



## Newsletter

Volume 41 Number 4

Autumn 2025

### Sankt Marienkirche Inscription Celebration

We are pleased to share a meaningful update that highlights and honors the German heritage at the heart of our community's history.

On August 23, 2025, a special ceremony was held at St. Mary Catholic Church in downtown Indianapolis to bless a newly installed limestone inscription reading



“Sankt Marienkirche” — the German name for *St. Mary Church*. This permanent addition was made to recognize and celebrate the significant German roots of the parish, which was originally founded in 1858 to serve the city's growing German-speaking Catholic population.

The blessing ceremony was attended by Archbishop Charles C. Thompson and members of the Indiana German Heritage Society. A Mass was celebrated, and German music filled the church in tribute to the culture and faith of the parish founders. The church, located at 311 North New Jersey Street, is itself a testament to that heritage — a beautiful Gothic Revival structure completed in 1912 and modeled after the Cologne Cathedral

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### 2025 Hoosier German-American of the Year: Angelika Becker

**Herzlichen Glückwunsch:** The 2025 recipient of the Hoosier German-American of the Year is Angelika Becker.

For her lifelong dedication and leadership within the German-American community; For her commitment to the teaching of German language and culture at the middle and high school level in Indiana and her continued advocacy in the field; For her service to the profession at the local, regional, and national level as a teacher trainer and consultant; For her dedication to and support of the Carmel Christkindlmarkt, the Carmel Seiffen Sister City Partnership, and the German “Samstagsschule.” Well deserved!



For more information, please see <https://www.ighs.org/angelika-becker.html>

### APPLY FOR AN IGHS CULTURAL ENHANCEMENT FUND GRANT

The Indiana German Heritage Society supports cultural events and exhibits in Indiana as a key part of our cultural enhancement mission to support and preserve German culture, heritage, and traditions. The IGHS-cultural enhancement fund accepts applications for limited funding in line with those goals. See application form below. Next deadline is November 1, 2025. <https://www.ighs.org/cultural-enhancement-fund.html>

## Athenaeum Damenverein

By Marcia Gascho

In my Athenaeum tours, I talk briefly about the Damenverein when we visit their meeting rooms. I found the IU Digital archives that contain a wealth of information about the Athenaeum's Damenverein with records from 1876 to 2007. Unlike many Damenverein in other cities, this is a complete collection. It contains minutes from their meetings (both handwritten and typed), many photos as well as correspondence. Until 1918, many of the minutes were written in German.

The original women's organization for the Indianapolis Socialer Turnverein was founded in 1876 and was called the Indianapolis Turn-Schwestern.



The Turners were a male-dominated organization and

kept gender roles with women in a service capacity. The women originally supported the Turnverein activities and took care of a Turner library. They had a full calendar of parties, dinners and fund-raisers for the Turners. Over the years the women expanded their activities.

They hosted special holiday parties and picnics for Turner children. They ran raffles and charity bazaars for fund-raising. It was a source of income for the women's group but most of it went to the Turners.



They established a "Kranken Komitee" that helped care for sick members and sent flowers for hospitalized members and funerals. The women set up a soup kitchen (Suppenanstalt) and started needlework classes to teach poor girls how to sew, knit and crochet. They

supported the Normal College by raising money for scholarships and furnishing the women's dorm near the Athenaeum. Some women took gymnastics classes so they could provide support for girls and women's gymnastics classes. They were chaperones and trained instructors. Later the organization changed its name to the Damenverein. After World War I and a decline in membership, they began accepting non-German women as members. During the 1930s they became known as the Women's Auxiliary. During World War II they sold War Bonds, sent food to servicemen through the USO and did sewing for refugees. Post-war they transitioned away from a service organization and became more of a social club that hosted fashion shows, travelogues, holiday parties and theatrical productions. They voted to disband in 2007 as a formal organization.

I found a wonderful PhD thesis about the Athenaeum Damenverein written by Canadian Alida Joyce Moonen in 1993. She received a lot of information from our own Giles Hoyt as well as the McCart's from the Athenaeum Turners. She did extensive research reading the correspondence and minutes from the Athenaeum Damenverein. In her thesis she believes that the Athenaeum Damenverein was an impressive and dynamic organization. I gained a new appreciation for the Damenverein after reading her work. Ms. Moonen also wrote entries in the Encyclopedia of Indianapolis about the Normal College and Turners.



### Indiana Delegation to Berlin to Focus on Eco. Development, Food Product Exports

IGBC and The International Center are delighted to lead a 39-person delegation to Berlin this November. Partnering with the Indianapolis Colts, the "Team

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## Archbishop blesses German name of St. Mary Catholic Church

By Jeff Swiatek

A new stone inscription that proudly proclaims the German name of historic St. Mary Catholic Church in Indianapolis – *Sankt Marienkirche* – was dedicated and blessed by Indianapolis Archbishop Charles Thompson on Aug. 23 following the 5 pm Mass.

About 100 people including Indiana German Heritage Society members attended the special dedication ceremony and Mass to celebrate the contributions of German immigrants in building the beautiful current site of the first German National Catholic Parish in Indianapolis. (Sacred Heart of Jesus was the second.) Established in 1858, St. Mary found itself hemmed in by commercial businesses at its original downtown location. It moved in 1912 to the current site at 311 N. New Jersey St. along with a rectory, parish school and the St. Mary's Academy building of the Sisters of St. Francis of Oldenburg.

