



Indiana German Heritage Society & IUPUI Max Kade German American Center



Newsletter

Volume 37 Number 1

Winter 2021

LETTER FROM THE MAX KADE CENTER

Despite the lingering uncertainty owing to the novel coronavirus that casts a pall over daily life, as well social unrest resulting from the murders of George Floyd and many more, the Max Kade Center pushes forward to continue our work of forging bonds through German and German-American connections.

We have had to postpone almost all our planned 2020-2021 events, but also have been able to innovate how we deliver our events and content to our many constituents. Indeed, one of the positives accompanying the moratorium on in-person events was the opportunity to connect with a broader audience, both inside Indiana and beyond.

We held our first (we hope of many!) book club events in October, with Dr. Ervin Malakaj (University of British Columbia) leading a wonderfully inclusive and thoughtful discussion on Stefan Zweig's novella *Confusion*. By the time this issue appears, we'll have concluded our second book club event with Dr. Priscilla Layne (UNC Chapel Hill) discussing the graphic novel, *Belonging*, by German-American author Nora Krug. I hope we were able to greet many of you to that event. We do have a couple book clubs planned for spring 2021, about which you can find more information on our website (<https://>

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DEJA VU IGHS MEETING AND SYMPOSIUM MARCH 19-20 IN BATESVILLE

One year ago we announced that the 2020 IGHS Meeting and Symposium would be held in Batesville, IN during March. Everything was lined



up for a fabulous session on the German / German-American Connection to Education. Then, on March 6, 2020, Indiana health officials announced the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Indiana, and Governor Holcomb declared a public health emergency in the state. Ten days later, the Governor ordered all bars,

restaurants, and nightclubs to close to in-house patrons, followed by other shutdowns. In an abundance of cautions, the IGHS board had no choice but to cancel the 2020 Meeting and Symposium.

Today, COVID is still very much wrapped up in our lives, but light is beginning to appear at the end of a long, dark tunnel, so we are making plans for the 2021 annual Meeting and Symposium.

The topic for the 2012 symposium will once again be the German / German-American Connection to Education. The majority of the scheduled speakers from last year have signed on again for this year, but the meeting planners are now accepting proposals for additional presentations for the symposium. If you would be interest-

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TIME TO RENEW YOUR IGHS MEMBERSHIP!

The IGHS membership runs concurrently with the calendar year. This means that once again it is time to renew for 2021.

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

Renew online at www.ighs.org/renew.html or use the renewal form located at the back of this newsletter. You can also use the same forms to give the gift of an Indiana German Heritage Membership!

If you are uncertain of your membership status, check your newsletter label. You can also check by sending an e-mail to ighsmembership@gmail.com.

Please renew right away. Thank you!

The Membership Committee

SUPPORT THE IGHS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Daniel Nützel scholarship was established by IGHS, IUPUI Max Kade Center, and the Athenaeum Foundation in memory of Dr. Daniel Nützel, former German professor and Director of the IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center, to honor his contributions to the German Program at IUPUI and the German -American community of Indiana. The scholarship supports undergraduate or graduate students with the pursuit of a part-time professional internship at a German-American organization or institution for the duration of one semester or over the summer.

The Marie Schoch Endowment Fund was established for the benefit of "qualified persons wishing to gain and distribute knowledge with respect to the cultural, historic and linguistic contributions of the German American community." German language study at secondary or university level may be included.

The donations are tax-exempt. Checks may be sent to the Indiana German Heritage Society, 401 E.

Michigan St., Indianapolis, IN 46204. Please include a note stating that the contribution is intended for the Marie Schoch Endowment Fund or the Daniel Nuetzel Memorial Scholarship Fund.

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Thank you for Supporting IGHS!



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



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 qualified for tax-free 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 & IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center Newsletter (ISSN: 1939-3261) is published quarterly by the:

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Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
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Back issues of the IGHS Newsletter are available online at <http://IGHS.org>.

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liberalarts.iupui.edu/maxkade/ - under Events).

The book club is meant for a broad audience and always conducted in English on texts published in English. We were able, through it, also strengthen our connections to our local community – we supported Indy Reads, a local non-profit promoting literacy, and worked with the Athenaeum to provide copies of the texts at their Little Library.

Other events in fall included the conference, *Decentering German Cinema*, with a keynote discussion moderated by Sabine Hake (UT Austin) and a screening and Q+A with Nigerian-German filmmaker, actor, and producer, Sheri Hagen. All in all, it has been a very successful semester full of events engaging many students and community members.

Another wonderful update to the Center is the addition of Dr. Thorsten Carstensen as Associate Director of the Max Kade Center. He will assume these responsibilities from Dr. Claudia Grossmann, who indeed leaves very big shoes to fill! Though temporarily in Europe for research, we look forward to his face around campus and Indianapolis again in 2021.

We will soon advertise the Max Kade Center scholarships*. Community donations have been a vital source of financial support for our scholarships. Please consider a donation (any amount is helpful!) by visiting this site and choosing Max Kade Center or by contacting me (nmneuman@iu.edu). Thank you in advance for your support!

Finally, I would ask anyone with experience of seeing films in German-American theaters (that is, cinemas in the United States that regularly featured only or mostly German language films) to reach out to me. This project is my next research project, and I very much would like to hear from anyone that had that opportunity.

I wish you and yours well and hope you stay safe and in good health.

Nichole M Neuman

Dr. Nichole M. Neuman, Director
nmneuman@iu.edu

* **Note:** The Max Kade Center will offer the Nützel, graduate, and the interdisciplinary scholarships as before. However it is still uncertain if they can offer Max Kade Foundation German Language Study Abroad Travel Grants, for the Heilbronn / Berlin program or the IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center Study Abroad Scholarship. Nichole is waiting on IUF / IU Study Abroad for confirmation on those programs and whether or not we can offer those scholarships this year. If you are interested in either of these scholarships, please contact her directly for status / information.



