Letter From Max Kade Center

For those of you who might wonder at the similarity of our last names in the caption, let me put your minds at ease—Heinz and I are indeed married to each other. A strange turn of events that put us both in the spotlight together occurred when Heinz accepted the nomination of President to succeed our illustrious president, Brian Griesemer, who wanted to take a short and well-deserved break, but nevertheless accepted the office of Vice-President.

At the School of Liberal Arts Celebration of Scholarship on April 29, 2017, Ms. Mariam Aziz was awarded the IUPUI Dan Nuetzel Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is jointly funded by the members of IGHS and the Max Kade German-American Center. Mariam will be interning for the Max Kade Center during the fall semester. After her internship, Mariam will travel to Freiburg, Germany, (coincidentally Heinz’ hometown and the location of my study abroad year in the 70s) to study a semester at the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität. Mariam is a German major and President of the IUPUI German Club.

At the ceremony, six Max Kade Travel Grants funded by Max Kade Foundation NY were awarded for the German Study Abroad Program in Heilbronn, Germany. The program will take place from June 26 – July 7 under the leadership of Dr. Clau-

In 1983 the Tricentennial Commission for German Group Immigration (1683-1983), had been appointed by Governor Orr to celebrate the Tricentennial of Group Immigration to Indiana. Of these Giles Hoyt, the two Reichmanns, Eberhard and Ruth, Bill Selm, Halbert Kunz and others stayed on and began meeting at the Athenaeum.

They set out to research and learn more about Indiana's German heritage, and in 1984, founded the Indiana German Heritage Society with Ruth Reichmann as founding president. Included in the IGHS mission of researching and preserving German-American culture is the preservation of historic landmarks. None became more important than the Deutsche Haus—Athenaeum, our home base. IGHS was to serve as a catalyst for preservation and restoration of the building, cooperation with in-house organizations, such as the Turners and the Damenverein, and sponsoring, coordinating and implementing cultural and educational activities in the spirit of the house and its founders.

IGHS initiated a lecture/program series known as the Stammtisch Program, that brought speakers and performing groups like the Cologne Männerchor, and it revived German traditions like St. Nikolaus Fest and Karneval. To aid in a better understanding of the building's role, Giles Hoyt with an editorial group published a bilingual (G/E) reprint of Th. Stempfel’s 1898 Festschrift: 50 Years of Unrelenting German Aspirations in Indianapolis (1848-1898), a companion volume to The Germans in Indianapolis (1848-1918), by Th. Probst and Eb. Reichmann. Eberhard Reichmann and Giles Hoyt began to translate other
Dear Friends and Loyal Supporters:

It is time to renew your membership in the IGHS.

As a not-for-profit membership organization, we rely on membership fees, donations and occasional grants to provide the essential support for activities and programs of the organization, as well as, for our quarterly Newsletter, which focuses mainly on Indiana German-American history and heritage, but brings also items of general interest.

If you are uncertain of your membership status, check your newsletter label, send an e-mail to ighsmembership@gmail.com, or call Kent Robinson at 317-299-5760. Please use the renewal form in this newsletter or renew online at http://ighs.org/.

Nearly thirty of our members and friends from Cincinnati joined us on Friday March 17th at Mecklenburg Gardens for the annual IGHS membership meeting, a scrumptious dinner and presentation by Dr. Don Heinrich Tolzmann President of the German-American Citizens League & German Heritage Museum on "The Jahn Monument in Cincinnati: A World War I Target of the Anti-German Hysteria."

On Saturday, IGHS President Brian Griesemer, Dr. Don Heinrich Tolzmann President, German-American Citizens League, Martin Wilhelmy, the Honorary Consul for the Federal Republic of Germany and Clement Luken, Jr., the Austrian Honorary Consul welcomed the attendees to a morning of presentations on the Anti-German Hysteria of the World War I era.

First up was Dr. Paul A. Tenkotte, a professor of History & Geography and the Director of the Center for Public History at Northern Kentucky University. He spoke about the effects of anti-German hysteria in Northern Kentucky. IGHS board member William Selm spoke about the effects of this anti-German hysteria on the Athenaum-Deutsches Haus. The morning wrapped up with a presentation by Dr. Giles R. Hoyt, professor emeritus of German and director emeritus, IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center on the image of the German-American during WWI.

Following the mornings presentations, most members caravanned to Taft's Ale House, located in Cincinnati's Over-the-Rhine district in a renovated former St. Paul’s German Evangelical Church.

The day ended with a Reception at the German Heritage Museum.
dia Grossmann and Dr. Sharon Wailes. Students will attend morning language classes and participate in educational excursions in the afternoons to nearby places such as Heidelberg, Stuttgart and Bad Wimpfen.

2017 Max Kade Travel Grants, Heilbronn Summer Program. 

I am currently in the process of locating German-American speakers who learned the local dialect(s) such as Jasper Deitsch or Ft. Wayne Platt Düütsch from their parents or grandparents. These dialects are disappearing rapidly and need to be preserved before they are gone. The interviews I conduct resemble oral histories about childhood or young adult memories and experiences while growing up in a German-speaking or bilingual home. You do not have to be fluent and the interview can be done in an English-German “mix.” Please contact me at ka-roesch@iupui.edu or at (830) 459-9301 if you are interested or know someone who would like to participate! I will be traveling to Dubois and Adams counties this summer—and can travel anywhere because this is important—and would love to hear from you!

An enjoyable and low-stress summer to ALL! 
Mit freundlichen Grüßen

Karen Rösch
Max Kade Director

New IGHS Board Members!

Brad Gottschlich grew up in Valparaiso, Indiana, and has recently lived in Indianapolis for 5 years. He earned a BA from Ball State University in Political Science and German Language in 2011. Moving to Indianapolis after completing his BA, he worked in several roles around the Indiana General Assembly before deciding to go to graduate school in 2014 to study Public Administration at IUPUI.

