2018 has been off to a roaring start. When I first took over the presidency of IGHS from Brian Griesemer last April my goal was to focus on three major projects.

The first one was to resolve the lingering issues surrounding IGHS’s involvement in the Wyneken House project in northern Indiana. This has been successfully completed with the formal transfer of ownership of this structure in January this year to the newly formed charitable organization called Friends of Wyneken Inc. the organization is off to a good start. Under the leadership of Ted Blomenberg a completely new board was elected for FOW Inc and they are on track to finish the renovation of the Wyneken House. IGHS will continue to support this project in its new role and assist with the establishment of an interpretive center housed in the Wyneken House in due course. Financial support going forward for this project should be sent directly to the FOW Inc at 1571 E 1100 N, Decatur, IN 46733.

My second project is the “Hoosier German Heritage: an Anthology”. This project started out in the 1980’s when Eberhard Reichmann – Ruth’s late husband – began collecting documents journaling the countless examples of German heritage brought to Indiana since the 19th century. The project has gone has been worked on by many but requires revitalization in order to bring it to an agreed upon conclusion in the near future. Here it will be necessary first to take stock of where we are – Professor Dr. Redding of Wabash University and

Das Deutsche Haus Returns!

On February 22, 1918, George Washington's Birthday, Das Deutsche Haus was renamed The Athenaeum in response to the national wave of anti-German hysteria brought about by the First World War. A large piece of limestone bearing the structure’s new name was bolted over the building’s original name.

One hundred years later, to the day, a new plaque reading Das Deutsche Haus was successfully unveiled over the of western doors. The unveiling ceremony was followed by a well attended reception and dinner mimicking the style of the original 1918 menu.

The ceremony was blessed by decent weather for the unveiling (the weather Gods must be of German decent, since they stopped the rain long enough for our ceremony). The unveiling was well covered in an article by the Indianapolis Star and then by Channel 6 TV news.

The Männerchor graced the proceedings with one of their final performances by singing the national anthems of both Germany and the US. Indianapolis Deputy Mayor Jeff Bennett helped Cassie Stockamp, the Athenaeum Foundation President and IGHS President Heinz Roesch unveil the new Das Deutsche Haus plaque. Dr. Andreas Goetze the Deputy Consul General from the German Consulate in Chicago and Sven Schumacher, the honorary German Consul for Indiana attended the unveiling, rounded out the list of guests of honor.

Unfortunately Governor Holcomb was unable to attend the event, however he sent a personal letter which was shared with all.

The Max Kade German American Resource
The Indiana German Heritage Society was founded in 1984 as a statewide historical and educational membership organization aimed at preserving and celebrating Indiana’s German heritage. The Society is headed by a volunteer board of directors. It is a non-profit organization and qualified for tax-free donations.

The IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center provides support to maintain an interdisciplinary research center for German-American Studies. Its mission is to support this field through research into German-American history and heritage with primary emphasis on Indianapolis and the Hoosier State, and through teaching and service.

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317-464-9004
http://IGHS.org

Managing Editor: Ruth Reichmann Reichmann@indiana.edu
Newsletter Editor: Steven J. Schmidt Schmidt@iupui.edu

Back issues of the IGHS Newsletter are available online at http://IGHS.org.
New Board Members

Matthew Hurley is a native of the Indianapolis area. After graduating from Roncalli High School in 2012, Matthew attended Indiana University, where he graduated with a bachelor’s in German Education in 2016. During the academic year of 2014-15, Matthew spent a year studying Germanistik at the Albert-Ludwig’s Universität in Freiburg, Germany. After graduation, Matthew spent a year in Germany with the Fulbright program, teaching English at Gymnasium Frabritianum, a bilingual Gymnasium in Krefeld, Germany. After his Fulbright year, Matthew returned to his roots in Indianapolis, and is now the German teacher at Roncalli High School.

William W. Knauth was born in Charlotte, North Carolina where he lived with his parents and sister. Starting in 2007 he attended UNC Asheville where he studied history and the classics. After working for several years as an archival assistant in the university library, William enrolled in the library science master’s program at UNC Chapel Hill, where he met his fiancée Rachel. After graduation, Rachel was offered a position at IUPUI and William took a position in Terre Haute at ISU. Eventually he landed his current position with the Indianapolis Public Library. Both of his parent’s families have connections to Germany, and William is interested in doing some research in the German-American experience and important contribution to the United States.

Janice Miller serves as the Event Coordinator and Research Assistant at the IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center. She first joined the IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center in 1915 and became aware of the efforts made by both the MKGAC and the Indiana German Heritage Society to preserve German culture, language, and history in Indiana and across the Midwest. Janice has a master's degree in History from IUPUI and a Bachelor’s degree in Art History from the Herron School of Art and Design. Her primary research interest includes early twentieth-century German women’s art and culture and the German-American experience during World War One. At this year’s Society for German-American Studies Symposium, I co-presented research about Indianapolis wartime print media and how such media manipulated Hoosier public opinion about Germans and German-Americans.

Ursula (Uschi) Nicola was born in Saarbrücken, Germany. She studied economics at the Free University in Berlin, with funding from the Ford Foundation. She started working for the Americans in Berlin in 1968 where she met her future American husband, Franklin Nicola. We were married in Berlin, had a son, and arrived in Indianapolis in 1970, where her husband’s family lived. Uschi worked for Merchants National Bank for a total of about 18 years. After retiring she began looking for volunteer work. My association with the International Women Organization brought me to Indiana Landmarks. She learned about IGHS from the daughter of her exercise teacher, Dee Dee Davis, who at times works closely with IGHS Board Member Bill Selm.