NEW IGHS BOARD MEMBER:



Matthew Behnke works as a Genealogy Librarian in Petersburg, Indiana at the Pike County Public Library. He completed his MLIS from IUPUI in December of 2018 where he spends a portion of his work-days continuously adding to digital collections on Indiana Memory, which he obtained access to through an LSTA grant in 2019.

Mr. Behnke has a strong passion for tracing his family's genealogy, many of whom come from Germany and believes that appreciating and celebrating German culture heritage is an important supplement to this research. He currently lives in Jasper, Indiana (Dubois County), a town with a rich German tradition that it actively preserves. One way that Matthew hopes to serve on the Board is by promoting IGHS's events and website resources in Jasper and throughout the Southern Indiana region.



**PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION
ON GERMAN-AMERICAN DAY
OCTOBER 6, 2020**

“Since our founding, German-Americans have been central to our progress as a Nation. Industrious and faithful early German immigrants came to our shores to fulfill dreams of economic opportunity and to live out their faith free from government interference. These men and women established families and built livelihoods, exhibiting virtues that helped form our unique American ethos and passing down traditions that continue to shape our cultural identity.

“Today, on German-American Day, we commemorate the extraordinary contributions of German-Americans to our country, and we pay tribute to the more than 43 million Americans who, like myself, claim German heritage.

“The story of German-Americans is embedded in the most sacred chapters of American lore. When members of the first Continental Congress met in Philadelphia to forge a future of freedom on this continent, they walked down streets brimming with German businesses. Their deliberations were diligently reported in German-language broadsides and rigorously debated in German-owned coffeehouses. On July 4, 1776, when the Founding Fathers declared our independence, a German-language newspaper was the first to break the news to the new Nation. The next day, the streets were flooded with German translations of Thomas Jefferson’s revolutionary words proclaiming that “all men are created equal.”

“Ever since, Americans of German descent have left their mark on our history. German influence played a large role in establishing our unyielding commitment to universal public education. It was a German-American, Margarethe Meyer Schurz, who opened the first kindergarten in America. German-Americans helped champion physical education and built the first gymnasiums for school buildings, positively affecting the physical health of our schoolchildren. German-Americans also introduced vocational training in public schools, providing new avenues for economic empowerment for young people and fueling American prosperity.

“Over the years, German customs have also become infused into American culture. Our cherished Christmas and Easter traditions are influenced by practices of early German arrivals. At Christmastime, we draw on German culture when we decorate Christmas trees and exchange gifts. During Easter, we have German immigrants to thank for our Easter egg hunts. These traditionally German customs have become staples of American culture and continue to unite Americans of all backgrounds.

“This month also marks the 30th anniversary of German reunification following the fall of the Berlin Wall in November of 1989. This historic moment marked a triumph for democracy and paved the way for a more free and open Europe. As we celebrate the many contributions of German-Americans to our country, we also celebrate our strong transatlantic ties with Germany and recommit to working together to forge a brighter future for both our nations and the world.

“Today, we celebrate the societal achievements and cultural contributions of all German-Americans and reflect on the hardworking and efficient spirit that they have imbued in our national character. From engineers and doctors to bakers and inventors, they have strengthened our economy and enriched our communities. Thanks in part to their dedication and hard work, our country remains a shining beacon of freedom and prosperity.

“NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 6, 2020, as German-American Day. I call upon all Americans to celebrate the achievements and contributions of German-Americans to our Nation with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

“IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fifth.”

DONALD J. TRUMP

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-german-american-day-2020/>

IGHS ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

The IGHS Essay Contest committee has completed its evaluation of the submissions for the college-level IGHS Essay Contest. This year's contest saw the highest participation level to date with sixteen students from three universities submitting essays on the topic of "German-Americans and Their Impact on Health, Health Sciences, and Well-Being in the U.S.A."

The contest winner, with a near-perfect score, is Thomas Merrow, a student at IUPUI. Mr. Merrow's essay appears in this newsletter and he will receive a \$300 award and a complimentary IGHS membership for his work.

The other award recipients are:

1st prize (\$300):

Thomas Merrow, IUPUI

Two 2nd prizes (\$200 each):

Cody Fenimore, IUPUI and

Eirik Hagerupsen Hansen,

Marian University

Two 3rd prizes (\$100 each):

Nicholas P. Lindstrom, Marian University

Lynn L. Tan, Marian University

Runners-up (\$50 each):

Grace Lane, Butler University

Grace Wyness, Marian University

Betija Dusele, Marian University

Natalie Heller, Butler University

Olivia Thomas, Marian University

Jack Kruse, IUPUI

The Impact of the Turner Movement on Public Health in the United States

By

Thomas Merrow, IUPUI

German-Americans have contributed to numerous aspects of American society in areas such as culture, industry, science, and health. One particularly influential group of German-

Americans in health were the Turners. The Turner movement was a health and political movement brought to the United States by German immigrants in the mid- to late-19th century. Turners would establish societies throughout the United States to promote their ideas. They promoted their ideas of physical movement and physical education most of all, and the legacy of the Turners can still be seen in the gymnasiums and playgrounds that are nearly ubiquitous in schools across the United States today.

