Indiana German Heritage Society

Newsletter

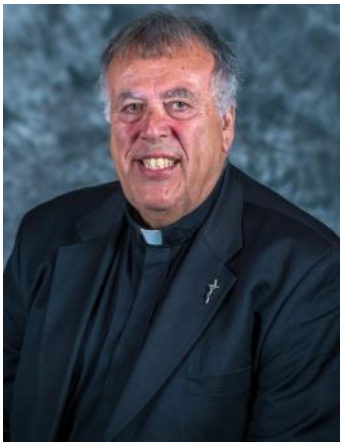
Volume 42 Number 4

Autumn 2026

A Letter from the President

Liebe Mitglieder,

As autumn settles in again, it feels like a good moment to look back at how far our Society has come since the beginning of the year — and to thank all of you who continue to make this community so vibrant and alive.



Each Autumn, our biggest tradition continues: honoring a Hoosier German-American whose life's work has helped preserve our shared heritage. This year, we are proud to honor Father John Boeglin (read more here), who will receive the award at the GermanFest in Indianapolis on October 3, 2026. This honor reminds us that our heritage survives because people choose, year after year, to carry it forward.

Looking back on the first half of this year, it's been a season of real momentum for IGHS. Our 42nd Annual Meeting and Symposium, held March 14 and 15 in Jasper, drew a record turnout of more than 70 members for a weekend built around "The German-American Experience in Dubois County." Jointly hosted with the Jasper Deutscher Verein and the Sister Cities of Jasper, and welcomed with a Proclamation of German Heritage Day from Mayor Dean Vonderheide, the gathering included a German Mass at St. Joseph Church, a tour of the Dubois County Museum, and an evening at the Schnitzelbank Restaurant — our first return to Jasper since 2008.

We also took time this spring to celebrate former IGHS President Jim Kienle, whose decades of preservation work were honored with the dedication of "James T. Kienle Memorial Way" in the Lockerbie

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2026 Hoosier German-American of the Year: Father John Boeglin

Herzlichen Glückwunsch: The 2026 recipient of the Hoosier German-American of the Year is Father John Boeglin.

Born and raised on a dairy farm near Haubstadt, Indiana, Fr. Boeglin developed a deep appreciation for his German heritage early in life. He attended the Roman Catholic seminary in Innsbruck, Austria, where he immersed himself in the German language and culture before being ordained a priest for the Diocese of Evansville in 1978. During 44 years of active ministry, culminating in his retirement in 2022, he consistently used his pastoral leadership to preserve and celebrate the German roots of southern Indiana communities. He remains fluent in German and has intentionally continued using and promoting the language throughout his retirement, recognizing that language is one of the

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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, 2026. FUND GRANT

GENEALOGY GOAL – PHOTOGRAPHING A MILITARY MEMORIAL

Submitted by Kent Robinson

Starting in 2018 I was the group leader for the Palatines to America annual research trip to the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City. On our fall trip in 2023, there was an Indiana Chapter member from Florida who was part of our group. I became quite interested in her story and looked forward to trying to assist her in that goal. She was 88-years old and was attempting to learn about her father's life in Germany prior to his arrival in the United States in 1926. Johann Hermann Wiebus was born in Duisburg in 1894.From his Alien Registration File of 1948 his daughter learned that he had been married in Germany and had two sons. It seemed apparent that he abandoned them when he emigrated.

While in Salt Lake City, we found him listed in some Duisburg Adressbücher (city directories). She and a friend made a research trip to Duisburg in the spring of 2024 and in addition to obtaining a copy of his birth record and some other documents, she met a cousin of her father's mother.

Since moving to Germany in 2025, I have become somewhat engrossed in attempting to assist her in her quest. We have been able to discover a significant amount of information and have learned some quite interesting details as well. This research has filled in much of the timeline between his birth and time of emigration. We have now obtained documents for his wife's birth and death, the couple's marriage, and the birth documents for each of the children—even though the latter records are within a privacy period. We also have some employment records from Norddeutscher Lloyd when he worked as a chef on several different cruise ships.

One of the most interesting entries in his Alien Registration File involved his German military service. He indicated that he served from November 1914 to April 1915. It also indicated he was interned in Norfolk, Virginia. To me this seemed quite strange as it was a very brief period of service and didn't seem logical for him to be interned at that time, since it was before the United States entered World War I. However, this was all true and has turned out to be one of the most fascinating parts of this research. To explain briefly, the Norddeutscher Lloyd passenger ship *Kronprinz Wilhelm* had completed a voyage from Bremen to New York in August 1914 and was scheduled to return in seven days. This was an honored liner that held speed records for Atlantic crossings. A couple of days prior to the scheduled return to Bremen, that crossing was cancelled and she was commissioned into the Imperial German Navy as an auxiliary cruiser. A couple of months later, Herr Wiebus along with seven other crew of the *Sierra Cordoba* transferred to the *Kronprinz Wilhelm*. She continued her sea duties until she ran short of fuel and needed repairs. Norfolk turned out to be a seemingly good option as a neutral port at the time. The crew built a small German village in port and remained as "guests" until they became prisoners of war in 1917. He remained here in that status until September 25, 1919.

While much of the information required contacting various archives to obtain documents some information was obtained utilizing online records. That is how we learned about the fate of his two sons—both of whom died in World War II. We discovered this utilizing the website of the Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge (German War Graves Commission: https://www.volksbund.de). The older child, Hans Heinrich Wiebus, died on October 1, 1942, in Russia and is buried in a German war cemetery in Sologubowka, Russia. The younger son, Helmut

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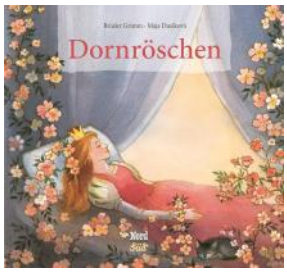
Wiebus, died during the sinking of U-boat 435 off the coast of Portugal on July 9, 1943. The online record indicated that he has been memorialized at the Möltenort U-boot Ehrenmal near Kiel.