The parish campus remains intact today and reflects the city's German heritage through and through. The imposing church, along with the school and rectory remodel, were designed by German-born architect Hermann J. Gaul in Gothic style in homage to the great Cathedral of Cologne. Sculpted Indiana limestone clads the church, which is enhanced with gable statues of the Blessed Virgin Mary and two important German saints of the Middle Ages: St. Boniface and St. Heinrich. The facade has three portals each with a tympanum filled with bas-relief scenes from the life of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary. The sculpted exterior, rich in Gothic de-



tailing, was the work of Wilhelm August Kriner and Alexander Sangernebo. The large stained glass windows are the work of Emil Frei, a German immigrant. The construction work was performed by G. Ittenbach & Co., founded by German-born Gerhard Ittenbach.

When the church underwent exterior work years ago that included construction of an ADA ramp, the name of the church was inscribed on the stone ramp in English and Spanish, but unfortunately not in German. The late architect James T. Kienle, who oversaw an exterior restoration of the church and was a former president of IGHS, vowed to remedy the omission of the German inscription. The August dedication carries out the wishes of Kienle, his widow Marjorie Kienle and the IGHS.

The dedication ceremony was rich in German language and music, including a reading in German by former Indiana poet laureate Norbert Krapf and music by the 153-year-old Liederkrantz Choir that performed two hymns by Franz Schubert. IGHS member Inge Davies recited the Lord's Prayer in German.

A bilingual English/German Mass was said with five concelebrants: Archbishop Thompson; current church Pastor Fr. José Briñez; former church pastors Fr. Patrick Beidelmann and Fr. Michael O'Mara; and Fr. John Boeglin from the Diocese of Evansville, well known for his research on the German Catholic community of south-western Indiana.



IGHS members in attendance included President Brian Griesemer, Martin Baier, Inge Davies,

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Ron and Don Flick, D'Aine Green, Worth Hartman, Norbert Krapf, Marjorie Kienle, William and Laura Selm, and Patrick Rutledge, who conducted the Liederkrantz. Also Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Gehlhausen, Mr. & Mrs. Gerhard Klemm and Sven Schumacher, Honorary Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Speaking for IGHS members, Selm said, "We are grateful to the archbishop for working with us to recognize the heritage of those spiritual pioneers of the faith. Mission accomplished!"

The church sits a half-block from the Athenaeum, the grand German secular landmark and cultural center in downtown Indianapolis. James Kienle also was on the IGHS committee that in 2018 designed and installed the "Das Deutsche Haus" plaque on the Athenaeum, which was stripped of its German name during a nation-wide campaign in World War I to remove or downplay German culture in America.

The additions of the Sankt Marienkirche inscription and Das Deutsche Haus plaque highlight the key mission of the IGHS to remember the contributions of Indiana Germans to the history of Indianapolis, Indiana and the nation.

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in Germany. The inscription also serves as a lasting tribute to Jim Kienle, former president of IGHS and a devoted advocate for historic preservation. This addition was one of his final wishes and was completed in his honor.

We hope you will take the opportunity to visit this historic site and see the inscription for yourself — a proud symbol of the enduring influence of German heritage in Indiana.

Alles Gute,

**Brian Griesemer**  
IGHS President



## Student Scholarships for Study Abroad

Every year, IGHS supports Indiana high school students who participate in study abroad programs in a German-speaking country. IGHS provides scholarships up to \$1000 for programs such as the IU Honors Program in Foreign Languages in Graz, Austria, or the German-American Partnership Program, a three-week high school exchange program that includes host family stays and cultural excursions.

In the summer of 2025, IGHS provided six scholarships to students from around the state to travel to Austria. They attended German language and Austrian culture courses in the morning, lived with a host family, and went on cultural excursions in the Graz region and beyond. The five-week program is one of six immersion programs administered by Indiana University. Students commit to speaking only the target language during the program, except in cases of emergency.

Graz is located on the Mur River, about 120 miles southwest of Vienna, and is the capital of Styria (Steiermark). It is the second largest city of Austria. The historic center is one of the best-preserved city centers in Central Europe. Graz is well known for higher education, its lively art and music scene, as a former "Cultural Capital of Europe" (2003), and the birthplace of one of the most famous German-Americans, Arnold Schwarzenegger. The region boasts a lush and forested landscape on the eastern edge of the Alps. The world famous Lippizaner horses are bred nearby at the Piber Federal Stud.

The six students who enjoyed their immersion language and culture experience may be the last students to participate in the IU Honors Program for a while. Indiana University recently placed all of their summer immersion programs for high school students on hiatus.

From Fishers High School: **Katherine Rogers**

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From Bloomington North High School: **Noah Kiang, Eli Jackson**

From Marian High School in Mishawaka: **Aidan Glass, John Loesch**

From West Lafayette High School: **Graham Kappock**

Kate Rogers presented about her experience at the IGHS September Stammtisch program at the Athenaeum. Below you will find a report from Graham Kappock, one of the other five scholarship recipients. We thank all of the students for their commitment and dedication, as well as their German teachers who inspired and encouraged them to participate in such a life-changing experience.

Submitted by: Claudia Grossmann

### Update — Telegraph und Tribüne Historical Marker has been installed....AGAIN

From the Indiana Historical Bureau: “We’re excited to share that our historical marker examining the history of German newspapers in the state has been repaired and reinstalled! This marker was damaged twice since it was first installed in 2017 at 41 S. Delaware St. We want to thank the Indiana German Heritage Society for spearheading this project and working with us to get the marker repaired. We also want to thank City-County Archivist Jordan Ryan, staff with the Office of Finance and Management with the City of Indianapolis, former Deputy Mayor Judith Thomas, and the Indianapolis Cultural Trail for helping us identify a new location for the marker near Lugar Plaza at 200 E. Washington St., Indianapolis.”