The father of the Turner movement was Friedrich Ludwig Jahn. He was referred to by his admirers as *Turnvater Jahn*, meaning "father of gymnastics" Jahn in German. (Goodbody) Jahn believed that Germany, disunited and recently militarily humiliated by Napoleon, required a physical and spiritual revival. He believed that gymnastics was how the physical and spiritual health of the German people could be restored. To that end, he opened the first *Turnplatz*, or open-air gymnasium, in 1811, in Berlin. The Turner movement spread rapidly, and *Turnvereine*, or gymnastics clubs, spread quickly across Germany. By 1818, there were *Turnvereine* in over 150 cities in Germany, with ~12,000 members total. (Jansen, 44) The Turner movement was also quite political. The Turners were avowed German liberals, meaning they sought liberal political reform and a united Germany. There were liberal uprisings across Germany and Austria in 1848 and 1849, in which many Turners, including Jahn himself, took part. The revolutions ultimately ended in violent failure as the conservative forces of the Prussian and Habsburg monarchies would crush the forces of liberalism in central Europe.

The bloody failure of the German revolutions of 1848 and 1849 to establish liberal political reforms or a united Germany led to many disillusioned German liberals emigrating to the United States. These Forty-Eighters as they would come to be called, brought many aspects of German culture with them to the United States, including the Turner movement. This was no surprise, as the

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Turner movement held many ties to German liberalism and most of the Germans emigrating to the United States were liberals. The first *Turnverein* in the United States would be founded on November 21, 1848, in Cincinnati. Not long after, six *Turnvereine* founded the American Turnerbund on the 5th of October, 1850, in a meeting in Philadelphia, with the aim of uniting the *Turnvereine* to promote their shared goals. The Turner movement grew rapidly in the United States in the latter half of the 19th century. According to Riess, the peak of the Turner movement in the United States was in 1894, when there were “317 societies and about 40,000 adult male members, along with 25,000 children and 3,000 women.” The Turner movement began to decline at the turn of the 20th century. The number of *Turnvereine* in the United States dropped rapidly during and after the Great War. War with Germany caused a rise in anti-German sentiment in the United States, and German-Americans and their societies were often under great scrutiny. The *Turnvereine* were no exception to this, and many closed as a result.

Despite the eventual steep decline of their movement, Turners left a large mark on American society. Like their counterparts back in Germany, the *Turnvereine* promoted physical movement and liberal politics. The *Turnvereine* also took on a new role within the United States as promoters of German culture within the US and acted as meeting places for many German-Americans. The area in which the Turners were most successful was in the promotion of physical education. The Turners advocated for increased gymnastics education in public schools and the construction of open-air gymnasiums and playgrounds in public schools. In cities such as Chicago, Kansas City, Cleveland, Denver, Indianapolis, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Cincinnati, St. Paul, and San Francisco, Turner petitioning to school boards led to the introduction of gymnastics instruction. Many Turners would teach gymnastics gratis at public schools to demonstrate to school boards that gymnastics was

as beneficial as they were claiming. As a result of their efforts, many schools, both public and private, constructed open-air gymnasiums and playgrounds, and instituted physical education as a part of their curricula. Their influence was greatest in the Midwest, where most German-Americans were concentrated. In 1910, Chicago had 70 school gymnasiums, St. Louis had 37, and Cincinnati had 28.

The Turners contributed greatly to American public health ever since they first arrived in the United States in the mid-19th century. Their push for increased physical education and the construction of facilities to that end in American schools would forever shape American education. Despite their decline in the early 20th century, their influence can still be observed across the United States. Facilities for the promotion of physical education such as tracks, gymnasiums, and playgrounds are a common sight in schools across the nation today.

SISTER CITY NEWS

JASPER- PFAFFENWEILER



The weekend would have been something really special, if COVID-19 hadn't got in the way. June 24-30, 2020 had been planned as a celebration of our 35th anniversary of the Jasper – Pfaffenweiler Sister Cities agreement. 35 years ago Jerome Alles and Fritz Gutsell signed the

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original partnership document as representatives of our communities and thus sealed the friendship of our two communities lasting through today. It has become tradition over the years, that the current Mayors / Bürgermeister to re-sign the partnership document during the anniversary celebrations, to reinforce and recognize personally our deep friendship. This year the reigning (new) Mayor Dean Vonderheide would have signed it with Bürgermeister Dieter Hahn of Pfaffenweiler. That the Coronavirus prohibited this year's renewed signing, and anniversary celebrations is certainly very sad, but it won't stop our friendship. Both towns are looking forward to June 2022, when we have rescheduled our anniversary celebrations with the same program as planned. With this in mind we think about all our friends in Jasper. We are sending heartfelt greetings to all, but especially to the ones who would have been with us this past weekend. We thank you for your loyalty and for the lively partnership.

Bürgermeister Dieter Hahn

SCI 2020 AWARD FOR 'INNOVATION IN ARTS & CULTURE'

The Sister Cities of Jasper announced the receipt of the Innovation Award in Arts & Culture for cities with a population under 25,000 from Sister Cities International during their annual conference held virtually July 7-8. This is the third award Sister Cities of Jasper has received from Sister Cities International in three years. Sister Cities of Jasper received the award for Best Overall Program in 2018 and the award for International Business & Trade in 2018. The latest award for their work and achievement on the New Logo Project and Contest held in 2019. The New Logo Project and Contest was a joint project between Sister Cities of Jasper and their sister city, Pfaffenweiler, Germany.

While visiting Pfaffenweiler, Germany during the bi-annual student exchange in the summer

of 2019, Ross Halvorsen, German teacher at Jasper High School and member of the Sister Cities Board of Directors, made plans with sister city team members of Pfaffenweiler to hold a new logo contest in the fall of 2019. The idea was developed to link the two cities even more with the creation of a common Partnership Logo. This idea was promoted by both partnership organizations into a creative logo competition in both Pfaffenweiler and Jasper. Both cities felt it important to include participants and entries from both of the sister cities and to include a prize of \$500 for the winning logo. Web-based document sharing was used to outline the guidelines for the entries, the rules of the contest, and for participants to submit entries. Through promotion of the contest via social media and announcing the contest via local media in both of the sister cities, over 60 designs were submitted from local artists. Once all entries were received via the web, judging groups from both Jasper and Pfaffenweiler met via Skype from the city halls of Jasper and Pfaffenweiler respectively. The group discussed each of their top logo choices and ultimately decided on a winner. Interestingly, the top choices were evenly split between submittals from Jasper and Pfaffenweiler.

