



SENATOR LUGAR HONORED HOOSIER G-A OF 2012

Senator Richard Lugar was named the *2012 Hoosier German-American of the Year* by the IGHS for his contributions to the German-American community. The award was presented at the German-American Day celebration at the Fourth Annual GermanFest on Oct. 13 at the Athenaeum.

Lugar spent many years serving on the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. His interest in and help for German and German-American causes are well remembered both here and in Germany and were mentioned often by the German Embassy in Washington.

His work has included serving as an emissary to Germany in 1983 for the tricentennial anniversary year of German settlement in America, supporting the effort to reinstate German-American Day in 1987 and establishing the German-American Friendship Garden in Washington, D.C., to commemorate the 300th anniversary of German immigration to America.



Hoosier German-American of the Year

THE ROOF SITTER

Twenty years ago, on September 25, 1992, young David Willkie climbed onto the roof of the Athenaeum and lived there in a 10x12 shed for two months, as a publicity stunt to raise awareness of the needs of this great, historic building. The building was in disrepair and the huge roof was leaking. Estimates for the roof repair were 1.2 million dollars. David's goal was to raise \$600,000 of that in 60 days. Known as the roof sitter, Willkie gained enough publicity to raise

\$157,000. Because of the success of the stunt, the Lilly Foundation stepped in and donated \$645,600.

In order to commemorate this event, in October during the week leading up to GermanFest, Athenaeum Foundation President Cassie Stockamp lived on the roof, and hosted fundraising events open to the public. Her recreation of the event started on October 7 and ended at GermanFest on October 13th.

Continued on page 3

RENEWAL NOTICE

Dear Friends, Loyal Supporters: It is time to renew. The IGHS membership year runs concurrent with the calendar year. Check the newsletter label for your expiration date. Please use the renewal form in this newsletter. If we do not need to send you a paper 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, for our quarterly Newsletter, which focuses mainly on Indiana German-American history and heritage, but brings also items of general interest.

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

SUPPORT THE SCHOCH ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The *Marie Schoch Endowment Fund* was established for the benefit of "qualified persons wishing to gain and distribute knowledge with respect to the cultural, historic and linguistic contributions of the German-American community." German language study at secondary or university level may be included. Tax-free contributions may be made directly to the *Marie Schoch Endowment Fund*. Checks may be sent to the *Indiana German Heritage Society*, 401 E. Michigan St., Indianapolis, IN

46204. Please include a note stating that the contribution is intended for the *Marie Schoch Endowment Fund*.

Our appreciation for their generous contributions goes to Margaret Shiman, Worth and Angela Hartman, and Lois Rust.

ITTENBACH JOINS IGHS BOARD



Christopher D. Ittenbach joined the IGHS board and took over as secretary. He is currently a project manager with the Indiana State Government, assisting the State Library on a nationally awarded historic newspaper digitization project from Washington D.C.

Ittenbach's professional background was mainly in nonprofit work (specifically within the areas of marketing, market research and fundraising); having worked for such organizations as the Arthritis Foundation of Indiana, WFYI, Herron School of Art & Design and the Damien Center. On a charitable note, he provided his time and energy to the American Red Cross, Big Brothers / Big Sisters of Delaware County, Civil Air



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



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.

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.

The Indiana German Heritage Society Newsletter & IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center Newsletter (ISSN: 1939-3261) is published quarterly by the

Indiana German Heritage Society, Inc.
401 E. Michigan Street
Indianapolis Indiana 46204
317-464-9004
<http://www.ulib.iupui.edu/kade/IGHS/home.htm>

Managing Editor: Ruth Reichmann reichman@indiana.edu
Editor: Steven J. Schmidt schmidt@iupuc.edu

Back issues of the *IGHS newsletter* are available online at <http://ighs.org/>

Patrol of the Great Lakes Region and the Lymphoma and Leukemia Society. Ittenbach enjoys greyhound rescue and running marathons (having already completed three), with plans to run the Rome, Italy marathon in March, 2014.

Chris Ittenbach's ancestor, Gerhard Ittenbach is known for the stonework of many local 19th century landmarks in Indiana.

Roof, continued from page 1



Then as now, the Athenaeum continues to be a place for the arts and for physical fitness, in keeping with the Turner motto of a healthy body and a healthy mind. The building houses The Rathskeller restaurant, Biergarten, a fitness center, a theater and

meetings rooms. It continues to be a cultural icon. The extension of the arts district can be attributed to the saving of the Athenaeum.

While the Athenaeum received sufficient funds to repair its roof in 1992, it still faces issues today. Raising funds is an ongoing effort. Not only must the current operating bills be paid, the 120-year-old building has many other needs. Currently, the Athenaeum is looking to upgrade its theater equipment and repair its stained glass windows. The repair of the windows will be the first since the building was constructed and the cost of the repair will be a quarter of a million dollars.



IGHS ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 22-23, 2013 IN FERDINAND, IN

Every other year the IGHS annual meeting moves away from our home in the Athenaeum and gives us a chance to explore other sites around the Hoosier State. This year's meeting will be held in Ferdinand & St. Meinrad in Southern Indiana, and promises to be something special.

You can experience that region's sense of awe by attending the 2013 Annual Meeting and Symposium of the Indiana German Heritage Society. The meeting will be held in the Kordes Enrichment Center at the Monastery in Ferdinand. It will begin with a tour of the recently restored Benedictine Monastery, followed by the annual membership meeting. The first evening will conclude with dinner and a program of poetry and stories by Norbert Krapf and others.

On Saturday we will learn more about the German heritage of the area through presentations by Ron Flick, Dan Nuetzel, and Glory June Greiff.