I did some online research about this memorial and discovered that it has a plaque for each U-boat that was destroyed during World Wars I and II. Additionally, each plaque lists all of the crew members and their dates of birth. I found a number of images of the memorial online and found it quite impressive. It soon became a goal to visit it and obtain a photo of the plaque for U-boat 435 indicating the name of Helmut Wiebus. I had discussed this with an acquaintance who is the president of a genealogy society in Schleswig-Holstein.

I made a spur of the moment decision to travel to Kiel the last weekend in May when there was a favorable weather forecast. I arrived in Kiel late on Sunday afternoon. On Monday morning I walked to the harbor and took the ferry to Heikendorf near where the memorial is located. After walking about ten minutes along the shoreline I rounded a curve and was able to see the very large, impressive cenotaph topped by a very large eagle that marks the site. I was impressed by the overall design of the memorial. All one could see as you approached was a lawn covered with a large number of short shrubs forming a half-circle. To view the plaques for the U-boats, you had to descend a stair at either edge of the memorial. Therefore, quite appropriately for a submarine memorial, all of the plaques were below ground level arranged in a semi-circular group. They were arranged in numerical order by U-boat number. The plaque indicates the U-boat number, the commander when it was sunk, the date and locating of sinking, and all crew members and dates of birth. That arrangement made it easy to locate the plaque for which I was searching. After taking my photos, I went to the office of the Volksbund that was on site. The representative was able to give me a full history of U-boat 435 and its missions at sea. I also asked about the opportunity for someone to provide a photograph of the memorial for his brother at Sologubowka, Russia, but was told that due to the current political situation, there wasn't staff currently on site. With my mission accomplished, I enjoyed another day in the Kiel area before returning to Dortmund.

Sleeping Beauty aka Dornröschen
By Marcia Gascho

In 1959 the Disney animated movie "Sleeping Beauty" was released. My Mom bought me a "Little Golden Book" of the movie. I couldn't read back then but I loved looking at the pictures of Princess Aurora and the Prince. Years later I became fascinated with the evil Maleficent character as well as other Disney villains. I now have a rather large Maleficent collection!



The Disney version is based on the French story called "La Belle au bois dormant," meaning "The Beauty Sleeping in the Wood," a title from Charles Perrault's classic 1697 literary version. It popularized the tale of a cursed princess and a prince who breaks the enchantment after a century of sleep, after entering a magical forest growing around the castle.

I have a book of Grimm's fairy tales in German and found "Dornröschen" (Little Briar Rose), the Sleeping Beauty story. In the German version there are thirteen wise women in the kingdom. Only 12 are invited to the celebration of the princess's birth because the king and queen do not have enough golden dishes. The vengeful 13th woman causes a curse to fall on the princess's 15th birthday when she pricks her finger on a spindle. She falls asleep for 100 years and is eventually awakened by a prince breaking through a thicket of thorns around the castle. Unlike Maleficent's epic dragon battle, the prince and the 13th fairy never fight. In fact, the 13th fairy isn't mentioned in the story at all after she curses the Princess. The kiss isn't what wakes Briar Rose. It's a coinci-

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dence that the prince kisses her as the curse expires.

Tchaikovsky wrote a Sleeping Beauty ballet in 1889. On her sixteenth birthday, Princess Aurora is courted by four princes. An evil fairy disguised as an old woman offers her a spindle; Aurora pricks her finger and falls to the ground. A Lilac Fairy casts a spell of sleep over the entire kingdom, causing a dense, enchanted forest to grow around the castle. One hundred years later, a Prince is hunting in the woods. The Lilac Fairy appears to him and shows him a vision of Aurora. The prince travels to the overgrown castle, breaks through, and awakens Aurora with a kiss. The song "Once Upon a Dream' in the Disney version was based on music from the ballet.

The Disney film has a Hoosier connection. Bill Peet, an animator for Disney, was born in Indiana. He attended Arsenal Tech high school and Herron School of Art before heading to California. He worked on storyboards for many Disney animated movies, including Sleeping Beauty.

IGBC

Indiana Germanic Business Council

IGBC Supports Economic Development Delegation to Switzerland

The International Center and the Indiana-Germanic Business Council were delighted to support Indy Economic Development Inc.'s delegation to Switzerland this summer. The group, which included representatives Indiana Economic Development Corporation and the Indiana Life Sciences Association, spent a week in Basel and Zurich, meeting with leaders in the life sciences, biotechnology and pharmaceuticals, medical technology, digital heath and advanced manufacturing sectors.

The delegation met with executives from Roche and Novartis to further strengthen transatlantic collabora-

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2026 — German-American Partnership Program

By: Timothy Linn

I recently participated in an exchange program to Germany over the summer. The program, called GAPP (German-American Partnership Program), lasted around three weeks, from early to late June. My high school has an ongoing partnership with Graf-Stauffenberg-Gymnasium in Flörsheim, Hessen, and the exchange typically takes place every two years. The Germans and Americans (32 in total) were already quite close because they had already come to the United States in October 2025. Additionally, everyone had an exchange partner that they went to school with and stayed with. My exchange partner lived in Hochheim am Main, a town close to Flörsheim, but still far enough that we had to take quite a while by bus to get to school every day. Speaking of schooling, high school in Germany is much different from the ones in America. For starters, there are different types of high schools in Germany, such as the Realschule, Hauptschule, and Gymnasium. Additionally, compared to my classes in the U.S., German classes at Graf-Stauffenberg tended to start later and end earlier, at least for the 11th-graders, as there were many times where they simply didn't have class due to the teachers not being there or various other reasons (such as heatwaves).