A clear winner emerged that artfully combined the Jasper and Pfaffenweiler cities, and the history of the relationship beautifully. The winning designer, Tracey Lorey of Running Design Studio in Jasper, received her award during a promotional reception and the new logo was unveiled just in time for the anniversary of the 35th year of the partnership in January of 2020.

"We are so honored and excited to win this award for Innovation in Arts & Culture from Sister Cities International. We are so very proud of our new sister cities logo and the cooperation and partnership between Jasper and Pfaffenweiler on this project. Receiving recognition of our hard work and this award for our efforts is just an additional fantastic benefit," stated Mary Leah Siegel, President of the Sister Cities of Jasper.

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INDIANAPOLIS-COLOGNE



The Indianapolis Cologne Sister City committee celebrated with their counterparts on the successful continuation of the "Indiana Jazz Exchange" with three virtual concerts, which apparently reached about 1,500 visitors worldwide, and led to the nomination for the best Indiana Sister City Program 2020. The solidarity between the two cities was expressed by a transatlantic mask exchange with emblems of the respective cities.

Peter Kirkwood from the Indianapolis International Center, Indianapolis, took part with a group of runners in this year's virtual Cologne Marathon in Indiana and received the certificate of success and the "badge" from Cologne!

The president of the Cologne-Indianapolis Committee, Hartwig Prüßmann, reported that the American-style Thanksgiving dinner, which has traditionally been held annually, had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. He did stress, however, that if the "insatiable greed" for turkey was still haunting you, perhaps the only thing left is a good turkey schnitzel from the butcher, as an acceptable interim solution.

CARMEL CHRISTKINDLMARKT

Towering over the Carmel, Indiana Christmas Market is a giant can't-miss-it 33-foot-tall Weihnachtspyramide outlined with more than 3,000 bright lights to signal its presence. The impressive 10-ton pyramid, made with maritime pine plywood, features rotating fan blades powered by an electric motor. And it gets plenty of attention. This wooden behemoth and market, located in Center Green on several acres in the heart of Car-

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mel, signals fun and authentic German food and drink for all as it brings a sense of genuine German tradition and culture to the town.

By the 1840s, there were numerous families of German origin in the Indianapolis area, and a four-fold increase in population in 10 years was due to German immigration. By 1850 nearly 13% of the area population was from Germany. Today, many area residents have German roots, and in fact, a third of all Hoosiers are said to trace their ancestry to the German-speaking lands of Europe. This is represented in part by the many German-related celebrations in the area including German-American Day, St. Nikolaus Tag and Karnival held right before Lent. So it's not unusual for the residents of Carmel to celebrate their heritage, and do it in a big way at Christmas. The extraordinary and striking Carmel Christkindlmarkt, a highlight of the Yuletide season, draws as many as 350,000 people—adults and kids alike—who want to enjoy a bona fide German Christmas tradition. And they don't go home disappointed.

Excerpted from [GERMAN LIFE](https://germanlife.com/2020/11/carmel-christkindlmarkt/)
<https://germanlife.com/2020/11/carmel-christkindlmarkt/>

Editor's Note: Regretfully, the 2020 Carmel Christkindlmarkt had to be canceled this year because of the pandemic, but we hope to see everyone there next year, November 20th - December 24th, 2021.

Baumschmuck aus Lauscha **Christmas Tree Ornaments from** **Lauscha**



The Carmel Christkindlmarkt might be canceled but Christmas sure wasn't! Cologne Sister City member, Bernard Klause had planned to set up a booth at this year's Christmas market to sell the beautiful handmade glass ornaments that he imported from the town of Lauscha in Thuringia, Germany. (Lauscha is the setting for the 2003 novel *The Glassblower* by Petra Durst-Benning).

So when that plan fell through, Klause decided to sell the ornaments on his Instagram account [glass.gifts20](https://www.instagram.com/glass.gifts20), or at Nine + Roxy (www.nineandroxy.com), 751 Hanover Place, Carmel, IN 46032.

ST. NICK GOES VIRTUAL!



Saint Nicholas may be an early Christian bishop from the 3rd century, but in the time of a worldwide pandemic, he knows how to work with modern technology.

In order to promote a safe and healthy holiday season, the 35th annual Sankt Nikolaus Fest held at the Athenaeum last December 6th, went virtual!

Since 1985, Sankt Nikolaus and his Golden Book have recorded the name and age of every child who has attended the Festival at the Athenaeum. In December, because of COVID-19, Sankt Nikolaus and his court decided to use Facebook Live to read the names of the attending children from the Golden Book, and to encourage them to continue with their good behavior. The Court of Sankt Nikolaus has been a treasured and time-honored German Christmas tradition to help ring in the season of joy with holiday favorites for the whole family.

**Have You Renewed
Your
IGHS Membership Yet!**

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ed in offering a presentation, please contact Giles Hoyt at ghoyt@iupui.edu.

Assuming that we meet in person, the setting for this year's Indiana German Heritage Society's annual meeting and symposium will once again be the historic Sherman House in Batesville. Located in the historic downtown Batesville, Indiana, the Sherman House is a beautifully restored boutique hotel which has been a favorite resting place for travelers since Lincoln. Its 168-year history starts in 1852 when German immigrant, Johann Brinkmann built his hotel. The restaurant with its century-old beams and private alcoves offers an authentic German-American dining experience in the Black Forest Bar or the Biergarten.