During his time in graduate school he participated in a summer travel abroad in Speyer, Germany at the public administration school. He was also a recipient of the Max Kade German-American Scholarship and finished his graduate degree with a completed thesis on German-American public transportation. He also accumulated experience working for several non-profit organizations during his time in graduate school. Since graduating in 2016, he has been working as a freelance writer. Brad has German heritage on his father’s side as his grandfather grew up in southwest Germany before immigrating to the United States. He has a passion for preserving Indiana’s German-American heritage and advocating for its future.

Glory-June Greiff is a public historian, writer, and preservation activist based in Indianapolis. Her several areas of interest and research include the work of the New Deal, historic architecture, public sculpture, transportation corridors, parks, and environmental history on which she has written numerous articles, papers, and discrete studies. She began research on the New Deal in Indiana over 35 years ago and continues to make new discoveries every year.

In the early 1990s she served as statewide director of Indiana's Save Outdoor Sculpture! (SOS!) survey, which provided the foundation for her book Remembrance, Faith and Fancy: Outdoor Public Sculpture in Indiana (2005). Her second book was People, Parks, and Perceptions: A History and Appreciation of Indiana State Parks (2009). In 2010 Greiff was honored with the Wilbur Peat Award for "outstanding contribution to the understanding and appreciation of
Indiana's architectural heritage."

For many years Greiff was spokesperson and secretary for the now-defunct Historic Indianapolis, Inc., spearheading several preservation efforts and writing regular articles on preservation topics. A charter member and past president of the Central Indiana Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians, she is its current Secretary-Treasurer. Greiff is a lifelong member of Save the Dunes and belongs to numerous history and environmental organizations.

A native of Hudson Lake in northern Indiana, Greiff earned a B.S. in Radio-Television/English from Butler University and worked several years on the air in radio; she holds a master's degree in Public History from Indiana University and was Chancellor’s Scholar. She is also a professional narrator and a performer of song and story.

Allison DePrey Singleton began her career at the Indiana Historical Society as an intern while working towards a Master of Library Science and a Master of Arts in Public History at IUPUI. She was hired as a collections assistant in the Indiana Historical Society’s William H. Smith Memorial Library. She later moved to the Indiana Historical Society’s Public Programs Department as the Assistant Coordinator for Education and Community Engagement. Driven by her love of genealogy, Allison was promoted to Coordinator of Family History Programming at the Indiana Historical Society, a role she served until coming to the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center. In addition to her employment activities, Allison is also a member of the Cornelia Cole Fairbanks Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Indiana German Heritage Society, Palatines to America, the Indiana Genealogical Society, and the Allen County Genealogical Society of Indiana.

Allison began her genealogy research at the age of sixteen at the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center. Since then she has been focused on the study of genealogy and archives. She traced her ancestors’ paths to Indiana from Ohio, Kentucky, Virginia, France, Germany, England, and beyond. While Allison’s specialties include researching in the regions of Indiana, France, and Germany and fields of social media, the Federal Census, teaching beginners, and genealogy programming, she loves learning new areas of genealogy. She views genealogy as lifelong education and continues to strive to learn more while keeping up with ever changing technology.

Your 2017-2018 IGHS Board Committees

The mission of the Indiana German Heritage Society is to understand, promote, and celebrate the contributions of German-speaking immigrants and their descendants to the multi-cultural heritage of the state and the nation. It takes a lot of effort, and a lot of volunteers to accomplish those goals.

If you are interested in assisting on any of our goals, or if you simply have questions, please feel free to contact any of the current IGHS committee members.

Executive Committee
Heinz Roesch (Chair), Brian Griesemer, Ron Flick, Al Hirt and Keith Osburn

Finance Committee
Fabian Knopfler (Chair), Heinz Roesch, Al Hirt and Giles Hoyt

Governance Committee
Brian Griesemer (Chair), Ron Flick and Giles Hoyt

Historic Preservation Committee
Ron Flick (Chair), Ken Selking and Bill Selm

Membership Committee
Louise Lamkin (Co-Chair), Kent Robinson (Co-Chair), Brian Griesemer, Lore Harle*, Steven Schmidt and Wendy Westphal

Newsletter Editorial Board
Steven Schmidt (Chair), Claudia Grossmann, Ruth Reichmann* and Karen Roesch

Funds Development Committee
Al Hirt (Chair), Brian Griesemer, Heinz Roesch, Fabian Knopfler and Chris Krauter

Nominations Committee
Bill Selm (Chair), Fabian Knopfler, Louise Lamkin and Kent Robinson

Program Committee
Ron Flick (Chair), Robin Geisinger and Nico Selm
Nominations Sought for Hoosier German-American of the Year

Each fall, the IGHS recognizes an individual who has made a significant contribution to the cultural and historical heritage of the Hoosier German-American community. This person must have been active in the German-American Community of their area during the past years.

Nominations are now being accepted from the entire IGHS membership for *The Hoosier German-American of the Year*. Nominations are due by August 15.

Please send us the name of the person you would like to nominate for this prestigious award. Be sure to include an explanation of why you believe that this person should be chosen to receive this award. Please be sure to include your name, address, telephone number, and email address along with your nomination and send it to:

Brian Griesemer, Chairperson
Indiana German Heritage Society
Awards Committee
401 E. Michigan Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

or email to: GRIESEMER_BRIAN_PATRICK@lilly.com

The award will be presented at the German-American Day presentation held in October at the Athenaeum German Fest, with proclamations by the Governor and the Mayor. The recipient will receive a plaque and the recipient’s name will be permanently displayed at the

Requirements for Hoosier-German American Award

Each year, the Indiana German Heritage Society recognizes someone who has made significant contributions to the cultural and historical heritage of the Hoosier German-American community. This person must be a Hoosier who has been active in the German-American Community over a period of time and who has demonstrated an ongoing dedication to promoting and perpetuating German culture. The award will be presented in the fall of each calendar year.

A Hoosier could be a person who was born in Indiana or who has moved to Indiana regardless of state or country of origin and has maintained residency here for at least five (5) years.

Period of time means at least ten (10) years (continuous or non-continuous period of time) of enabling and promoting German culture.

