



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



Newsletter

Volume 25 Number 2

Spring 2009

IGHS PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I would like to wish the members of IGHS all the best for 2009 and invite each of you to take full advantage of our services and activities this year. As noted in the previous Newsletter, several members of the Board of Directors have had to step down recently after years of service. Since then, Charlie McDonald and the Nominations Committee have been working to assemble a slate of replacement candidates to vote on at the Annual Meeting in March. Participation on the Board is just one way for members to get involved. Much of the business of the organization is conducted in committees that are open to any members who have an interest in planning and implementing IGHS activities. Of course, just as important is your attendance at IGHS-sponsored events throughout the year. I hope that among your resolutions for the New Year was the goal of attending at least one more IGHS event than you did last year. There are plenty to choose from in the coming months. The highlight will be our 25th Annual Meeting and Symposium on March 27-28. Details can be found in the Newsletter.

One way for members statewide to get involved is through Waymarking, which is described on the website waymarking.com as "a scavenger hunt for unique and interesting locations in the world." IGHS sponsors a "German-American Heritage Sites" category on that website. We have received postings from all over the USA, but our main goal

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25TH IGHS ANNUAL MEETING AND SYMPOSIUM

Please join us in Indianapolis on March 27th and 28th to celebrate the 25th annual meeting and symposium of the Indiana German Heritage Society in cooperation with the IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center and the Athenaeum Foundation.

This year's meeting takes place in the historic German House / Athenaeum located at 401 East Michigan Street in Indianapolis.

On Friday the events kick off with the Annual Membership Meeting in the Auditorium, followed by dinner and a special program on the The German House / Athenaeum. IUPUI Professor Emeritus Giles Hoyt will offer a brief history of the building followed by Cassie Stockamp, President of the Athenaeum Foundation, and a panel of the building's present occupants

discussing continuing the vision of the founders.

Saturday's theme is "Looking Back – Moving Forward. 25 Years of IHGS and its Partners in the German-American Community." IGHS President Greg Redding opens the day by welcoming everyone after coffee and refreshments at 9 o'clock. Then Eberhard Reichmann will present a history of the German Vereins of Indiana before 1917 followed by Ron Dunbar on the resurrection of Vereinsleben and Festival Life after the World Wars; and a look at the academic side of Hoosier German-Americana by Acting Max Kade Director Claudia Grossmann and Daniel Nuetzel who is the

[Continued on next page]

Celebrating 25 Years of IGHS!



[PRESIDENT'S CONTINUED]

is to catalog Indiana German-American. For example, the Wyneken House near Ft. Wayne, the Germania Männerchor in Evansville, and the Schnitzelbank Restaurant in Jasper could all be logged as German-American waymarks. It is free to set up an account on the website, and for many people it proves to be a fun hobby. I hope that IGHS members statewide will help out and we will soon have a great online catalog that we can refer to as we travel in search of German heritage.

Please contact me at my Waymarking e-mail (gwynevie@gmail.com) if you have any questions on how to get started.

Looking beyond Indiana, the Annual Meeting and Symposium of the Society for German-American Studies will be held April 16-19 in New Ulm, Minnesota. The SGAS does at a national level much of what the IGHS does at the state level. The IGHS is typically well represented at the SGAS symposium, which offers the best chance to present research on Indiana's German heritage to a national audience. The SGAS returns for the third time to New Ulm, a small but charming town that retains much of its German character.

Anyone who would like more information about the SGAS or the symposium can contact me at reddingg@wabash.edu. Better yet, you can ask me in person at an upcoming IGHS event!

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,

Greg Redding

[25TH ANNUAL CONTINUED]

designated incoming Hoyt-Reichmann Chair for German-American Studies at IUPUI.

After a buffet lunch, Indiana's German Honorary Consul Sven Schumacher and Fred Yaniga will offer their views on Sister Cities, Exchanges and Student Programs.

The day ends with a panel discussion on cooperation and communication featuring representatives from around the State. Register before March 20th to get Friday's meal and program

for just \$20, and the full day on Saturday, including lunch, for \$25. Late registrations cost \$25 and \$30 per person, respectively.

For more information contact Claudia Grossmann of the IUPUI Max Kade Center at 317-464-9004 or cgrossma@iupui.edu, or see the registration form on page 4 of this newsletter.

MAX KADE GERMAN-AMERICAN CENTER OPEN HOUSE

The Max Kade German-American Center at the Athenaeum will be opening its doors to the public on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from 3.30 - 6.00 p.m. (5 p.m. on IGHS Board Meeting days), starting February 3, 2009.

Interested individuals are invited to stop by to peruse our resource library, check out a wide range of books for sale, or pick up free brochures and publications, such as *German Life* (while they last). We also plan to have some basic translation and document reading services available.

The Max Kade Center office is located on the first floor, in the lobby next to the YMCA.

For additional information call the Center at 464-9004 or contact Acting Director Claudia Grossmann, at 317-274-3943 or cgrossma@iupui.edu.



**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>

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25TH ANNUAL MEETING AND SYMPOSIUM

Indiana German Heritage Society



In cooperation with the IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center and the Athenaeum Foundation
Das Deutsche Haus – Athenaeum, 401 East Michigan St. Indianapolis
March 27th and 28th, 2009

Friday, March 27

5.00 p.m. Annual Membership Meeting (*Auditorium*)

6.00 p.m. Dinner [Please specify: Sauerbraten or Fish] (*Damenverein Room*)

7.30 – 9.00 p.m. After Dinner Program (*Damenverein Room*)

The Deutsche Haus/Athenaeum – Following in the Footsteps of the Founders.

- “Introduction and Brief History of the Building” Giles Hoyt, Prof. Emeritus, IUPUI.
- “Continuing the Vision” by Cassie Stockamp, President of the Athenaeum Foundation, and a panel of present occupants of the building.

Saturday, March 28

Looking Back – Moving Forward. 25 Years of IHGS and its Partners in the German-American Community.