IGHS Newsletter Deadlines

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Copy Deadline</th>
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<tr>
<td>Issue #1 (Winter)</td>
<td>December 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Issue #2 (Spring)</td>
<td>February 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Issue #3 (Summer)</td>
<td>May 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Issue #4 (Fall)</td>
<td>August 10</td>
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This is an open call to the entire IGHS membership for nominations for 2018 The HOOSIER GERMAN-AMERICAN of the Year.

Each year, IGHS recognizes one person who has made a significant contribution to the cultural and historical heritage of the Hoosier German-American community during the past year. The person you wish to nominate must have been active in the German-American Community of their area during the past years.

Please send your nomination, including a detailed statement of the reasons why you believe that this person should be chosen, along with your name, address, telephone number, and email address to the following address:

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

Or email your nomination to heinz75@gmail.com.

Nominations are due by August 1, 2018.

A committee made up of members of the IGHS Board review the list of nominees, and select the candidate for the award, which will be ratified by the entire board. The presentation of the award will be at the German-American Day presentation held on Saturday, October 13 at The Original and Fabulous Germanfest at the Athenaeum. The recipient will receive a plaque and the recipient’s name will be permanently displayed at Das Deutsche Haus /Athenaeum.

Past recipients of the IGHS award include Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., Dr. Carl Sputh, Dr. Eberhard Reichmann, Rev. Arthur Schwenk, Prof. Ron Warner, Hon. Senator Richard Lugar, Dr. Ruth Reichmann, Jürgen Jungbauer, Othmar Grueninger, Dr. Giles Hoyt, Matthias Hilger and ????
all did an awesome job in creating this special and very memorable event for all who attended.

A special thanks from the German American community goes out to the donors who made this DDH Plaque possible:


Heinz Roesch

2018 IGHS Committees

The mission of the Indiana German Heritage Society is to understand, promote, and celebrate the contributions of German-speaking immigrants and their descendants to the multicultural heritage of the state and the nation. Much of the actual work of IGHS is done by our organization’s standing committees. Each committee is made up of a board member and a group of volunteers drawn from a pool of interested members. Most committees met at least quarterly, and some committees communicate by phone or email, so travel is not always required.

If you are interested in helping IGHS fulfill its mission, please reach out to that committee’s contact:

Executive Committee

Expedites orders of the Board, When appropriate, makes recommendations to the Board and serves as a standby committee that can meet quickly on behalf of the Board in an emergency

Heinz Roesch (Chair)

Finance Committee

Uses sound accounting procedures and maintains accurate records, Accounts for all IGHS monies, Receives and dispenses funds, Prepares the budget, Is informed of and follows government guidelines for operating a 501 (c) (3) and submits accurate reports on a timely basis, Secures an audit of agency financial records as required by law, Works with Funds Development and Membership Committees to ensure accurate records are kept.

Fabian Knopfler (Chair)

Governance Committee

Reviews and updates the by-laws as needed; Ensures that committees are functioning properly. Ensures that an orientation program is provided for all new Board members and committee chairpersons, Identifies and defines needs for board development training and arranges for training, Oversees and expedites the on-going strategic planning process and develops plans in support of the Strategic Plan, Ensures that the Board reviews and evaluates programs, services, publications, and activities to ensure quality and consistency with mission and plan, Assists Nominations Committee in identifying needs, Ensures that the Board evaluates its own performance.

Brian Griesemer (Chair)

Historic Preservation Committee

Monitors, encourages and documents the preservation of German heritage throughout Indiana, Makes recommendations to the IGHS Board regarding involvement in specific events or projects that promote the preservation of German culture, sites, education and related activities, Acts in accordance with the IGHS Strategic Plan.

Ron Flick (Chair)

Membership Committee

Develops and carries out a plan for membership in support of the IGHS Strategic Plan, Enlists the help of Board members in recruitment, Follows up on all non-renewals to determine reason why and encourage renewal, Develops a means to thank, recognize and involve members in IGHS activities, Considers the development of a member orientation program, Coordinates mailings/activities, etc. with those of Funds Development so that membership drives are separate from and do not compete with fund raising drives, Develops materials to use in member recruitment, coordinating with Funds Development and Public Relations, Develops a structure in which to utilize volunteers.
Louise Lamkin & Kent Robinson (Co-Chairs)

Newsletter Editorial Board
Steven Schmidt (Chair)

Funds Development Committee
Develops a plan for funds development and secures adequate funding for the organization in support of the IGHS Strategic Plan, Carries out the fund raising plan on a timely basis, Develops a diverse funding base, including foundation grants, Enlists the help of Board members in fund raising efforts, Ensures that all financial contributors are recognized, Coordinates fund raising efforts/activities with membership to ensure the two are separate and do not compete, Working with appropriate committees, determines amount of funds needed, Develops materials to be used in fund raising efforts and coordinates with Membership and Public Relations, Keeps confidential information confidential

Al Hirt, Contact

Nominations Committee
Identifies nominee for Board President and asks him/her to serve, Identifies nominees for other offices to supplement skills of President and asks them to serve, Identifies and ensures that skills, expertise and other needs of the Board are filled through new board member recruitment, Develops materials and approach to use in recruitment, Interviews potential candidates, Functions throughout the year.