Examples of promoting and perpetuating German culture in Indiana may include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Leadership in a German-American organization
2. Cultural Exchange, such as Sister City Program
3. Promotion of cultural events to raise public awareness
4. Historic preservation
5. Promotion of the German language
6. German-American relations (politics or economy)

Posthumous awarding may be done if no candidates are nominated and/or if nominated candidates do not fulfill the requirements established by the organization for that calendar year. Posthumous awarding must be done within five (5) years after nominee has been deceased.

All active IGHS members are eligible to nominate nominees for the Hoosier-German American Award.

Full rules and details for the Hoosier German-American of the Year Award are available at [IGHS.org](#)
Public Relations Committee  
Brian Griesemer (Chair), Chris Krauter, Janet Price, Joy Gieschen, Kent Robinson and Steven Schmidt

Research and Publications  
Giles Hoyt (Chair), Jim Divita, Heiko Mühr*, Greg Redding*, Ruth Reichmann* and Steven Schmidt

State Council  
Ken Selking (Chair), Ron Flick, Greg Redding* and Bill Selm

Youth Development and Education Committee  
Claudia Grossmann (Co-Chair), Wendy Westphal (Co-Chair), Jim Divita, Janet Price, Chris Krauter, Robin Geisinger, Karen Roesch, Joy Gieschen and Nico Selm

*Not a member of the Board of Directors

“The Legacy of 1848: Transplanted Ideas and Values in America’s Past and Present,” a conference in Northfield, Minnesota, March 30 to April 2 attracted distinguished participants from Germany, Denmark, and all parts of the US. It was organized by Dr. Joachim (Yogi) Reppmann who has been in charge of several other such conferences. He has put together a program with challenging ideas and plenty of space for conviviality.

One day was devoted to Holocaust education. Herbert Quelle, German Consul General, Chicago, was present throughout and participated in many forums. He was part of a panel discussion with Carol Kahn-Strauss, long-time Executive Director of the Leo Baeck Institute in New York, Steve Hunegs, Executive Director, Jewish Community Relations Council for Minnesota and the Dakotas, Charles Fodor, Hungarian Holocaust survivor, and myself. Mr. Quelle also delivered the keynote address that evening on the German political situation and German American relations. The official part of the evening concluded with the world premiere of a documentary on a Holocaust Boxcar that Dr. Reppmann helped bring to Minnesota.

The evening ended with a birthday party for Yogi Reppmann at the Froggs Bottom pub where we enjoyed a local guitarist/singer who was accompanied by Herbert Quelle on the harmonica. In his book Monika’s Blues, Quelle makes the connection between the excellence of German harmonica manufacture and the genius of mainly African American Blues harpers. Hohner and Seydel exported millions of harmonicas to the US. The book takes the form of a road trip—in itself an iconic American story—undertaken by Walter, a 70 year old German in his 74 VW going from Chicago to the Mississippi Delta. The journey provides sometimes funny and more often haunting insights into the life of the American South in all its social and political complexity. Monika’s Blues is published by the publishing arm of IGHS and the Max Kade (Continued on page 7)

German publications and to publish and sell them. Bill Selm embarked on a search of German architecture, beginning with our Deutsches Haus/Athenaeum and published his first Wegweiser. IGHS members aided the late Martha Enyart and the Athenaeum Turner archives committee to organize the Turner documents. They were eventually transferred to the IUPUI Archives, were many of the Athenaeum historical materials were already housed.

We knew that we were German Americans and/or Americans of German descent but there had to be others in Indianapolis and around the State. So we embarked on a learning journey. The Soldiers and Sailors Monument in the very heart of Indianapolis was designed by German architect Bruno Schmitz, with sculptures by Rudolf Schwar of Austria. On the Indianapolis Southside, there were German vegetable growers and the “Wholesale District” began in 1863 when two Westphalian emigrants, the brothers August and Henry Schnull, built the first wholesale house on the corner of S. Meridian and W. Maryland Streets.

We visited those places where we knew that they were founded by Germans like Oldenburg and Ferdinand. We learned about the Germans in Dubois County and in Fort Wayne. We identified German names, family names of businesses, street names, and helped persons who had old letters written in script to translate them. We were told many stories by Hoosier German old-timers and Eberhard Reichmann began collecting these stories and tall tales, and published them in Hoosier German Tales. (Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 1)
Institute in Berlin.

The keynote address that evening was delivered by Eric Braeden, better known as Victor in The Young and the Restless. It was a powerful and emotional ending to the day as he talked about what being German means to him. In an address that was both poetic and thoughtful, Braeden remembered his childhood in Kiel during the war, the family’s post war struggles, his arrival in Hollywood as a young man where at first he was given only Nazis to play. Braeden is the only German actor after Marlene Dietrich to receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. His recent memoir is titled I’ll Be Damned: How My Young and Restless Life Led Me to America’s #1 Daytime Drama.

Once again the evening ended at the pub where we all sang German and American songs. It confirmed my conviction how singing songs familiar from youth connects people across age, gender, and social class. It was a fitting ending to this conference.

To learn more about Reppmann's German American activities, be sure to check out these links:

Gabrielle Robinson

German-Americans The silent minority

On a snow-covered bluff overlooking the Sheboygan river stands the Waelderhaus, a faithful reproduction of an Austrian chalet. It was built by the Kohler family of Wisconsin in the 1920s as a tribute to the homeland of their father, John Michael Kohler, who had immigrated to America in 1854 at the age of ten.

John Michael moved to Sheboygan, married the daughter of another German immigrant, who owned the local foundry, and took over his father-in-law’s business. He transformed it from a maker of ploughshares into a plumbing business. Today Kohler is the biggest maker of looos and baths in America. Herbert Kohler, the boss (and grandson of the founder), has done so well selling tubs that he has been able to pursue his other passion—

In order to make the next newsletter, please submit your stories and pictures by:

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IGHS Newsletter Deadlines
man town in Minnesota, refused to let its young men join the draft, the National Guard was sent in. After the war, German-Americans hunkered down. Many stopped speaking German and anglicized their names. Today German-Americans are quietly successful. Their median household income, at $61,500, is 18% above the national norm. They are more likely to have college degrees than other Americans, and less likely to be unemployed. A whopping 97% of them speak only English at home.