After lunch you will have the opportunity of touring sites of architectural and artistic interest in the surrounding area or visiting the impressive Dubois County Museum in Jasper. For those who wish, there will also be a chance to visit the monastery archives, to interact with the sisters in residence, and to learn more about the spiritual life of the monastery.

The next newsletter will bring you details of the program and a registration form. So mark your calendar and join us in Ferdinand!

LETTER FROM THE AMBASSADOR

We received a letter from Peter Ammon, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United States, congratulating IGHS on GermanFest and German-American

Day and expressing the embassy's satisfaction that we have chosen Senator Richard Lugar to be the *2012 Hoosier German-American of the Year*.

The Ambassador wrote: "On behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany, I would like to congratulate you on the occasion of the fourth annual Indianapolis GermanFest at the historic Athenaeum on October 13, 2012. I especially commend the Board of Directors, and the members of the Indiana German Heritage Society, for your selection of Senator Richard G. Lugar as the *Hoosier German-American of the Year*."

"Through his extraordinary commitment to German-American relations, Senator Lugar has consistently fostered goodwill between the people of our countries. As a longtime leader on the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Senator Lugar has demonstrated his friendship and forceful leadership on German-American causes.

"As Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United States, I would also like to express my appreciation to the Indiana German Heritage Society for its work in promoting German culture, academic studies, and the historical contributions that individuals of German ancestry have made to the State of Indiana and the United States."

GERMAN-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP GARDEN, WASHINGTON, D.C.

The German-American Friendship Garden, designed by Wolfgang Oehme, was strategically placed between the Thomas

Jefferson Memorial and the White House, and is the only memorial on the Washington Monument grounds in D.C. Benches and fountains to the east and west create a welcoming terrace for visitors. A variety of perennial flowers, shrubs and trees found in both countries demonstrate Reagan's wish to symbolize "...eternally renewing growth and strength."

On October 6, 1988, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed, "One magnificent symbol of the bonds that tie our two great peoples together is the German-American Friendship Garden. This symbol of eternally renewing growth and strength will be dedicated this autumn here in the Capital. In its growth, our own commitments to the well-being of America and Germany shall be cultivated and nurtured."



On November 15, 1988, Chancellor Helmut Kohl and President Ronald Reagan met for their final time and dedicated this garden.

GERMAN AMERICAN DAY 2012 IN SOUTH BEND

Gabrielle Robinson

The DANK Club of South Bend celebrated German-American Day in style. More than 40 people met at the German restaurant Wiseguys, beautifully decorated with garlands and flags, and the mood was lively from the start. As I entered, I immediately noticed a tall man dressed in the traditional carpenter's guild uniform, black trousers and silver buttoned vest, wide sleeved white shirt and silver ornaments at his waist. Günter Kison told me that when he was a young man back in Germany he had been a journeyman, travelling the country for four years before becoming a master at his trade. I also noticed several colorful Dirndl costumes. The group showed a nice mixture of old and

young, even two students were there, the current and past presidents of the IU South Bend German Club.

Of course, we all started with German beer, while listening to German music and chatting. The animated conversation was not interrupted when a homemade lentil soup with sausage was served. After that we had a choice of Schnitzel or Rouladen with red cabbage. The meal was topped off by six German cakes—everything from Cherry Streusel to Cheesecake—all prepared by Christine Weiss, President of DANK, who also had organized the event.

The first speaker was Jeffrey Luppés, who teaches German at IUSB and is a member of DANK. He gave a lighthearted and informative overview of the major contributions German-Americans have made to American life and culture. He surprised many by listing famous men such as Babe Ruth and President Eisenhower among the many Americans with German heritage. Luppés also addressed the difficulties Germans had following the two World Wars.

I was the second speaker, talking more specifically about the German immigrants to northern Indiana who played a major role in building South Bend. I also quoted the moving memorial to German American friendship that stands in front of our sister city Arzberg's city hall.

In closing I mentioned the long shadow of the Nazi past, the theme of my recently published book *The Reluctant Nazi: Searching for my Grandfather* that combines diaries my grandfather kept in Berlin 1945 with my memories of growing up in post war Germany. I ended by reading from the book two tributes to the human spirit that manages to bridge the abysses created by war.

After the presentations we all continued talking, not wanting to leave this friendly and hospitable environment or parting from old and newly made friends on German-American Day 2012.

REMEMBERING RALPH RUPPEL

Long time IGHS member and board member, Ralph William Ruppel passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2012, at the age of 77 in Vincennes. Ralph helped to organize the Annual Vincennes GermanFest which became the nucleus for the Sister City relationship with Wasserburg, Germany. Ralph Ruppel will be missed by many members of IGHS and the IGHS Board.

GERMAN-AMERICAN DAY IN JASPER

The Deutscher Verein, Sister Cities of Jasper, and the Jasper Partnership Commission, sponsored once again a German-American Day Dinner and Program, on October 9, at the Schnitzelbank. Over 90 individuals celebrated the occasion. The winners of the German-American Day Essay contest were announced.

We are bringing you here one of the winning essays, which appeared in *Die Zeitung*, November 2012, p. 6.

GERMAN IN MY HEART

By Bethany Boeglin

I was born in Nashville, Tennessee. I am adopted.

The Boeglin family, from Ferdinand, Indiana, took me in as their daughter and cared for me, raising me the solid German way that their parents raised them. Honestly, there is no way for me to know if there is German heritage trickling through my blood stream or not, and my guess is on the latter. I have found though, that no matter where I was born and no matter

how far away I get, Ferdinand will always be my home. Home, it is said, is where the heart is. German heritage might not lay in my genetics, but it's nestled comfortably in my heart.