The Black Forest of Germany may be far away from Indiana, but sometimes Batesville doesn't feel that way, especially at the Sherman House. The Sherman House will be the site of this year's Indiana German Heritage Society's annual meeting and symposium on March 19 & 20, 2021. Watch the new IGHS newsletter for details about symposium registration and hotel reservations.



Dominostein: The Dresden Tricolor Confection Invented from Wartime Food Shortages

The Dominostein is a favorite Christmas confection in Germany and Austria. It is likely to be found next to other beloved German Christmas cookies like Zimsterne (cinnamon stars), nussecke (nut corners), and gingerbread on the German Christmas cookie plate. It's lesser known than its Italian American chocolate-covered cousin, the Tricolor cookie, but it's very similar and just as delicious.

It falls into the family tree of layered confections. It's grandparent is the French Mille-feuille or Napoleon – which translates to 'a thousand leaves' and has various flavor pastry creams in between three layers of puff pastry or crispy biscuits. It's great Uncle is then the French Opera pastry – a coffee liqueur-soaked – almond sponge cake layered with chocolate ganache and coffee buttercream. The Austrian Punschkrופן – a fondant layered cube of rum soaked sponge cake and combo of jam and nougat or the English Jaffa Cake – a sponge with orange jam covered in chocolate are siblings. Other distant cousins are the Mediterranean Baklava, the Eastern European crepe cakes, and even the Appalachian stack cake – a stack of thick pancakes filled with apple preserves. Rocky road fudge and Little Debbie Hostess layered cakes could even be considered branches on the same family tree.

The Dominostein translates to Domino tile

– as in the game of numbered tiles – and was invented in 1936 during World War II in Dresden by a confectioner named Herbert Wendler. It has a layer of lebkuchen or gingerbread, then a layer of sour cherry or apricot jam, and then a layer of marzipan or cheaper persipan, which is made from ground peach pits and sugar. The entire square is covered in dark chocolate. Because of wartime food shortages in Dresden, Wendler designed these pralines as a cheaper alternative to higher end pralines. He called them emergency pralines or war pralines. His original recipe used Pulsnitzer pfefferkuchen – a regional gingerbread from Pulsnitz near Dresden.

Unfortunately Dresden was severely bombed during the War, and Wendler's factory was destroyed. He rebuilt the factory by 1952 in an old dance hall in Dresden. The company was nationalized in 1972 and in 1990 Wendler received the company back. Wendler died in 1996, and his original recipe for Wendler's dominoes, together with the company "Herbert Wendler", was transferred to Dr. Quendt GmbH & Co. KG, based in Dresden, who still makes the confection. By that time the wartime confection was popular all over Germany and a Christmas favorite.

Today many small confectioneries in Germany make variations with fillings of strawberry jellies and even nougat. But in Germany it's really a 'my-Oma's-is-better-than-yours' blitzkrieg. Aldi in the U.S. offers a cheap version with their Deutsche Küche brand that uses persipan instead of marzipan, with both milk and dark chocolate covered options.

A few years ago a lab and taste test was performed between three of the leading expensive German brands vs three of the cheaper brands that use persipan. Lab tests showed that those brands using persipan had higher sugar content.

So, if you want to add a traditional and popular German Christmas confection to your cookie plate this year, run to your nearest Aldi and get a package of Dominosteine.

Excerpted from

dannwoellertthefoodetymologist.wordpress.com

WAISENHAUS READIES FOR 21ST CENTURY

In 1883, German Lutherans from the Trinity Lutheran and St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Indianapolis convened to decide what to do about the growing number of orphans in the area. With the help of area churches, funds were raised to purchase land and to construct an orphanage (*Waisenhaus*) on East Washington Street. When it was completed in 1886, the German-born Rev. Peter Seuel was appointed president of *das Evangelisch Lutherische Waisenhaus-Gesellschaft*. By 1893, the Home had served 122 children, and construction was underway on the second home. Most of our information during this time comes from the Indianapolis Tribune, a long defunct German language newspaper. But as anti-German sentiment increased during the First World War, and many German families living in America ceased teaching their children German language and culture, the organization was renamed as the *Evangelical Lutheran Orphan Home Association* in English.

The Great Depression and Second World War were trying times for the Association. If not for dedicated community members and faithful congregations, and without the generosity of local farmers, they would not have been able to feed, clothe and keep the children warm. After the war, the orphanage helped to relocate European children displaced by the violence and worked to find children foster homes in Lutheran families around the state, or, to help the older ones graduate from high school and find jobs or apprenticeships.

Sometime after the war, the name was changed to the *Lutheran Child Welfare Association* (LCFS). In 1951, they purchased property on the corner of 16th and Ritter Avenue, on which LCFS currently sits. By 1953, construction began on

what would be called Lutherwood, a 3-unit complex which would serve the organizations needs for the next half-century.

In the 1970's a group of ladies, known as the Ladies Auxiliary, saw a need for supporting the community with a food and clothing pantry program. Driven by a vigorous volunteer corps, The Sharing Place was born. This program has grown over the last 40+ years to serve over 50,000 people annually and plays a substantial role in addressing food insecurity in our community. While the Ladies Auxiliary disbanded in the late 1990's, their spirit of volunteerism and community engagement lives on with the dedicated corps of volunteers whose tireless efforts make the Sharing Place program a viable and valuable resource for those in our community.