They have assimilated and prospered without any political help specially tailored for their ethnic group. “The Greeks and the Irish have a far stronger support network and lobby groups than we do,” says Peter Wittig, Germany’s ambassador in America. There was no German-American congressional caucus until 2010, though there were caucuses for potatoes, bicycles and Albanian affairs. The German caucus has quickly grown to about 100 members, who lobby for trade and investment as well as the preservation of their common cultural heritage.

Five years ago a small German-American Heritage Museum opened in Washington, DC. “Germany has never been as popular as it is today,” says Petra Schürmann, the museum’s director. German fests and Oktoberfests have sprung up all over the country, and they are not only about brats and beer, but also about tracing genealogy and displaying traditional dress and craftsmanship. Stuff made by Germans sells. And Americans travel to Germany in droves: the young to hip Berlin and older folks to pretty Heidelberg.

Excerpted from the *Economist*, 5 February 2015

During World War I, U.S. Government Propaganda Erased German Culture

April 2017 marked the centennial of U.S. entry into World War I, a conflict that shattered empires and cost millions of lives. On the American home front, it made this country less culturally German.

Today, when the question of loyalty of immigrants has again become contentious, what happened a century ago has special relevance. World War I inspired an outbreak of nativism and xenophobia that targeted German immigrants, Americans of German descent and even the German language.

It was a remarkable reversal of fortune. Germans were the largest non-English-speaking minority group in the U.S. at the time. The 1910 census counted more than 8 million first- and second-generation German-Americans in the population of 92 million.
There were still more German-American families that had been in the country longer, many since Colonial times. They were Catholics and Protestants, Lutherans and Mennonites, Jews and free thinkers of no religion at all. "During the 1850s, 900,000 — almost a million — Germans went to the United States," says historian Kenneth Ledford of Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. "That's at a time when the German population was only about 40 million."

German-Americans often worshipped in churches where German was used. They could live on city streets or in towns with German names. And while many immigrants assimilated into the English-speaking mainstream, many others sent their children to German-language public schools. Ledford says cities such as Cleveland, Cincinnati, St. Louis, and Chicago gave parents the option for their children in elementary school to receive their instruction in German as well as in English.

"German was the lingua franca of the literary scene, of the entertainment scene, of the theaters," says Richard Schade of the University of Cincinnati. He says many cities were also home to German-language newspapers and clubs where German was spoken.

The social life of the community was lubricated with the beverage Germans brought from the old country. Lager beer was drunk cold in beer halls. Beer put Germans on a collision course with the growing temperance movement. But the biggest collision ahead was over language. Before World War I, German wasn't just an ethnic minority language; it was the most studied modern foreign language in America.

Legal historian Paul Finkelman says in 1915 about 25 percent of all high school students in America studied German. But by the end of the World War I that had changed dramatically. German had become so stigmatized that only 1 percent of high schools even taught it. "During the war, there is an argument that if you learn German, you will become the 'Hun,' " Finkelman says, using the pejorative term for anyone from Germany. "And there was this notion that language was somehow organic to your soul. So if you spoke German, you would think like a German, you would become a totalitarian in favor of the Kaiser."

For the first three years of the war, the American people were divided over getting involved. When members of minority groups spoke against entering the war in support of Britain, including some, but not all German-Americans, their patriotism was questioned. They were disparaged as "hyphenated Americans." After President Woodrow Wilson took the country into war he said, "Any man who carries a hyphen about with him, carries a dagger that he is ready to plunge into the vitals of this Republic when he gets ready."

Schade says this anti-German sentiment extended to internment. "Hans Kuhnwald, the concertmeister of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, was interned; the German language was forbidden; the German-American press was heavily censored; libraries had to pull German books off the shelves; German-American organizations were targeted," Schade says, "and what happened, of course, is the German-Americans considered themselves to be good Americans of German extraction, several generations removed from the old country."

The demonization of German-Americans took its ugliest turn in Collinsville, Ill., which is now a suburb of St. Louis. On April 4, 1918, a German immigrant, Robert Prager, was lynched. Robert Stevens, vice president of the historical museum in Collinsville, says Prager's nationality wasn't the only thing that led to his murder. He was a socialist who worked at a local coal mine, and he was on the wrong side of the miners union. But that April night, Prager got on the wrong side of a drunken mob that accused him of spying for Imperial Germany.

"They stripped him totally naked, and they put a rope around his neck, and they paraded him down Main Street, making him sing patriotic songs," Stevens says.
"And they would take their beer bottles and break them in front of him. So he had to step on the broken beer bottles, cut his feet really badly." Prager professed his love for America and kissed the flag that his tormentors wrapped him in. Even so, he was taken to the edge of town to a hanging tree. "The group lowered him down quickly and, you know, break his neck," Stevens says. "They hollered, 'once for the red,' and they lowered him again, 'once for the white' and 'once for the blue.'"

Pete Stehman, who grew up in Collinsville, says the townspeople didn't talk about Prager for decades, but over the years he became fascinated with the mob's crime and the town's silence. He has written a book about it. He says that when 11 men were put on trial for the lynching, they were all acquitted. And he points out that the local newspaper wrote about the verdict. "The community is well convinced he was disloyal," the newspaper article read. "The city does not miss him. The lesson of his death has had a wholesome effect on the Germanists of Collinsville and the rest of the nation." Years later, in his memoir, the editor who wrote that article would call the trial "a farcical patriotic orgy."

While historians differ on what effect this had on German-Americans, Frederick Luebke, author of Bonds of Loyalty: German-Americans and World War I, says "a few reacted by asserting their Germanness with new vigor." But he adds, "others sought to slough off their ethnicity as painlessly as possible."

In the anti-German hysteria of World War I, the assimilation of German-Americans was accelerated. Being a hyphenated American would mean being suspect in nativist eyes for decades to come.


Feb. 23, 1923: Justices hear a challenge to 'English-only' laws

On a May afternoon in 1920, a county prosecutor showed up at a one-room parochial school in rural Nebraska to watch a 10-year-old boy take part in a crime. He watched as young Raymond Parpart read aloud an Old Testament Bible story about Jacob's ladder. The crime evolved from the fact that the boy was reading in German. Parpart's teacher, Robert Meyer, was later charged with violating Nebraska's Siman Act, for which he could face jail time and a fine.