The Athenaeum, Grand Kellersaal Ballroom

8:30 a.m. *Registration, coffee and refreshments*

9:00 a.m. Welcome, Greg Redding, President of IGHS

9:15 a.m. “German Vereins of Indiana before 1917”

- Eberhard Reichmann, Prof. Emeritus, Indiana University

10:00 a.m. “Resurrection of Vereinsleben and Festival Life after the World Wars”

- Ron Dunbar, Indiana State University

10:45 a.m. *Coffee Break*

11:00 a.m. “The Academic Side of Hoosier German-Americana”

- Claudia Grossmann, Acting Director of Max Kade Center
- Daniel Nuetzel, designated Hoyt-Reichmann Chair for German-American Studies at IUPUI

Noon *Buffet Lunch*

1:15 p.m. “Sister Cities, Exchanges and Visits, Student Programs”

- Sven Schumacher, Honorary Consul of Germany
- Fred Yaniga, Butler University

2:00 p.m. Cooperation and Communication

- Panel Discussion with representatives from around the State



IGHS Annual Meeting March 27-28, 2009



REGISTRATION FORM

Friday Evening Dinner:

Early Registration (Before March 20)	\$ 20.00/person	# _____		Total: \$ _____
Late registration	\$ 25.00	# _____		\$ _____

Please specify : Sauerbraten or Fish

Saturday Registration and Luncheon

Early Registration (Before March 20)	\$ 25.00/person	# _____		Total: \$ _____
Late registration	\$ 30.00	# _____		\$ _____

Conference Total: \$ _____

IGHS Membership

- New Membership
- Renewal

Membership Total: \$ _____

To avoid mistakes, please use a separate check to pay for membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip+4: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone Number: _____

Make checks payable to: **Indiana German Heritage Society** and mail your check and this form to:

IGHS Annual Meeting
401 E. Michigan Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204.

For more information contact Claudia Grossmann, IUPUI Max Kade Center, at 317-464-9004 or email:
cgrossma@iupui.edu

Make it a Weekend in Indianapolis!

Stay at **Renata's Bed and Breakfast** 2201 S. Lynhurst Drive

4 rooms are available for just \$85 per night, breakfast included. Make your reservations by calling 317-486-4577, or visit <http://www.renatasbandb.com>



Willkommen! Wir Sprechen Deutsch!

NEWS FROM THE MAX KADE GERMAN-AMERICAN CENTER

2009 promises to be an exciting year for the German-American Community.

We will commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift, the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the end of the Communist German Democratic Republic, which are truly significant historical events. In Indiana we are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Indiana German Heritage Society during the Annual Meeting in March.

We will also welcome the incoming Hoyt/Reichmann Chair for German-American Studies, Dr. Daniel Nuetzel. He will officially assume his position at the IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center with the beginning of the Academic Year 2009/2010. Attendees of the Annual Meeting will have a chance to meet him since he will be one of the featured speakers. He will give us an overview of his research, as well as a preview of his vision for the Max Kade Center. Dr. Nuetzel is a linguist specializing in dialectology, including German-American dialects. He has also done work in the Czech Republic and in Bavaria, and is the editor of a Bavarian dialect atlas, a major undertaking for which he has received funding from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, the equivalent to our National Endowment for the Humanities.

Dr. Nuetzel, originally from Cincinnati, attended the University there. He received his Ph.D. from Purdue University in 1998. His dissertation was based on the East Franconian dialect in the Haysville/Dubois County area. For the past decade, he has been associated with the University of Regensburg and the University of Bayreuth in Germany.

As most of you know, Dr. Giles Hoyt, his predecessor, retired in the summer of 2008 after more than 30 years of service to IUPUI. Despite his official retirement, Dr. Hoyt remains active in IGHS as well as the Max Kade Center. Filling in during the transition period, I have been very lucky to rely on his far-ranging expertise, his dedication to German-American issues, and his spirit of civic

engagement and collegiality. I look forward to continue working with him on the board of IGHS and on publication and research projects.

The Max Kade Center maintains an office in the Athenaeum in Indianapolis, which we plan to open to the general public twice a week. Interested individuals may stop by there on Tuesdays or Wednesdays from 3:30 - 6 p.m. The office is located on the first floor of the Athenaeum, next to the YMCA. Hope to see you there soon.

Dr. Claudia Grossmann,
Acting Director of
the Max Kade German-American Center

2009 SGAS SYMPOSIUM IN NEW ULM, MN



The Society for German-American Studies will hold its annual symposium in New Ulm, Minnesota, April 16-19 2009. The meeting site will be the Holiday Inn. Sponsors for the symposium include SGAS, German-Bohemian

Society, New Ulm Concord Singers, New Ulm Chamber of Commerce, and regional German-American societies.

The theme for this year's event is: "Hermann, Battle of Teutoburger Wald, 9 A.D. and related themes of significance to German-American immigrants." The theme celebrates the 2009 commemorations on both sides of the ocean, of Hermann (Arminius), a Cheruscan chieftain, who defended the Germanic tribes against a Roman imperial army 2000 years ago. In time the Hermann story became a legend and Hermann a symbol of strength and unity in preserving freedom.

The symposium will open with a keynote address by Dr. Gerhard Weiss of the University of Minnesota, discussing the many myths, legends and pieces, dramas, poetry and patriotic symbols that been engendered by the Arminius/Hermann story.

The Headquarters for the conference is the Holiday Inn, New Ulm. A special rate of \$79 per night is offered to attendees of the SGAS symposium through March 20. After that, regular rates of \$99 for Thursday and \$129 for weekend rates will apply. You can always cancel but you CANNOT retrieve this rate later. Contact: Holiday Inn New Ulm, 21091 S. Broadway, New Ulm, Minnesota. 877-8634780 or www.holidayinn.com.