The Indianapolis German-language newspaper, *Täglicher Telegraph und Tribüne*, ceased publication in 1918 because of rampant anti-German sentiment during World War I. Between 1843 and 1920 over 175 German-language newspapers were published in Indiana. Thanks to the IGHS’s Steve Schmidt and Brian Griesemer and the Indiana Historical Bureau’s Casey Pfeiffer for ensuring this project got completed.

The Indianapolis German-language newspaper

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**Indy International Festival**  
 Architecture Around the World

**2025**  
 NATIONALITIES COUNCIL OF INDIANA

**Johnson County Fairgrounds**  
 November 13th, 14th, & 15th

**DIVERSE PERFORMERS, ETHNIC FOOD VENDORS, and CULTURAL BOOTHS**



**Celebrate Your German Heritage!**  
**Join the Indiana German Heritage Society and Belong Today!**

# Wappen von Hamburg

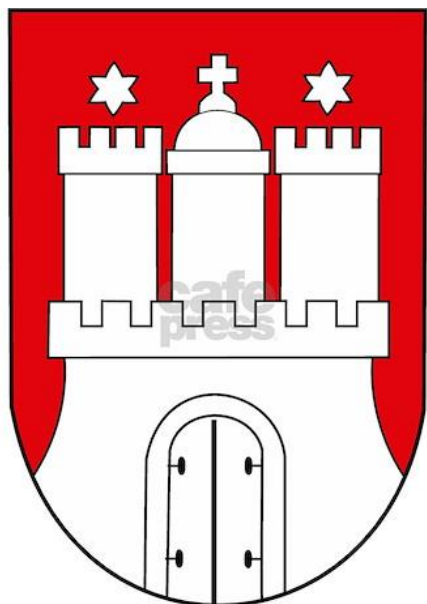
By Ingeburg Davies

As you have likely heard by now, IGHS received a gift by that name a few months ago. It's a detailed, built to scale model ship, nicely described in board member Jeff Swiatek's article in our Summer 2025 Newsletter. This beauty is now on display at the Athenaeum. You can marvel at the detail and precision while imagining that pirates which are known to have haunted the Caribbean once also threatened shipping around Hamburg and the North Sea until the **Wappen von Hamburg** and her sister ship **Leopoldus Primus** came to the rescue.

This article takes a closer look at the name of this ship with special focus on the **-burg** part .

**Wappen** means symbol, crest, coat of arms, or emblem in English. **Hamburg** is Germany's second largest city and busiest port and one of the country's three free city states (Berlin and Bremen are the other two) with a long history and maritime tradition. The name of the ship thus translates into **Emblem of Hamburg**.

**Burg** means fort or fortress in English, which would imply that Hamburg was a fort or fortress in the past. Indeed, it was, and while the physical evidence of the structure may have vanished over the years, the emblem of the Free City of Hamburg today continues to show the picture of a fort or **Burg**.



Around 1600, Hamburg was already a walled, fortified city and a member of the Hanseatic League, connected to prosperous and busy trade routes in northern Europe.

The connection of Hamburg to the Hanse is still evident in the HH on car license plates, which stands for **Hansestadt Hamburg**.

The below picture of **Hamburgum** (that's the name in its old-fashioned genitive form) from around 1600 shows details of the fortifications and the rivers Elbe and Alster which connect Hamburg to the North Sea.



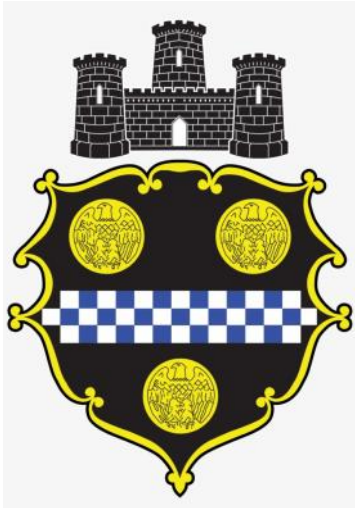
When **Burg** is used as a noun, as in Burg Eltz and Burg Giebichenstein, for example, it refers to a fortified castle, imposing and forbidding with no easy entry for uninvited or unauthorized guests. This meaning is also maintained figuratively in Martin Luther's beautiful German hymn "Ein feste **Burg** ist unser Gott" which reads "A mighty **Fortress** is our God" in English. If **-burg** is used as a suffix, it indicates a once fortified city.

A few examples of formerly heavily fortified cities ending in **-burg** are **Edinburg**, **Salzburg**, **Rothenburg**, **Luxembourg**, and **St. Petersburg**. Surprisingly, there is also an example of a city ending in **-burg** in the US: **Pittsburgh**. Pittsburgh today may not have a castle to justify the

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suffix, but it was indeed a fort in the past when it was under French control. It was then known as Fort Duquesne. After it was conquered by the British, the name was changed to Pittsburgh, in honor of the then Prime Minister William Pitt. Still today, the City of Pittsburgh includes a fort-like structure in its emblem.



A derivative of **Burg** is **Buerger** (or Buergerin), which means citizen.

A **Hamburger** (or Hamburgerin) used to mean a person who hails from Hamburg or calls the city home. At least that was the case until McDonald's came along, fell in love with the name, and started to sell them by the millions all over the world.

The German word for a fellow citizen is **Mitbuerger** or Mitbuergerin, and the mayor of a city or municipality is called the **Buergermeister**.

**Burg** is related to the English verb **to burrow** which carries the same meaning: digging in with staying power, and a **borough** refers to an administrative unit in various English-speaking countries, which, one might assume, derives from a fortified, self-governing administrative entity.

The German verb “fuer etwas **buergen**” is an iron-clad guarantee, poetically and eloquently described in Friedrich Schiller's **Die Buergschaft**, which tells of the unshakeable bond and pledge between two friends when one voluntarily takes the place of the other and

is willing to die for his convicted friend who races against many obstacles to get back barely in time to save the innocent one from being hanged.