During decades of upheaval in Europe, heartland America had absorbed unprecedented levels of European immigration. Even the armistice ending the Great War brought no end to lingering fears that this tide of immigrants would bring European chaos to Middle America. In response, Nebraska legislators passed the Siman Act in 1919, forbidding foreign language instruction through eighth grade in all schools. Like the post-war “English-only” laws in many other states, the act appeared to have solid federal support. An omnibus education initiative, the Smith-Towner Bill of 1918, included a requirement for the “Americanization of immigrants” through mandatory English instruction. State legislatures were offended by federal interference in education but convinced by virulent xenophobic organizations like the American Protective League that the unfamiliar spoken word—particularly German—was disloyal and dangerous to American cultural norms. One legislator noted: “If these people are Americans, let them speak our language. If they don’t know it, let them learn it. If they don’t like it, let them move.”

The brunt of this vitriol was aimed at a growing population of Catholics and Lutherans, many Italian or German by birth or by culture. It was no coincidence that Meyer taught at a school operated by the Zion Evangelical Congregation, one of the nation’s most influential Lutheran ministries. Moreover, the Bible reading was a carefully staged act of civil disobedience designed to place before the courts a challenge to the Siman Act and other such laws.

Meyer was tried and convicted, but he refused to pay the $25 fine. On appeal, the Nebraska Supreme Court ruled that enforcement of the Siman Act, like any mandatory education, was a legitimate exercise of state police power—this one directed at a potential public threat. But his lawyer Arthur Mullen—a naturalized citizen born in Canada and a former Nebraska attorney general—took a different approach before the U.S. Supreme Court. Instead of grounding his argument in a First Amendment right of religious expression, Mullen attacked the law as a violation of Meyer’s right to pursue his teaching profession, an abridgment of due process under the 14th Amendment.

By the time the nation’s highest court was to consider Meyer’s criminal case, Nebraska legislators had adopt-
ed a newer, harsher version of the act. And in February 1923, the court heard arguments that included the Siman Act, the newer Nebraska legislation and English-only cases from Iowa and Ohio.

But it was Meyer v. Nebraska that dealt the blow. In a blistering 7-2 decision delivered in June, Justice James C. McReynolds derided the laws as an affront to not only the rights of teachers but also parents who desired to have their children educated as they see fit. McReynolds also directed specific attention to the disproportionate, irrational treatment of German immigrants.

“Mere knowledge of the German language cannot reasonably be regarded as harmful. Heretofore it has been commonly looked upon as helpful and desirable,” McReynolds wrote. “The protection of the Constitution extends to all—to those who speak other languages as well as to those born with English on the tongue. Perhaps it would be highly advantageous if all had ready understanding of our ordinary speech, but this cannot be coerced by methods which conflict with the Constitution—a desirable end cannot be promoted by prohibited means.”


—-

**WWI Flag and Banner to be returned by WWII Veterans**

On March 20, 1945, a U.S. soldier removed a flag and banner from a building in a tiny rural town in Germany. The name of this soldier is not known, nor is their exact history until they were purchased by an avid history buff, Allen Andrews in Lebanon, Indiana at a memorable show in 1999.

Andrews did a Google search for the town name, Esselborn, a tiny hamlet about 50 miles from the French border. After emailing the German Consulate in Chicago about the flag, the consulate offered to contact Esselborn’s mayor. Within hours the Esselborn mayor emailed Andrews. Andrews forwarded a photo of the banner and flag to the mayor who replied by sending back another photo – the only surviving image of the banner and flag in their original home.

The mayor, Markus Pinger, informed Andrews that the flag was created in 1932 by the Protestant Women’s Association and donated to the Veterans and Soldiers Association, the equivalent of our American Legion Halls, for the group’s 25th anniversary. The flag and banner were probably looted by Allied soldiers with Patton’s Third Army on their way to Berlin during World War II.

The flag also has two sides – one depicting the German flag of the time and the other showing Germania, the female personification of the country of Germany. The banner lists the names and dates of death of all the Esselborn natives who died as soldiers during World War I. Twelve men died between 1914 and 1918. Two are listed as missing.

Andrews gave a brief speech on the flag and banner at the Indiana World War I Centennial Celebration at the Indiana War Memorial. The Indianapolis WWII Roundtable, where Andrews serves as a board member, is considering supporting his flight to Germany to hand-deliver the flag to the people of Esselborn.


Article and photo by Elizabeth Pearl. Excerpted from the The Lebanon Reporter

**German Church Update**

St. John United Church of Christ in Cumberland was built in 1914. Two years ago, when plans called for the 103-year-old church to be demolished to make way for a convenience store, Cumberland residents and the German Community rallied around the century-old St. John United Church of Christ building and fought off an adversary with deep pockets.

The Indianapolis-based TWG Development LLC has agreed to buy the building, contingent on the awarding of affordable-housing tax credits, and build senior apartments. Unfortunately, the tax credits have been delayed by the federal budget process, leaving the congregation to pay for $75,000 in ongoing maintenance,
We learned about German dialects and German speakers not only in Dubois County, but also others such as the Amish. We found, pretty much all over the State, churches that were founded by Germans, and we visited their grave yards and tombstones with German names and inscriptions. We looked at their hymn books which had many songs by German composers with text translated from the German. Music played a large part in German-American culture. The Indiana State song "On the Banks of the Wabash" was written by Terre Haute native Paul Dresser. There were men's choirs like the Indianapolis Männerchor and Germans started many orchestras.

Richard Lieber of Düsseldorf, Germany was the founder of the Indiana State Park system. Theodore Dreiser and Kurt Vonnegut are two of the most well-known German-American writers. We discovered old German newspapers and letters that were collected. We were shown household items and clothing, musical instruments, tools and utensils.

We supported teachers to do cultural exchanges and towns and cities to embark on sister cities exchanges, and common intercultural projects. They are tools to deepen the knowledge, understanding of and respect between Indianapolis and Cologne and is the result of a lot of hard work by the Freundeskreis Köln-Indianapolis e.V. honorary chairman Volkmar Schultz and Dorothea Schultz, with the support of the America House NRW e.V.