New Ulm is a city with evidence of a strong German heritage. It was founded in 1854 by the "Chicago Land Society," and was joined by a group of Turners from Cincinnati in 1857. A large group of German-Bohemians also immigrated to New Ulm sometime later. Although early on settlers and Native Americans traded, later misunderstandings caused the town to be attacked twice by the Dakotas in 1862.

The 2000th anniversary of Hermann's decisive victory over the Roman legions at Kalkriese is being commemorated in several locations in Germany with conferences, exhibits, and reenactments. The University of Osnabrück will hold an International Congress Sept. 14-18. On Sept. 18-20 a commemoration will take place in New Ulm, the home of the American Hermann monument. Invited guests include the mayors of Kalkriese/Bramsche near where the battle was fought, Haltern where Varus had his winter camp, and Detmold where the colossal statue of Hermann stands. Also invited are representatives of the Sister Cities Ulm and Neu Ulm.

HERMANN'S VICTORY CELEBRATION

2009 is the 2000th anniversary of the battle known as the Varusschlacht which caused Caesar Augustus and his successors to forego conquering Central Europe. In the fall of A.D. 9 a coalition of Germanic tribes under the Cheruscan war Chief Arminius (Hermann is his German name) ambushed three Roman legions commanded by Quintilius Varus. The battle established the Rhine as the boundary of the Roman Empire and a new imperial policy changed European history. The battle, originally thought to have taken place in the Teutoburger Wald (Teutoburg Forest), has since

been documented to have taken place in Kalkriese near Bramsche / Osnabrück.



The Hermannsdenkmal (Hermann monument) which memorializes the event is located in North Rhine Westphalia, southwest of Detmold. The 53½ meter tall monument to Hermann stands on the densely forested Teutoburg in a ring fortification called Grotenburg. Hermann's

sword has the following inscription: "Deutschlands Einigkeit meine Stärke - meine Stärke Deutschlands Macht". ("Germany's unity my strength - my strength Germany's might.")

The genesis of the sculpture has to be understood in the context of the German political situation in the 19th century. Under the impression of the repeated defeats at the hands of the French and the fractured nature of the German states, Germans began to orient themselves toward the ancient past as a source of national pride. This search for identity is exemplified in several national memorials including the Valhalla near Regensburg. The statue was built according to plans of sculptor Ernst von Bandel. Construction began in 1838, but not completed until 1875, after the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-1871, and the unification of most of Germany in 1871 under Bismarck. Thus, it has to be understood as a symbol of the young Germany emerging at that time.

HERMANN IN NEW ULM



A statue of Hermann also overlooks the city of New Ulm, MN. In the U.S. it has come to represent the contributions of Americans of German descent. At the time of the mass immigration of the 1840s, German-speaking immigrants sought a symbol to unite them. They chose Hermann, the legendary German folk-hero, and formed the Order of the Sons of Hermann as a rallying point throughout the country.

The New Ulm chapter was led by Julius Berndt, the national secretary of the Sons of Hermann organization. Under Berndt's leadership, the Hermann Monument was erected in 1897 on the prairie land of Minnesota. It was patterned after the massive Hermann Monument in Detmold, Germany.

When the local chapter of the Sons of Hermann disbanded after World War I, the City of New Ulm took over the care and ownership of the monument. In 1973, the Hermann Monument was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2000, the monument received national and international recognition: the 106th U.S. Congress designated the Hermann Monument to be an official symbol for the contributions of Americans of German heritage. According to this resolution, "resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), that the Hermann Monument and Hermann Heights Park in New Ulm, Minnesota are recognized by the Congress to be a national symbol for the contributions of Americans of German heritage." The monument is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Designed by Architect Julius Berndt and sculpted by Alfonso Pelzer, the overall height of the monument is 102 feet with the statue 32 feet high. Construction began in 1888 and completed in 1897. It was restored in 2005. Compared with statues of similar size and material composition, the Hermann Monument is second only to the Statue of Liberty. Lady Liberty in the harbor with torch upraised welcomes the huddled masses of immigrants to the land of liberty. "Hermann on the Prairie" with sword uplifted reveals a simple truth of democracy: Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.hermannsdenkmal.de/125Jahre.html>

The Hermann Monument in Detmold
<http://www.hermannsdenkmal.de/zahlen.htm>

Hermann Monument Society New Ulm Web Site
<http://www.hermannmonument.com/>

NATIONAL GERMAN-AMERICAN UMBRELLA ORGANIZATIONS

THE GERMAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION OF THE USA



Formerly known as UGAC/VDAK, the German Heritage Foundation is a national non-profit 501(C)3, educational membership organization. Founded in 1977, it is dedicated to promoting and preserving the cultural heritage of Americans of German-speaking ancestry in the United States, to promote

German language and culture, and to cultivate German American friendship and cooperation.

The major commitment of the organization is to establish a national heritage site in Washington, DC, which documents, collects, conserves, interprets and displays the historical and cultural experiences and achievements of persons of German-speaking descent. The Center will be located in our nation's capital, close to other important German sites: Hockemeyer Hall, 719 Sixth Street NW Washington; DC, 20001. Fundraising for the purchase and renovation of the building is an ongoing effort.

Hockemeyer Hall was built 1888 by John Hockemeyer, a German immigrant who served in the Union Army in the Civil War and became a successful merchant. In 1893 he added a two-story addition to create a banquet hall with the principal floors used by social clubs.

The Heritage Foundation supports cooperative efforts among German-Americans and their organizations and publishes The Ambassador (Der Botschafter) with organization and member news. Membership is open to any person of German-speaking heritage or anyone interested in German-American culture and language.