Bill Selm (Chair)

Program Committee
Develops a yearly plan based on the IGHS Strategic Plan, Plans, oversees and coordinates all programs presented under the auspices of IGHS, Ensures that monthly Stammtisch programs are planned, scheduled, quality presentations, Oversees and coordinates all other programs including Annual Meeting, German-American Day, International Festival, St. Nicholas Festival, etc., Develops and carries out a plan to increase attendance at IGHS sponsored programs, Plans, evaluates and coordinates excursions, Evaluates all programs for effectiveness, viability and/or continuation, Secures volunteers to participate in program presentations

Ron Flick and Bill Selm (Co-Chairs)

Public Relations Committee
Develops a communications/public relations/community awareness plan in accordance with the IGHS Strategic Plan, Coordinates statewide plan/activities, Seeks and coordinates relationships with other German focused organizations, Promotes IGHS to its constituency including its members and funders, as well as the community-at-large, and keeps all areas informed, Assists Membership, Funds Development, Programs and Publications in promoting their efforts, Develops news releases, brochures, flyers, etc. to promote the activities of the organization, Maintains a website, Develops and promotes a Speakers Bureau, Encourages donations of documents and books to IGHS and other appropriate organizations, Works with Membership and other appropriate Committee to develop a volunteer structure, Publishes a quarterly newsletter

Brian Griesemer (Chair)

Research and Publications Committee
Yearly, determines needs and develops a plan based on these needs and in support of the IGHS Strategic Plan, Conducts research in support of the IGHS Mission and publishes findings, Identifies individuals to write and produce appropriate publications, Evaluates publications for possible printing, Identifies best source to print materials and coordinates publication, Coordinates and publishes a quarterly Newsletter, Along with the PR Committee, maintains a website, Publishes a quarterly newsletter, Communicates financial needs based on the plan to the Board of Directors, and the Finance and Funds Development Committees and ensures adequate funding is available before printing materials, Works with Funds Development Committee to secure funding for major publications, Works with Public Relations Committee to promote all publications. Meets quarterly.

Giles Hoyt and Karen Roesch (Co-Chairs)

State Council
Along with the IGHS Board of Directors, determines the mission and scope of a statewide council of IGHS members, Expands involvement of members throughout the State, Broadens the influence and promotes the activities of IGHS, Operates within the mission, vision and strategic plan of IGHS.

Ken Selking (Chair)

Youth Development & Education Committee
Encourages and promotes the study of German language and heritage, Works with the Athenaeanum Foundation to develop and present educational program for youth, Develops programs
to observe German-American Week, Promotes German as a language at the International Festival, Develops and presents teaching units, Utilizes the IGHS website to present teaching units, Conducts outreach to schools and German teachers, Develops and conducts family oriented programs; i.e. St. Nicholas Festival, St. Martins Festival; Children’s Carnival and October Fest, Considers providing tours of the Athenaeum in German for students taking German as a language, Develops and carries out a plan based on the IGHS Strategic Plan, Evaluates programs, teaching units and activities for effectiveness and viability.

Claudia Grossmann and Wendy Westphal (Co-Chairs)

(Continued from page 1)

former President of IGHS has last been working at this in a leading capacity. Second it will be necessary together with the Max Kade German American Resource Center and the IGHS Research and Publication Committee – co-chaired by Professor Emeritus Dr. Giles Hoyt and Professor Dr. Karen Roesch – and with input from Ruth Reichmann to define a framework on how to finish this gargantuan project in today’s environment. And last but not least to assign clear responsibilities for the various chapters of this anthology with defined deliverables and a time table. The restricted funds donated for this purpose long time ago can be used to focus attention of those to be involved.

My third project will be looking forward. Work together with the membership committee on increasing our membership and finding ways on how to be even more inclusive and attractive as an organization to millennials and younger age groups in order for IGHS to be well situated for the next 30 years.

In March we had a very successful Annual Membership meeting in Fort Wayne and Deca-
in 2018, for their support. I look forward to the year ahead.

Die kalten Tage des Winters sind vorbei ... genießt den Frühling und den kommenden Sommer!!

Heinz Roesch, IGHS President

2018 Spring Sing Finale

April 16, 2018 marked the final public performance in concert by the Indianapolis Männerchor, ending a tradition that began 164 years ago in a 3rd floor room at 75 East Washington Street, where six immigrants from Germany - Eduard Lengerich, Adolph Schnellschmidt, Hubert and Gottfried Recher, Nicolaus Jose, and Georg Bauer - gathered to sing.

On May 28, 1855, these men, and others who joined them, gathered at Washington Hall to give the first public concert of The Indianapolis Männerchor. Over the next 163 years hundreds of concerts, with hundreds of singers, attended by thousands of audience members in a variety of venues were given. The choir has been a significant part of Indiana's music and cultural history: it sang for Lincoln's funeral, it helped raise funds for the Soldier's and Sailor's monument, a US vice president was one of its members, one of its directors Alexander Ernestinoff, who established the forerunner of the Indianapolis Symphonic Orchestra in 1911.

More importantly, if it had not been for the Männerchor, the literary world would never have had Kurt Vonnegut! His great-grandfather, Karl Barus, was recruited from Cincinnati to be the choir’s director.

The choir has been blessed with superior directors and accompanists over the years, serving as host to renowned musicians such as Pablo Casals, Efrem Zimbalist, Sr and Vladimir Horowitz, with one goal in mind: to bring quality music to this city. On the behalf of all our audiences, all their members, directors, and accompanists, and to all those people who have supported the Männerchor over the past 164 years, we say thank you for helping to leave an important legacy in Central Indiana.

First Tenor: Tim Dines, Josh Humble, David Rose;
Second Tenor: Gary Burriss, Pete Hoffman, David Kleyn, Jonathan Lewis, Kirk Williams;
Baritone: Tad Conaway, Paul Meister, Galen Schwarz, Larry Somers, Dick Weiss;
Bass: Dale Albertson, Bob Amt, Len Ashburn, Bill Laut, Harold Laut, Bob Letsinger, John Schild, Mark Sprecher, John Willenbrock
Director: Jason Fishburn
Accompanist: Matthew Masko

IGHS Annual Meeting & Symposium

On March 16 & 17, the Indiana German Heritage Society in partnership with the Friends of Wyneken hosted a very successful annual meeting and symposium in Fort Wayne. On Friday we gathered at the Concordia Theological Seminary for our annual membership meeting, dinner and an entertaining and informative presentation on “F.C.D. Wyneken and a Lutheran Seminary in Fort Wayne.” Presented by Dr. Cameron MacKenzie, chairman of the department of Historical Theology and Forrest E. and Frances H. Ellis Chair in German Reformation Studies at Concordia Theological Seminary.