The turn of the millennia marked a time of great change for Lutheran Child and Family Services, as mental and behavioral health practices and ideas changed with the times. In 1996, Lutherwood was expanded and construction on two new secure dormitories as well as a gymnasium, kitchen, and dining hall was completed. In 2004, the original, now fifty-year-old Lutherwood dorms were torn down and replaced with what stands as LCFS today: four new secure dormitories and the two secure dormitories constructed in 1996 capable of housing up to 98 children, the chapel, and the Family Strengthening Center/Administrative building.

In 2013, LCFS began a collaboration with Community Health Network in a management and

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services arrangement that has strengthened and enhanced the level of care for children suffering from complex traumatic and behavioral issues. In 2018, LCFS opened the newly constructed Trinity House Group Home for young men ages 14-21 who are developing independent living skills. Substantial renovations were initiated for the old group home, which will open this year as the StopGap Emergency Shelter Group Home.

Looking forward, LCFS is poised to begin providing services for youth who have exited the Foster Care system and are experiencing homelessness in the Pando Aspen Grove of Community Heights Permanent Supportive Housing program. Construction for a new 30-unit apartment complex is currently underway, and LCFS plans to initiate services in mid-2021.

Today, we are pleased to carry on the work of the German immigrants who came before us, and to carry on their hope to link children, their families, and the community together for a brighter future. A major step in shaping this future was a ground breaking at Lutheran Child and Family Services on November 17, 2020. Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett (3rd from the left) wore his *Kölnmaske* in honor and recognition of our founders and the rich German history of the City of Indianapolis.

Sven Schumacher



nearby Delhi Township. The entire house was moved, piece by piece, to West Fork Park in Green Township and has been reconstructed as a museum.

The scaffolding which had been around the German Heritage Museum since last December has finally been removed. New composite siding, pre-painted and with a fifty year warranty, has been installed all around to protect the distressed logs which are about 170 years old. The installation was performed by skilled men and women carpenters from Architectural Reclamation in Franklin, Ohio. Still to come next year is the replacement of seven wooden windows with vinyl windows.

Due to the renovation and the pandemic the museum is now closed until further notice but can open up for a tour, if you request on in advance. German Heritage Museum.

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GERMAN HERITAGE MUSEUM RESTORATION

The German Heritage Museum which serves as the focal point in presenting the contributions of the German immigrants and their descendants in the Ohio River Valley is located at 4764 W Fork Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45247. Its main focus is on the long history of German-Americans in the Greater Cincinnati area, one of the major German-American centers in the United States. The building began life as a log house, built around 1840 in

IGHS Newsletter Deadlines

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

Issue	Copy Deadline
Issue #1 (Winter)	December 1
Issue #2 (Spring)	February 1
Issue #3 (Summer)	May 1
Issue #4 (Fall)	August 1

NORD- AMERIKANISCHER SÄNGERBUND

In Other news, last October, Helga and Wolfgang Wengler of Youngstown, Ohio brought the complete records of the Nord-Amerikanischer Sängerbund (NAS) to the German Heritage Museum in West Fork Park in Cincinnati. The documents, in six boxes, go back to the beginning of the NAS in 1858. They also brought several large, framed photographs of past National Sängerfests. The Wengler's are happy that they have found a good home for these historic items, and the GHM was pleased to receive them.

Manfred Schnetzer

GERMANY ENTERS PARTIAL CORONAVIRUS LOCKDOWN

Deutsche Welle reported in December that Germany began a monthlong partial lockdown as part of efforts to curb the momentum of the coronavirus that has infected half a million people across the country. Infections of COVID-19 have increased sharply in recent weeks, with record caseloads becoming the norm, and Chancellor Angela Merkel introduced stringent measures on public life as a result.

The new restrictions are a lighter version of the lockdown seen in the spring, as schools and shops will remain open, churches will be allowed to hold services and protests will not be banned. Nevertheless, all restaurants and bars will be closed, meetings in public will be restricted to just two households and all recreational centers, such as pools and gyms, will be shut.

State and federal leaders will review the situation every few weeks to see if the measures need to be tightened further still or whether they may be eased, depending on the rate of infections.

THEY'RE FIRST IN THE RACE FOR A VACCINE

By
David Gelles, *NYT*

Two years ago, Dr. Ugur Sahin took the stage at a conference in Berlin and made a bold prediction. Speaking to a roomful of infectious disease experts, he said his company might be able to use its so-called messenger RNA technology to rapidly develop a vaccine in the event of a global pandemic. At the time, Dr. Sahin and his company, BioNTech, were little known outside the small world of European biotechnology start-ups. BioNTech, which Dr. Sahin founded with his wife, Dr. Özlem Türeci, was mostly focused on cancer treatments. It had never brought a product to market. COVID-19 did not yet exist. But his words proved prophetic.

On Monday, BioNTech and Pfizer announced that a vaccine they had developed for coronavirus was more than 90 percent effective in preventing the disease among trial volunteers. The stunning results vaulted BioNTech and Pfizer to the front of the race to find a cure for a disease that has killed more than 1.2 million people worldwide. "It could be the beginning of the end of the COVID era," Dr. Sahin said.

BioNTech began work on the vaccine in January, after Dr. Sahin read an article in the medical journal *The Lancet* that left him convinced that the coronavirus would explode into a full-blown pandemic. Scientists at the company, based in Mainz, Germany, canceled vacations and set to work on what they called Project Lightspeed.

After BioNTech had identified several promising vaccine candidates, Dr. Sahin concluded that the company would need help to rapidly test them, win approval from regulators and bring the best candidate to market. BioNTech and Pfizer had been working together on a flu vaccine since 2018, and in March, they agreed to collaborate on a coronavirus vaccine.

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Since then, Dr. Sahin, who is Turkish, has developed a friendship with Albert Bourla, the Greek chief executive of Pfizer. The pair said in recent interviews that they had bonded over their shared backgrounds as scientists and immigrants.