My Grandma Fischer, whom I will esteem as the most persevering lady on Earth, has an incomparable work ethic that I believe is part of her German blood. On Sundays, while others spend time watching the latest sports news cast, she is poised on her hands and knees in the kitchen, scrubbing a spotless floor. She says that hard work is what she has always done, what she has always been told to do, and the only thing she knows. Unfortunately, this way of life was passed down to my mother, who will probably hand it over to me.

"If it doesn't taste right, add a stick of butter! Butter fixes everything." My Grandma Boeglin is also quite the motivated individual, but I think her German heritage shows in her cooking more than her cleaning. As a kid, my dad, Kurt, didn't find her fried neck bones or sauerkraut to be the most appetizing food. Grandma, though, is always right, and no one wants to be the one to tell her otherwise. Something tells me that is just another part of that German decent that is tumbling down to me.

Because I am not truly from this German decent, I feel extremely blessed to have people like my Grandpa Fisher in my life. He is always more than willing to teach me new German words. Graga, meaning throat; Oikerdoinker, meaning ankle; and Gotinhemal are just a few I've picked up on over the years. Being in German III now, I realize these are only made up words that make Grandpa think he is speaking German, but the fact that he still tries to carry on the tradition is admirable. I can truly say I have learned volumes from him, and not just his amazing vocabulary.

From rags, to butter, to dictionaries, German heritage means a lot to me. If I could trace my heritage back and find out what I actually descend from, I'd be extremely disappointed if it wasn't German. I may not be the most hard working, German speaking cook in Ferdinand, but the fact that my family is made up of such characteristics is something I take pride in. I am honored to say I am, in fact, a German, and a German is what I will always be.

*Bethany is the daughter
of Kurt and Kristi Boeglin and
attends Forest Park Jr./Sr. High School*

Auf Deutsch

Im Nebel

Hermann Hesse (1877-1962)

Seltsam, im Nebel zu wandern!
Einsam ist jeder Busch und Stein,
Kein Baum sieht den andern,
Jeder ist allein.
Voll von Freunden war mir die Welt,
Als noch mein Leben licht war;
Nun, da der Nebel fällt,
Ist keiner mehr sichtbar.
Wahrlich, keiner ist weise,
Der nicht das Dunkel kennt,
Das unentrinnbar und leise
Von allen ihn trennt.
Seltsam, im Nebel zu wandern!
Leben ist Einsamsein.
Kein Mensch kennt den andern,
Jeder ist allein.

In the Fog

Translated by Ruth Reichmann

Strange, to wander in the fog!
Lonely is every bush and stone,

No tree sees the other,
Everyone is alone.
Full of friends was my world,
When my life was light;
Now, that the fog is falling,
Not one of them can be seen.
Surely, no one is wise,
Who does not know the darkness,
Which inevitably and silently
From others does her part.
Strange, to wander in the fog!
Life is being lonely.
No human knows the other,
Everyone is alone.

MORE THAN A BUSINESS STORY

by Annemarie Fuhrig

On August 13, 2012, the *New York Times* published an article by Jack Ewing celebrating the role of the small, mostly family-owned manufacturing firms in keeping Germany's economy famously chugging to function as the creditor of most of Europe

Missing was the fact that Germany's opportunity to lead economically is solidly based on its unique business culture, in which a sense of responsibility for the community dominates. Avoiding debt and waste and acting prudently, they preserve their flexibility. In comparison, the American business culture seems to be mostly confrontational and tries to beat the competition with quick action. Historical fortune brought together two ingredients for German style growth in the Mid-West in the 19th century. This had begun in Germany with the "Handwerker" (trained artisans) in the Middle Ages. With frugality and a commitment to quality and responsibility for the whole, they excelled in their workmanship, be it baker and butcher or carpenter and watch maker, sometimes winning respect beyond their town,

which was their advertising. Consideration for family, profession and city survive in small industry to this day and that is the back bone of German success.

In detail, after their apprenticeship, young men became "Wanderburschen" (traveling artisans), to travel the world and learn. Today the compulsory "Berufsschule" (trade school) accompanies apprenticeships, mostly with preparation for modern manufacturing jobs. Trade schools feature specialized courses for industry needs. This may differ locally and include retraining when demands change. Such workers become proud of their work, confident and motivated for continual improvement. Commitment to honest business practices remains. Through the activities of the German-American Chambers of Commerce, some of these features now also seem to draw interest in this country.

This summary cannot do justice to the close cooperation between German industry and public education. This is so successful, that it has been taken as development aid to underdeveloped countries. The specialized associations (unions would not be the right word here), practice allegiance to the established social contract: mutual trust and strong commitment to the common good. Of course, there are occasional strikes, but rarely in the small companies. Could this be, because the pay scale recognizes all the schooling? Respect for this tradition can also be seen when executives legitimize themselves with their family relationship to the founder of their business and when towns claim local small manufacturing as part of their character and history. Why is this important for the US? Historians of German-American history can find similar contributions made by German immigrants, their "invisible immigration luggage," if they know how to look

for it. The best example is in the Mid-West in the 19th century (and of the equally important impact of the post-WWII influx). This is overdue to be recognized.

Right when the Mid-West opened for settlement, large waves of frustrated or persecuted German speaking people came from many parts of Central and Eastern Europe. In building new lives with their skills, they used customary practices, networked and quickly prospered. By not only becoming the dominating ethnic group, but also gaining from an active exchange of ideas (using each other's inventions), they adapted their production practices in growing fields of production, but most noticeably in agriculture. Unfortunately, the persecutions of WW I erased much of this from the public's view.