And then there is yours truly, whose registered first name is **Ingeburg**. Is there a connection to a castle or fort? Likely not, but the name still implies strength and staying power, of which I hope to have just enough not to contradict the meaning of

the **-burg** suffix.

Back to the ship and evidence for the **-burg** part in the name. Take a look at the stern! There, between two fierce lions is the emblem of a **Burg**, giving visible proof that this fortified ship lived up to its name while in service as an escort ship.

## IGHS ANNUAL MEETING AND SYMPOSIUM

**JASPER, INDIANA**

**DATE: MARCH 2026**



**Celebrating  
German  
American  
Klub's  
2025  
Oktoberfest**

## Exhibition Details

What: Transitions and Belonging: German American Artists in Indiana

When: October 10, 2025

Where: The Athenaeum, 401 E Michigan St, Indianapolis, IN 46204



**Congratulations to Amy and Travis Jerde!!!**

### Friend of German Award (Community)

*Travis and Amy Jerde of the IASG/Carmel Seiffen Sister Cities of Carmel, IN were recognized as this year's American Association of Teachers of German recipients of the Friend of German Award for Community Engagement. This award is awarded for outstanding support for and promotion of German culture in the community.*

*The award recognizes those who demonstrate exemplary leadership at the local, regional or national level in the advocacy of German and German language education.*

***Congratulations to the both of you as this award was well deserved!***

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### Westfield Shamrocks go to Germany - German American Partnership Program

At Westfield, preparing students to be Life Ready often means encouraging them to step beyond the walls of our schools. For Charlene Heinzman's German students, that step carried them all the way across the ocean to Oldenburg, Germany.

Thanks to a partnership through the German American Partnership Program (GAPP), 16 Shamrocks traveled to Oldenburg, where a handful of local German students and their families opened up their homes to our students. For nearly three weeks, they lived as German teenagers do—eating at the family table, attending school, hopping on buses, shopping at the corner market, and even cheering at community events.

And because this program works both ways, those same German students will come to Westfield this spring, giving the exchange a sense of family, not just formality.

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INDIANAPOLIS, IN – A new exhibition, **"Transitions and Belonging: German American Artists in Indiana,"** will open at the historic Athenaeum on **October 10, 2025**. This show celebrates the profound experiences and artistic contributions of six German-born artists who have made Indiana their home. It explores important themes of transition, identity, and the search for belonging in a new cultural landscape.

The poster features the title 'TRANSITIONS &amp; BELONGING' in large, bold, blue letters, with the subtitle 'German American Artists in Indiana' below it. A grid of six small images shows various artworks by the featured artists. At the bottom, it lists the opening reception on Friday, October 10th, from 6-9pm, with free admission. It also mentions the gallery is on the second floor of the Athenaeum and is open to the public through October 2025. The Athenaeum logo is at the very bottom.

The exhibition is particularly fitting for the Athenaeum, a building that stands as a testament to Indianapolis's rich German heritage. For generations, German immigrants have played a vital role in shaping the state's cultural fabric, and this show continues that legacy through contemporary art.

Featured works span a wide range of mediums, including book art, drawings, acrylic and pastel paintings, and intricate memorabilia display cases reminiscent of Joseph Cornell. While diverse in form, the art is united by the artists' decades-long engagement with their arrival in a new land. Each piece offers an intimate glimpse into their personal journeys, reflecting complex questions about finding one's place and forming a sense of home.

The works tell powerful stories of loss and gain, memory and adaptation, and the complex process of cultural integration. They invite viewers to reflect on their own definitions of home and belonging, creating a shared space for empathy and understanding.

## Partnership Milestone Monument erected at the Jasper Train Depot

Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc., the Dubois County Stone Carver Group, and the Stone Carvers Group of Pfaffenweiler worked together to have a permanent



historical monument erected in Jasper at the Jasper Train Depot. The Monument was designed by the Dubois County Stone Carvers, a group of individuals who meet at the Dubois County

Museum and practice the art of hand carving stone under the direction of Master Stone Carver, Jim Corn. The Monument includes the Partnership logo and important dates of Jasper and Pfaffenweiler Partnership and is meant to be a visual representation of the various milestones that have been part of this successful partnership over the past 40 years.

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Indiana” delegation will meet with various stakeholders and host special events & receptions with Germany-based partners to strengthen Indiana’s transatlantic business ties.

### Schleswig Holstein Business Organization Visits Indiana

IGBC was delighted to welcome Mr. Sven Gabriel from the Business Development Corporation of Schleswig Holstein to Indiana. During his visit to the Hoosier State, Mr. Gabriel visited with the Indiana Economic Development Corporation before meeting with IGBC and The International Center to discuss business ties between Indiana and Germany. Mr. Gabriel ended his visit meeting with the Indiana State Department of Agriculture to explore collaboration between both regions’ agricultural producers.

## High School Essay

### Anfangen ist leicht, Beharren eine Kunst:

Addelyn Welch  
William Henry Harrison High School  
Teacher: Amanda Beck

George Bayer had been expecting cheers and warm greetings upon his arrival, not glares and angry whispers. He looked around the room, taking in the children shivering in their blankets, the women trembling in their patchwork dresses, the men slouching in their dirt-stained shirts. Every one of them had an accusation on their lips. Their survival was *his* duty. Where had he been, when they were struggling through the winter? His beautiful wife, Catherine, slipped her hand into his and gave it a reassuring squeeze. *Gott helfe uns*, he thought. *God help us*.