Dr. Sahin, 55, was born in Iskenderun, Turkey. When he was 4, his family moved to Cologne, Germany, where his parents worked at a Ford factory. He grew up wanting to be a doctor and became a physician at the University of Cologne. In 1993, he earned a doctorate from the university for his work on immunotherapy in tumor cell

Early in his career, he met his future wife, Dr. Türeci. She had early hopes to become a nun and ultimately wound up studying medicine. Dr. Türeci, the BioNTech chief medical officer was born in Germany, the daughter of a Turkish physician. On the day they were married, Dr. Sahin and Dr. Türeci returned to the lab after the ceremony. In 2001, Dr. Sahin and Dr. Türeci founded Gany-med Pharmaceuticals, which developed drugs to treat cancer using monoclonal antibodies. After several years they founded BioNTech as well, looking to use a wider range of technologies, including messenger RNA, to treat cancer. Today, the two live with their teenage daughter in a modest apartment near their office. They ride bicycles to work. They do not own a car.

Even before the pandemic, BioNTech was gaining momentum. The company raised hundreds of millions of dollars and now has more than 1,800 people on staff, with offices in Berlin, other German cities and Cambridge, Mass. In 2018, it began its partnership with Pfizer. Last year, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation invested \$55 million to fund its work treating H.I.V. and tuberculosis. Also in 2019, Dr. Sahin was awarded the Mustafa Prize, a biennial Iranian prize for Muslims in science and technology.

Dr. Sahin has had little time for politics this year. BioNTech has been so busy developing a vaccine that the company has not finalized the financial details of its partnership agreement with

Pfizer. “Trust and personal relationship is so important in such business, because everything is going so fast,” Dr. Sahin said. “We still have a term sheet and not yet a final contract on many things.” Dr. Sahin said he and Dr. Türeci learned about efficacy data on Sunday night and marked the moment by brewing Turkish tea at home. “We celebrated, of course,” he said. “It was a relief.” In Germany, where immigration continues to be a fractious issue, the success of two scientists of Turkish descent was cause for celebration. “With this couple, Germany has a shining example of successful integration,” wrote the conservative-business site *Focus*.

CORONAVIRUS-HIT WOODCARVERS FIGHT TO RESCUE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Christmas is the most important season for the makers of wooden toys and decorations in Germany's Erzgebirge mountains. This year, though, the pandemic has brought tough challenges. The Erzgebirge region in Saxony near the Czech



border has been a center of woodcarving for centuries. When mining petered out toward the end of the 17th century, miners and their families were forced to look for alternative sources of income. Many started to work with what could be found in abundance in the area — wood.

They soon developed the skills to make elaborately carved wooden toys and figures. One of the techniques the area is still known for today is woodturning, a process where a large number of figures are sliced from a crafted wooden ring, producing less waste and boosting productivity. Ac-

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cording to the Association of Artisans and Toymakers, some 2,000 people are still employed in the trade in the region, offering up to 30,000 different products. The heart of Erzgebirge woodwork is no doubt Seiffen, a picturesque community of about 2,500 inhabitants.

Normally, over 70,000 German and international visitors descend on the village annually, eager to buy a wooden decoration or some toys for the kids. "One of our sales channels has broken away completely, notably the Christmas markets," he told DW. "Up to October, retail sales went smoothly, but in big cities, sales figures went down as international tourists stayed away due to the pandemic.

Entrepreneurs are not content with playing a waiting game. A new wooden figure has created domestic and international demand beyond imagination. "It's a virologist symbolically portrayed as a smoking mannequin [a traditional Erzgebirge figurine] — here we are portraying a profession that's become very prominent during the pandemic," said toymaker Tino Günther. "Some people told me the figurine resembles Germany's best-known virologist, Christian Drosten, who's helped navigate the coronavirus crisis in this country."

Normally, you'd see smoke rising from the mouths of the wooden mannequins, but the miniature virologist has to wear a face mask and the smoke comes out of his head instead, symbolizing that a virologist always has his thinking cap on. He also buries his hands in his pockets since he's not allowed to shake hands with people. And he's trampling on what looks like a virus.

The fight to rescue the Christmas season has produced many other bright ideas. One is the creation of a [Virtual Seiffen Christmas Market](http://www.dregeno.de/weihnachtsmarkt/) (www.dregeno.de/weihnachtsmarkt/). "It's the only virtual Christmas market worldwide — you can walk through it, enjoying the 360-degree panorama view with our stands and other attractions. Technically, it feels a bit like Google Street View".

It's ideas like this that will no doubt help

the local producers and retailers cushion the blow of the pandemic. As Tino Günther remarks, every crisis harbors fresh business opportunities. The folks in Seiffen and the wider Erzgebirge region have been willing to rise to the challenge each time.