The highlight of my trip was traveling to Berlin, since it was actually my first time in the capital city. Due to a public holiday in Hessen (Fronleichnam), school was off for Thursday and Friday, which was great because we landed in Germany on Wednesday

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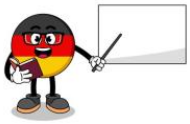
morning, so we could adjust to the new time zone for a couple of days. Along with some other exchange partners, we explored many parts of Berlin, such as the East Side Gallery, Brandenburger Tor, and Bundestag. We also stayed in a hostel. School in Germany was also surprisingly relaxing, as we had lots of free time and went on field trips to neighboring cities like Wiesbaden, Mainz, and Frankfurt.

This trip was a great experience for me, as although I had been to Germany before numerous times, this exchange program felt more immersive, as I was actually experiencing Germany as a student instead of a tourist. In the future, I am thinking about doing my masters degree in a European country, in particular Germany or Switzerland. This eye-opening program really gave me the opportunity to explore parts of German culture in-person that I previously wasn't too familiar with, such as the school system and festivals. I would definitely enjoy participating in more exchange programs in German-speaking countries as well as all around the globe. I aim to continue studying German and hopefully get a C2 certificate sometime in college, as that will definitely help if I ever choose to move to a German-speaking country for academics. This three-week trip not only provided me with some truly extraordinary memories and improved my German, but also solidified the value of exchange programs for me. I believe that cultural exchange is an extremely vital part in becoming more well-rounded, connected, and overall knowledgeable as a person. Vielen Vielen Dank an GAPP, meine Deutschlehrerinnen, und alle, die an diesem tollen Programm beteiligt waren.



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Square neighborhood he helped revive.

Our Cultural Enhancement Fund, launched in 2025, has continued awarding grants each cycle — supporting projects like the Indianapolis Liederkranz German Band's expanded Spring Konzert, Fort Wayne's GermanFest and Familien-Fest, Sister Cities of Jasper's 40th-anniversary exhibit, and the Fishers Historical Society's new Germantown historical marker. The Indianapolis German Language School completed its transition into an independent 501(c)(3) and closed out another strong semester, and we welcomed new voices to our Board of Directors, including Chad Jones, Angelika Becker, and Dr. Marc Rathmann. We were also glad to forge a new friendship this June with the Swiss Club of Central Indiana at a joint Stammtisch — the first of what we hope will be many shared gatherings.

We look forward to the autumn season ahead, with the return of students to IGLS at the International School of Indiana, and we welcome Northside Homeschooling, which is partnering with IGLS to add German to its curriculum. Mark your calendars for the upcoming GermanFest at the Athenaeum on October 3, the Carmel Christkindlmarkt, the Athenaeum Christkindlmarkt, and the International Festival in Noblesville.

None of this happens without you. Whether you've hosted an exhibit, chaperoned a student exchange, sung with the Liederkranz at a Sängerfest, or simply renewed your membership, you are the reason the Indiana German Heritage Society remains a living, active organization rather than a historical footnote. Danke sehr for another wonderful season, and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Beste Grüße,

Brian Griesemer - IGHS President

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most important connections to cultural identity and heritage.

Fr. Boeglin's commitment to German-American history is evident in his scholarly work. In 1992, while serving as pastor of St. Peter Celestine Parish, he authored the extensively researched book *Celestine, Indiana: A Sesquicentennial History*. This important work documented the history of one of Indiana's most distinctive German-Catholic communities and included a comprehensive record of the ancestral origins of local families. The publication remains a valuable resource for historians, genealogists, and descendants seeking to understand the German roots of the region.

His efforts extended beyond historical preservation to fostering meaningful international relationships. Fr. Boeglin spearheaded the Sister City partnership between Celestine and Wagshurst, Baden-Württemberg, Germany. Through this initiative, he helped create lasting personal and cultural connections between residents of both communities, organizing and hosting exchanges that strengthened understanding and appreciation of shared heritage across generations and continents.

During his 29-year pastorate at Holy Family Parish in Jasper, Fr. Boeglin became a highly visible advocate for German culture. He was an active member of the Jasper Deutscher Verein and regularly participated in the city's annual Strassenfest, one of Indiana's premier celebrations of German heritage. Frequently dressed in authentic German Trachten, he offered the opening Benediction for the festival and officiated at the parish's German Heritage Mass, helping to integrate faith, history, language, and culture in a way that resonated with both longtime residents and visitors.

Fr. Boeglin has also shared German heritage through educational and cultural travel experiences. He organized and led numerous group tours to significant German heritage sites in the United States and abroad, including visits to Namibia, where German cultural influences remain evident. These experiences provided participants with a deeper understanding of the global reach and historical significance of German culture and immigration.

Even in retirement, Fr. Boeglin continues to promote German language and traditions. Demonstrating his commitment to maintaining fluency and encouraging others to appreciate the language, he has co-officiated at Masses incorporating German prayers and liturgical elements. Most recently, he participated in the Dedication of the German Inscription at St. Mary's Church in Indianapolis and celebrated Mass at St. Joseph Church during the Indiana German Heritage Society Annual Meeting and Symposium in Jasper.

Fr. John Boeglin's contributions span scholarship, cultural preservation, language promotion, international exchange, religious leadership, and community engagement. For more than four decades, he has been a tireless ambassador for Indiana's German-American heritage, inspiring others to value and preserve the traditions that have shaped so many Hoosier communities. His lifelong dedication and enduring impact make him exceptionally deserving of recognition as the 2026 Hoosier German-American of the Year.