German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA, 1901 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 600,

Washington, DC 20006. Toll-free 1 (866) 868-8422. E-mail ugac@ugac.org www.gahfusa.org

GERMAN-AMERICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (DANK)



D.A.N.K. (Deutsch Amerikanischer National Kongress) a society of German-Americans today, was founded in 1959 with its headquarters in Chicago. It is representing German-Americans in the United States, with over 100 associated member societies from coast to coast. There are also several local chapters in Indiana. A non-profit organization, it supports German cultural landmarks and events, sponsors German-American student exchanges, the study of the German language and culture, and supports seven DANK schools. It promotes harmony and goodwill among German-American clubs and societies across the United States. It is in the forefront of celebrating German-American Day, October 6. It publishes the bi-monthly *German-American Journal* with general, chapter, and associate member news, such as the German-American Heritage Society of Saint Louis. Besides individual and chapter membership, associate membership is offered to German-American Societies, German Societies, or American societies, who agree with the aims and purposes of D.A.N.K. William Fuchs is the National President. The National Office located at 4740 N. Western Ave., Chicago, IL 60625-2097, (773-275-1100), www.dank.org.

SOCIETY FOR GERMAN-AMERICAN STUDIES (SGAS)



SGAS was established in 1968 as an international professional association of individuals and institutions interested in German-American studies and is registered in the State of Ohio as a non-profit organization.

The Society aims to cooperate with organizations and institutions with similar purposes and serves as an umbrella organization for them. Among its affiliates are the Max-Kade Institutes at the

University of Kansas, Lawrence; Pennsylvania State University; and the Max Kade German-American Center at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

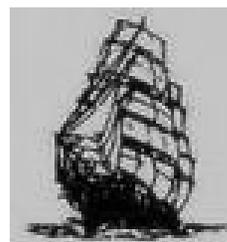
SGAS encourages the study and promotion of research in the history, culture, folklore, genealogy, language, literature, and the creative arts of the German element in North America. It publishes research findings and news in the areas of its interest as a public service. It assists researchers, teachers, and students interested in the German element in North America and works to improve cross-cultural relations between German-speaking countries and North America.

The Newsletter, while containing informative articles concerning the Society, also contains news on the activities of other organizations with similar purposes and short articles on German-Americana. The Yearbook contains articles in English and German on German-American history, literature, and culture. It also contains a "Book Review" section and the annual "Bibliography of German-Americana", edited by Giles R. and Dolores Hoyt of Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, assisted by the Bibliographic Committee of the Society.

The Society holds its Annual Symposia at major German-American Historic sites. Last year it met at Colonial Williamsburg with the focus of the conference on the settling of Jamestown. This year it will be meeting again in New Ulm, Minnesota, and in 2010 in New Harmony, IN.

For more information contact J. Gregory Redding of Wabash College Crawfordsville, IN 47933
Tel: (765) 361-9725. Email: reddingg@wabash.edu

PALATINES TO AMERICA - GERMAN GENEALOGY SOCIETY



Palatines to America (Pal Am) is a German genealogy society dedicated to the study of ancestors from all German-speaking lands. The society takes its name from a region in Germany known as the

Palatinate (Pfalz) which is where some of the earliest German-speaking immigrants came from. The founding members of Pal Am all had ancestors from this area of Germany. The Pal Am Library Collection is now housed in the Metropolitan Library, Columbus, OH and will be available for members and the public starting in early Spring 2009. The CML is located at 96 S. Grant Ave., Columbus, OH 43215, (614) 645-2275.

Pal Am maintains a website, which provides ancestor information submitted by its members previously available only through the library. Pal Am publications include a quarterly journal and other publications on German genealogical research. Pal Am maintains a bookstore (<http://www.palam.org/bkstore3>), which specializes in Germanic history and genealogy. The items in this bookstore are available for sale online, through their newsletter, and at the Pal Am National Office, located at 4604 North High St, Columbus, Ohio 43214-2001.

EUROPEAN ORIGINS OF GERMAN-AMERICAN DIVERSITY BY EBERHARD AND RUTH REICHMANN

Both the official motto of the United States, *e pluribus unum* (*One out of many*), and the motto expressed in the German national anthem, *Einigkeit und Recht und Freiheit* (*Unity, Justice and Freedom*) betray the degree to which diversity has been a given in the history of both nations. Yet, each has pursued the goal of unifying its diverse elements differently.

The United States is the foremost "Nation of Immigrants," to quote John F. Kennedy, and has shaped its identity through a continuous process of assimilation and integration involving some 140 different nationalities, with the goal of forming a political and socio-economic whole out of a populace of different ethnic backgrounds and religious creeds. The quest for unity in German-speaking lands, on the other hand, has been predicated largely on the maintenance of a variety of diverse tribal affiliations, reaching back into antiquity but bound together by a common history, an overarching ethno-linguistic culture, and dynastic interests.

Given that today's German-speaking culture area is only about one-twentieth the size of the United States the uninitiated might expect more cultural homogeneity than diversity in German-speaking countries. At close range, however, these lands reveal a multitude of distinct cultural varieties that, in part, reach back more than 1500 years to the settlement of certain areas by individual tribes. Germanic tribesmen, early Christian missionaries, knights and noblemen, peasants and burghers, religious reformers and writers--all helped shape the composite which we know as German tradition today. Yet, much of the common heritage is ageless, since many customs, beliefs, and traditions are derived from the misty past of pagan times and transcend both present national borders and specific tribal affiliations.

Many factors have encouraged the process of homogenization: political forces with wars and marriages often resulting in religious-sectarian changes; industrialization and the concomitant growth of cities; increased mobility; and ease of communication. In the second half of the 20th century, the rapid urbanization of even the smallest villages has been constantly chiseling away at some of the most tenacious of the individual tribal characteristics. But despite the inevitable leveling effect, much of the diversity has been retained or is being preserved.

The gradual development of a common language [Middle High German] in the Middle Ages, especially through a blossoming courtly literature, paved the way toward a sense of a common culture despite often great tribal differences and changing political alliances. Ethno-linguistic and cultural bonds have survived the demise of all three German empires. Although today German-speaking Central Europe also includes Austria, Liechtenstein, most of Switzerland, bilingual Luxembourg, Alsace, and South Tyrol--all with political identities separate from Germany proper--we can still refer to these lands with their transnational span as being part of the "deutsche Kulturnation." German-Americans share its (non-politically defined) cultural heritage.