AUF DEUTSCH



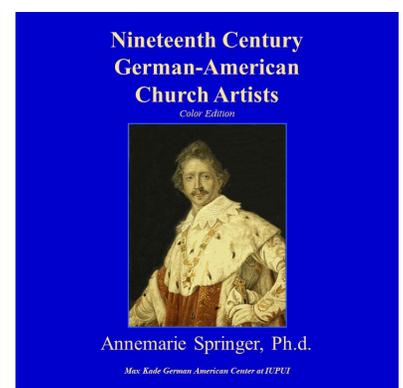
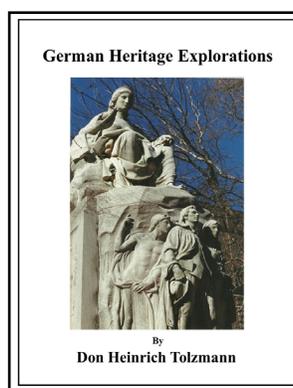
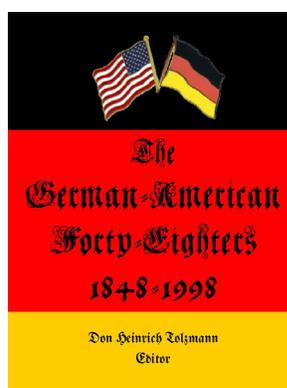
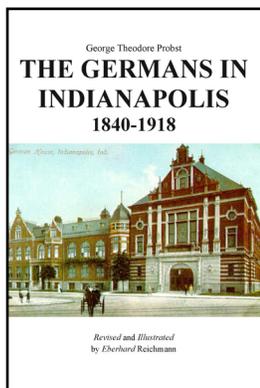
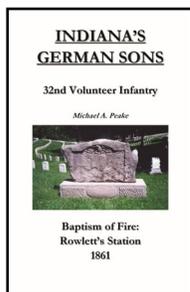
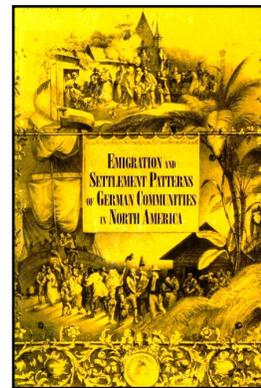
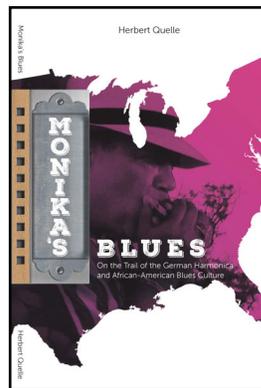
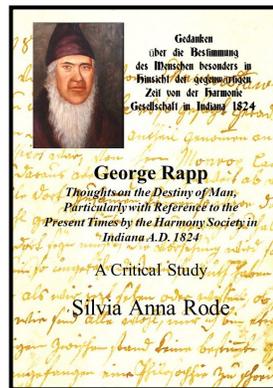
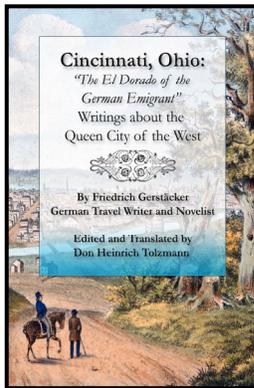
Schnee, Schnee, Schnee,
alles ist voll Schnee.
Der Schnee liegt auf der Wiese.
Der Schnee liegt auf dem Baum.
Da sagt die kleine Liese:
Der Schnee ist weich wie Flaum.
Auf dem Zaun, auf jeder Latte
liegen Mützen wie von Watte.
Auf der Strasse, auf dem Wege,
auf dem Dache, auf dem Stege,
über-all, wo-hin ich seh,
alles liegt nun voller Schnee.

19th Century Children's poem

Snow, snow, snow
everything is covered with snow.
The snow lays on the meadow.
The snow lays on the tree.
Then little Liese says:
The snow is soft as fluff.
On the fence, on every slat,
are sitting caps, as if from cotton.
On the street, on the path,
On the roof, on the bridge.
wherever I look,
everything is covered with snow.

Translation by Ruth Reichmann

Available from NCSA Literatur, the publishing arm of the Indiana German Heritage Society since 1993.



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INDIANA GERMAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE CALENDAR



STAMMTISCH AND PROGRAMS

Wednesday, January 13: No Board Meeting, Stammtisch and Program.

Wednesday, February 10: Board Meeting, Stammtisch and Program: *Indiana's Germantowns.*
ZOOM Presentation.

Jasper native Don Flick will present on the many Indiana towns and villages named "Germantown." This includes the curious town on the National Road in Wayne County with two names: Pershing/East Germantown. Don Flick is an architect and has been exploring his German heritage since his childhood.

Wednesday, March 10: Board Meeting, Stammtisch and Program: *The Poetry of Norbert Krapf*
ZOOM Presentation.

Indiana Poet Laureate (2008-2010) Norbert Krapf will read a selection of poems from his 2019 *Indiana Hill Country Poems* and his new (2020) *Southwest by Midwest*. Herr Krapf is well-known for his descriptive verses drawn from his Dubois County Heimat and his family roots in Franconia. Decades ago he wrote reflections on his family history in *Finding the Grain*, a must-read for anyone interested in the German-American experience at a personal level. His volumes of poetry are published by Dos Madres Press of Loveland, Ohio. *Finding the Grain* is available from NCSA Literatur.

For the immediate future all Stammtisch programs will be held virtually via Zoom. They are in English, free of charge, open to the public, and begin at 7:30 PM.

Links to register for the monthly programs will be sent out via email. In the event that this status should change to in-person programs as well as virtual, you will be notified via email. To register for future emails., please email secretary.ighs@gmail.com.

OTHER PROGRAMS

Friday, March 19-Saturday, March 20: *Annual IGHS Meeting and Symposium* at the historic Sherman House in Batesville. The topic for this year's symposium is *German/German-American Connection to Education*. The meeting planners are now accepting proposals for presentations for the symposium. If you would be interested in offering a presentation, please contact Giles Hoyt at ghoyt@iupui.edu. See article on Page 1 of this issue.

Friday, April 2, 10 am: *The annual Deutschsprachiger Karfreitags-Gottesdienst (German Language Good Friday Worship Service)* at the Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ, 603 North New Jersey Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202. For more information contact: zion@zioneucc.org.



Indiana German Heritage So -

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| | <input type="checkbox"/> History | <input type="checkbox"/> 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:

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!