“Raising $75,000 was a monumental undertaking and we are so thankful to have had Indiana Landmarks as a partner in this effort. It could not have been done without them,” said Town Manager April Fisher. “The number of donations we received shows just how much the community values the German Church and is committed to its preservation. We also would like to thank the St. John Congregation and TWG for their patience and support.”

The St. John United Church of Christ at the corner of German Church Road and Washington Street was completed in 1914. The site was the home of two previous church buildings, the first being built in 1855.

Founded by German settlers, the church inspired the naming of German Church Road and has long served as a gateway to Cumberland.

Excerpted from the *Weekly View*, 18 May 2017

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**Jazz made in Indiana**

**The Indiana Jazz Exchange 2017**

On 7th June 2017, Monika Herzig, Andre Nendza and the German-American jazz fusion musicians, Time Flies, will offer a very special concert in the Altes Pfandhaus in Cologne – Jazz made in Indiana - Indiana Jazz Exchange 2017. The Time Flies musicians include Monika Herzig, Piano; Peter Kienle, Guitar; André Nendza, bass; Josh Roberts, drums and Peter Lehel, Saxophone.

This concert is a continuation of the jazz exchange between Indianapolis and Cologne and is the result of a lot of hard work by the Freundeskreis Köln-Indianapolis e.V. honorary chairman Volkmar Schultz and Dorothea Schultz, with the support of the America House NRW e.V.

Dr. Monika Herzig will report on Indiana – Cologne Jazz Exchange concert at a special Stammtisch shortly after she returns. Please join us at 7:30 pm in the Athenaenium on Wednesday, June 21. Please note the change in date for the June Board Meeting, Stammtisch and Program. For details, please see the Calendar in this issue.

**IGHS - An Intercultural Learning Journey**

*(Continued from page 6)*

We learned about German dialects and German speakers not only in Dubois County, but also others such as the Amish. We found, pretty much all over the State, churches that were founded by Germans, and we visited their grave yards and tombstones with German names and inscriptions. We looked at their hymn books which had many songs by German composers with text translated from the German. Music played a large part in German-American culture. The Indiana State song "On the Banks of the Wabash" was written by Terre Haute native Paul Dresser. There were men's choirs like the Indianapolis Männerchor and Germans started many orchestras.

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We supported teachers to do cultural exchanges and towns and cities to embark on sister cities exchanges, and common intercultural projects. They are tools to deepen the knowledge, understanding of and respect
for other cultures and to enable especially young people to learn more about their own culture, to deepen their cultural roots and to reaffirm their identity. We witnessed an increase in the number of German festivals and German customs and songs as we visited some of these festivals. The 2000 Census confirmed what we had suspected, 37.6 percent of Hoosiers claimed some German heritage.

Somewhere along the line the academics in the group began teaching summer institutes and courses on the Hoosier Germans and formed the German-American Center. Giles and Dolores Hoyt and Eberhard and Ruth Reichmann endowed a chair and with funding by the Max Kade Foundation the IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center was established. After Daniel Nuetzel's untimely death Karen Roesch is now the chair of the IUPUI Max Kade Center. This year her husband, Heinz Roesch took over the presidency of IGHS. MKC is the research and higher education part of German-American Studies (Intercultural Education) and IGHS is the Community Outreach arm and deals with the practical implications of intercultural learning. As Karen and Heinz Roesch are a pair, so are the Max Kade German-American Center and IGHS part of the same effort. Aren't we lucky to have such a great team at the helm!

Intercultural learning is an area of research, study and application of knowledge about different cultures, their differences and similarities. On the one hand, it includes a theoretical and academic approach. On the other hand, it comprises practical applications such as learning to negotiate with people from different cultures, living with people from different cultures, living in a different culture and the prospect of peace between different cultures. Intercultural learning is important in the context of the foreign language classroom. The concept of intercultural learning, aiming at the development of intercultural competence, requires a new understanding of the teacher him/herself. S/He is no longer a mere communicator of knowledge, but a mediator and moderator, and has to be educated accordingly.

Most important is an understanding of the “self-reference criterion - the unconscious reverence to one's cultural values and the own culture's hidden axioms. One cannot normally transcend one's culture without first exposing its major hidden axioms and unstated assumptions concerning what life is all about - how it is lived, viewed, analyzed, talked about, described, and changed”. In the AATG model it is described like this: "Important to keep in mind is that people occupy a position, a so-called "stance" as Scarino describes it: "their own dynamic frameworks of experience, knowledge, and understanding and their own distinctive personal, social, cultural, and linguistic makeup, in cumulative experiences, beliefs, ethical values, motivations, and commitments contribute to their personal stance and identity." (325). This stance is not static.

According to the UNITED NATIONS/UNESCO statement in regard to intercultural learning: “As societies become increasingly multicultural and multiethnic, so does the importance of promoting such diversity. In a sincere effort to establish a true and meaningful intercultural dialogue, many teachers and students are rising to the challenge of entering into contact with each other, transcending borders, continents, cultures and languages. They encourage research on the students’ own origins and promote exchange with students of other countries. Often activities also focus on local situations, advocating “unity in diversity”

Ruth Reichmann

https://www.google.com/search?q=intercultural+learning&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8

Book of Note

Spanning the 1940’s and set against the panorama of World War II, Annette Oppenlander’s Surviving the Fatherland is a sweeping family saga illuminating the love, and betrayal that makes up history, as seen through a child’s eyes.

Surviving the Fatherland is the true and heart-wrenching story of a fatherless seven-year-old Lilli and her older brother, Günter and the hunger and fear of bombings during the height of the battles against the Third Reich. The story is based on the author’s own family and firmly anchored in historical facts. Surviving the Fatherland celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the strength resourcefulness of young people caught up in the insanity and chaos of a world war.