A special culture evolved among the newcomers. Preserving German as home language, they networked and adhered to their trust-based business ethic. This governed their trade and socializing, and they ran the many innovative small enterprises which dominated in the emerging economy of the Mid-West. Their young men also seem to have actively supported the candidacy of Abraham Lincoln. They are probably responsible for the "Wide-Awakes," German-styled, torch light parades in support of Lincoln's candidacy. During the Civil War they suffered the largest number of casualties, another unrecognized fact.

Many of their stories exist only in folk lore, such as the Frankish haberdasher who built a department store in Burlington, Iowa. Did he network with colleagues in other Mississippi and Missouri River towns? Did he travel on one of the Mississippi river boats run by captains from the Alsace, who spoke both French and German and were over here, because they had to

give up on their homeland, when France insisted on this monopoly? Were they the stalwarts of New Orleans-based pioneers of Mississippi River traffic, who provided transportation and communication until the railroads came? Had the French anticipated this effect when they drove them out the Alsace? These stories should now become researched parts of the legacy!

After they became industrialized, those 19th century German businesses maintained their business climate for a while. A prime example is beer brewing. At Anheuser Busch in St. Louis acknowledged a cooperative relationship between management and workers 40 years ago, though not related to German traditions. The meeting of the Indiana German Heritage Society & IUPUI this past March focused on German business, both past and present. Organized by the Max Kade German-American Center, it included a presentation about a new listing of all "German Breweries in Indiana's History." Other "German-American Business in Indiana" past and present is also recorded in the new "German-American Business Encyclopedia." Indiana began this focus twenty years ago by putting memorial plaques on many of the formerly German business buildings in downtown Indianapolis.

Such individual stories exist, but the whole picture still waits to be acknowledged. Recently, the Davenport, IA, German-American Heritage Center and Museum has begun to document German traditions of the Mid-West, including the business culture in the German language. It collects reminiscences and documents them beyond the Quad-Cities, thus preserving the trust-based professional contacts that had benefited the new citizens and the country with their business in the 19th century.

With this background, it is clear why this is an issue. It is an example for the success of honest communication and trading within a shared culture, especially by using a common language; it is an historical truth deserving recognition; and it just might become an example for more productive business practices than all those hoops through which we have to jump today in our transactions.

But mostly, this calls for a new perspective in German-American history. Having begun in Indiana and Davenport, this focus now needs expansion. The time for a data base which centrally records every, and all, pertinent facts could not be better. Such a data base could lead to a fuller picture of the role of the Germans in the Mid-West and just might become the basis for a more critical look at modern business practices.

Editor's Note: This refers to a lecture, presented by Prof. Giles Hoyt at the 2012 IGHS Annual Meeting. Prof. Hoyt and Prof. Wokeck are connected to the Max Kade German-American Center.

IMMIGRANT ENTREPRENEURSHIP GERMAN-AMERICAN BUSINESS BIOGRAPHIES, 1720-PRESENT

German-Americans offer a comprehensive test case of the immigrant experience. They have



played an important role in American history, including the sciences, the arts and humanities, as well as in the business and economic sector.

Spearheaded and coordinated by the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C., with support from the German Government and the European Recovery Program, the German-American Business Biographies project will feature a published collection of ca. 250 biographical essays about first and second generation German-American business people. The Collection will be available in print and online. By synthesizing the diverse fields of business history, entrepreneurship research, migration history, and German-American studies, the project will make a significant contribution to a wide array of academic disciplines, and offer unique tools for teaching and research.

There are five volumes planned. The volumes will be edited by an Interdisciplinary group of researchers from both sides of the Atlantic who are renowned scholars in the field. Each volume will contain approximately 50 biographical essays, an overview article, as well as contextual essays which explore the wider themes of the respective period.

- Vol. I** *From the Colonial Economy to Early Industrialization (1720-1840).* Editor: Marianne S. Wokeck
- Vol. II** *The Emergence of an Industrial National (1840-1893).* Editor: William J. Hausman
- Vol. III** *From the End of the Gilded Age to the Progressive Era (1893-1918).* Editor: Giles R. Hoyt
- Vol. IV** *The Age of the World Wars (1918-1945).* Editor: Jeff Fear

Vol. V From the Postwar Boom to Global Capitalism (1945-today). Editor: R. Daniel Wadhvani

The editorial board invites feedback and suggestions. If you have source materials or would like to contribute to the project, please contact the German Historical Institute. Donations to the project from companies or individuals are also welcome and are fully tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

For further information contact:
German Historical Institute 1607 New
Hampshire Ave. Washington, D.C., 20009 T:
(202) 387-3355 F: (202) 483-3430
entrepreneurship@ghi-dc.org
www.ghi-dc.org/entrepreneurship

INTERMENT OF GERMAN-AMERICANS AT THE OUTBREAK OF WWII

Anneliese Krauter

Much has been written about the internment of Japanese-Americans after Pearl Harbor. Most Americans know about this history. To this day, however, surprisingly few are aware of the fact that German-Americans were also interned and detained behind barbed wire and observation towers in camps all over the United States. I am one of them.

My parents, Otto Karl and Alma (Wiedrich) Wiegand came to this country in 1925 and 1927 respectively. They married, found jobs, made their home and started their family in “Yorkville” the German section of New York City. My brother, Friedrich Otto Karl (Freddy) was born in 1931, yours truly (Anneliese Karla) in 1935. We were truly the “poster family” of what a German immigrant family looked like, lived and strove for – namely the promise of the American Dream.

My parents worked hard, saved their earnings and learned English by attending night school. As soon as Freddy and I were old enough to attend school, they enrolled us in a private school so we would learn how to read and write German. Speaking German in our home was a given. We grew up bilingually, but German was our mother tongue. Both of my parents were also devoted to their German roots and were passionate about teaching us their culture and traditions so Freddy and I would carry these values into the future – not to keep us from becoming good citizens and meshing into the American fabric – but to enrich our lives and instill pride in our heritage.

