Letter from the Max Kade Director

Frohes Neues Jahr! A new year stands before us with all the promise of new beginnings and exciting events. This past fall, IGHS was again an important partner with the IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center in celebrating the first half of the 2018-2019 Year of German-American Friendship. We partnered on the opening event in October with guest speaker Dr. Wolfgang Grams from the University of Oldenburg, Germany, who captivated us with “German Heritage in Indiana Revisited.”

We again partnered for the St. Nicklaus Children’s celebration at the 2nd Annual Carmel Christkindlmarkt. Our IGHS members Giles Hoyt, Ron Flick and Bill Selm braved the bitter cold to bring an authentic rendering of this traditional celebration to the visiting children and their families. The Max Kade Center provided delicious goodies for Krampus to distribute and students from the IGEL-Schule entertained us with German Christmas songs and recitations.

For the second half of Deutschlandjahr, we have several fascinating events planned, the first of which was an educational workshop on January 26, with Dr. Brenna Byrd from the University of Kentucky, who guided German instructors from Indiana high schools and universities on the art of using social media (e.g., Twitter, Instagram, Facebook) to improve intercultural competence in the classroom. We invite you to attend any or all of our upcoming Deutschandjahr Spring events taking place on the following February – April dates at IUPUI or the Athenaeum. See the list of Other Programs in Indianapolis on page 16 in this newsletter for details.

Thank you again to everyone for supporting our events! Bis bald!

Karen Rösch

2019 Annual Meeting & Symposium

Join us on Friday, March 15th and Saturday, March 16th for the 35th IGHS annual meeting and symposium. This year's session on “Indiana and Germany: Education, Business, Culture -- Then and Now” is hosted by the Indiana German Heritage Society in cooperation with the IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center. The main sessions will be held at Das Deutsche Haus / Athenaeum, 401 East Michigan Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204 with an optional tour of the newly restored South Side Turnverein building, 306 East Prospect Street, Indianapolis, IN 46225, following the Saturday sessions.

Friday begins a 5:00 pm in the small Auditorium with the annual IGHS membership meeting and election of officers. Afterwards, we will adjourn to the Willkie Blue Room for a dinner ordered from the Rathskeller's extensive, and excellent, menu. After dinner, IGHS Founder, Dr. Giles R. Hoyt, professor emeritus and director emeritus of the IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center will set the tone for Saturday's symposium with an opening address entitled, "German-American Business and Economic Networks in Indiana."

Registration for Saturday will open at 8:30 in the small auditorium. Coffee and refreshments will be available at Coat Check Coffee in the lobby. At 9 o'clock, the outgoing IGHS President Heinz Roesch and Sven Schumacher, the Indiana Honorary Consul for Federal Republic of Germany will welcome everyone to the day's festivities.

Our first speaker will be Bruce R. Frank, CEO and President, Bruce R. Frank & Associates, Commercial Services & Support speaking on the topic of "The German-Indiana Business Scene." Frank will be followed by Dr. Claudia (Continued on page 3)
Dear Friends and Loyal Supporters:

The IGHS membership year runs concurrent with the calendar year. If you have not renewed your membership for 2019, it is now time to do so.

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

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

Please renew right away

The Membership Committee

Thank You for Supporting the IGHS Scholarship Funds

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

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

The donations are tax-exempt. Checks may be sent to the Indiana German Heritage Society, 401 E. Michigan St., Indianapolis, IN 46204. Please include a note stating that the contribution is intended for the Marie Schoch Endowment Fund or the Daniel Nuetzel Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Good Bye and Auf Wiedersehen !!
Rückblick und Ausblick

It has been a good 4 years or so. My wife Karen recruited me and convinced me to join this wonderful organization. I started my involvement with IGHS in 2015, taking over as Treasurer from Boyd Obermeyer. Boyd had a good grip on the financial affairs of the association, so it was easy to transfer all the books and records he kept in spreadsheets and meticulously maintained paper files into QuickBooks. This streamlined our ability to search, prepare monthly reports automatically and facilitate the filing of tax returns – so vital in connection with keeping our status as a recognized charitable organization with the IRS – 501(c)3.

Thanks, Boyd, for making my job easy and for being there whenever I needed advice.