No, the founding of Hermann, Missouri was not as smooth as the Bayers and the German immigrants who came before them had hoped it would be. Born in Baden, Germany, George Frederick Bayer was a renowned music teacher and an appointed representative of the German Settlement Society of Philadelphia, founded in 1836. The society’s committee hoped to acquire new land west of Philadelphia where German culture could be fostered through the establishment of a colony. They deputized Bayer and gave him the authority to choose the best location for the new settlement. After a careful inspection of the land, Bayer determined that the area that would someday be known as Hermann was an excellent choice, due to its similarities to the Rhineland. By 1837, the German Settlement Society of Philadelphia had acquired 11,000 acres of land for \$15,612. The enthusiastic Bayer family—and the seventeen German immigrants who elected to settle this new land as well—made plans to leave in December of 1837. However, the settlers had a rough road ahead of them. A severe illness forced George

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## IGHŞ Cultural Enhancement Fund Winners

1. GermanFest’s FamilienFest in Fort Wayne sought funding to enhance its traditional German Story Time program.
2. The Indianapolis Liederkrantz German Band requested funding to support the expansion of its annual Spring Konzert, scheduled for March 2026 as the Band’s membership and audience have grown, so has the need for a larger venue and enhanced marketing efforts.
3. Sister Cities of Jasper was seeking funding for a project to install identical historical monuments in Jasper and Pfaffenweiler. These monuments are to commemorate 40 years of partnership, showcasing shared milestones and stone carving heritage.
4. The Fishers Historical Society requested funding to help purchase and install a historical marker commemorating Germantown, a 19th-century German-influenced settlement founded in 1834.

Proposals are due November 1, 2025

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Bayer and his family to stop at Pittsburgh for months, unbeknownst to the other settlers. Nine adults and eight children arrived in Hermann to find their fearless leader missing and rugged wilderness ahead of them. The group was faced with two options: clear the land as best they could, or succumb to the harsh December weather. The dream of a German-inspired town full of culture and prosperity was replaced with the much simpler goal of surviving.

In March 1838, Bayer finally arrived with over a hundred other prospective settlers. Instead of being relieved to see him, as he had expected them to be, the first settlers, still harboring feelings of abandonment and resentment, piled an impossible number of duties on him. Whether fueled by hope or guilt, Bayer did everything he could for the budding community, including handling disputes, determining the assignment

of property based on shares of the German Settlement Society, sending reports back to Philadelphia, surveying the land, planning the layout of the town, overseeing construction projects, and handling the distribution of food and supplies. Some settlers were inspired by Bayer’s valiant efforts; one even wrote to a German Philadelphia newspaper, calling Bayer “... an upright, helpful and affable man, whom I consider absolutely worthy of the honorable trust which the Society put in him.” However, others still blamed Bayer for the town’s misfortunes. Frequent complaints to the Society back in Philadelphia convinced the committee to relieve him of all his duties. Heartbroken by the lack of faith in him from the people he had dedicated his life to and his unfulfilled vision of a Rhineland-inspired community, George Bayer, only 39 years old, died in 1839, buried on the farthest side of the Hermann cemetery from the town.

Although Bayer’s story came to a tragic end, Hermann’s did not. Over the next couple of years, the settlers drew from their German heritage and planted vineyards. After a decade of developing, Hermann hosted its first Weinfest, a celebration that drew a large crowd from St. Louis. The town’s growing reputation exploded in popularity. The award-winning Stone Hill Winery in Hermann became the second-largest winery in the United States. Hermann’s rolling, grapevine-covered hills and unique German culture, combined with a successful river port, made it a must-see destination for Americans around the country. Its early struggles—and unsung hero, George Bayer—were forgotten in the wake of its newfound glory.

Then, as quickly as it had begun, Hermann’s success ended. Waves of anti-German sentiment following World War I combined with the hard-hitting National Prohibition Act of 1919 halted all of the town’s progress. With its primary income source made illegal and its people hated for their heritage, Hermann was in economic shambles for nearly fifty years.

However, like the resilient Germanic warrior it was named after, Hermann once again would not

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## Indiana University Honors Program for Foreign Languages—Austria By Graham Kappock

As we touched down in Vienna, the first thing that caught the eyes of myself and my fellow IUHPFL students was the patchwork of green and yellow fields, a



stark contrast to our suburb-ringed departures from Indianapolis and Chicago. During my time in Austria, generously supported by the

IGHS, nature was a focal point. My host family took me *wandern*, hiking up 3 local mountains in 4 weeks, and the view from their house was complemented by the gentle presence of the *Plabutsch* and other hills (mountains in my eyes, which always elicited a laugh). My host mother, my roommate, and I also had the opportunity to travel to Salzburg, to visit a friend whose house was nestled among rocky outcroppings and magical streams. While there, we also took a ferry across the *Wolfgangsee* to *Schafberg*, whose alpine meadows were breathtaking. At large, Austrians seem to hold a great deal of respect and love for their natural spaces, even among the younger generations. It's refreshing to see young people interested and invested in the conservation of their surroundings. This is evident from Vienna International to people's homes, both comfortably nestled among natural settings.

The IUHPFL program simply flew by. While in Graz, we had daily classes and excursions on weekdays. I became accustomed both to life in the city and to my host family, who generously took myself and my roommate on weekend trips, and taught me how to swim. On weekday afternoons, the IUHPFL group visited the City Hall, Styrian Armoury (the largest collection of medieval weapons in Europe), and Schloss Eggenberg, among various other locations. We also took further excursions to Riegersburg, the Zotter chocolate factory (..which I highly recommend!), and Wörthersee. At the end of the program, we spent 3 days in Vienna, where I rode my first roller coaster on the *Prater* and got a taste

of a fascinating and historic city. My German capabilities have been greatly strengthened by this experience, and I hope I can use them in my profession, ideally to create international connections between Indiana and German-speaking countries through scientific lenses. Among other things, I learned to trust myself in non-typical environments and in unexpected events (such as getting lost in O'Hare, or navigating the streets of Graz and Vienna), enjoyed novel cuisines (I heartily recommend Turkish Coffee and *Kaiserschmarrn*), immersed myself in a vibrant culture, and found connection with Americans and Austrians I would otherwise never have had the pleasure of meeting. I hope that the IUHPFL Graz program continues, and am very grateful for the support of the IGHS for allowing me this life-changing opportunity.