On the behalf of all our audience, all their members, directors, and accompanists, and to all those people who have supported the Männerchor over the past 164 years, we say thank you for helping to leave an important legacy in Central Indiana.
The speaker will be Dr. Wolfgang Grams, Ph.D. from University of Oldenburg, Germany and owner of “Routes to the Roots,” a heritage tourism business. He will give four presentations:

- *Hurra, wir fahren nach Amerika*, Travel Patterns during the Age of Sail
- *Hurra, wir fahren nach Amerika*, Travel Patterns during the Age of Steam
- German Resources and Research Strategies (including Facts and Fiction)
- Best Travel through Germany (Heritage tourism)

Some of the final details are still under consideration, but should be determined by June 1, 2018.

For further information, see the Palatines to America website at www.palam.org or send an e-mail to indianapalam@gmail.com after June 1.

**Deutschlandjahr USA**

The national campaign *Deutschlandjahr* (Year of Germany) is coming! The year of events celebrating Germany and its deep ties with the U.S. kicks off in Indianapolis on German-American Day, October 6th and 7th.

Deutschlandjahr is a comprehensive and collaborative campaign financed by a series of grants provided by the German Federal Foreign Office, the Federation of German Industries (BDI), and the Goethe-Institut with the goal of presenting today’s Germany to people across the entire U.S.

These events will show how closely the two countries are linked by heritage, common values, and shared interests. Through a year of events it will be illustrated how we can have a brighter future if we tackle global challenges together by focusing on dialogue, exchange, and cooperation between people.

The national launch of Deutschlandjahr will take place in Indianapolis on Saturday, October 6th with a symposium and musical events at the Athenaeum, hosted by German General Consul, Herbert Quelle. Sunday will begin with a classic car show around Monument Cir-
cle, spotlighting German made cars, Old and new, and American cars with deep German Roots, such as Studebaker and Duesenberg. At 1 pm, a parade will start from the Monument Circle to the Athenaeum which the classic cars, bands, floats and representatives from Indiana’s German American Communities.

In May, a large group of representatives (pictured) from central Indiana German American organizations and other interested groups met with General Consul Quelle for an update about the event.

Karen Roesch has announced that the IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center has received a Deutschlandjahr USA grant during the first round. She thought it might be a good idea to communicate our events and dates in the spirit of collaboration and support for each other.

More about the Deutschlandjahr kickoff will be coming out in the coming weeks and months. Meanwhile, put a red circle on your calendar to attend on October 6 & 7th.

**Deutschlandjahr Grant**

Karen Roesch announced that the IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center will be offering a series of lectures/workshops/events, funded by one of the Deutschlandjahr grants and community partners:

- Oct. 24, 2018: German Heritage in Indiana (lecture & tour)
- Nov 2, 2018: German-Jewish Dialogue To-
- Nov 14, 2018: German-Americans Go Vegan: Lebensreform Movements in the US around 1900 (panel discussion);
- Dec. 6, 2018: German Holiday Traditions (exhibit & lecture at Carmel Christkindlmarkt);
- Jan 26, 2019: Teaching German in Indiana (Networking event for college & HS German instructors);
- Feb 20, 2019: Immigrant Issues in Germany and the US (panel discussion);

**Maifest (Mayfest)**

The Maifest (Mayfest) celebrates the arrival of spring, nature’s bright reawakening after winter’s cold and darkness. This ancient pagan festival, with its roots in one of mankind’s oldest traditions, eventually took on Christian religious significance, and has evolved to become a colorful, joyous part of European history and culture, with distinctive traditions like the dancing around the maypole. Although its religious and superstitious aspects have long since disappeared, Maifest traditions are still celebrated throughout Germany. Cities and villages are decked with flowers and colorful drapery. Some areas light bonfires, while others open the carnival fair season and elect May queens and kings.

One tradition which is shared among most of the regions is the erection of a Maibaum (Maypole). The Maibaum may stand in the village market...
place, in front of the city hall or at an individual's home. Maypoles typically stay up the entire month of May, but some people leave them up even longer.

Dancing around the Maypole is viewed as a singular symbol of spring’s reawakening of fruitfulness. There is a related, centuries-old, tradition in some areas, Walpurgsnacht, (witches night), celebrated in Germany, Eastern and Northern Europe with bonfires, lots of booze and dancing, and occasionally, the theft of the decorated Maibaum trees.

May is a perfect time to enjoy German breads, pickles, mustards, cheeses, hams and, of course, the customary Maibock beer, a German beer brewed only during Spring to coincide with Maifest. At Maifest celebrations, the food is plentiful and beer and wine flow freely! A very popular drink is a “Maibowle” (May punch), a refreshing mixture of white wine, champagne and Waldmeister (Sweet Woodruff). In the Middle Ages, this drink was considered an aphrodisiac, and was consumed in celebration of fertility and the spirits of the forest (perhaps these ages were not so dark after all).

Waldmeister is an old-world herb, that has naturalized in some parts of North America. It’s a small plant with white blossoms that grows in the forested areas. In the U.S. this plant can be found in garden centers and can be grown in a shady corner of an herb garden. Woodruff should be harvested for flavoring only in May when the new leaves are tender. When it is cut up and soaked in wine it produces the distinctive flavor of May wine!

