying that anybody taking up arms against Germany is no better than a murderer. There was also farmer Bettenbroecke who was overheard making remarks favorable about Germany, and a Mr. Hountz of the village of Manchester near Aurora who ordered the Red Cross workers out of his place and said that he hoped the 72 mile gun will blow them all to Hell. All three men were to be further investigated for their anti-American comments.

All of these cases illustrate how carefully the government watched its citizens during the First World War. Any complaint was followed up, even if a young girl was writing to a man who was not her husband.

These examples show how the Bureau looked at people all over the USA for their pro-German tendencies. By the variety of cases which were investigated, one can see how the government spied into the lives of average citizens at a level not seen since the Civil War. I would recommend this site to all who love to browse in libraries or archives.

James Feit
jrfeit@mac.com

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Give us your feedback.
Send comments with the word
"Feedback" on the subject line to
IGHS@ATT.net
or call Carol Schmitz
at 317-872-5245.

FRIENDS ALWAYS EXHIBIT COMING!



2008-2009 marks the 60th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift, the heroic effort by the United States and the Allies which saved more than 2 million men, women and children in Berlin from starvation. Currently there are two separate traveling exhibitions, sponsored by the German government, touring the country to celebrate the anniversary of this event.

The display features nearly 70 stunning historic black-and-white photos illustrating the daring and unprecedented efforts of the Airlift to supply and encourage the people of post-war Berlin when they had been cut off from the outside world. This powerful display showcases the people and the aircraft that made it all possible, accompanied by texts explaining each picture's significance.

These traveling exhibitions are supported by the German Embassy and German Consulates across the United States as part of the "Friends Always" campaign.

Currently, this exhibit is scheduled to appear in Washington, DC before moving around the country to sites such as the Washington Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, the Arizona Pima Air & Space Museum, the US Air Force Academy and the Ohio National Museum of the USAF. During the month of August 2009, the exhibit is scheduled to spend two weeks in Indianapolis followed by a week in Columbus, IN.

Check future edition of the IGHS/MKC Newsletter for more information on this exciting exhibit.

MARDI GRAS' GERMAN COUSIN

Many of Germany's visitors remember this event. It happens about six weeks before Easter, during the week or 10 days leading up to the beginning of Lent. It starts with Cologne's two-and-half hour Rose Monday parade.

It includes huge "Karneval" floats bearing dozens of wealthy citizens dressed as Napoleonic-era soldiers. They toss fistfuls of chewy candies to the noisy crowds on the sidewalks, exactly the way New Orleans's Mardi Gras crews toss plastic-beaded



necklaces and coins. Like New Orleans, parade-float humor leans toward political satire with a local flavor. And also like New Orleans or Munich (where the pre-Lenten carnival is

called Fasching) the best parties are private, organized by the parade societies.

Tickets to Karneval and Fasching parties are fairly easy for non-members to obtain.

Düsseldorf, Mainz and Basel, on the Swiss border, all have pre-Lenten festivals as well. Each carries unique traditions. North Americans craving a taste of these events can find some closer to home. On Long Island, there is the 40-year-old Cologne-style costume ball. It's sponsored by an official New World offshoot of one of the most prominent Cologne Karneval societies. Other cities with Karneval parties include Windsor (Ontario), Milwaukee, Chicago, Cincinnati, Sun City (Arizona) and Indianapolis. Even a delegation from Indianapolis has participated in the Cologne Karneval as honored guests with Cologne, in turn, sending a group to Indianapolis. And a 1999 Karneval Narrentreffen (fools' meeting) in Las Vegas was videotaped by German TV's Westdeutscher Rundfunk (WDR).

HOW ARE WE DOING?

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INDIANA GERMAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE CALENDAR

STAMMTISCH AND PROGRAMS

January, 2009: No Board, no Stammtisch or Program

Wed., Feb. 11: *Board Meeting, Stammtisch and Program* "German-American Essay Contest Winners Present." The 2008 German-American Day Essay Contest winners will present their projects to the membership. Students from across the state were asked to submit essays and PowerPoint presentations about famous German-Americans.

Also present will be Allison Carter and Sidney Miller who traveled to Germany last summer with the I.U. Honors Program. They received a travel grant from the IGHS.

Wed., March 11: *Board Meeting, Stammtisch and Program* "Lesson in Sustainability from Germany." with Prof. Patricia Fox and her students. Every summer for the past six years, Prof. Fox, Purdue School of Engineering and Technology, IUPUI, has been taking students to Germany to learn sustainable practices from businesses, industries, and communities. The course is titled, GO GREEN, which stands for "Green Organizations: Global Responsibility for Environmental and Economic Necessity." The course theme is about sustainability, globalization, and German culture and includes a one week visit to Germany with emphasis on studying sustainable development in business and industry. Students visit organizations and major industries in the surrounding area of Mannheim to observe examples of environmentally responsible and energy efficient practices. Germany is widely considered to be at the forefront of green technologies and leader in sustainable practices.

As always, the programs are held at the Athenaeum, 401 E. Michigan St., Indianapolis. They are in English--free of charge and open to the public. Optional dinner with conversation at 6:30 p.m. with program at 7:30 p.m. For questions contact Claudia Grossmann at the Max Kade Center 317-274-2330, cgrossma@iupui.edu.