One reviewer stated: “It is difficult not to give this book, Surviving the Fatherland, by Annette Oppenlander, a five-star rating. Surviving the Fatherland is an historical fiction based on true events, the lives of those who survived World War II, during the war and then in post-war Germany. As one reads this story of survival, told from the perspective of one young girl, her trials and tribulations of eking out an existence in a nation depleted of food and resources, most of them being siphoned off by Hitler’s insane thirst for war and power,
The Poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote, "Music is the universal language of all mankind." No song illustrates the truth of that statement than the song “Let It Go” from Disney's animated 2013 film Frozen. "Let It Go" won both the Academy Award and the Grammy Award for Best Song before going on to international recognition as one of the most globally recorded Disney songs in history, with numerous versions being recorded in over two dozen different languages.

The original music and lyrics were composed by the husband-and-wife songwriting team of Kristen and Robert Lopez. This translation was written and performed by the Soviet-born German singer and entertainer, Helene Fischer.

**Lass Jetzt Los**
Lyrics by Helene Fisher

Der Schnee glänzt weiß auf den Bergen heut Nacht,
keine Spuren sind zu sehen.
Ein einsames Königreich,
und ich bin die Königin.

Der Wind, er heult so wie der Sturm ganz tief in mir.
Mich zu kontrollieren,
ich hab' es versucht.
Lass sie nicht rein!
Lass sie nicht sehen wie du bist.
Nein! Das darf niemals geschehen.
Du darfst nichts fühlen,

Zeig ihnen nicht dein wahres ich!
Ich lass los, lass jetzt los.
Die Kraft sie ist grenzenlos.
Ich lass los, lass jetzt los.
Und ich schlag die Türen zu.

Annette Oppenlander is an award-winning and bestselling writer, literary coach and educator known for her authentic characters and stories based on true events. She will be at our August 9 Stammtisch to talk about her bestselling novel.

**Es ist Zeit, nun bin ich bereit!**
Und ein Sturm zieht auf.

Die Kälte, sie ist nun ein Teil von mir.


**Let It Go**
Music and Lyrics by Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez.

The snow glows white on the mountain tonight
Not a footprint to be seen.
A kingdom of isolation,
and it looks like I'm the Queen

The wind is howling like this swirling storm inside
Couldn't keep it in;
Heaven knows I've tried
Don't let them in,
don't let them see
Be the good girl you always have to be
Conceal, don't feel,

Don't let them know
Well now they know
Let it go, let it go
Can't hold it back anymore
Let it go, let it go
Turn away and slam the door

I don't care
what they're going to say
Let the storm rage on.

The cold never bothered me anyway

[Image](http://www.pssage23 mauricelouis category frozen)
Wednesday, June 21: Board Meeting, Stammtisch and Program: Monika Herzig and the Indiana Jazz Exchange with Cologne.

Monika Herzig holds a Doctorate in Music Education with a focus on Jazz Studies from Indiana University where she is a Senior Lecturer in Arts Administration. She teaches courses on the Music Industry, Programming, and Arts Entrepreneurship. Her research focus is on jazz as a model for creativity and entrepreneurship with recent publication of her grant-supported project “The Jazz Jam Session Model for Group Creativity and Entrepreneurship” in the Music and Entertainment Industry Educators Journal (MEIEA). She is also the author of David Baker – A Legacy in Music, published in 2011 by IU Press. Forthcoming is Experiencing Chick Corea with Rowan & Littlefield, 2017.

As a touring jazz artist, she has performed at many prestigious jazz clubs and festivals, such as the Indy Jazz Fest, Cleveland’s Nighttown, Louisville’s Jazz Factory, the W.C. Handy Festival, Jazz in July in Bloomington and Cincinnati, Columbus’ Jazz & Rib Fest, to name just a few. Awards include a 1994 Down Beat Magazine Award for Best Original Song, a Jazz Journalist Association Hero 2015 award, as well as grants from the NEA, the Indiana Arts Commission, MEIEA, among others. Her newest project “The Whole World in Her Hands” features the world’s leading female jazz instrumentalists. More info and sound samples at www.monikaherzig.com

Wednesday, July 12: No Board Meeting, Stammtisch or Program.

Wednesday, August 9: Board Meeting, Stammtisch and Program, 7:30 p.m. Annette Oppenlander and her bestselling novel, Surviving the Fatherland:

Annette Oppenlander will take listeners behind the scenes of her bestselling novel, Surviving the Fatherland: A True Coming-of-age Love Story Set in WWII Germany. Based on her parents’ experience as war children and 15 years in the making, Oppenlander presents valuable insight into life in the Third Reich from a civilian perspective. From the Volkssturm, the People’s Storm, Hitler’s last propaganda campaign sending all 15- and 16-year old boys to trading a warhorse for food and stealing sugar beets in the post war years, Oppenlander offers a glimpse into the plight of Germany’s war children. Her presentation includes historical photos and anecdotes sure to entertain young and old. A review of Surviving the Fatherland appears on page 13 of this newsletter.

Annette Oppenlander is an award-winning writer, literary coach and educator. As a bestselling historical novelist, Oppenlander is known for her authentic characters and stories based on true events. Having lived the first half of her life in Germany and the second half in various parts of the U.S., Oppenlander inspires readers by illuminating story questions as relevant today as they were in the past. Oppenlander’s bestselling true WWII story, Surviving the Fatherland, was elected to IWIC’s Hall of Fame. The mother of fraternal twins and a son, she lives with her husband and old mutt, Mocha, in Bloomington, Ind.
Wednesday, September 13: Board Meeting, Stammtisch and Program. 7:30 p.m. Cross-Cultural Learning Abroad: Lessons from Germany.
Nick Selm and fifteen 7th and 8th grade students from the School for Community Learning, a small independent school dedicated to socially engaged education, will travel to Germany to visit their pen pals in Bayreuth. Nick, board member of IGHS and a teacher at that school, will accompany the group, along with other parents and teachers. The students have been learning about German language and culture in extra-curricular activities for quite some time. While in Bayreuth, the students will stay with the families of their pen pals. They will also take side trips to Vienna and Prague. This trip presents a unique opportunity for these youngsters to learn about intercultural understanding and civic engagement, lessons they want to share with others in their school and in the community. For questions contact Dr. Claudia Grossmann, (317) 274-3943, cgrossma@iupui.edu.