Maiwein (May wine) is a white wine flavored with fresh Waldmeister. This white wine is exported from Germany can often be found in retail stores in North America.

The Oldenburg Maibaum
by Gary Munchel

There are not many towns in Indiana, perhaps not even in the US that embrace it’s German Heritage to the eagerness as Oldenburg does. Situated in the rolling hills of Southeastern Indiana, between Indianapolis and Cincinnati off of Interstate 74, Oldenburg works hard to live up to its motto of: Stadt der frommen Seelen, der stolzen Herzen, und des Freudendursts! Translation: Town of devout souls, proud hearts, and a thirst for Joy!

Platted in 1837 by German immigrants, the town is named after their home providence Oldenburg Germany. Oldenburg has long been admired for its many steeples, earning the town the nickname “Village of Spires”. Strolling through the town one has a chance to admire its century old brick and stone buildings. Eighty of the towns roughly 115 brick and stone buildings predate the 1900 with ornate facades and bilingual street signs declaring its German connection.

Today however a visitor would come upon a new attraction that boldly states the town’s love of its German roots. Last summer the Freudenfest Committee (a group of about 50 volunteers that puts on the towns annual German Festival) used festival proceeds to a permanent Maibaum or Maypole.

What is a Maypole, you ask? In Germany and other parts of Europe, it is an annual tradition to erect Der Maibaum, or Maypole, every year on May 1st. The pole traditionally symbolizes the planting of trees and the awakening of Spring. Many villages celebrate by decorating the pole with garlands and ribbons and ceremonial dancing. The ritual is performed called Maifest and the festivity celebrates the end of a long dark winter, and the beginning of warm weather and light. It’s a time of reawakening and joy!

Oldenburg decided that a Maypole would be the perfect way to symbolize the town's collective pride in their heritage and the entities that make up the fabric of their community. The 50-foot-high maypole features a “barber stripped” pole painted in the colors of red and yellow, which are the colors of the flag of Oldenburg, Germany. Eight colorful metal shields adorn the Maypole, each representing Oldenburg’s community uniqueness.

The shields feature:
- The Oldenburg Town Crest. The crest salutes the towns inspiring architecture of spires who trace its skyline.
- Franciscan Friars and Sisters of St. Francis. Oldenburg was founded on religious education and by spiritual leaders such as Father Franz Joseph Rudolf, considered the founder of the “Village of Spires” and Sister Theresa Hackelmeier whom started the Sisters of St. Francis convent.
- Corpus Christi Processional March. A very special ritual that is close to the hearts of Oldenburgers. This annual march honors the Blessed Sacrament and has been held on the 9th Sunday after Easter since it was first
celebrated here in 1846.
• Oldenburg’s History and Preservation. The town was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in March 1983. One shield calls out the infamous story of when Morgan Raider Scouts paid an unannounced visit to the burg in July of 1863.
• Other crests recognize the contributions of the Eagle Fire department, local craftsmanship and businesses and town festivals.

Oldenburg offers those who visit an experience uniquely different from any other place in eastern Indiana. The new Maypole perfectly fits the towns feisty personality of devout souls, proud hearts, and a thirst for Joy!

Rescue of a Southside Indianapolis German landmark
by
William L. Selm

One of the great German landmarks of the Indianapolis southside is being saved. For decades the hall of the Sudseite Turnverein was in steady decline, but still functioning and occupied. The transformation began at the beginning of 2018. This hall at 306 East Prospect Street is one of the three Turner halls in Indianapolis.

The mother of local Turner halls is, of course, Das Deutsche Haus-Athenaeum, completed in 1898. The southside hall was completed in 1900. The third hall, the Unabhängiger (Independent) Turner Hall was built in 1914, but he Independent Turners dissolved and sold their hall at 902 N. Meridian St. in the 1930s. It functioned as Purdue University classrooms before the days of IUPUI. In the 1980s it was listed in the National Register of Historic Places and rehabilitated into Turnverein Apartments.

Ratio Architects of Indianapolis is in charge of the rescue of the SS Turner Hall. It is being rehabilitated to be the corporate headquarters of Point Comfort Underwriters Company. The work will follow the Standards of the Secretary of the Interior for the Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings, as the Investment Tax Credit program is being used to help finance the rehabilitation. The building will be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. Ben Ross of Ratio Architects explained that the extensive work will include exterior “masonry repairs, restoration of the historic wood windows and doors… replacement of the coping with new sheet metal following the original design, repairs to the cupola, foundation waterproofing, and site drainage improvements.”

The exterior restoration will also include the important gable artwork of sculpted stucco, the work of Rudolf Schwarz (1866-1912). He immigrated to Indianapolis from Vienna, via Berlin, to sculpt the monumental limestone sculpture of the Indiana Soldiers’ & Sailors’ Monument. His monument work established his career as one of the state’s leading sculptors. His triangular sculpture on the Turner hall is badly deteriorated. It depicted a youth and a young woman supporting a shield bearing the portrait of Turnvater Jahn. Friedrich Ludwig Jahn (1778 -1852) was the founder of the Turnverein Movement in Napoleonic-occupied Prussia, over two centuries ago. Ben Ross explained that the restoration plan calls for reconstructing Schwarz’ work, including making casts of surviving parts and fabricating missing parts based on historic photographs. The interior work calls for rehabilitating the space for office use integrating original details.