Immigrants from the German-speaking areas of Europe have been coming to America as early as

1608, bringing with them not just their trunks full of utensils and clothes, but their dialects, their customs and traditions, their values, and beliefs. This "cultural baggage" provided them with continuity and a sense of stability, which found expression in the founding of German towns and neighborhoods often based on common regional origin of the settlers. The immigrants' sense of identity in the New World thus continued to mirror their tribal and regional roots.

Striking evidence of the tendency of immigrants to congregate and settle in areas where others from their home territory in Europe had established themselves can be found in J. Richley's *Directory of the German-American Societies in the USA*, 1988. Of the more than 800 organizations listed, a significant number show a tribal or regional orientation. In fact, three of the ten most frequently occurring names refer specifically to original tribal groups: the Saxons, the Bavarians, and the Swabians. Examples of organizations organized around a common ethnic/tribal ancestry are: the Bukovina Society of the Americas; American Schleswig-Holstein Heritage Society; Germans from Russia Heritage Society; and the German-Bohemian Heritage Society.

An attempt to preserve the German cultural heritage can be found in the first issue of the *Neues Blatt* [Feb.1, 1997], the Newsletter of the Ostfriesen Heritage Society in Iowa. The "Goals of the Society" are:

- To preserve the knowledge of the emigrants, their names, customs, foods and land of origin through genealogy, celebrations, and language classes.
- To use and enjoy the Platt language for the two generations which still speak this ancient Friesen language of the low coastal lands of Germany.
- To preserve records of the language through cassettes and video of the Plattdeutsch theater and music at our festivities.
- To provide activities with Platt Theater and German music.
- To form an Ostfriesen Genealogical Resource/Research Center at the Wellsburg Library, for this central part of Iowa and all

whose ancestors first settled in Grundy County and surrounding areas.

- To bring performing groups from Ostfriesland, Germany, and for our people to perform in Germany and research their roots in the land of their ancestors.

As recently as 1997, the newsletter of the Pommersche Verein Central Wisconsin stated, "Our Verein has chosen the Jamunder Tracht for our Tracht (folk costume)." In regard to language the newsletter reports: "Since the formation of our Verein, we have gathered and published information about the German dialect spoken by our forefathers. At our meetings we attempt to state resolutions brought from the floor in 'Platt'..."

Low German [Plattdeutsch], spoken in the northern third of Germany, has kept a closer relationship to the Anglo-Saxon roots of the English language than have Middle and Upper German. These latter dialect groups, esp. Upper German, experienced a still unexplained shifting of consonants that didn't affect Anglo-Saxon and Low German.

It would do the dialects a great injustice to look at them as "bad" or "corrupted" German. The "Low" of Low German is, after all, only derived from the landscape in the low-lying coastal areas of the North where those dialects are spoken. In America, more often than not, the "Low" is erroneously interpreted as second rate, "bad" German. The northern dialects actually have seniority; They are linked to the historic tribal substructure of the German-speaking peoples who settled in central Europe and in England [Anglo-Saxons] during the Völkerwanderung [migration of nations]. Each of the major tribes--the Frisians, Saxons, Franks, Thuringians, Alemanni and Bavarians--developed their own dialect and even various sub-dialects. When, in the course of history, dynastic territorial actions altered the political map, they seldom affected the ethno-linguistic characteristics of the tribes. For example, in the southern part of the German-speaking area, in the Duchy of Swabia was comprised of what is today Alsace, Baden-Württemberg, western Bavaria, western Austria, Liechtenstein and two-thirds of Switzerland. Even after 1500 years, the

overarching Alemannic bonds still make it possible for people in these areas to communicate in their respective sub-dialects.

Diversity has been a constant characteristic of the "deutsche Kulturnation." For better or for worse, in the course of history it has exacted its price and bestowed its rewards. Tribal diversity coupled with dynastic ambitions resulted in a typically decentralized nation state. The Third Reich was an unfortunate exception to this historical pattern.

With the obvious stress on High German [Schriftdeutsch] in America's high school and college German programs, dialects are generally excluded from the curriculum, especially German-American dialects, and German Americana altogether. To ignore German-American dialects and centuries of German Americana is not only academically untenable, but it also ignores the needs and interests of millions of Americans of German-speaking ancestry. Also it misses out on a great public relations potential. Cooperation between educational institutions and German-American heritage societies can strengthen enrollments and enrich our understanding of American history.

German-Americans, like other ethnic groups, have not been immune to the "melting pot." If inter-marriages lead to mixed ethnicity, personal preference may keep the one or the other ethno-cultural identity alive. Today, more often than in decades past, one can hear: "Yes, I'm German, too, and proud of it."

Excerpted from an article published in *The Report 44: A Journal of German-American History*, Vol. XLIV (2000), 17-30.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

WYNEKEN HOUSE NEEDS PERMANENT FOUNDATION

Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana recently awarded a grant to the Indiana German Heritage Society's Friends of Wyneken Chapter. The chapter will use the \$1,600 grant to hire a professional to



design a permanent foundation and basement for the Wyneken house, which was saved from demolition by a move to a new site near the Adams-Allen County

line. The 1855 house has been resting on temporary supports.

For more information on the Wyneken House project, contact John Kalb of the Friends of Wyneken, john.kalb@verizon.net or visit their Website <http://www.friendsofwyneken.org>.

SISTER CITIES NEWS

State Council member Ralph Ruppel keeps extremely busy with 2 sister cities exchange programs. He was instrumental in establishing the Vincennes and Wasserburg, Bavaria partnership in 1992. Since he could not find a suitable partner city in Indiana for Kehlheim he linked it with Teutopolis / Effingham, IL, a very German area, and the exchanges are going great. He writes: "Student exchanges and adult exchanges, cultural exchanges are just as strong as those of Jasper and Pfaffenweiler. Vincennes, Jasper and Evansville have been sharing ideas on festivals this past 2 years." About the Vincennes and Wasserburg exchange he reports that a former exchange student has returned to Vincennes. "Andreas Hoerger of Wasserburg a medical student at Munich Technical University has been studying at Good Samaritan Hospital."