Wednesday, October 11: Board Meeting, Stammtisch and Program commemorates the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation/Revolt, one of the most important event in German, European, Christian, and World history. Speaker has not yet been confirmed.

Wednesday, November 8: Board Meeting, Stammtisch and Program: The November Stammtisch will feature a viewing the 2005 film Joyeux Noel. The film tells the story of the spontaneous 1914 Christmas Eve truce on the Western Front during First World War.

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 and conversation at 6:30 p.m. with the program at 7:30 p.m. Dinner costs $15.00 per person (tax, ice tea, gratuity and parking included). Vegetarian option available. Complimentary parking: Athenaeum Parking Lot (east side of building). For questions contact Dr. Claudia Grossmann, (317) 274-3943, cgrossma@iupui.edu or visit www.ighs.org

Please respond with your plans for attendance to Ron Flick, (812) 309-2141, rflick1881@att.net

Festivals around the State

Friday, July 7, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Hoosierstaat bierfest! The Federation of German Societies presents Hoosierstaat bierfest at German Park, 8602 South Meridian St. Info: 317-266-9816 or www.indianapolisgak.com

Friday, July 14 & Saturday, July 15: Oldenberg Freudenfest. The Freudenfest, meaning fun day, is festival that celebrates the richness of our German Heritage through people having a fun day with their family and friends. Enjoy great music, learn some German dancing, take in some history, or just enjoy watching events from a pie auction to stein holding competitions. Ich Liebe Oldenburg! http://www.freudenfest.com/

Saturday, July 22, 5 to 10pm, Heimaths & Preussen Hopsfest—Picnic in the Park! Events include food, drink, music and dancing. Gates open at 5 pm. Playground for the younger set. Admission $4; children under 13 are free. German Park is a secluded, not-for-profit, private park; on 8600 South Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN. http://www.germanparkindy.org/

Thursday, July 27- Saturday, 29, Berne Swiss Days. Opening ceremonies are 6 pm. For more information, see http://bernein.com/swiss-days/festival-schedule

Thursday, August 3 - Sunday, August 6: 39th Annual Strassenfest in Jasper. This year’s theme “Celebrating Traditions, Building Our Future.” promises tons of food and fun. The 2017 Jasper Strassenfest features IGHS Board member Ron Flick as the Hofmarschall for the 39th annual Strassenfest celebration. http://jasperstrassenfest.org
Thursday, August 3-Saturday August 5: Volksfest--Evansville, 916 Fulton, Evansville, IN: A variety of German food, beer, music and fun will once again be the highlights of Volksfest. Come to take part in the festival, which spills out of the Maennerchor building to a large outdoor beer garden that's partially covered. https://www.facebook.com/evansville.maennerchor.

September - date tba: Oktoberfest at the German Park in Indianapolis, 8602 South Meridian St. Info: 317-266-9816 or www.indianapolisgak.com

Sunday, September 10, 4-11 p.m. GermanFest at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Lafayette http://LafayetteGermanFest.org

Friday, September 15- Sunday, 17, 4-12 p.m.: Terre Haute Oktoberfest. Downtown Terre Haute, 9th and Cherry streets - German food, drink and music. Free admission. https://www.facebook.com/festival.club

Friday, September 29th - Sunday, October 1st, 11am - 11pm. 44th Annual Seymour Oktoberfest 2017. Want to be be part of our parade? Click the link http://www.seymouroktoberfest.com/

Saturday, September 30th.11am – 3pm. International Marketplace and Sister Cities Taste the Difference Festival – The Faces of Indianapolis. Held at the New Wineskin Ministries, 4501 West 38th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46254. This year’s event showcases how beautifully diverse Indianapolis is though Food, Faces & Fabrics featuring the best dishes from nearly thirty International Marketplace restaurants, ethnic performances, cultural exhibits and a free health fair. Admission is $15 at the door.

Sunday, October 8 the Original and Fabulous Germanfest at the Athenaeum. Discover Your Inner-German and party at the Athenaeum. Enjoy Urban Flea with 100 vendors, Durstig Games, live Wiener Dog Races, 5K Lederhosen Run/Walk, Strong Man Competition, ZwergenLand For Kids, German Beer, German Food by the Indianapolis Sangerchor. All proceeds from this event benefit the maintenance and care of the Historic Athenaeum. Celebrate German-American Day with this unique family event. For more information, see http://www.athenaeumfoundation.org/theatre-buildingevents/germanfest/

German for Children

The Indianapolis German School, an outreach program of the Department of World Languages and Cultures at IUPUI, will again be offering German classes for children on Saturday mornings, starting in September. Exact dates and location to be determined. There will be four different classes, Spielgruppe (for three and four-year olds), Kindergarten (pre-K and K), Grundschule (elementary school) and Mittelschule (middle school). No prior German required except for the Mittelschule group.

For more information please contact Dr. Claudia Grossmann (317) 274-3943, cgrossma@iupui.edu
German Life is a unique, bi-monthly magazine, in English, dedicated to German arts and culture, travel, cuisines, history, genealogy and German America. It provides readers with modern and historical perspectives on German-speaking Europe, including Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. Each issue of German Life is comprised of beautiful full-color pictures and well-researched features that you cannot find elsewhere.

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For more information contact:

Kent Robinson 317-299-5760  
or  
E-mail us at: ighsmembership@gmail.com
Indiana German Heritage Society 
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Specific Interests:
☐ Architecture  ☐ Family  ☐ Local Community
☐ Arts  ☐ Genealogy  ☐ Music
☐ Cultural Exchanges / Sister Cities  ☐ General  ☐ Religious
☐ German Language Programs  ☐ History  ☐ Teaching Materials
☐ Traditions & Folklore

Knowledge of German Language:
☐ None  ☐ Some  ☐ Fluent
Knowledge of Old German Script (Sütterlin):
☐ None  ☐ Some  ☐ Good
I am willing to help with activities (Circle one): Yes No

I wish to make an additional tax-deductible donation of $ ________.

☐ This is a gift membership. Name of person providing gift membership:

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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.

To join or renew online, go to IGHS.org!
Who will be the 2017 Hoosier German-American of the Year?

Submit a Nomination

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