The SS Turner Hall was designed by the celebrated local firm of Vonnegut & Bohn Architects, and it bears a strong family resemblance to its mother, Das Deutsche Haus, also the work of the firm. The SS TV was founded in 1893 by former Socialer Turners. That year the Socialer Turners began construction of their new hall at 401 East Michigan, a half-mile further north of their previous hall on Maryland/Pearl Streets. SStv opened its hall in 1900. Vonnegut & Bohn planned a gymnasium, meeting rooms, locker rooms, bowling alley, and Kneipe-Rathskeller. This hall was Vonnegut & Bohn’s third hall design. The SS Turners sold their hall
On St. Patrick’s Day 1968, Sister Bernard Marie, OSF, was assessing the green garments worn by my 8th grade classmates at St. Mary School, in Rushville, IN. I was not wearing green. I am not Irish. Sister, who was from a German family in Missouri spoke briefly about the great Irish missionary saint who brought Catholic Christianity to the Emerald Isle. St. Mary School was the parish school. The parish was founded in Rushville in 1857 as a largely Irish parish, the only parish in the whole county of Rush. In the course of the first half of the twentieth century many German Catholic farm families from the German counties to the south bought farms in Rush County with its deep rich fertile topsoil on the flat landscape. My parents, both natives of Franklin County bought our farm in 1965 and we moved from our Heimat of over a century, Franklin County, the neighboring county.

My classmates had the Irish names of Shanahan, Parrish, Moran, Todd and Owens, but also Herbert, Wagner, Koors, and Dusing. The Irish tended to be the town-dwellers and the Germans were the farmers. Franklin County was a German Catholic county with, at its height, eight German parishes. The county also had some Lutherans, Evangelicals, and Brethren.

Although the historic hall will no longer function as a gymnasium, its distinctive monumental exterior will be restored. It has escaped demolition by neglect or by the wrecking ball. In 2016 the Sudseite Turn Halle was listed on the Ten Most-Endangered Buildings list of Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana. This eyewitness to the Golden Age of Deutschtum in America will continue to remind all of the accomplishments of the Indianapolis Germans.

On that St. Patrick’s Day I turned and asked Cynthia Koors, behind me, “When is our day?” It was a rhetorical question. For some reason I did not pose the question to Sister. I am sure she would have known. But I did not ask and it was decades later that I got my answer.

1968 was decades before the age of instant information. I put the question on the back burner. I educated myself as I encountered the name of St. Bonifacius as I researched family and local history. My ancestors from Westphalia, Franz Josef and Sophia Hoelker were members of St. Bonifacius Church in Lafayette, Indiana. During the Civil War, they moved to Oldenburg in Franklin County. In college researching the buildings of Terre Haute, I found that the St. Boniface Society founded the German Catholic National Parish of St. Benedict in the 1860s. In Indianapolis his image can be found in one of the nave windows in St. Anthony of Padua Church on the east end of Haughville. He is honored there with the patron saints of other Catholic ethnic groups such as St. Elizabeth of Hungary, St. Patrick, and SS. Cyril & Methodius. Founded in 1891, this parish was to be the catchall parish to serve the various nationalities in that industrial suburb. The Slovenes, the largest group, were not having it; they were permitted to form their National Parish of Holy Trinity in 1906.

Although neither of the two local German National Parishes (St. Mary and Sacred Heart of Jesus) was named for Bonifacius, the Apostle to the Germans, he has a presence. His statue is one of three on the exterior of St. Mary Church (Sankt Marienkirche) at Vermont and New Jersey Streets. The stone statue of Bonifacius is in the north transept gable. He has been keeping his eyes on the Free-thinking Germans in Das Deutsche Haus-Athenaem since 1912. German Evansville has a St. Bonifacius Parish as does Fulda. This village in Spencer County was founded as a German Catholic village in the 1840s by the German-speaking Croatian priest, Father Josef Kundek. Fulda’s only church, St. Bonifacius, is ministered by the Benedictine priests, the same order of which Bonifacius was a member. Fulda, Indiana is named for the city in Hessen
where the Apostel der Deutschen founded the Benedictine monastery in 744 and is entombed there. Because of Bonifacius, Fulda has been the destination of pilgrims for centuries.

Interest in the saint revived in the 19th century, the century of the formation of the modern nation state of Germany. Feeling the pressure of the unfriendly Protestant Prussian state, besieged Catholics looked to Bonifacius to counter the German Protestant hero, Martin Luther. In the New World, Bonifacius was the rallying figure for German Catholic immigrants. The St. Boniface parishes in Brooklyn and Montreal are German parishes.

Although I did not name any of my four children Boniface or Bonifacia, I do work for the revival of St. Bonifacius. He has been largely forgotten, probably a legacy of the First World War. I send St. Patrick’s Day cards to Irish Catholic friends and St. Joseph Day (19 March) cards to Sicilian Italian Catholic friends, and am always in Catholic book/supply stores hunting for Bonifacius medals, holy cards, and statues (no luck except for one medal). I have Masses said for the repose of the souls of and benefit of Indiana Germans and ask the celebrant priest to educate those present with a homily about the Apostle to the Germans.

So, to answer my question of 1968, the fifth of June is our day, Unser Tag. That is the day the great Apostle to the Germans was martyred in 754 by our barbarian ancestors in Dokkum, Friesland. He earned the martyr’s crown, preaching the Gospel, founding churches, and bringing salvation to the German people.

A St. Bonifacius Mass was celebrated on 5 June 2018, in St. John Catholic Church at Capitol Ave. and Georgia Street. I hope everyone wore their colors!

Bonifacii Heil!

**Auf Deutsch**

**Die Gedanken sind frei**

Die Gedanken sind frei (Thoughts are free) is a popular, traditional song about the freedom of thought. The identity of the original composer is unknown, but this sentiment was popular as early as the Middle Ages, when Walther von der Vogelweide (c.1170–1230) wrote: “joch sint iedoch gedanke fri” (“yet still thoughts are free”).