Additionally, they did this by joining various German organizations in New York City. These were organizations that were totally transparent and open to Americans as well. We belonged to the New York Turnverein (much like the Athenaeum), my father sang in the Männerchor, my mother in the Liederkranz, he acted in the Volkstheater and were active members in the Deutsche Amerikanische Berufsgemeinschaft – “DAB” for short. (Translation: German American Vocational League.) It was this particular organization that ultimately landed both of my parents’ names on lists of Germans, deemed to be “dangerous enemy aliens.”

My father was a merchant seaman who crewed on German freighters as a young journeyman, signing on with the steam ship line “Hansa Lloyd” out of Hamburg. He was the on board butcher and cook, sailing around the world for a number of years before arriving in the port of New York in 1925 and along with several companions, deciding to “jump ship.” This was not unusual back then and it only took him a few days to find lodging and a job in the German section of New York City. After settling in and getting himself somewhat

established, he sent for his fiancé, marrying her the day after her arrival in May 1927.

My mother applied for U.S. citizenship soon after Freddy was born. Not only did she fall in love with this country from the moment her feet landed on American soil – she felt it was the right thing to do as the mother of American-born children in whose public school education she sought to become fully involved. In 1938 she became a naturalized American citizen.

My father didn't start the process until 1937 following an extended summer vacation back to his "Heimat" (homeland), giving him the opportunity to proudly introduce his wife and children to his parents and siblings. They were so surprised that Freddy and I were fluent in German. We were just little kids – six and two years of age, respectively.

The observations my parents made during the summer of 1937 were disturbing. Hitler had come to power, appreciably improving the quality of life for most people. But there were also undercurrents my parents perceived, which made them very uneasy.

Shortly before the end of our family vacation in Germany in the summer of 1937, my father traveled to the American consulate in Berlin and immigrated legally. In late 1937 he applied for citizenship. At that time it took five years to become a naturalized American citizen. "First" papers were for three years, "second" and final papers took two more years, at which time he would have met the criteria to take the oath of loyalty and become a naturalized American citizen. That would have happened in the autumn of 1942. It never did.

My father's dream was to someday own his own "Metzgerei" (butcher store). Both of my parents worked hard and saved to achieve his goal and

in the late thirties it finally came to fruition. He purchased a little store in a section called "Ridgewood" in Brooklyn and we moved to a top floor apartment in a brownstone house across the street from our store in Brooklyn. We had a wonderful, productive life. Freddy and I had a happy "all American" childhood. We attended P.S. #88 with all the kids in the neighborhood. My father developed a solid customer base and was known as "Otto – that German butcher on the corner." ("Wiegand's Quality Meats"). My mother was a "stay at home mom" – but she busied herself by taking on cleaning jobs, washing and ironing and cooking special occasion German meals for others – to earn extra money. We also always had a room for rent – a bedroom with a shared bathroom.

Our social life consisted mainly of interaction with other German families that belonged to the same organizations mentioned earlier, celebrating the many traditions and traditional holidays on the German cultural calendar. Additionally, my parents were very active in the summertime, volunteering as cooks in camp "Bergwald." This was a property in Riverdale, New Jersey, which the German-American Vocational League had purchased for the use of its membership. It was a beautiful piece of land – all wooded, hilly, with a fresh water lake near the top, a community house surrounded by many cabins – all developed and built by member volunteers.

For our entire summer vacation, my mother was one of the main cooks during the week. My father would join us on weekends and Freddy and I were the benefactors of their volunteerism, spending endless summers in this beautiful setting away from the city. There were songfests, dances, German movies and lectures. Weekends were usually packed with special

events. German celebrities were often invited and once there was even a reception for the German Consul – children in our group singing German folksongs for him. But what Freddy and I loved and lived for the most was swimming in the natural lake and participating in athletic events. It had always been my perception that the dab was strictly apolitical; at least my parents never spoke of the organization in any other context.

The alien registration act of 1940 had been signed into law and as 1940-41 evolved, we began to feel the pressures of the screening process more and more. My father registered, of course. He was not a citizen yet, but this made him as legal as he could be. We heard of members of German families being picked up by the FBI and taken in for questioning. Some were friends of ours, others mere acquaintances or friends of friends, but they all had some connection to the dab or similar German-American groups. There were rumors that the “Bund” (the American arm of the German Nazi Party) had infiltrated many German-American organizations in the United States and that Nazi spies were active under the cover of these outwardly legitimate and harmless groups.

On December 7th, 1941, Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese. America declared war on Japan; Germany subsequently declared war on America. The world would never be the same. Hatred against Germans, propaganda and anti-Nazi hysteria began to rear its ugly head. It trickled all the way down into our neighborhood. Soon our own little world was about to explode. On the morning of July 10th, 1942, two FBI agents entered “Wiegand’s Quality Meats” and arrested my father. They walked him across the street to our apartment so he could change clothes, assuring my shocked with angst mother that they were only taking

him in to the Manhattan FBI field office for questioning. They would bring him back afterwards – but on second thought, it might be a good idea for him to take along a toiletry kit and a change of underwear. I was screaming and crying – hanging on to “mein Pappi” “where are you taking him?” I cried ... he bent over, hugged and kissed me and assured me everything would be okay. The two FBI agents waited patiently as my parents said goodbye to each other, Pappi assuring her as he did me that he would return – not to worry. My father never came back home and the course of our lives had just changed forever!