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be defeated. Its citizens' refusal to let its German roots be squelched became its saving quality. The picturesque traditional German homes that line the streets and (reopened after the end of prohibition) wineries drew in visitors looking for a town with Old-World charm, kickstarting the town's economy again. Not only this, but in 1986, a court of inquiry began looking back on Hermann's history and rediscovered the incredible contributions made to the town by George Bayer. A statue of him commemorating his efforts was constructed and placed in the courtyard of the Gasconade County Historical Society, a credit to the bravery and dedication of Hermann's early settlers.

Today, there is no doubt George Bayer and the other German settlers of Hermann, Missouri would be proud of its progress. The town is renowned for its proud displays of German culture, such as its Oktoberfest celebrations and Deutschheim State Historic Site. Its vineyards and wineries draw in tourists from around the country. Through their sacrifices, Hermann's founders have ensured that the town will remain a symbol of German culture and determination in America for generations, just as they dreamed so long ago.

## High School Essay

### The German Triangle and Beyond: Fort Wayne's German Legacy

Evelina Rubchinsky  
Teacher: Angelika Becker  
Carmel High School

The 1800s were a top-three century for the United States, full of influential changes such as the Industrial Revolution and the Civil War. One of the most defining characteristics was the influx of immigrants from German-speaking regions. In contrast to many Irish immigrants who came alone and settled in urban centers, many German immigrants arrived as a family and largely settled in the then-western unurbanized United States. Even though it's been more than 200 years since this wave of immigration began, the influence of these settlers is still evident today.

Fort Wayne, Indiana is outside of the "German Triangle," however it's a very interesting community to consider since this city was significantly shaped by German-speaking immigrants of the 19th century and beyond. German settlement in Fort Wayne began in the 1830s, and at its peak, Germans accounted for 80% of the city's population. Although today, that number is about 25%, the influence of German culture is still very prominent.

A significant motivating factor for leaving Germany was the harsh economic reality for many families because of the Industrial Revolution. The success of English industrialization contributed to the difficulty of many German industries to stay afloat. Moving to America didn't make life easy though. Immigrants were faced with barriers in the form of language, employment, and assimilation. There were, however, several institutions that eased this transition. One of the first German-founded Fort Wayne institutions was the Fort Wayne Turners, a gymnastic society that still exists and thrives today. This society provided a much-needed community to the new Americans.

The German immigrants of the 19th century came from all walks of life. Some Protestants, Catholics, and Jews escaped growing oppression from their homes. Other German immigrants escaped political persecution after the failed revolutions of 1848. Some chose to settle in Indiana due to the vast available farmlands, others made use of certain special skills such as furniture or shoemaking. While different individuals had different 'push' and 'pull' factors, ultimately it was the community they created in the United States that left a lasting impact.

Religious institutions were incredibly important in fostering a community for the settlers in their new-found home. Churches, such as Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Zion Lutheran Church, served as community centers. These churches offered support for immigrants, helping them adjust to their new lives in America while preserving cultural and religious practices. As more and more German immigrants flooded into Fort Wayne, and Indiana in general, their influence was more and more prominent. This was evident in Indiana's 1851 constitution where over 10% of copies were printed in German.

As the 19th century came to a close, Fort Wayne was the epitome of an American German town. The mayor and several city council members were German immigrants, German was the most commonly used language in churches and some classrooms, and German breweries such as the Berghoff produced some of the best beer in the area. As the Chicago Tribune reported, the city of Fort Wayne was truly "a most German town".

The German residents of Fort Wayne significantly contributed to several key institutions in the city. Built in 1929, the Lincoln Tower, was the first skyscraper in Indiana, housed the German-American bank, and was a true representation of the German impact on the city. The designer, builder, and president were all German immigrants. Since then, this bank has become a crucial economic institution within Fort Wayne with long-lasting impacts.

*(Continued on page 13)*

(Continued from page 12)

However, as the First World War began, this rich and prominent German-American culture started to decline. Germany, and consequently everything associated with it, became an American enemy. And little by little, German culture began to fade in Fort Wayne. German-language newspapers disappeared, the use of the German language was forbidden in classrooms, and German families were harassed. The weakening of the culture is most evident through the aforementioned German-American bank, which changed its name to a more patriotic one: the Lincoln National Bank.

Around the time when the world wars came to a close, ethnic divisions faded. The population became more diverse and the influence of German culture on Fort Wayne was weakened. There emerged, however, several efforts to keep the history alive. In the late 80s, the Fort Wayne German Heritage Society set a goal to establish a sister city in Germany, and in 1992 Gera became a sister city with Fort Wayne. The city celebrates its German heritage through several festivals and events, an effort driven largely by the residents of Fort Wayne. Germanfest, which has been an annual tradition for over 40 years now, is a celebration of German music, food, and traditions. This festival hosts thousands of visitors and highlights the contributions of the German community to the city.

As Fort Wayne evolves, the lasting influence of its German population remains a strong part of the city's identity. This is a testament to the resilience and contributions of both the early 19th-century settlers and mid-20th-century residents. The history of German immigrants in Fort Wayne is a great story of the impact of immigration on American cities. It serves as an important reminder that culture cannot and should not be erased, and it is because of the efforts of the Fort Wayne residents that German culture is celebrated in the city today.