High School Essay —

"Exchange Programs: Connecting German-speaking and Hoosier Communities"

By: Adelaide Kraut
Terre Haute North Vigo High School

For a lot of high school students in the United States, one thing that can be very exciting every new school year is getting to meet the new foreign exchange students. I know that this can also bring people to think about how fun it would be to be able to travel to a new country and do their own exchange year. Indiana University is just one of the schools and groups that are making that possible.

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The Astors of Walldorf and Manhattan
By: William L. Selm

The neighborhood Little Free Library book boxes that have sprung up in the past decade allow a reader to take a chance on a number of titles. I take a minute to peruse the offerings for family, friends, and myself. I recently picked up the Penguin 2016 paperback *When the Astors Owned New York*: *Blue Bloods and Grand Hotels in a Gilded Age*.

The name "Astor" is at the top of the list of famous German immigrants to America. It was made famous for the fabulous wealth accumulated by the immigrant who funded the lifestyle of his famous descendants who built grand hotels in Manhattan. I never thought that Astor sounded like a German name and assumed that the name or its spelling had changed, but that was not the case. The Astor book was rather weak on the life of the first immigrant, focusing on how the money was spent and reinvested in Gilded Age Manhattan by later generations.

Johann Jakob Astor was born in 1763 in Walldorf, in the north of the Duchy of Baden. The son of a butcher, at 17 he left Walldorf and set sail for London and then New York at the end of the War of American Independence. He worked for a Quaker fur-trader, buying pelts and processing them into furs. After two years Astor started his own fur-trading house. He and his new wife lived above their shop in the lower, Lower East Side. By 1797 Astor's company was monopolizing the fur trade in America with his army of agents in the Northwest, operating from Astoria, Oregon, and a fleet of merchant ships operating from Chinese and British ports. He also took an active interest in the rapidly growing city of New York, particularly Manhattan real estate. When he arrived in Manhattan in 1783 the population was 25,000; in 1848 the population was at half a million persons and Astor owned 500 properties. At his death in1848, he was the richest man in America and was the nation's first multi-millionaire. His real estate holdings were worth 20 to 30 million dollars. His motto had been "Buy and hold," which was continued by the following generations.

My question is how German was Astor at his death after a long life amassing his fortune? He spoke with a heavy German accent and married a non-German woman. He was buried as an Episcopalian. It appears that he was assimilated, but he remembered his *Heimat* of Walldorf in Baden in his updated (fifth time) will. He bequeathed $50,000 for the use of the poor with the establishment for the sick and disabled and for the education and improvement of the young. Astorhaus was built and completed in 1854. It fulfilled its mission and was sold by the Astor Foundation decades after the Second World War to the town of Walldorf. The Foundation built senior apartments with the proceeds and the original Astorhaus was converted for use as a daycare center and as a town museum in Astor. Another remnant of Astor's Germanness is the 1931 Manhattan landmark, the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. The Astor family played a great role in creating palatial, luxurious hotels in Manhattan. Astor House opened on 31 May 1836 with running water, indoor plumbing, and gas lighting. It was one of the finest hotels in the country. Hotel building consumed the Astor family for two generations after the immigrant's passing. These included two named Waldorf-Astoria, Waldorf Hotel, New Netherland Hotel, Hotel Astor, Hotel Knickerbocker, St. Regis Hotel and others. Waldorf was the name given to the immigrant's grandson, William Waldorf (1848-1913) and great grandson, Waldorf (1879-1952). Curiously, the Astor dynasty spelled Waldorf with only one "L", not the double "L" of the ancestral village in Baden. Thus, the single "L" was also used to spell the famous Waldorf salad, introduced in 1896 at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel by the German-Swiss mâtre d'hôtel Oscar Tschirky.

The Astor book is silent as to the immigrant Astor's interaction with German immigrants flooding into the Port of New York and the rest of the country. Undoubtably, Germans were his tenants in the many tenement properties in Manhattan.

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The immigrant Astor's grandson, William Waldorf Astor (1848-1919) was obsessed with British history, its aristocracy, and social hierarchy. He renounced his American citizenship, moved to England, and became a subject of Queen Victoria. William Waldorf Astor was eventually made a member of the House of Lords in 1916, and elevated as Viscount Astor of Hever Castle. Perhaps other works would shed more light on the Germanness of the Astors, but *When the Astors Owned New York* did provide some insight, so I'll keep checking the Little Free Libraries for the next intriguing title.

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tion and business ties with two of Switzerland's largest companies by revenue. In 2024, Novartis opened the company's largest radioligand therapy in Indianapolis before announcing an additional $125 million investment for radiopharmaceutical manufacturing and distribution on the city's west side. Last year, Roche announced plans to invest $550 million towards a new CGM manufacturing facility in Indianapolis. The Circle City already serves as one of Roche's two global distribution hubs, supporting shipments to 53 countries.

AATG Indiana Happenings and Awards
by Angelika Becker, Treasurer AATG Indiana

The American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) has a very active Indiana chapter. The chapter officers are busy organizing the annual Fall Immersion, which meets in different parts of Indiana each year. This year, the meeting will be held at Valparaiso University in northwest Indiana. The topic is both urgent and timely: *Crashkurs in Advocacy: Deutsch in Indiana. The state's new high school graduation requirements make it necessary to adjust classes, curricula, and programs. The meeting is scheduled for Saturday, September 19, 2026, at the German Cultural Center on the Valpo campus.*

In other news, we are thrilled to celebrate three of our colleagues who received a prestigious national award: the AATG/Goethe-Institut Certificate of Merit. These award recipients represent the very best of our profession. Through innovative, engaging programs and carefully designed pedagogies, the honorees promote real-life communication skills, cultural knowledge, and intercultural awareness and understanding. Countless students in Indiana have benefited from their creativity and dedication to educational excellence.