Two years ago, Brian Griesemer stepped down from his duties as President which he so aptly had carried out for 4 years when he stepped up to fill the position following Dan Nuetzel’s untimely and sudden death. I succeeded Brian as President and identified three issues I wanted to address: the Wyneken House Project, the Anthology Project and Membership.

After many long and thorough discussions
about what best to do with the Wyneken House, we decided to transfer ownership of the house in January 2018 to a newly formed charitable organization called the Friends of Wyneken Inc. in Decatur. A group of dedicated people under the leadership of Ken and Penny Selking had worked tirelessly for well over a decade with the support of IGHS to save this home of the late Pastor Wyneken from certain destruction. The house is nearing completion of its renovation and is now officially owned by those who also can take care of it on a daily basis.

The second project I began working on was the revitalization the Anthology Project that the late Eberhard Reichmann had begun several decades ago. Ruth Reichmann can rightfully expect that the funds collected for the project are put to good use for its completion. Moving towards a newly defined goal. We will continue to work on this and hope to make further progress in our remaining months in Indianapolis.

The Membership Project’s goal to grow and diversify the membership received a great boost and sound foundation when Kent Robinson took on the gargantuan project of transferring all of our membership records from spreadsheets and paper-based records into a proper membership system called Wild Apricot. It is now up to the current leadership to position IGHS in such a way that it becomes more attractive to a younger generation. I challenge the new and younger board members of IGHS to come up with ideas on how to achieve this and to implement them. I challenge the membership, my successor and the entire board to set the lofty goal of doubling the number of active members by the end of 2019 and to lower the average age of the membership by 10 years while keeping and building on the current membership base. This will position IGHS to achieve its mission for the next 30 years.

Finally, I want to say a big thank you to all IGHS board members who worked with me on these three issues I had identified at the beginning of my tenure. Thanks especially to my wife Karen who always supported and encouraged me. It has been a wonderful ride! Karen and I have found friends for life here and we will continue to stay in touch with IGHS and Indianapolis.

All the best … gute Fahrt!

(Continued from page 1)

Grossmann, the Director of IUPUI's German Program on an overview of “Indiana and Germany: Educational and Professional Exchanges” After a coffee break, William Selm, public historian and associate faculty member at IUPUI will offer an update on "German-American Architecture of Indiana."

This year's symposium wraps up with a collegial lunch in Willkie Blue Room, once again selected from the Rathskeller menu.

At 2:30, an optional tour will be offered of the newly renovated Southside Turnverein building, located at 306 East Prospect Street, Indianapolis, IN 46225. Registration for this year's two-day annual meeting and symposium is very affordable at just $15 per person. Meals are separate and ordered off the Rathskeller Menu.

There are two ways to register for this year's symposium. You can use the form located on page 5 of this newsletter. Fill it out and include a check payable to “Indiana German Heritage Society” and mail it to: IGHS Annual Meeting, 401 E. Michigan St., Indianapolis, IN 46204. The paper registrations must be posted marked by March 9, 2019.

Registration is also available online by visiting: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/indiana-german-heritage-society-annual-symposium-tickets-56009430715

If you need lodging for symposium, A block of rooms have been reserved for attendees at the Alexander Hotel, 333S. Delaware St., Indianapolis, IN, 46204. Contact Guest Services at 317-624-8200 and ask for IUPUI discounted corporate rate.

Sales Team Members Shanda Huffman at Shanda.Huffman@dolce.com or, 317-624-8211 or

(Continued on page 7)
35th ANNUAL MEETING AND SYMPOSIUM
Indiana German Heritage Society
In cooperation with the IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center

Indiana and Germany: Education, Business, Culture
Then and Now

March 15th and 16th, 2019
Athenaeum, 401 East Michigan Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Agenda

Friday March 15th

5:00-6:00 pm  (Small Auditorium)  Annual membership meeting

6:00-7:30 pm  (Willkie Blue Room)  Dinner from menu.

7:30-8:30 pm  (Small Auditorium)  After dinner program:  German-American Business and Economic Networks in Indiana.  Dr. Giles R. Hoyt, Professor emeritus and director emeritus, IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center.

Saturday March 16th

8:30-9:00 am  (Small Auditorium)  Registration.
Coffee and refreshments available at Coat Check Coffee in the lobby.