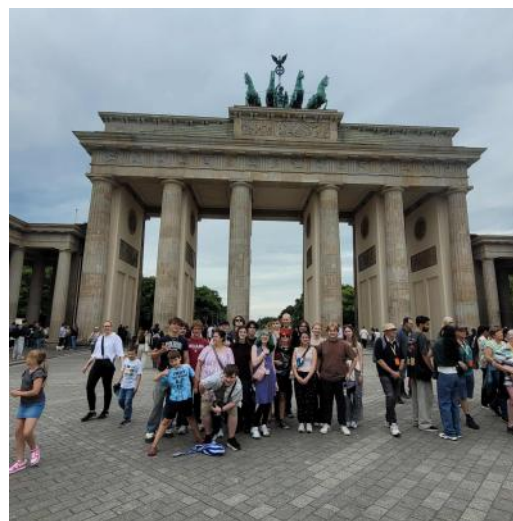


(Continued from page 8)

German teacher Charlene Heinzman has seen how quickly this experience changes her students.

“The amount of growth I see in students’ German proficiency in only 19 days is incredible,” she says. “Students learn to communicate their needs and wants in new situations, and this not only helps their language skills but shows them how resourceful, resilient, and flexible they really are. The other thing that many students experience is a growing confidence in their ability to be independent and problem-solve.”

For some students, it was the excursion of a lifetime. But for Heinzman, it’s something more—it’s preparation for life after high school.



“This program prepares students for the day after high school by offering them a safe way to explore a different

part of the world and have experiences they might not otherwise be able to have. It also shows them things about themselves they did not know, which can lead to a broader scope of choices for them when they leave WHS.”

The trip may be over, but the story isn’t finished. Now, those same Shamrocks are counting down the days until their new friends from Oldenburg arrive in Westfield.



2025

## - KULTURECKE DOCENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM -

The Kulturecke Docent Scholarship Program is a fantastic opportunity to get involved in the Carmel Christkindlmarkt and partner with us in bringing history and cultural awareness to Carmel, Indiana.

Our Market partnered with the Indiana German Heritage Society and the Indiana Historical Society to bring our guests the Kulturecke in 2019. A space to explore Indiana's rich German-American history, this museum allows guests to learn how German immigrants contributed to the State of Indiana through business, education, architecture and Christmas traditions.

As part of this experience, the Kulturecke Docent will be present in the hut to welcome visitors, and provide helpful and interesting facts found in the **Kulturecke**. We'll make sure you'll have what you need to succeed.

### Scholarship Prizes

---

Winners of the Carmel Christkindlmarkt Kulturecke Docent Scholarship Program will receive scholarships in the following amounts:

**First Prize - \$1,000**

**Two Runner-Ups - \$500**

In addition, special appearances may be requested for various events around the Market throughout the season.

### 2025 Application Deadline

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Please submit your essay via the Docent Scholarship Application Form by October 3, 2025.

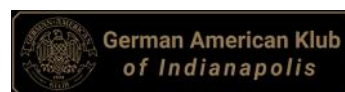
#### Indiana German Heritage Society Mission:

The mission of the IGHS 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.

We are guided by a commitment to learn and an obligation to share our knowledge with accuracy, integrity, and respect for all heritages.

#### Indiana German Heritage Society Vision:

The vision of the Indiana German Heritage Society is to be the catalyst for the preservation and celebration of the state's German-American heritage, and to support groups and communities in activities that coincide with our mission.



## Auf Deutsch By Ingeburg Davies

In keeping with the topic of **Burg** and the **Wappen von Hamburg**, the choice for this issue of the Newsletter is yet another Burg. And while the Rhine River is famously well-known for the many castles along its banks, there are ruined castles on a smaller German river, which provide a bit of competition. Here is a song, written by Franz Kugler in 1826, praising the beauty of the **Rudelsburg** on the river Saale.

The caption on the postcard reads:

### Rudelsburg and Saaleck

There Saaleck, here the Rudelsburg,  
and below deep in the valley  
There rushes between the rocks the old, dear river Saale,  
And hills here and hills there, to the right and to the left:  
The Rudelsburg, that is a place for dreaming and for drinking.

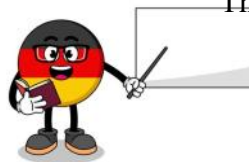


## Auf Deutsch

An der Saale hellem Strande  
stehen Burgen stolz und kühn;  
ihre Dächer sind zerfallen,  
und der Wind streicht durch die Hallen,  
Wolken ziehen drüber hin.



Zwar die Ritter sind verschwunden,  
nimmer klingen Speer und Schild;  
Doch dem Wandersmann erscheinen  
auf den altbemoosten Steinen  
oft Gestalten zart und mild.



Droben winken holde Augen,  
freundlich lacht manch roter Mund:  
Wandrer schaut wohl in die Ferne,  
schaut in holder Augen Sterne,  
Herz ist heiter und gesund.

Und der Wanderer zieht von dannen,  
denn die Trennungsstunde ruft;  
und er singet Abschiedslieder,  
Lebewohl tönt ihm hernieder,  
Tücher wehen in der Luft.



## In English

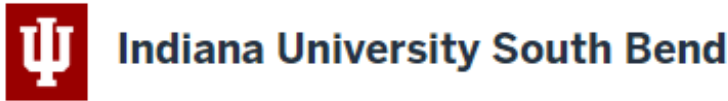
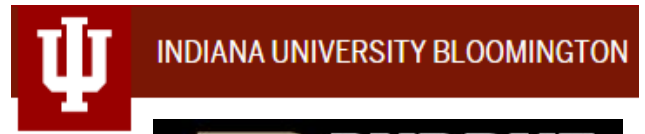
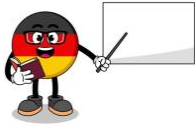
Along the banks of the Saale river,  
There are castles proud and daring.  
Their roofs have caved in  
And the wind blows through their halls,  
Clouds are drifting overhead.