David Rosenbaum:
Our first honoree, David Rosenbaum, teaches at Marian High School in Mishawaka. He is a seasoned German teacher and World Language Department Chair. In his 45 years of service, he has taught Japanese and French in addition to German.

Dr. Marc Rathmann:
Our colleague Marc Rathmann teaches at Purdue University and serves as an instructor for adult classes at the Indianapolis German School. Dr. Rathmann has been teaching for 27 years.

Charlene Heinzman:
Last but not least, we recognize Charlene Heinzman, German teacher and GAPP (German American Partnership Program) coordinator at Westfield High School. Frau Heinzman has been teaching German and French for 13 years and is currently in her 4th year at Westfield, where she has more than doubled the size of the program during her tenure.

The German teaching community in Indiana deeply appreciates everything these educators do for German language and culture. We thank you and congratulate you! Herzlichen Glückwunsch!

Update from the Indianapolis German Language School

Submitted by Angelika Becker — President of the Board and IGLS Teacher

We had a great start to the Fall semester on August 22—even after our original kick-off literally fell into the water (*ins Wasser gefallen*) due to the severe flood weekend!

Fortunately, classes launched the following Saturday at our home at the International School of Indiana without any further issues. As in years past, we are offering broad options for young learners, including *Vorschule* (preschool), Kindergarten, *Grundschule* (elementary school), and *Mittelschule* (middle school). Our adult learners will begin a bit later in the season, as their course format runs on a slightly different schedule than the children's 12-week program.

Our youngest students are immersing themselves in German through playful games, songs, stories, and daily classroom routines. Creative drawing and crafting round out the early childhood curriculum, making language learning interactive and fun.

In the *Grundschule* program, students come in with varying literacy levels in their primary language. To ensure everyone succeeds, our teaching staff heavily differentiates instruction so each child can progress at their own pace. This fall, the Grundschule curriculum will explore exciting themes like geography, music and musical instruments, and environmental science. It promises to be an engaging semester!

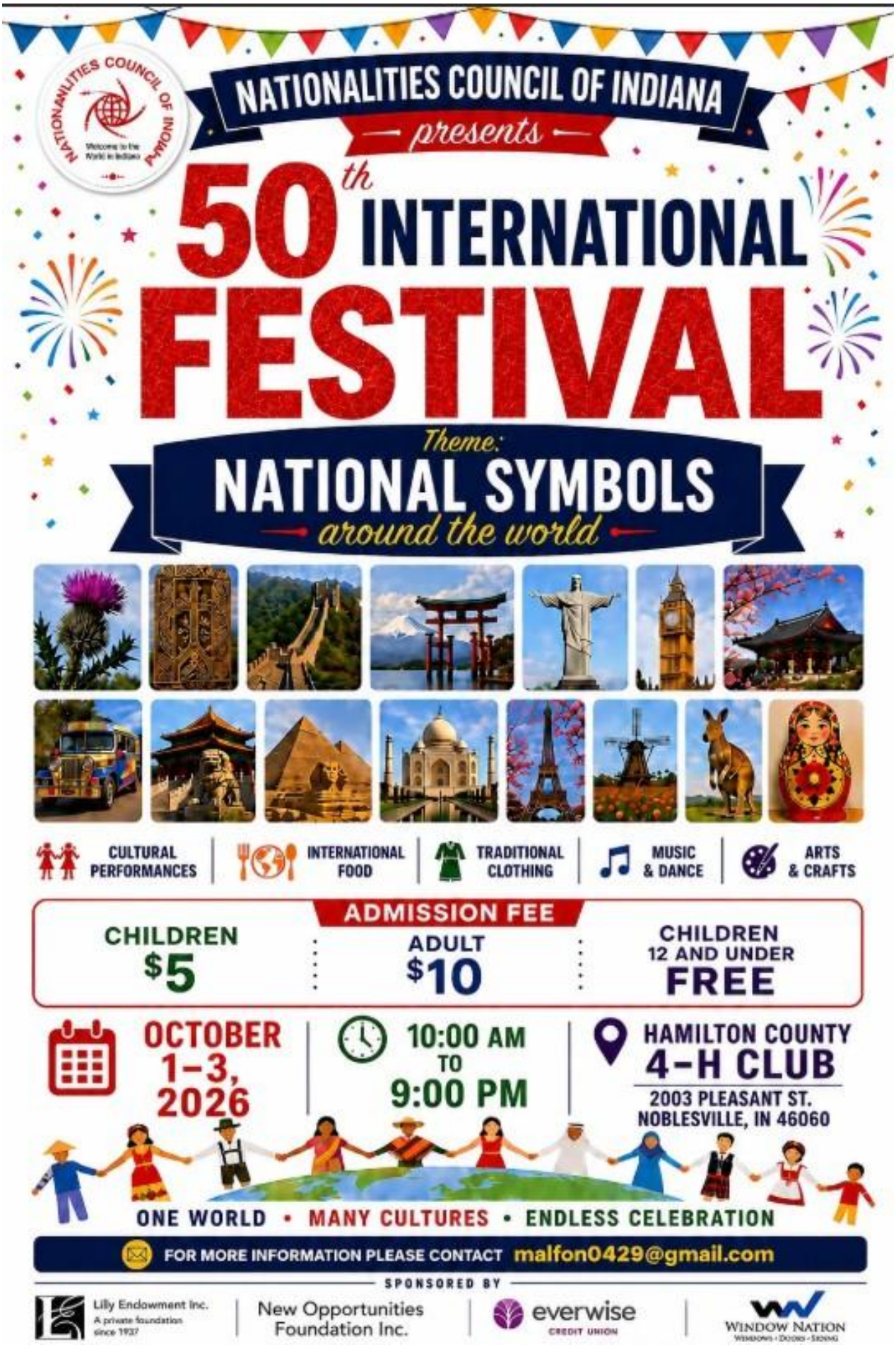
Our *Mittelschule* class represents our most advanced group of learners. Because many of these students are already quite fluent, instruction is conducted entirely in German—no English allowed! They are currently working toward a major milestone down the road: the *Deutsches Sprachdiplom* (German Language Diploma). Earning this credential opens up incredible opportunities, including the ability to study at universities in Germany, where college tuition is free.