9:00 am  (Small Auditorium)  Welcome by Heinz Roesch, President IGHS;
Greetings from Sven Schumacher, Honorary Consul, BRD


10:00 am  (Small Auditorium)  Indiana and Germany: Educational and Professional Exchanges. Overview led by Dr. Claudia Grossmann, Director, German Program IUPUI.

10:45 am  Coffee break

11:00 am  (Small Auditorium)  German-American Architecture of Indiana-Updated. William Selm, Public Historian, Associate Faculty IUPUI.

12:00 noon  (Willkie Blue Room)  Lunch from menu

2:30 pm  Tour of newly renovated South Side Turnverein building,
306 East Prospect Street, Indianapolis, IN 46225.
35th ANNUAL MEETING AND SYMPOSIUM
Indiana German Heritage Society
In cooperation with the IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center

Indiana and Germany: Education, Business, Culture
Then and Now

March 15th and 16th, 2019
Athenaeum, 401 East Michigan Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204

REGISTRATION

General Registration $15.00/person #___ $__________

Registration fee is for both days inclusive. Meals are separate and ordered off the Rathskeller Menu.

Name: ________________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________________

City/State/Zip: __________________________________________________________________

Email: ________________________________ Phone: _________________________

Please make the check payable to Indiana German Heritage Society
and mail to: IGHS Annual Meeting, 401 E. Michigan St., Indianapolis, IN 46204.

To register online go to: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/indiana-german-heritage-society-annual-symposium-tickets-56009430715

For more information, contact Giles R. Hoyt, IUPUI Max Kade Center, 317-253-9509, ghoyt@iupui.edu.

Directions: For directions, search Google Maps or Mapquest.com for: The Athenaeum, 401 East Michigan Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Lodging: A block of rooms have been reserved at the Alexander Hotel, 333S. Delaware St., Indianapolis, IN, 46204.

Call Guest Services at 317-624-8200 and ask for IUPUI discounted corporate rate or call/email Sales Team Members Shanda Huffman at 317-624-8211 or Shan-da.Huffman@dolce.com, Hillary Wiles at 317-624-8209 or go online at https://gc.sabrehospitality.com/pez.aspx?Hotel=81430&Chain=5136&locale=en-US&promo=9981430072
Friends of Wyneken Report

The Friends of Wyneken are hoping that 2019 will be an exciting year for the Wyneken House. If all goes as planned, the interior of the house will be completed by fall, and a long-awaited dedication will finally take place. After 15 years of anxiety and hard work, it’s exciting to see so many dreams finally coming to fruition.

During January 2019, a new sprinkler system was installed at the house with the help of a $10,000 Indiana Heritage Grant provided by the Indiana Historical Society and made possible by the Lilly Endowment, Inc. (Thank you, Heinz Roesch, for your wonderful letter of support for the grant application!) Lightning rods were also installed on the roof in October. Currently, we’re evaluating fire and security monitoring to further protect the investment which so many people (including the members of IGHS!) have made in the house.

With the sprinkler system installed, we can now focus on finishing the ceilings, walls, flooring, and trim throughout the interior of the Wyneken House. We’re fortunate to have some local craftsmen who love old houses and are willing to do the plastering and carpentry work in the house. Last summer we sawed several red oak logs into boards to replace the original flooring that was removed before FOW took possession of the structure. The boards have dried and are ready to be milled into flooring that will replicate what was originally in the building. A member of FOW is wiring the house so that we’ll have plenty of outlets and lighting for future displays and activities.

Last fall FOW received a $1,500 matching grant to finish the utility walls in the basement. We’re over half-way to our goal, and we’re eager to finish the meeting area in the basement so that our guests don’t need to stare at the furnace when they visit the house. We’re also repurposing a basement storage area into a records room where we can gather and store information about Pastor Wyneken, as well as other German immigrants who settled in northeast Indiana during the nineteenth century. Last summer we received ten insulated file cabinets that we’re using to organize and store this information.

During the summer of 2018 we cleared the remaining brush from the woods behind the house and along the creek that runs through the property. Nearly everyone who sees the wooded area comments on what a peaceful place it is. We also sculpted some of the yard directly behind the house to create a large level area where we can erect our four 20’ x 20’ tents for activities such as ice cream socials or wine and beer tasting events.

Yes, 2019 should be an exciting year for the Wyneken House. We hope that many members of IGHS will be able to visit the house later this year and celebrate its completion with members of the Friends of Wyneken!