This version was written by Hoffmann von Fallersleben and set to music using a Schlesische Volkslieder mit Melodien (Silesian folk songs with melodies) in 1842.

**Die Gedanken sind frei**

Die Gedanken sind frei, wer kann sie erraten,  
sie fliegen vorbei wie nächtliche Schatten.  
Kein Mensch kann sie wissen, kein Jäger  
sie schießen mit Pulver und Blei: Die Gedanken sind frei!

Ich denke was ich will und was mich  
beglücket,  
doch alles in der Still', und wie es sich  
schickt.  
Mein Wunsch und Begehren kann niemand  
verwehren,  
es bleibt dabei: Die Gedanken sind frei!

Und sperrt man mich ein im finsten  
Kerker,  
das alles sind rein vergebliche Werke.  
Denn meine Gedanken zerreißen die  
Schranken  
und Mauern entzwei: Die Gedanken sind frei!

**Thoughts are free**

Thoughts are free, who can guess them?  
They fly by like nocturnal shadows.  
No person can know them, no hunter can  
shoot them with powder and lead: Thoughts are free!

I think what I want, and what delights me,  
still always reticent, and as it is suitable.  
My wish and desire, no one can deny me  
and so it will always be: Thoughts are free!

And if I am thrown into the darkest dun-  
geon,  
all these are futile works,  
because my thoughts tear all gates and  
walls apart: Thoughts are free!
They treasure their time spent in both cultures and would not want to do without either one. Ironically, a terrible automobile accident just over twenty years ago had the effect of making the bond with their American community even stronger. Reppmann’s wife Gitta was severely injured in a rollover on an icy road and received the best possible care from her doctors at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester and by loving friends and church members in Northfield, all of whom continue to treasure her indomitable spirit.

In the interview with German journalist Dieter E. Wilhelmy that follows, Reppmann sees a similar indomitable spirit in American culture, one that emphasizes not giving up but “repairing the broken wagon wheel, tightening it on the axle,” and setting out again. He believes, too, that because of their highly-developed community spirit, Americans tend to rely more on themselves and less on state sources for support, which makes them willing gift-givers to neighborhood assistance programs and other worthy causes.

The book’s final chapter is devoted to several of Reppmann’s friends, both German and American, and their views on various aspects of German and American culture. Major themes here include building bridges between the two cultures, doing away with false stereotypes (such as that of the “superficial American”), and ensuring that the public remains aware of Germany’s Nazi past and of the danger of increased right-wing extremism on both sides of the ocean. In a concluding “Epilogue,” Reppmann expresses concern about the dangers of the present world situation, but is optimistic that democratic views will win out in the end.

Crossing the Ocean offers a wealth of information on the causes and results of nineteenth-century German immigration to the heartland of America and on the contributions made by the settlers to their new culture. This, along with the wide-ranging views by contemporary Germans and Americans presented in the book, make it one that is well worth reading. Crossing the Ocean — German-American Friendships, by Joachim (Yogi) Reppmann. Paperback, $10, Printing on Demand in 3-5 business days: www.LuLu.com
Wednesday, June 13: Board Meeting, Stammtisch and Program, The Most Influential Musical Family of Indiana - Now Forgotten!

German immigrants Adolph and Bertha Schellschmidt arrived in America in 1885 aboard the ship Noorland from Antwerp, Belgium, settled in Indianapolis, and became the most important musical family in the state. Adolph was one of the founders of the Indianapolis Männerchor and the Indianapolis Philharmonic Society. He played in the Athenaeum Orchestra and was a member and conductor of the orchestra of the local Metropolitan Theatre. His children were the principal players of the second Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra (the present one is its third incarnation). The family had their own music conservatory in downtown Indianapolis, and were the direct “cause” for Bloomington’s Indiana University to actually begin a Music School. Then they all but disappeared …

Geoffrey (Geoff) S. Lapin recently retired as a cellist with the Indianapolis Symphony after 43 years. He has been on the faculty of Franklin College, Ivy Tech, and Butler University, is a renowned lecturer, historian, and published author. He has been written about in The New York Times and PEOPLE magazine and has been interviewed on the TODAY Show. Please check him out on Google.com and other search engines!

Wednesday, July 11: No Board Meeting, Stammtisch or Program

Wednesday, August 8: Board Meeting, Stammtisch and Program, The Liederkranz Brass Band

The Indianapolis Liederkranz Brass Band was founded in 2014 under the direction of Jeff Westfall. Their mission is to share our German musical heritage. Join us in the Athenaeum Biergarten

Wednesday, September 12: Board Meeting, Stammtisch and Program, Cross-Cultural Learning Abroad: Lessons from Germany and Austria.

IGHS provides several scholarships annually to Indiana high school students participating in an approved study abroad program. These include the I.U. Honors Program in Graz, Austria, a 7-week immersion and homestay program, and the German American Partnership Program (GAPP), a 3-week high school exchange program. Students participating in these programs will talk about their experiences abroad and the lessons learned for their future academic career and personal goals. Please join us to hear about their adventures abroad. For questions contact Dr. Claudia Grossmann, (317) 274-3943, cgrossma@iupui.edu.

As always, these free, English language Stammtisch programs are always open to the public. There is an optional dinner held in the Rathskeller before the program starting at 6:30 p.m. Vegetarian option available. Dinner costs $15.00 per person, and includes tax, non-alcoholic beverage, gratuity, and complimentary parking in the Athenaeum Parking Lot (east side of building). The IGHS Stammtisch programs begin at 7:30pm on the first floor of the Athenaeum, 401 E. Michigan St., Indianapolis.
For questions or to RSVP, please contact secretary.ighs@gmail.com or call 812-309-2141.