Hoerger came to Vincennes in 1997 as a high school student in the sister cities exchange program. He enjoyed his time in Vincennes so much when given the opportunity to study medicine abroad he wanted to come back to Vincennes,

DONATION

Our thanks are extended to Elise S. Marshall for her donation of *Theodore Stempfel's 50 Jahre unermüdlichen Deutschen Strebes in Indianapolis* (1898) to the IUPUI German-American Center collection of rare books.

RESTORING A TOWN SPIRE

BY DIANE RAVER

The Oldenburg Preservation Association (OPA), along with Holy Family Catholic Church officials, are planning to reconstruct the onion dome spire, which was demolished in 1949 when it fell into disrepair.



Jeff Paul, parishioner and Oldenburg Preservation Association member, recalls that in 1986, a decision was made to demolish

the Holy Family Monastery on Pearl Street. At that time, the Rev. Gabriel Buescher "wanted to fix up the stone church.... and put an onion dome back on" it. Money was raised for the restoration, but as time went by, "the project fell by the wayside." More recently, interest was renewed when another pastor, the Rev. Rock Travnikar, noticed something that "We were missing a spire."

After some research, the Association found the original steeple's size and had plans drawn that "are within a fraction of an inch of what the tower would have been." With the help of historian Bill Selm, Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, and Paul Kissel, of Lexington, KY, the Restore the Onion Dome Committee learned how to replace the original structure. The height from the bottom of the tower to the tip of the spire will be 46 feet, with a 7-foot cross on top. The base will be a 12 foot square.

Although the former dome was made of wood, the new one will be constructed of aluminum so to not burden the parish with future maintenance. Kentucky-based Campbellsville Industries will fabricate the dome. Paul reported that they rebuilt the four historic cupolas for the West Baden Springs Hotel in French Lick. The cost to construct the steeple is about \$71,234, with an additional \$20,000 to prepare and install the tower. Paul is hoping the dome can be ordered by the end of January because it will take 10 to 12 weeks to manufacture. "What

we would like to do is have it (installed) by April 14," which is the anniversary of when "the stone church was first consecrated to the holy family."

OPA member Gary Munchel, believes this project will "add to the overall integrity of our town It's another recent example of what we've done to preserve our legacy." Rev. David Kobak, the current pastor, agrees and saying "it is something every family can take part in (and) a great cause for people to donate to." Once the structure is completed, Munchel hopes visitors see "there's a spirit of optimism in Oldenburg," and the town's residents are "still vibrant and proud of our community. "Oldenburg is known for its heritage so it's only fitting to replace one of our lost steeples." Paul adds, "It's one more special thing about our village."

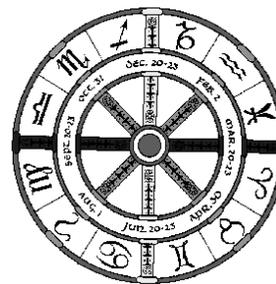
Over half the funding needed has already been raised. Proceeds from the Freudenfest, the town's annual German festival, raised \$45,000, and many area residents have also donated funds, however, the rest of the money still has to be acquired. Anyone who would like to donate to this project can send checks to the Oldenburg Preservation Association, P.O. Box 142, Oldenburg, IN 47036.

Excerpted from *The Batesville Herald Tribune*
<http://batesvilleheraldtribune.com>

20 January 2009.

MAY EVE AND MAY DAY BY RUTH REICHMANN

The year of the Sun consists of 2 Solstices (Winter and Summer), 2 Equinoxes (Vernal and Autumnal) and 4 Cross Quarter Days, which run like spokes on a wheel between the Solstices and Equinoxes.



The days of winter, of ice and snow have long passed. Passed is the Winter Solstice, the point at which the sun reached its greatest

declination north. The beginning of the solar New Year was celebrated in my homeland Bavaria with

bonfires in the mountains and in Sylvester (New Years Eve) parties with sparklers and fire crackers.

Three Kings or Epiphany on January 6 had ended the twelve days of Christmas. Candlemas / Groundhog Day, February 2, is the quarter point between the Midwinter Solstice and the Vernal Equinox and is followed by the winter vanquish celebrations, the driving out of winter.

Karneval, Fasching and Fasnacht was celebrated by some and had ended promptly on Ash Wednesday. Palm Sunday, the last Sunday before Easter, ushered in Holy Week, ending with Easter Sunday. The Vernal Equinox, the day of the Germanic goddess Ostara, was celebrated with eggs, bunnies and little yellow chicks. It was a celebration of the rebirth of Nature, where night and day are approximately 12 hours.

"Spring is right around the corner" they will say and, "ah yes, you can feel it in the air." On every spring-like day some will rush out into the yard, rake away winter debris, and look for the first harbingers of spring. Finally April came full of yellow flowers. Cross Quarter Day on April 30 also called May Eve or Walpurgisnacht had arrived, the cross quarter day separating the Vernal Equinox from the Midsummer solstice.

May Day is closely connected to the evening before it - the "Walpurgisnacht" or May Eve. Its roots can be found in pre-Christian Frühjahrsfests. Walpurgisnacht is situated directly opposite Halloween and is the end marker in the seasonal cycle of the Sun which begins with Candlemas / Groundhog Day. Children play pranks on unsuspecting victims around midnight on April 30, similar to Halloween, and some even dress up as witches and evil spirits.

The Brocken, the highest peak in the Harz Mountains, is known as the mythical meeting place of the witches. Witches' fires may burn in some places. Since noise was deemed the most effective way to drive off evil spirits, many ways of making noise are known. On May Day earth spirits like fairies and elves (the ancient dead) would come out

of the hills and barrows to dance on May Eve and well into the summer.