Debbie Hillger
Friends of Wyneken, Inc.

Liechtenstein marks the 300th Anniversary in 2019

In 1719, the diminutive Alpine monarchy was elevated to the status of an imperial principality and has remained an established part of the European map. While it was still part of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation at the time of its foundation, in 1806 it achieved sovereignty when the Confederation of the Rhine was founded. The Principality of Liechtenstein survived the turmoil of both World Wars and is today one of only five debt-free states around the globe.

This year Liechtenstein celebrate its 300th anniversary with a range of events. The jubilee is not just an occasion for the inhabitants of Liechtenstein to reflect upon their own history but is also attracting the attention of many tourists and visitors.

2019 will see a centenary celebration of Bauhaus which will salute the experimental, multifarious, transnational and radically contemporary movement. In keeping with its motto ‘Rethink the World’, the Bauhaus Association 2019 will join regional, national and international partners in facilitating a rediscovery of the Bauhaus heritage and its present and future significance. For more information, visit www.bauhaus100.com.
Model T killed Kansas German dialects

It was Henry Ford, not Kaiser Bill, who was responsible for the decline of the distinctive German dialects spoken by immigrants and their descendants in five Kansas and Missouri settlements during the 20th century. That is the thesis of University of Kansas researcher William Keel based on his decades of research on nonstandard-German speakers. Once Ford’s automobile came to the isolated agricultural settlements, you couldn’t keep the youngsters down on the farm.

In his book, *Contemporary Language Contacts in the Context of Migration*, Keel argues that it was this fact far more than any anti-German sentiment in the aftermath of World War I, which caused of the decline of these linguistically distinctive communities. The exception to the rule is the increasing population of speakers of Pennsylvania German in Kansas: Old Order Amish. They shun the automobile and remain in rural isolation.

Keel, professor of Germanic languages & literatures, has been studying – interviewing, recording and writing about – these communities since the 1980s. He and his students have published online the *Linguistic Atlas of Kansas German Dialects*, where the settlements are mapped out and sound samples of native speakers are preserved.

Keel profiles the five different groups, sketching their migratory history, landmarks and distinctive communal features, often involving religion:

In each case, the decline in language usage followed a similar, generational pattern, until today there are only a few hundred fluent speakers of these dialects in the two states. “There were maybe 5,000 Volga German speakers in Ellis County, Kansas, in the 1980s,” Keel said. “Today, there are a few hundred.”

Interestingly, Keel said, the 21st century has seen the growth of one other pocket of German-speaking immigrants – by way of Poland, Ukraine, Canada and Mexico, believe it or not – in southwest Kansas, who have been attracted by jobs in feedlots and meatpacking.

“They speak a variety of Low German called ‘Plautdietsch,’” Keel said. “There are maybe 3,000 to 5,000 German-speaking Mennonites in southwest Kansas. It impacts the school system, with requirements for English as a Second Language courses. It also affects the Kansas statewide health program for farm workers.”

Keel gave his “Henry Ford vs. Kaiser Bill” talk as the keynote address at the 42nd Annual Symposium of the Society for German-American Studies in Indianapolis in 2018. He is also publishing a forthcoming article about the German-speaking community of Victoria, Kansas, in an anthology on “Varieties of German Worldwide.”

Excerpted from: [https://news.ku.edu/2018/05/10/model-t-killed-kansas-german-dialects](https://news.ku.edu/2018/05/10/model-t-killed-kansas-german-dialects)

Key Essentials of German Genealogy—From Basics to Success

The Spring Workshop of the Indiana Chapter of Palatine to America will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2019 at the Indianapolis Liederkranz, 1417 E. Washington St., Indianapolis. Regardless of whether or not you know German, I truly feel that you can successfully trace your German ancestry. In these sessions you will learn tips and techniques to increase your knowledge of some basic German genealogy terminology, discover “short-cuts to reading” records without knowing German, ways of getting further assistance, etc. While the majority of time will be spent addressing German records and resources, even those who do not yet know their ancestor’s home village can greatly benefit. The extensive syllabus will be an invaluable resource for anyone for their future research.

This workshop will be divided into four one-hour sessions to provide individuals who are new or relatively new to German research—or even those a bit more experienced who may wish to simply expose themselves to some potentially new techniques—with basic knowledge that is needed to trace the ancestry of German emigrants.