OTHER PROGRAMS

KARNEVAL IN INDIANAPOLIS



Sat., Jan. 23: Join the Indianapolis Royalty at the *Grand Ball in Cincinnati* at the Germania Society Klubhaus, Germania Park, 3529 West Kemper Rd., Cincinnati. For info www.germaniasociety.com or call 513-742-0060, or drlprinz@fuse.net

Sat., Feb. 7, 6-12 p.m. *Karneval/Masked Ball* at the Athenaeum's Kellersaal. The theme: "Circus - Under the Big Top"-- with the Athenaeum German Band, the Indianapolis Maennerchor and the Cincinnati Erste Karneval Gesellschaft. Dancing with "Prost" from Cincinnati; Karneval incorporates Karneval traditions of its German sister city Cologne--Masks and Costumes, presentation of Karneval Royalty and Prinzengarde, presentation of Karneval Ordens or medals.

Come in costume. Bring your mask - or buy one at the door. KOELLE, ALAAF! ALAAF!!! Food is a la carte by Rathskeller; prizes, raffle and more. \$18.00 advance reservations and \$20.00 at the door. For information and reservations call: Jim Gould at the Athenaeum Foundation: 317-655-2755.

Sat., Feb. 13, "*Kehraus*," the Karneval Season Closing Ball in Cincy at the Germania Society Klubhaus, Germania Park, 3529 West Kemper Rd., Cincinnati. For info www.germaniasociety.com or call 513-742-0060, or drlprinz@fuse.net

Sun., Feb 15, 3-5 p.m. *Kinder Karneval* (German Children's Mardi Gras) at the Athenaeum. Games, Dancing, Performances & Fun! Please come in costume. Admission \$5.00 individual, \$10 per family. Info and reservations: 1-317 630-4569 Ext. 1 - Walk-ins welcome!

Sat., Feb. 21: Join us for the Annual *Karneval at the German-American Klub*. Celebrate in costume in the Edelweiss Ballroom of the Clubhouse, located at 8602 South Meridian, in German Park, Indianapolis. Info (317-888-6940 or <http://www/germanpark.org/gak>)

Sat., March 7, 6-11:30 p.m. *St. Benno Fest at the Athenaeum*, 401 E. Michigan St., Indianapolis. Entertainment: Athenaeum German Band, Dance Norden, Grand March, Polka Contest, Jay Fox playing for dancing. Food a la carte by Rathskeller. Prizes, raffle, beer tasting, and more. For further information contact: Buddy McCart: 317-846-8613 or dmccart@indy.rr.com



Fri., March 27 and Sat., March 28: The 2009 IGHS Annual Meeting and Symposium will be held on Friday, March 27 and Saturday, March 28 at the Athenaeum, in Indianapolis - Mark your Calendar and make it a weekend at the Athenaeum.

Fri., April 10, 10 a.m. The Annual German Good Friday Service will be held at Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ, 416 E. North St., corner of North and New Jersey Streets (1 block from the Athenaeum). Although the worship service is conducted in German, it is easy to follow: The hymns are familiar to most church-goers and the sermon is printed in English. Everyone, including students, are encouraged to attend. No denominational restrictions. Convenient parking north of the Church. Handicapped and hearing impaired accessible. Info 317-639-5411.

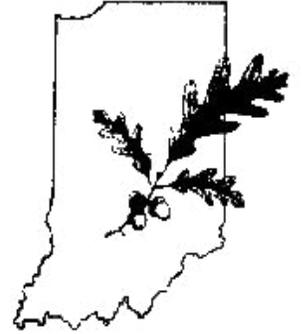
Nominations Sought for the IGHS Board of Directors

There are currently several positions open on the IGHS Board of Directors. If you or someone you know is interested in serving on the board or on an IGHS committee, please send a nomination with a brief description of the special interest and background to the Chair of the Nominations Committee, Charlie McDonald at charlie@mcdonaldassociates.com or 317 283-2730 or in writing to our address.

The Indiana German Heritage Society

Please enter / renew my membership:

- Individual \$20.00
- Family \$25.00
- Organization \$50.00
- Patron \$50.00
- Full-time Student \$5.00 (with teacher's signature)
- Corporate \$100.00
- Sponsor \$500.00
- Benefactor \$1,000.00
- Library Rate \$15.00



- I wish to make an additional gift to IGHS of \$ _____
- I wish to donate books/materials. Please contact me

Please make checks payable to: **Indiana German Heritage Society**
Send your membership form and payment to:

Indiana German Heritage Society
Membership Chair
401 East Michigan Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

My specific interests in German-Americana are:

- Architecture
- Arts
- Cultural Exchanges and/or Sister Cities
- Family
- Genealogy
- General
- German Language Programs
- History
- Local Community/City
- Music
- Teaching Materials
- Traditions & Folklore

Other: _____

Knowledge of German: None Some Fluent
Knowledge of German Script: None Some Good

Yes, I am willing to help with activities!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip code+4: _____

Telephone (Home): _____ (Work): _____

Email: _____

Newsletter
Indiana German Heritage Society
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Indianapolis, IN 46204

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