FBI agents were combing the area, asking our neighbors and customers what they knew about “Otto the butcher.” By this time, rumors were rampant. Everybody knew he was arrested by the FBI. Some thought he was a Nazi. A sixteen year old boy, the son of the dry cleaner around the corner, who sometimes delivered meat orders for my father told the agents he thought he might even be a spy, because he spoke German, English with an accent, and had a short wave radio in the kitchen behind the store. This boy even accused my brother of taking some kind of Hitler youth training. Freddy was just eleven years old!

My father was being held on Ellis Island. We were allowed to visit him. He was subjected to many interrogations and false accusations. Ridiculous questions were repeatedly posed to him. Which side should win the war? Would he fight for America? Inasmuch as his wife became a citizen, his children American-born, where were his loyalties? Why did it take him so long to apply for citizenship? (He would have become a citizen that very autumn) was there another reason – other than a family vacation – for taking his family back to Germany in 1937? And so it went, on and on.

He flunked all interrogations with flying colors and was interned “for the duration.” They sent him to camp Meade, Maryland, then on to camp Forrest, Tennessee and finally Fort Lincoln, Bismarck, North Dakota.

My mother made every effort to keep the butcher store open. But it was an exercise in futility. We were being boycotted – no customers showed up and former friends and neighbors simply kept their distance. Even the kids didn’t play with us anymore. We used to skate, play stick ball, hop scotch, hide ‘n seek and tag. Now our friends were playing war games and we were being called “Heinies” and ridiculed on our way to school.

One morning my mother went to open the store and all the show windows had been painted with swastikas, images of Hitler and the words “Heinies” and “Nazi go home.” The window washers came and my mother bravely carried on. But the final blow came when on another morning soon thereafter she found the windows had been smashed in with bricks. She closed the store and we went on welfare.

She had heard of a family internment camp somewhere in Texas. That became her mission - to get us reunited with my father at any cost. And so, with a great deal of courage and what energy she had left she contacted the FBI, demanding an audience. She had a real battle on her hands. The authorities informed her there was no way they could intern her - a naturalized American citizen - and certainly not her American-born children. My mother resolutely responded that if her naturalization was the only issue preventing her and her children from being reunited with my father in a family internment camp, she was prepared to relinquish her citizenship. Still not getting any movement in our case, she called on our pastor,

who had friends in high places, including the Swiss consulate, our family doctor, who documented her deteriorating physical condition and an elderly semi-retired Jewish attorney who lived in our neighborhood and offered pro bono help filling out forms early on when she applied for welfare and later with the drafting of any necessary documents. Shortly thereafter she was put on notice to pack two overseas trunks and one piece of hand luggage each – the maximum allowable – and stand by for notification to proceed to Ellis Island to be reunited with our father. When we walked out of our apartment in Brooklyn for the last time, my mother simply closed the door on our lives. Seventeen years of work and achievement, of chasing the American Dream, was gone. My parents lost everything. My father was being transported back from Fort Lincoln, Bismarck, North Dakota, to Ellis Island. It was a very poignant re-union in the shadow of the statue of liberty – the lady that stands in New York Harbor – who welcomed my young immigrant parents back in the twenties. We were now on our way to the Crystal City Family Internment Camp in Texas, a small agricultural town approximately 100 miles southeast of San Antonio, close to the Mexican border, to live behind barbed wire, watch towers and patrolling armed guards on horseback.

It took two and a half days by train to reach Crystal City. Though under guard, it was a happy ride, the passengers consisting of many thankfully re-united German families. We were met by camp personnel in Crystal City and loaded onto old military busses to be transported to the camp – our new “gated community” on the outskirts of town. It was dusty, dry and hot. We were welcomed in camp, given a meal, processed and assigned lodging. My family was assigned to Q-12, a four unit barracks in a long row of the same, rows that were separated by

shower house-latrines and laundries. Everything was there: an administration building, dispensary, schools, a grocery store, butcher shop, beauty shop, community building, even a café (Café Vaterland) and a great wall (the side of a larger building) where we could watch movies outdoors under the starry skies of Texas. My father worked in the butcher shop, my mother in the sewing room, both earning ten cents an hour. We were given “scrip” – paper bills and pressed cardboard coins. U.S. Dollars were not allowed.

Our lives had again entered a new chapter. At the height of camp population, the optimal number of detainees was right around 3,500. The fenced-in site was 200 acres in size, with an additional 300 acres or so in surrounding farmlands, which were tilled with some help by internees under guard. Half of the camp was populated by Japanese families, the other half by Germans. We were separated, but not segregated. There were in fact many cultural exchanges, German concerts versus Japanese performances, as well as very competitive soccer games among the men, my father included. Camp life was ok for the adults as administered by American staff, with lots of German organization- an inherent characteristic – guiding the day to day existence of the collective German families. For Freddy and me, it was camp Bergwald all over again. We had a ball with all the other kids.

I don't know how my parents felt in their hearts and minds, nor how they shared their most intimate thoughts about our situation. All I know is my father chose repatriation when the option was offered. My mother agreed. My parents never demonstrated any hatred for the United States government. Disillusionment, resentment, disappointment, yes, but hatred, no.

We were among one of the earliest groups (head count 634) to be leaving Crystal City Internment Camp to be delivered to the Port of New Jersey. On February 15th, 1944, we boarded the S.S. Gripsholm and sailed across the Southern Atlantic – all lit up and under the flag of the international red cross, to the port of Lisbon, Portugal. From there we were bussed through Portugal and Spain to the city of Biarritz in France, where we were given a gloriously festive reception by the occupying German Wehrmacht (armed forces). During a very brief stay, we were instructed on how to safely live in our old fatherland at the height of WWII with black outs, air raids, bombings and running for bunkers. But “not to worry, the future is secure in the hands of Hitler, with ultimate victory assured.” We crossed the frontier at Saarbrucken. No sooner had we arrived when the sirens to take cover sounded and we were in the midst of our first air raid. We just all clung to each other – nobody had ever told us about this!