All presentations will be given by Kent Robinson, former Indiana Chapter President and former National President.

Information and registration information is available at [www.palam.org](http://www.palam.org). Send your questions to indianapalam@gmail.com.

(Continued from page 3)

Spring 2019 Registration

INDIANAPOLIS GERMAN SCHOOL
C/O IUPUI Dept. of World Languages and Cultures
425 University Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46202
(317) 274-3943 or 274-0062, FAX: 278-7375
E-MAIL: CGROSSMA@IUPUI.EDU

STUDENT INFORMATION:

1. ___________________________ __________ __________ __________ ______
   (STUDENT'S NAME)  (D.O.B.)  (GRADE)  (GERMAN SKILLS)

2. ___________________________ __________ __________ __________ ______
   (STUDENT'S NAME)  (D.O.B.)  (GRADE)  (GERMAN SKILLS)

3. __________________________   __________    __________   ________________
   (STUDENT'S NAME)  (D.O.B.)  (GRADE)  (GERMAN SKILLS)

COMPLETE ADDRESS OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN:
(Name or Parent or Guardian)

________________________________    _____________________ _____ _______
   (Street)       (City)     (ZIP)

__________________  ___________________ _______________________ _
   (Home phone)   (Work phone)   (Cell phone)

(E-mail)

Where can you be reached during class hours?

________________________________________________

Is there any special information that the instructor needs to know (e.g. allergies, medication etc.)?
Please use back of form if necessary.

Release Agreement:
I hereby release the Indianapolis German School from any liabilities or medical expenses which my child/ren may incur as a result from participating in the normal course of the program.

___________________________________________________________  __________________________
   (Signature)         (Date)

Tuition: $ 140.00 for one child, $ 250.00 for two children, $ 310.00 for three children.

Deadline: Jan. 28, 2019

Make checks payable to IUPUI
Sankt Nickolaus Lauf Hits 10 Year Mark!

IGHS held its 10th annual Sankt Nikolaus Lauf (run/walk) on December 1, 2018 starting and ending at the Athenaeum/ Das Deutsche Haus. Despite weather conditions consisting of cold rain this event saw a huge participant turnout to celebrate this milestone accomplishment.

According to the event’s race director, Brian Griesemer, the event experienced its largest registration total ever.

As usual, Sankt Nikolaus, Krampus and Santa Claus attended to talk to all the boys and girls about the upcoming holidays: Sankt Nikolaus Tag and Christmas.

This event continues to serve as an IGHS community outreach program with the hopes of participants becoming new members of the organization and to bring greater awareness of German culture in the State of Indiana. Similar to past years, the beneficiaries of the event were again Riley Hospital for Children, the Athenaeum Foundation and the Indianapolis Girls on the Run chapter.

Our gratitude goes out to our participants and sponsors: Elements Financial, the Max Kade Center, Meijer, Nestle, and the Rathskeller.

136 Years of Das Evangelisch Lutherische Waisenhaus Gesellschaft!

On February 4, 1883, members of Trinity Lutheran Church and St. Paul's Lutheran Church met to found Das Evangelisch Lutherische Waisenhaus Gesellschaft (The Evangelical Lutheran Orphan's Home Association), to care for a growing number of orphans in their community.

In 1886, the orphanage received its first residents, a boy from Fort Wayne, August, and a girl from Kendallville. By 1892, property was purchased at 3310 E. Washington St., and construction on the orphanage was completed in June 1893. By end of the First World War, anti-German hysteria caused the organization to translate its name, becoming the Evangelical Lutheran Orphan's Home Association. During the Great Depression and Second World War times were hard and the Association relied on community members and the generosity of local farmers to feed, clothe and keep the children warm.

After the war, the orphanage helped to relocate displaced European children and worked to find foster homes in Lutheran families around the state. At this time the orphanage's name changed once again and became the Lutheran Child Welfare Association of Indiana, with a new and clearer role in the community. Construction on a new residential facility to be known as Lutherwood was completed in 1956.

From 1956 until 2004, Lutherwood served children from Indiana, when it changed the name of to Lutheran Child and Family Services and established the Foundation for Lutheran Child and Family Services to carry the legacy of service and compassion as envisioned by our founders.