We are also excited to announce a new collaboration this semester with the IHC Academy homeschool group! We meet every Monday on the north side of Indianapolis with a group of high school students. Their curriculum is structured around the *Prima Plus* textbook series, and the students are wonderfully enthusiastic about learning German.

As a brief reminder, while the Indianapolis German Language School (IGLS) is affiliated with the Indiana German Heritage Society (IGHS), it operates as an independent non-profit led by an eight-person Board of Directors. This year, we are thrilled to welcome our new Secretary, Lea Christy, to the board. She is eager to learn German herself and looks forward to supporting our school and the wider local German-American community.

Finally, a special event to mark on your calendars! On November 11, children across Europe celebrate *Sankt Martin*—a beloved saint known for cutting his cloak in half to share with a freezing beggar. To celebrate *St. Martins Tag*, IGLS students will hold their annual lantern walk on the evening of Saturday, November 7, at the International School of Indiana campus.

If your children or grandchildren would like to participate, we would love to have them join us—everyone is invited! Please reach out to our Director of Operations at IGLSdirector@gmail.com for details. For more information please use the following link: https://www.ighs.org/german-school.html


NATIONALITIES COUNCIL OF INDIANA
presents
50th INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL
Theme:
NATIONAL SYMBOLS
around the world
CULTURAL PERFORMANCES
INTERNATIONAL FOOD
TRADITIONAL CLOTHING
MUSIC & DANCE
ARTS & CRAFTS
ADMISSION FEE
CHILDREN $5
ADULT $10
CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER FREE
OCTOBER 1–3, 2026
10:00 AM TO 9:00 PM
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Community activist honored for 50+years of preservation leadership

An urban pioneer, Marjorie Kienle is a formidable force for historic preservation in Indianapolis.

Few people understand just how far downtown Indianapolis has come over the last five decades more than Marjorie Kienle. Kienle not only experienced the remake of Indianapolis' downtown, but she rolled up her sleeves and helped make it happen.

To honor all of her work, Indiana Landmarks is presenting Kienle with its 2026 Williamson Prize for outstanding leadership in historic preservation.

The Columbus, Ohio-native moved to Indianapolis with her husband –the late James Kienle, an architect and preservationist – in 1975 when his firm won the contract to develop a master plan for the Indiana State Capitol complex. They wanted a house within walking or biking distance of his office and found the perfect place in Lockerbie Square.

At the time, the neighborhood was scarred by vacant lots and boarded-up homes marked with demolition numbers. Undaunted by the nay-sayers who told them Lockerbie wasn't safe, the Kienles bought an 1872 Carpenter Gothic-style house that Indiana Landmarks had relocated to a vacant lot to save it from demolition and embarked on a DIY renovation, despite the lack of running water. Alongside other determined neighbors, they helped spark Lockerbie Square's revival. Marjorie supported the neighborhood's continuing renewal by twice serving as president of the neighborhood association.

Kienle credits her husband with shaping her appreciation for historic places, starting with early dates to visit "smelly old buildings" and continuing with their hands-on restoration of three historic houses.

"Early on, we really had to fight to educate people as to why it was important to save buildings," recalls Kienle. "We've come a long way in gaining acceptance for preservation, but there's still work to be done to convince people not to tear old buildings down."

A speech-language pathologist, Kienle developed preservation expertise through hands-on work and by attending conferences hosted by the American Institute of Architects and National Trust for Historic Preservation, where she saw how communities around the country repurpose and sustain historic places. She gained additional insights managing Jim's preservation architecture practice for seven years, serving as president of Historic Urban Neighborhoods of Indianapolis (HUNI), and as a member of Indiana Landmarks' Real Estate Committee.

For more than a decade, Kienle has worked with HUNI and the Marion County Alliance of Neighborhood Associations on initiatives to keep Indianapolis attractive and competitive, including fighting the intrusion of digital billboards into historic neighborhoods. After learning of a proposed signage plan in 2015, Marjorie spent her Thanksgiving holiday emailing every member of the Indianapolis City-County Council to voice her concerns. Her efforts helped return the issue to the council, which ultimately passed an ordinance banning digital billboards.

"Marjorie is tenacious, energetic, and articulate. She does her homework and has the ability to lead people, help them understand the issues and the process, and change minds," says Marsh Davis, the past president of Indiana Landmarks who collaborated with Kienle on a variety of preservation issues.

In 2017, after the Indiana DOT proposed reconstructing and expanding Interstates 65 and 70 through downtown Indianapolis, Kienle organized community leaders to call for a review. Their efforts led to a better design that reduced barrier walls and prohibited new lanes within eight historic districts. The coalition also launched the Rethink Coalition, a nonprofit that advocates for recessed interstates and reconnected neighborhoods in central Indiana.

$8 million in Renovations Will Raise the Athenaeum's Profile

Indy Star

The Athenaeum is among Indianapolis' most recognizable structures, a National Historic Landmark that boasts the architectural genius of the Vonnegut and Bohn firm, co-owned by writer Kurt Vonnegut's grandfather. But the building's second floor, where the Basile Theatre is housed, often takes a back seat to the popular basement resident known for its vast beer selection and German menu specialties.