For “the rest of the story” you will have to read my book: *From the Heart's Closet – A Young Girl's WWII Story*. It is a microcosm of what happened to just one family right here in America after the outbreak of WWII. Mine is one of many similar stories. There were over 11,000 Germans who lived the same experience.

The Crystal City Internment Camp closed on February 27th, 1948 and is now listed in the Registry of National Historic Places and is under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. There are two memorials on the property – one commemorating Japanese detainees, the other the Germans.



**COMMUNITY HOUSE NO. 2
IN NEW HARMONY:
CELEBRATES
200 YEARS OF INNOVATION**

The grand re-opening of Community House No. 2 marked the first time the exhibits and the structure have received extensive attention since the 1960s. Invited members of the press enjoyed a preview party on September 28.



A public open house to celebrate the re-opening was held on September 30. Guests had the opportunity to peruse the new exhibits and explore the fresh enhancements to the building - and to enjoy games, music, and refreshments.

The renovations were inspired by the previous functions of the structure. The Harmonists, a religious utopian sect from Germany, constructed Community House No. 2 for communal living in 1822. Three years later, the building was integrated into the Owen-McClure utopian community and functioned as a school and living quarters for students and teachers.

The print shop (1850s-1930s) has returned to its former place of business on the third floor. Original printing equipment is displayed, along with copies of 19th century posters that were printed in the shop.

Upcoming renovation phases will result in a classroom/multipurpose space with wireless Internet access and many technology-friendly features which will facilitate community workshops, meetings, and distance learning opportunities.

Historic New Harmony's staff is thrilled to have Community House No. 2 back on the regular tour route and invites you to join us in celebrating this grand building with a visit.

From *In Harmony*,
Fall 2012, p. 5

**ATHENAEUM TO BE HOME OF INDIANA
GYMNASTICS HALL OF FAME**

About a year ago a group of people discovered that Indiana did not have a Hall of Fame for gymnastics. The group was composed of representatives of the Athenaeum and members of the Indiana gymnastics community. Through their efforts, the Indiana Gymnastics Hall of Fame (IGHoF) has been established.



The committee felt no better home for this organization than the Athenaeum could be found. Looking back through the gymnastics history of the Olympic Games, it is well established that the majority of the participants were members of an American Turner Society.

On Saturday, July 14th, the three individuals from the Athenaeum will be inducted into the Indiana Gymnastics Hall of Fame. Joining these three will be: Terry (Spencer) Corcoran, who received her early training at the Athenaeum under Mr. Lienert. Later, in college, Terry was named an alternate to the 1968 Olympic Squad. Also being inducted is Jayce Phelps, a 1996 Olympian from Greenwood. Teresa and Byron Holden, her coaches from the gymnastics club where Jayce first received training, will be inducted too. A permanent plaque will be displayed in the Athenaeum building. Every year the name of each honoree will be attached

on an individual platelet. Each person being honored will be presented with a memento of the occasion.

Should you wish to support the IGHoF, tax-free donations can be made by the following method: Checks, made out to the Athenaeum Foundation, with a memo on the check that indicates it be earmarked for the IGHoF, should be sent to The Athenaeum Foundation, 401 East Michigan St., Indianapolis, IN, 46204.

From *Turner Life*,
Spring-Summer 2012, p. 1

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS?

by Ruth Reichmann

We drove home from a Thanksgiving hymn sing at the Catholic Church in Brown County where several community church choirs participated. The altar was decorated in harvest colors with pumpkins, gourds, fruit, and plants. The choirs performed and we sang *Now thank we all our God (Nundanket alle Gott)*. This was Sunday, November 18, Thanksgiving would be the coming Thursday and Christmas was more than a month away.

On the way home we stopped at a store and there was a huge Christmas tree and the cash registers were all decorated in green with red bows. As we drove home we passed a display of life-size plastic figures, Mary, Joseph, the child, Santa on a sled, Rudolph, the red-nose reindeer, Frosty, the Snowman. "What happened to the 12 days of Christmas" I said.

I had to think of some of the answers I got when I asked "What are the 12 days of Christmas?" - the answer may have been "Oh I remember the song "On the first day of Christmas my true love

gave to me...". Well that was not really what I meant - "When are they-the 12 days of Christmas?" I would ask. One answer may be "The 12 days before Christmas?" These are the 12 shopping days before Christmas!

Alright then "What is the first day of Christmas?" I may ask. "The day after Thanksgiving?" "That is Black Friday, the most important shopping day in the year, and one more week to the beginning of Advent." The first of the four Sundays in Advent is usually the last weekend in November. That is when in Europe the Christmas markets open. No, I may say. "It really is a no-brainer, the first day of Christmas-"It came upon a midnight clear I am humming - "The 24th of December?" almost right - that is Christmas Eve. "Now start counting past New Year to January 6th, Epiphany, or Three Kings." What a joyous time this used to be, the last day of Christmas. We children would raid the tree; there were always sugar plums and chocolates on the tree. We may take the tree to a church gathering where it was burned while we heard stories and had a meal.

Support IGHS!



Renew Today!

INDIANA GERMAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE CALENDAR

STAMMTISCH AND PROGRAMS

January 2013: No Board, no Stammtisch and program

Wednesday, February 13: Board Meeting, Stammtisch and Program: *From Germany to Venezuela to Indiana*, presentation by Ron Flick. When people think about Germans in South America, they may immediately think of post-WWII Nazi dissidents. However, Germans have been in South America much longer than that. Ron will discuss his October 2012 trip to Colonia Tovar, Venezuela. Colonia Tovar was settled by indentured Germans from the Endingen, Baden area in the 1840s. Ron's great-great grandparents, Wilhelm and Petronella Fluck, were members of the original expedition and lived there for six years before migrating to Indiana. Ron Flick is a registered architect, born and raised in Jasper, and a member of the IGHS board.