Now, in 2019, Lutheran Child and Family Services invites you to join us in celebration of 136 years of service!
This December was the bicentennial of the first performance of Stille Nacht. There are differing accounts of how the world's most beloved Christmas Carol developed, but all seem to agree that it was indeed sung for the first time by the composer and the lyricist at the conclusion of the "Christmette" (Austrian for Midnight Mass of Christmas) on Christmas Eve 1818 in the Nikolauskirche in Oberndorf bei Salzburg.

The poem Stille Nacht was written by the priest Josef Mohr in July of 1818. He had been assisting at the Nikolauskirche in Oberndorf and was not particularly well-liked by his superior, the parish pastor because he was known to socialize quite closely with the local people, to turn a blind eye to some local game poaching.

However, the people living in Oberndorf along the Salzach River, had experienced many hardships during the recently ended Napoleonic Wars when this area had been overrun by the French army. Adding to the people's hardships were severe winters and flooding along the Salzach, which evoked Father Mohr's sympathy for the people's struggles.

Adding to their troubles was a malfunctioning church organ during the winter of 1818. According to some romanticized stories, a mouse had chewed through the organ bellows, but these stories have been debunked as fiction.

What is known is that the organ was not functioning on December 24, 1818, so Father Mohr presented his poem to his friend, the teacher and music director Franz Xaver Gruber, who composed the tune for the guitar. After the Christmette, both Mohr and Gruber stood before the church manger scene and sang what has become the most beloved Christmas carol.

The church building where Stille Nacht was first performed, die Nikolauskirche, no longer stands. A decision was made in 1899 to build a new church, because the original church was constantly being flooded by the Salzach. An elevated mound, created from the debris of the demolished old church, now stands the small, octagonal Die Stille Nacht Kapelle, the Silent Night Chapel, which was dedicated in 1937. The Stille Nacht Museum is in a building behind it. The chapel is octagonal and quite small.

The commemorative bicentennial ceremony took place at 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve 2018, in front of the chapel. The local Schutzverein fired several musket-like pistols, called Prangers, from a hilltop above the town to signal the start of the celebration as local people in traditional costumes began to line the entrance. A choir performed Austrian Christmas music, then the Bürgermeister gave a short address in both German and English. The local priest read the Gospel from St. Luke before all 6 verses were sung, accompanied on guitar just as it was in 1818.

A wonderful play about the origin of Silent Night and the local folk customs of the town was performed on the balcony of the old water tower which faces the chapel for the diverse and international crowd who had gathered for the celebration.

Stephen Scull
Remembering World War I
by Ruth Reichmann

Sunday, November 11, 2018, marked the passing of 100 years since the end of World War I—the “war to end all wars.” In 1918, at “the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month,” in a forest near the French city of Compiegne, French, British, and German leaders met to sign an armistice that officially ended a horrific conflict that claimed the lives of more than 16 million people over four years.

An armistice is when both sides in a war agree to stop fighting while a peace treaty is negotiated. In the U.S. we commemorate November 11 as Armistice Day, which is now called Veterans Day. Veterans Day/Armistice Day in 2018 was an especially important event, since it marked one hundred years since the end of the first World War I. This anniversary was commemorated world-wide.

The Treaty of Versailles ended the state of war between Germany and the Allied Powers was signed on 28 June 1919 in Versailles, exactly five years after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, which led to the start of the war. When Archduke Ferdinand of Austria was assassinated in Sarajevo, Franz Joseph, the Emperor of Austria, King of Hungary, and monarch of many other states of the Austro-Hungarian Empire declared war on Serbia. This sparked disagreements over territory and boundaries, among other issues, and led to the outbreak of war. By the end of 1915, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, Germany and the Ottoman Empire were battling the Allied Powers of Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Belgium, Serbia, Montenegro and Japan. The U.S. entered the war in 1917 after the British passenger liner the Lusitania was sunk by a German submarine, killing 128 Americans.

With the end of WWI, four empires had collapsed, the Austrian-Hungarian Empire, the German, the Russian and the Ottoman Empires. New countries formed after WWI were Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland.