When William Selm talked about the Athenaeum to Indianapolis college students while teaching architectural history, they'd respond, "Oh, you mean the Rathskeller building," said Selm, a co-founder of the Athenaeum Foundation.

"There's a whole big building on top of the Rathskeller," he'd tell them.

Now, $8 million in upgrades will boost the second floor's profile, bringing to life a vision that unites the theater's cultural origins and Indianapolis arts groups' needs. A new Athenaeum Lab and four phases of upgrades will offer resources for smaller organizations to grow and improve the theater-going experience for patrons.

A plan to boost smaller theater groups

Central to the plan is improving the Basile Theatre, where resident groups including React Theatre and the Asante Art Institute perform. Known as the Ball and Concert Hall when it opened in 1898, the Basile has also served as a launch pad for groups like Indiana Repertory Theatre.

"Once you can start selling out our theater regularly, you're about ready to move into your own space or go into a much bigger traveling set, whether it's at the Murat or some of these other bigger theaters," Mince said. "We're trying to accelerate them to the point where they're ready to kind of tackle the world on their own."
Multiple theater upgrades will enhance the experience as the space returns to its original taupe, gilded gold and forest green color palette. The renovations also include adding sound proofing, activating long-dormant rosebud lights, installing a new lighting and sound system; and restoring the original flooring while adding flexible seating options, Mince said. The work is scheduled to be finished by the end of 2028.

The new Athenaeum Lab will allow smaller groups access to the mid-sized theater, which seats about 400 to 500 people, for little to no cost, said Craig Mince, president and CEO of the Athenaeum Foundation. A $1.5 million grant from the state's Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative 2.0 Arts & Culture Initiative will fund the lab and, by the end of 2027, a stage-to-street elevator that can carry set materials.

So far, the Athenaeum has reached about $2.6 million of its total goal, Mince said, with the Christel DeHaan Family Foundation, Simon Family Foundation and Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation among those who have contributed funding.

Reuniting the Athenaeum founders' paintings

To the left of the theater, the building's one-time formal dining room will be split into dressing-room-themed restrooms and a bar that can transition into a parlor for magic shows. That space is set to be finished by Oct. 1.

Mince also wants to hang portraits painted by iconic Hoosier T.C. Steele depicting members of the Turners, the group with German roots that championed mental and physical wellness and ran the Athenaeum, which was originally known as "Das Deutsche Haus."

"The history of Indianapolis is woven throughout the history of the building," Selm said, "and the history of the building is interwoven in the history of Indianapolis."

IGHS at the Indianapolis Indians Baseball Game

The IGHS and the Athenaeum Foundation pitched in to help celebrate German Heritage Night at Victory Field on Sept. 10 as the Indianapolis Indians played the Omaha Storm Chasers.

Numerous fans visited the IGHS table under the stands behind home plate to pick up information about Indiana's extensive German heritage. The free literature included IGHS newsletters, brochures and coloring books.

The evening was co-promoted by the Athenaeum, founded in downtown Indianapolis by German immigrants as a cultural center, a vital role that the historic building still plays. The crowd was also treated to on-field performances by the Indianapolis Liederkranz German Band, including the National Anthem.

Though hardly part of German culture in Europe, baseball was quickly adopted as a sport by German immigrants and their children and several played significant roles in baseball's early development.

Chris von der Ahe, a German immigrant from Prussia in 1867, became owner of the St. Louis Browns in the 1880s and helped transform professional baseball into a popular mass-entertainment spectacle complete with beer gardens and music. Another German immigrant, Barney Dreyfuss, owned the Pittsburgh Pirates and helped launch the modern World Series championship in 1903. And of course perhaps the greatest baseball player of all was Babe Ruth, who was born to parents of German descent.

2026 GAK Oktoberfest

The 52nd Annual Indianapolis Oktoberfest took place from September 10 to September 12, 2026.

Patrice Fox taps the keg at Oktoberfest.

(Continued from page 6)

Indiana University offers many different counties that their students can sign up to do an exchange year in. They currently offer 2 different areas in Germany that students can visit. One of the more popular places is Berlin, the capital of Germany. Indiana University offers a four-week English language program during the summer in Berlin, led by Indiana University faculty. This allows students to visit Berlin, along with some professors that they are already used to.

Exchange programs are especially helpful for high school students, because it allows us to see and hear about the things that happen in other countries. For example, when the new exchange students come at the start of the year, there are normally tons of people rambling off questions, like "What is your school like?", "Have you tried this food?", "How do you say this in German?". I think it is very fun to be able to hear about how similar, yet different our lives as teenagers can be in different cultures and countries.

At Indiana University, they have an entire department of Germanic studies. This makes it so that there are specific people that work with the exchange programs, and know everything about them. They also tie in the importance of learning another language as well, stating that, "It allows you to communicate with people from other places who appreciate your interest in their ideas and points of view.". Since most people also tend to think of just high school when they think of exchange years, it is important to stress the benefits of doing an exchange year a little bit later in life.

Another reason why learning to speak German is so beneficial, is because most of the European countries have a significant amount of people that speak German. So this opens up more opportunities to go to other parts of the world, and be able to understand what people are saying. It also brings a sense of togetherness when you can understand what someone is saying in their known language. This is why it is very easy to quickly become friends with the exchange students that come to the high schools.

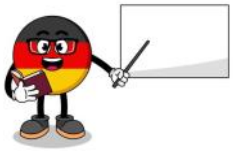
Knowing how to speak German and being educated in Germany's way of working can also be very helpful for people's future. Germany is known to be a "leader" in most areas. They have always been very advanced in the architecture field, and most of their designs are very ahead of time. Germany also is ranked at fifth for publication of books, which means that they have new books being published and put onto shelves very frequently. Knowing how all of this works, and how to speak the language could help you to potentially get a very high paying job, if you are qualified for the spot and could see yourself living in Germany.