If you would like to know more go to:
<http://www.mrshea.com/germusa/customs/yearsun.htm>

A Traditional Song of Spring



An Den Mai

*Komm Lieber Mai und mache
Die Bäume wieder grün
Und lass uns an dem bache
Die kleinen Veilchen blühn.
Wie möchten wir so gerne
Ein Blümchen wieder sehn!
Ach lieber Mai wie gern
Einmal spazieren gehn.*



To May

*Oh come, dear May, again
And dress the trees in green
And all along the brookside
Let violets be seen.
Oh what a great delight
To see just one flower in bloom
As we are taking a springtime walk,
please make it happen soon.*

Traditional song with melody by Mozart

WALPURGISNACHT BY RUTH REICHMANN

The first of May marks the final victory of spring over winter, but before departing, the witches and their cohorts have one last fling. The night from April 30 to May 1 is called "Walpurgisnacht", the night of Walpurgis or Walpurga. The festival is marked by numerous rituals to ward off evil. Legend has it that on Walpurgisnacht the witches would gather on the Brocken, the highest peak in the Harz Mountains.

Under Christian influence Walpurgisnacht became a festival to drive out evil spirits. Walpurgis derives its name from Walpurga or Walburga. Walburga, Abbess of Heidenheim near Eichstätt, a Catholic Saint, was known as the protectress against witchcraft and sorcery. On the Eve of May 1, bells may toll in some areas and prayers may be said; there may be blessings with holy-water and blessed sprigs can be found in homes and barns. The most widespread remedy against evil spirits during Walpurgisnacht is noise. As soon as the sun sets, boys of all ages may make noise. Their equipment ranges from boards to beat onto the ground to pistols for firing shots.

In Bavaria the night from April 30 to May 1 is called a "Freinacht" or "Drudennacht." For youth it is an opportunity to play tricks. They may stroll in groups through the streets and wind toilet-paper around cars, smear door-handles with tooth-paste, unhinge garden doors and carry them a few meters away, and they may displace shoe scrapers. It is said that at one time boys took a sparred-frame cart to pieces and reassembled it on the roof of the house of the owner.

Walpurgisnacht is best remembered by many because of the scene in Goethe's *Faust*, in which Mephistopheles takes Faust to the Brocken and has him revel with the witches. The witches gathering became widely known.



Excerpts from Goethe's *Faust*, "Walpurgis-Night" in German:

HEXEN (im Chor):

Die Hexen zu dem Brocken ziehn,
Die Stoppel ist gelb, die Saat ist grün.
Dort sammelt sich der große Hauf,
Herr Urian sitzt oben auf.

So geht es über Stein und Stock,
Es farzt die Hexe, es stinkt der Bock.

STIMME:

Die alte Baubo kommt allein,
Sie reitet auf einem Mutterschwein.

CHOR:

So Ehre denn, wem Ehre gebührt!
Frau Baubo vor! und angeführt!
Ein tüchtig Schwein und Mutter drauf,
Da folgt der ganze Hexenhauf.

CHOR

Es trägt der Besen, trägt der Stock
Die Gabel trägt, es trägt der Bock

Wer heute sich nicht heben kann
Ist ewig ein verlornen Mann.

Excerpts from Goethe's *Faust*, "Walpurgis-Night" in translation:

WITCHES IN CHORUS:

The witches t'ward the Brocken strain
When the stubble yellow, green the grain.
The rabble rushes - as 'tis meet -
To Sir Urian's lordly seat.
O'er stick and stone we come, by jinks!
The witches f..., the he-goat s...

VOICE:

Old Baubo comes alone, I see;
Astride on farrow sow is she!

CHORUS:

So honor be where honor is due!
Dame Baubo first! to lead the crew,
A hag upon a sturdy sow!
All witches come and follow now!

CHORUS:

The broomstick carries, so does the stock; The pitchfork
carries, so does the buck; Who cannot rise on them
tonight, Remains for aye a luckless wight.

Faust, Bilingual Edition,
translated and edited by J.F.L. Raschen.
Ithaca, NY: The Thrift Press (1949), pp 201-203.

New Books

Serving the Immigrant: The Sesquicentennial History of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Parish in Indianapolis 1858 – 2008

by James J. Divita.



In the 19th century, the Germans were the largest immigrant group to settle in Indianapolis. They were the most diverse in religion of any European newcomers, and founded several congregations in all areas of the city.

German Catholics founded the first St. Mary's Church on East Maryland Street in 1858. The parish became a major educational center, since the Sisters of St. Francis operated grammar and secondary schools (St. Mary Academy) nearby for over a century. When the parish was divided at McCarty Street in 1875, St. Mary's was attended by a substantial percentage of north side businessmen and professionals.

Relocated at Vermont and New Jersey Streets in 1912, St. Mary's lost much of its German character as a result of World War I. Many members began to attend local parishes, the national parish having played its historical role.

In the 21st century, St. Mary's has become one of several parishes serving Hispanics, the largest immigrant group to settle in Indianapolis. As early as 1960, Cuban refugees attended St. Mary's because of its Spanish-speaking staff. Like the Germans before them, they have moved on and been replaced by a large Mexican contingent.

Besides Germans, Cubans, and Mexicans, St. Mary's has been a parish home to Italians, Latvians,

Filipinos, Peruvians, Venezuelans, Colombians, Salvadorans, as well many American-born Catholics who are attracted to its urban mission and cosmopolitan atmosphere. Because of its long tradition of serving immigrants, the history of St. Mary's also provides insight into the ordinary problems of newcomers, and how they adjust religion, language, economic role, and social lives to their new environment.

This 107-page scholarly and pastoral history, which is profusely illustrated, was written by James J. Divita, Ph.D., professor emeritus of History for Marian College in Indianapolis. The author has researched studies of a dozen local parishes over the last forty years, and published the histories of Indianapolis' four ethnic parishes. He has contributed many articles and reviews on local religious and ethnic historical topics.

To obtain a copy of *Serving the Immigrant*, mail your check for \$13.25 (\$10 for the book, 70¢ tax, and \$2.55 S/H) payable to the author, to Prof. James J. Divita, Historian Emeritus, Marian College, 3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis, IN 46222.