**OTHER PROGRAMS**

**Friday, July 20 - Saturday, July 21: Oldenburg Freudenfest.**
The Freudenfest, meaning "fun day", originated in 1976. From a pie auction to stein holding contest, the Freudenfest offers many activities as well as a wide variety of entertainment, great music, German dancing, Fabulous food and even a chance to take in some history. [http://Freudenfest.com](http://Freudenfest.com)

**Saturday, July 21, 2018: Heimaths & Preussen Clubs HOPSFEST.** The Heimaths Verein and Preussen Verein are hosting the inaugural HoP Fest at German Park, 8600 S. Meridian St. in Indianapolis. It's a craft beer festival featuring the brews of a variety of area brewers, plus music and, of course, food. Hours: 4pm to 9pm. Admission is $8.00. Under age 21 get in for free.

**Thursday, July 26 - Saturday, July 28: Berne Swiss Days.** The Swiss Day Celebration is a time for for the village of Berne to share its heritage with authentic Swiss costume, great food, craft vendors and merchandise. Residents and visitors alike are invited to enjoy the friendly competitions for all ages, from the 5K race, a Big Wheel Competition for the younger ones, and a Steintoss -- there is something for everyone. On stage and around the festival you can hear Swiss music. Watch as couples dance the polka to live music on stage. Opening ceremonies are on Thursday at 6 pm. [http://bernein.com/swiss-days/festival-schedule](http://bernein.com/swiss-days/festival-schedule)

**Thursday, August 2 - Sunday, August 5: 37th Annual Strassenfest in Jasper.** [http://jasperstrassenfest.org](http://jasperstrassenfest.org)

**Thursday, August 2-Saturday August 4: Volksfest: Deutsche Gemuetlichkeit in Evansville.** A variety of German food, beer, music and fun will once again be the highlights of Volksfest. Come to take part in the festival, which spills out of the Maennerchor building to a large outdoor beer garden that's partially covered. 916 Fulton, Evansville, IN 47710. [https://www.facebook.com/evansville.maennerchor](https://www.facebook.com/evansville.maennerchor)

**Thursday, September 6 - Saturday, September 8: Oktoberfest at the German Park.** [http://www.indianapolissgak.com/oktoberfest/](http://www.indianapolissgak.com/oktoberfest/)

If you want to be a part of this exciting event, come join us at the planning meetings or contact Lou Mueller at 317-786-6341 to volunteer!
Sunday, September 9: **GermanFest at St. Boniface Catholic Church**, 318 N 9th St, Lafayette, IN 47904. The festival takes place in downtown Lafayette at the St. Boniface Catholic Church, featuring food, music (including Aberdeen Project, Full Moon Dogs and Polka Boy) and tons of fun! Hours: 4-11pm. Admission is $5.00. Under age 21 get in for free. Please note: No pets allowed. Service dogs only. [http://LafayetteGermanFest.org](http://LafayetteGermanFest.org)

Friday, September 14- Sunday September 16: **Terre Haute Oktoberfest**, at 9th and Cherry streets in Downtown Terre Haute. German food, drink and music. Hours 4-12pm. Free admission. [https://www.facebook.com/festival.club](https://www.facebook.com/festival.club)

Thursday, October 4th - Saturday, October 6: **46th Annual Seymour Oktoberfest**. The mission of Seymour Oktoberfest is to celebrate and promote the German heritage of the Seymour area by attracting people from around the world to celebrate our German heritage through unique and unforgettable experiences." Hours: 11am - 11pm. [https://www.seymouroktoberfest.com/](https://www.seymouroktoberfest.com/)

Saturday, October 6- 7: **Deutschlandjahr 2018. (Year of Germany 2018)**
Starting on German-American Day, Germany and the U.S. will open a national celebration of the special relationship linking our two countries by heritage, common values, and shared interests. On Saturday, various public events at Das Deutsche Haus (Athenaeum) will include a discussion of German Immigration and Settlement, a workshop on genealogical research, German cuisine and costumes and a musical performance by Monika Herzig and her band. On Sunday, there will be a show of classic German cars around Monument Circle. Details will be forthcoming.

Saturday, October 14: **The Original & Fabulous Germanfest at the Athenaeum**.
Discover your inner German and party at the Athenaeum, 401 E. Michigan Street Indianapolis, IN 46204. Enjoy the Urban Flea with 100 vendors, Durstig Games, live Wiener Dog Races, OktoberFAST 5K run/walk, Strong Man Competition, ZwergenLand For Kids, German beer, German food by the Indianapolis Sangerchor. All proceeds from GermanFest benefit the maintenance and care of the Historic Athenaeum. Celebrate your German heritage with this unique family event. Adults are $8 in advance and $12 at the door, Children 2-12 $3 in advance and $5 at the door. [http://www.athenaeumfoundation.org/theatre-buildingevents/germanfest/](http://www.athenaeumfoundation.org/theatre-buildingevents/germanfest/)
Indiana German Heritage Society

Membership Form

Name: __________________________________________________________
E-Mail: _________________________________________________________

Please enter / renew my membership:

☐ Individual $20.00          ☐ Business $100.00
☐ Family $25.00              ☐ Non-Profit $50.00
☐ Full-time Student $5.00   ☐ Library Rate $15.00
(with teacher’s signature)

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:

☐ Architecture         ☐ Family
☐ Arts          ☐ Genealogy
☐ Cultural Exchanges / ☐ General
       Sister Cities     ☐ German Language Programs
       ☐ History

Knowledge of German Language:

Knowledge of Old German Script (Sütterlin):

☐ None       ☐ Some       ☐ Fluent
☐ 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!
## Das Deutsche Haus Returns!

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