German heritage is also celebrated in Indiana through the Indiana German Heritage Society. They offer a variety of different types of events, fundraisers, and meetings that anyone can be a part of. They help spread awareness of German heritage, and make people aware of how easy it can be to become involved, and learn more about the German culture. Indiana University also makes their students well aware about the German Heritage Society, so that they can look into it and decide if they want to become a member. It is a very interactive group to be a part of, and can help students decide if they want a future in Germany, or Germanic studies.

At Indiana University, you can also earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in Germanic studies. This is typically for people who want to live in Germany or a surrounding country, or people that want to make overseas study a part of their college experience. Even people who just want to learn the language or learn more about the culture can have the opportunity to earn this degree. Indiana University, and Indiana as a whole have so many opportunities and ways that people can become involved with the German culture and learn more about it, and it is bringing people closer together through language.

As we approach Fall and say good bye to Summer, here is a song made famous by Greek singer Nana Mouskouri which is a like the German equivalent of Where have all the Flowers gone?

The song was originally composed by Robert Stolz and first recorded in 1957.



Auf Deutsch

Es war einmal

Lange, lange, lang ist's her
Liebe, Lebewohl und Wiederkehr
Ueber West und Ost kam der erste Frost
Und die Waelder wurden braun wie Rost.
Wird die letzte Lerche still,
Ist der Wind ein Kind das weinen will
Ueber Berg und Tal singt ein Herbstchoral
Es war einmal.

Wohin ist das alles, wohin?
Die Rosen von gestern
Das Rauschen im Wald
Das einmal so anders als heute geschallt
Wohin ist das alles, wohin
wohin sind sie alle, wohin?
Die Freunde von damals mit denen man oft
Bei uraltem Wein auf die Zukunft gehofft
Wohin sind sie alle, wohin

Das kann doch nicht alles begraben sein
Begraben fuer ewige Zeit
Das muesste doch wieder zu haben sein
Sonst taete die Welt mir so leid
Denn das gab dem Leben den Sinn
Die Rosen der Liebe, die Freunde von einst
Oh, sage mir Sonne, warum du noch scheinst?
Dahin ist das alles, dahin
Wohin ist das alles, wohin
Wohin sind sie alle, wohin?

In English

Once upon a time

Long, long, long ago
Love, farewell and return
The first frost came from West to East
And made the woods brown like rust
When the last lark is still
The wind sounds like a child wanting to cry
Across hills and valley a fall choral is singing
It was once upon a time.

Where is all this, where did it go
The roses of yesterday
The rustling in the forest
Which once sounded so different from today
Where did it all go
Where have they all gone
The friends of long ago with whom we often
hoped for the future while drinking old wine
Where have they gone?

This can't all have been buried
Buried for all times
That should come back again
Oh, I would feel so sorry for the world!
Because this gave purpose to life
The roses of love, the friends of old
O tell me sun, why are you still shining?
Gone is it all gone
Where did it go where
Where are they all, where

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

Learn More About Your German History & Heritage

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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.

Indiana German Heritage Society

Hoosier German - American Of The Year

Nominations Sought for 2027 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 2027.

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
Nominations are due by August 1, 2027

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 LINK

Past recipients of the IGHS Hoosier German-American Award:

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 Liederkranz
2023 Gerhard Klemm
2024 Patricia Goepfrich and Jasper Deutscher Verein
2025 Angelika Becker
2026 Father John Boeglin

Indiana German Heritage Society

Membership Form

Name: _____

E-Mail: _____

Please enter / renew my membership:

- ❑ Individual $20.00
- ❑ Family $25.00
- ❑ Full-time Student $5.00 (with teacher's signature)
- ❑ Business $100.00
- ❑ Non-Profit $50.00
- ❑ Library Rate $15.00
- ❑ German Teacher $5.00
- ❑ **Life Membership $500**

Second person for family membership

Name: _____

E-Mail: _____

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_____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip Code: _____ - ____

Country: _____ Phone: (____) ____ - _____

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

Specific Interests:

- ❑ Architecture
- ❑ Arts
- ❑ Cultural Exchanges / Sister Cities
- ❑ Family
- ❑ Genealogy
- ❑ General
- ❑ German Language Programs
- ❑ History
- ❑ Local Community
- ❑ Music
- ❑ Religious
- ❑ Teaching Materials
- ❑ Traditions & Folklore

Knowledge of German Language: ❑ None ❑ Some ❑ Fluent

Knowledge of Old German Script (Sütterlin): ❑ None ❑ Some ❑ Good

I am willing to help with activities (Circle one): Yes No

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

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

_____

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!

Gefällt mir!

Find us on Facebook

Indiana German-American Heritage Calendar
Stammtisch and Programs

Wednesday, 14 October: Kurt Vonnegut: Indianapolis and Dresden presented by William L. Selm.
Location: Willkie Room, Athenaeum (Das Deutsche Haus)

Wednesday, 11 November: An Ami with the Bundeswehr presented by Thomas Haynes.
Location: Willkie Room, Athenaeum (Das Deutsche Haus)

Wednesday 9 December:
Topic: Weihnachtsliederkranz und Christbaumschmuckaustausch at the Carmelchristkindlmarkt
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 Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht. Bring a wrapped ornament ($5-10 value) place it in the basket and take another home. DRESS FOR THE WEATHER!!!

Future Stammtisch and Programming will be posted on ighs.org and in the next newsletter

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 in sent emails to register in advance for each program. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Did You Miss One of Our Stammtisch Presentations? Or Do You Just Want to Hear One Again?
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