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If you have questions, or if you do not receive your copy of *German Life* in a timely fashion, please contact Ruth Reichmann at 812-988-2866 or email us at reichman@indiana.edu.

INDIANA GERMAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE CALENDAR

STAMMTISCH AND PROGRAMS

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, Professor 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 Mannheim area 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.

Wed., April 8: Board Meeting, Stammtisch and Program: *Our German Heritage in Helping Families and Children.*

Sven Schumacher, Director of the Foundation for Lutheran Child and Family Services, will be talking about the history of Lutherwood and its German roots. Lutherwood was originally founded by German immigrants in 1883 as an orphanage, the "Evangelisch-Lutheranisches Waisenhaus," on the near east side of Indianapolis. Today it is a residential treatment center for children who are recovering from the effects of abuse, neglect, and/or abandonment. Mr. Schumacher, a native of Germany, is also the newly appointed Honorary Consul of Germany for the state of Indiana.



Wed., May 13: Board Meeting, Stammtisch and Program: *Maibowle und deutscher Wein (May Weinfest)* with Fred Yaniga and Giles Hoyt.

Fred will introduce German May traditions and Giles will lead a tasting and discussion of German wine varietals. In spite of the wide variety and the great quality of German wines, not much is known about wine from Germany. Along with Riesling wines, there are Müller-Thurgau, Sylvaner, Lemberger, Spätburgunder, etc. Then

there are the classifications such as Prädikat, Qualitätswein, Spätlese, Beerenauslese, etc. A small charge for the tasting will be requested. Fred Yaniga teaches at Butler; Giles R. Hoyt is past president of IGHS and Professor emeritus of German and Philanthropic Studies and Director emeritus Max Kade German-American Center at IUPUI. E-mail: ghoyt@iupui.edu

Wed., June 10: Board Meeting, Stammtisch and Program: *The German-American Connection on the Silver Screen* with Claudia Grossmann.

Did you know that Leonardo di Caprio called his grandmother 'Oma'? Or that blockbuster movies such as *Independence Day*, *Godzilla* and *The Day After Tomorrow* were made by a director born and raised in a small

southern German town? Roland Emmerich is sometimes referred to as the "Swabian Spielberg." The German-Hollywood connection is one of the most enduring and influential cultural encounters between the German-speaking countries and the U.S. The early decades of Hollywood fame owe much to German and Austrian immigrants. Great directors such as Fritz Lang and Ernst Lubitsch have been known to generations of movie fans, and names like Marlene Dietrich are practically synonymous with Hollywood glitz and glamour. Find out more about the many German-American connections in the film industry, then and now. Claudia Grossmann is the German Program Director and Acting Director of the Max Kade German-American Center at IUPUI.

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

ST. BENNO FEST!



Sat., March 7, 6-11:30 p.m. *St. Benno Fest* at the Athenaeum, 401 E. Michigan St., Indianapolis. Entertainment: Athenaeum German Band, Danse 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, *25th Annual IGHS Meeting and Symposium* will be held at the Athenaeum, in Indianapolis (see elsewhere in this newsletter).

April 1: An evening of Lieder in the Eidson-Duckwall Recital Hall, Butler University: Join the American Pianists Association's five finalists, soprano Elisabeth Honn Hoegberg, baritone Alan Dunbar, and guest lecturer Dr. Susan Youens for an authentic German cultural tradition. Seating is limited--reserve your place now.

The evening features:



- 4:30 Free lecture by Dr. Youens entitled: "Take Me to Your Lieder" (Free)
- 6:00 German Dinner (\$25 per person)
- 7:00 Repeat of lecture by Dr. Youens (Free)
- 8:00 Lieder Recital (\$20 general, \$5 students)

For more information, call 317-940-9945 or www.americanpianists.org

Fri., April 10, 10 a.m. The *Annual German Good Friday Service* 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 is welcome. No denominational restrictions. Convenient parking is located just north of the Church. Handicapped and hearing impaired accessible. For more information, call 317-639-5411.



April 17, 18 and 19. The Indianapolis Liederkrantz will host the *58th Bezirks Sangerfest* of the Southern Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois District. The festivities begin on Friday evening with a get together at the newly remodeled Liederkrantz club house. On Saturday the concert will begin at 7:30PM in the Sagamore Ballroom of the Indiana Convention Center. The Athenaeum orchestra, directed by Loesje Chandler, will provide some of the music for the concert. Following the concert will be a dance and entertainment by a local German dance group, with music by the Original Alpine Express. On Sunday there will be a luncheon after which all of the clubs will have an opportunity to sing for each other.

Registration for the Saturday and Sunday activities is \$65.00, which includes both meals. Admission for the concert and dance only is \$20.00 per person. The Indianapolis Liederkrantz Damenchor will assist us in hosting the event. To purchase tickets contact Klaus Seibert at kseibert60@att.net or 888-4654 or Cliff Chandler at chandlercliff@sbcglobal.net or 782-9216.

April 16-19, Society for German American Studies Annual Conference (SGAS) in New Ulm, MN. See related article in this newsletter or visit: <http://www-lib.iupui.edu/kade/home.html>



June 18-20, 2009 National Palatines to American Conference will be held in Ft. Wayne at the Allen, County Public Library. Accommodations will be in the Clarion Hotel. For more information, please visit: <http://www.palamnationalconference.org>.

FESTIVALS AROUND THE STATE

April 24-26: 31st Annual *Terre Haute Strassenfest*, Downtown Terre Haute, 9th & Cherry Streets, daily 11 a.m. to 12 midnight, bands, food, drink and fun.



June 7-14: The *Fort Wayne Germanfest* is a joint venture of: The Fort Wayne Sport Club, The Fort Wayne Turners, The Fort Wayne Mannerchor & Damenchor, and The Fort Wayne German Heritage Society. For information see www.GermanFest.org



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