Wednesday, March 13: Board Meeting, Stammtisch and Program: *German-language newspapers in Indiana* a presentation by Steven Schmidt and Chris Ittenbach. Over the course of the past two hundred years, there have been nearly four hundred German language newspapers published in Indiana. Chris Ittenbach and Steven Schmidt will offer a fascinating overview of these papers and their importance, and a sneak peek into what is in store for at least one Indiana paper in 2013. Both Steven Schmidt and Chris Ittenbach work at the Indiana State Library.

Wednesday, April 10: Board Meeting, Stammtisch and Program: *The Reluctant Nazi*. Sixty years after the end of World War II Gabrielle Robinson found two diaries her grandfather had kept in Berlin 1945. The diaries, however, not only revealed the horrors of the bombing and the fall of Berlin, but that her beloved grandfather had been a Nazi. In her book, *The Reluctant Nazi*. She wrote "Searching for my Grandfather, Robinson explores his life and the long shadow of the Nazi past.

Gabrielle Robinson was born in Berlin in 1942. She has a PhD from the University of London. After her academic career she has concentrated her writing on local history, popular culture, and biography. *Reluctant Nazi* is at once her more personal and most wide-ranging book. For more info, see her website: <http://gabriellerobinson.com/>

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. There is an 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 or cgrossma@iupui.edu.

OTHER PROGRAMS

January 26th, 1p.m.-3 p.m., A presentation of the internment story in the Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library in downtown Indianapolis. A panel of four former German internees will be the presenters: Frances Ott Allen, Cincinnati OH, Alfred Wohlpart, Oak Ridge TN, Eberhard Fuhr, Palatine IL, and Anneliese Krauter, Indianapolis. A researcher from California, Kristina Wagner, will also be in attendance filming this event as well as presenting some of her research material. Admission is free. (See story elsewhere in this newsletter.) The Vonnegut Memorial Library is in the Emelia Building, 340

N. Senate Avenue, Indianapolis. For information Julia Whitehead, 317-652-1954. Email: info@vonnegutlibrary.org or www.Facebook.com/vonnegutlibrary..



Saturday, February 9, from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. **Karneval - German Mardi Gras!**. This year's theme is "South of the Border". Traditions of the event include: Presentation of Karneval Royalty and Karneval Ordens, the Grand March, music, dancing, raffle and prizes. The tradition of Karneval in Indianapolis goes back to the 1880s when German societies had lavish masked ball. The Athenaeum Karneval incorporates the Karneval traditions of its German sister city Cologne/Koln - KOLLE ALAAF!

Admission \$15 IN Advance/\$20 at the door. It will be in the Kellersaal at the Athenaeum, 401 East Michigan Street, Indianapolis. Info Corey Behmer at 317-655-2755.

Sunday, February 10, KinderKarneval (The Children's Mardi Gras) There will be music, dancing, games, and Viel Spass. Beat those winter blues - get out and celebrate Karneval! For more information, contact: Corey Behmer at 317-655-2755.

Friday, March 29: 10 a.m. **Good Friday (Karfreitag)** Worship for the German Community at Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ, 603 N New Jersey Street, Indianapolis. Info 317 639-5411

IGHS Annual Meeting March 22/23 in Ferdinand. [See outline of the 2013 IGHS Annual Meeting and Symposium on page 3]

CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE STATE

March 22/23: IGHS Annual Meeting, in Ferdinand, IN (More information will be in the next newsletter).

REMINISCES OF FERDINAND AND ST. MEINRAD



About 5 years ago I taught a seminar for college freshmen on "The German-American Experience." During spring break I led the class on a tour of Indiana German heritage sites. The students were skeptical and a bit sullen at the start of the trip, no doubt questioning the wisdom of signing up for a course that prevented them from joining their friends on a beach in Florida.

All that changed when we drove up to the St. Meinrad Archabbey early in the morning on our second day. The students were astonished when they saw the amazing complex of buildings spread out before them. Their sense of awe grew later that afternoon when we drove a few miles north to tour the Monastery Immaculate Conception of the Benedictine Sisters in Ferdinand. How can it be, they wondered, that these two amazing monasteries are in southern Indiana instead of somewhere in the foothills of the Alps?

Greg Redding, IGHS Board

[See outline of the 2013 IGHS Annual Meeting and Symposium on page 3]

The Indiana German Heritage Society

Please enter / renew my membership:

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$20.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor | \$500.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization | \$50.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$1,000.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$50.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Library Rate | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full-time Student | \$5.00 (with teacher's signature) | | |

- I wish to make an additional, tax deductible gift to IGHS of \$ _____
- General Operations
 - Marie Schoch Endowment Fund
 - Publications

- 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-American are:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> German Language Programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> History |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Exchanges and/or Sister Cities | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Community/City |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | <input type="checkbox"/> Music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching Materials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General | <input type="checkbox"/> 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: _____

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

Nonprofit Organization
US Postage
PAID
Indianapolis, IN
Permit Number 8046

Return Service Requested



INHALT

AUF DEUTSCH	6
Calendar	17
Community House #2	15
G-A Friendship Garden	4
IGHS Annual Meeting	3
Immigrant Entrepreneurship	9
Indiana Gymnastics Hall of Fame	15
Internment of German-Americans	10
Lugar honored	1
More than a Business history	7
Roof Sitter	1
What happened to 12 days of Christmas	16