The knights have vanished,  
There is no more sound of spear and shield.  
Yet, to the wanderer frequently appear  
on the old, moss-covered stones  
figures delicate and mild.

Kind eyes are winking up above,  
With many a pair of red lips smiling invitingly.  
The wanderer looks ahead to the distance,  
Gazes into many starry eyes,  
The heart is joyful and content.

Yet, the wanderer moves on  
when the hour of farewell is calling.  
Farewell cries he hears from up high,  
Gladly he sings farewell songs,  
Kerchiefs are waving in the air.

# Indiana Universities and Colleges offering majors or minors in German!



## Learn More About Your German History & Heritage



Search Amazon BOOKS for “NCSA Literatur”

## NCSA Literatur

The publishing arm of the Indiana German Heritage Society, the Max Kade Center for German-American Studies at IUPUI, and the Irvington Historical Society

### IGHS NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

In order to get our newsletter out to the membership on schedule, please submit your stories, events and pictures by the listed deadlines:

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

### Celebrating 41 Years



1984 – 2025





# Indiana German Heritage Society

## Hoosier German - American Of The Year

### Nominations Sought for 2026 Hoosier German-American of the Year

Each fall, the IGHS recognizes an individual or group who has made a significant contribution to the cultural and historical heritage of the Hoosier German-American community. This individual or group must have been active in the German-American Community of their area for a minimum of 10 years.

Nominations are now being accepted from the entire IGHS membership for The Hoosier German-American of the Year for 2026.

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

IGHS Awards Committee  
401 E. Michigan Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

or email to: [ighsmembership@gmail.com](mailto:ighsmembership@gmail.com)

**Nominations are due by August 1.**

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 Deutsche Haus/Athenaeum.

For information pertaining to the requirements for Annual Hoosier-German American Award please go to <https://www.ighs.org/hoosier-german-american-of-the-year.html>



### PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE IGHS HOOSIER GERMAN-AMERICAN AWARD INCLUDE:

- 2007 Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.
- 2008 Dr. Carl Sputh
- 2009 Dr. Eberhard Reichmann
- 2010 Reverend Arthur Schwenk
- 2011 Professor Ron Warner
- 2012 Hon. Senator Richard Lugar
- 2013 Dr. Ruth Reichmann
- 2014 Jürgen Jungbauer
- 2015 Othmar Grueninger
- 2016 Dr. Giles Hoyt
- 2017 Matthias Hilger
- 2018 Sven Schumacher
- 2019 William Selm
- 2020 Friends of Wyneken, Inc.
- 2021 Dr. Claudia Grossmann
- 2022 Indianapolis Liederkrantz
- 2023 Gerhard Klemm
- 2024 Patricia Goepfrich and  
Jasper Deutscher Verein
- 2025 Angelika Becker

**Today is a good time  
to renew your  
IGHS membership**



# Indiana German Heritage Society

## Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please enter / renew my membership:

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$20.00                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Business \$100.00     | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25.00   | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit \$50.00    |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full-time Student \$5.00<br>(with teacher's signature) | <input type="checkbox"/> Library Rate \$15.00  |  |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> German Teacher \$5.00 |  |

Second person for family membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive the IGHS Newsletter:  E-Mail  US Mail

Specific Interests:

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Family                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Community       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy                | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Exchanges /<br>Sister Cities | <input type="checkbox"/> General                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious             |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> German Language Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching Materials    |
|  | <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](http://IGHS.org)!





# INDIANA GERMAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE CALENDAR



## STAMMTISCH AND PROGRAMS

All Stammtisch programs are presented in English, are free of charge, and are open to everyone. The programs begin at 7:30 PM. Most programs are offered both in person or via Zoom. (see ighs.org)

Registration is required for all Zoom events. Use the links above to register in advance for each program. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

**Wednesday 8 Oktober:**

**Topic: "Attitudes of Indianapolis German-Americans in 1917" at the Athenaeum, Indianapolis, IN.**

Graduate student, Monica Berg, in the Public History program of Indiana University Indianapolis will present. Ms Berg is a Max Kade Fellow.

ZOOM Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88399732962?pwd=uPky1yxbfKa6mabRFQIW42GiehC6Jw.1>

**Wednesday 12 November:**

**Topic: Cultural Enhancement Fund Presentations at the Athenaeum, Indianapolis, IN.**

IGHS will hear reports of several groups that received grants to complete projects involving German heritage.

ZOOM Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/CndZoXG4T3CYG2y7pqOAbg>

**10 December, Wednesday:**

**Topic: Weihnachtliederkranz und Christbaumschmuckaustausch at the Carmel Christkindlmarkt**

IGHS will meet outside on the Marktplatz of the Carmel Christkindlmarkt with members of the Indianapolis Liederkranz to sing sing, sing, the best Christmas songs in the world including Vom Himmel Hoch, Alle Jahre Wieder, and Still Nacht, Heilige Nacht. Bring a wrapped ornament (\$5-10 value) place it in the basket and take another home. DRESS FOR THE WEATHER!!!



*Did You Miss One of Our  
Stammtisch Presentations?  
Or Do You Just Want to Hear One  
Again?  
Now you can!*

**Estate Planning?**  
**Please consider IGHS**  
<https://www.ighs.org/estate-planning.html>  
**Dankeschön**

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

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