The Paris Peace Conference, convened in January 1919 at Versailles just outside Paris, was to establish the terms of the peace after the World War. Though nearly thirty nations participated, the representatives of Great Britain, France, the United States, and Italy became known as the "Big Four." The "Big Four" would dominate the proceedings that led to the formulation of the Treaty of Versailles that articulated the compromises reached at the conference. The Treaty of Versailles included a plan to form a League of Nations that would serve as an international forum and an international collective security arrangement. U.S. President Woodrow Wilson was a strong advocate of the League as he believed it would prevent future wars.

After four years of war, the armistice signed on 11 November 1918 was based on President Woodrow Wilson’s “Fourteen Points”. The Treaty of Versailles, however, sharply differed from Wilson’s points, and Germany, who felt betrayed, denounced the treaty as “morally invalid.”

The League of Nations had no power over its member states so it couldn't prevent WWII. What made the post-war peace so difficult was not simply the terms of the treaty, or the lack of enforcement. The political environment also played an important role in the inability of the Allies to forge a lasting peace.

WWI made the USA stronger because the United States was the nation that supplied the weaponry of other nations. The USSR was formed when Russia was angered with the annexation of Bosnia by Austria-Hungary, because they believed themselves to be the leaders of the Slavic people. British military and world power felt threatened by how Germany was economically growing at a rapid pace.

Germany became a de facto republic on 9 November 1918 when Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated the German and Prussian thrones without an agreement on a succession and became a de jure republic in February 1919 when the position of President of Germany was created. A national assembly was convened in Weimar, where a new constitution for Germany was written and adopted on 11 August 1919. The Weimar Republic became an unofficial historical designation for the German state from 1918 to 1933. The name derives from the city of Weimar, where its constitutional assembly first took

(Continued on page 13)
place. The official name of the republic remained Deutsches Reich unchanged from 1871. The Reich was changed from a constitutional monarchy into a republic. In English, the country was known simply as Germany.

World War II broke out exactly 20 years after the end of World War I and became known as the Second World War. It became a global war that lasted from 1939 to 1945. The vast majority of the world's countries—including all the great powers—eventually formed two opposing military alliances: the Allies and the Axis. WW II saw many technological advances from WW I like tanks and airplanes in the wake of the industrial revolution, “The Great War,” with its new machines of destruction and the enormity of the resulting death tolls, brought about a seismic shift in human consciousness.

Sunday, November 11 of 2018, marked the passing of 100 years since the end of World War I. Solemn ceremonies took place around the world to mark 100 years to the day since the Armistice that saw the end of World War I. World leaders and royals, members of the public, military veterans, took part in memorials around the globe. The French President Emmanuel Macron, had inaugurated a series of commemorators of the centenary, combining messages of commemorations with warnings about the recent growth of nationalism in the world. Macron led the international Armistice Day commemoration Sunday morning by the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, which lies at the foot of the Arc de Triomphe monument in Paris.

Sources

The Golden Years of Weimar

A man pushes a wheelbarrow full of worthless Reichsmarks. It’s 1923, the Reichsmark is worth one millionth of a dollar and is plummeting by the hour. Children treat the worthless paper as a plaything. Waiters announce new prices between courses of dinner. Housewives use banknotes as wallpaper.

Hyper-inflation stands out in our collective memory of Weimar Republic. The currency crisis captures the absurdity and chaos within post-WWI Germany and enabled the Nazis’ rise. Weimar is the historical tightrope that Germany wobbled upon between the devastation of WWI and the Third Reich.

Unfortunately, this narrative is both wrong and dangerous. It fundamentally misunderstands Weimar Germany and the lessons it can teach. While Weimar had significant flaws, it was also vibrant, creative, and progressive. Its failure was not pre-ordained but the result of a complex set of actors and circumstances. In the mid-1920s, Weimar entered a golden age of political stability and cultural advancement. Those forgotten years are worth revisiting.

By November 1918, it was apparent to generals and politicians that the war was unwinnable. Germany was running dangerously low on men and materiel. Two million German men had died at the front and the British blockade was strangling the nation’s economy, the troops were weary and fresh American troops were arriving each week in France. Riots, mutinies, and rebellions broke out among workers and sailors across Germany. Finally on November 9th, Kaiser Wilhelm abdicated after his top generals convinced him he had lost the army’s support. Two days later, the guns fell silent and Germany’s new civilian leaders took over a starving nation, broken both economically and spiritually.

In this uncertain period, rising unrest threatened to explode into full-scale civil war. Radical ideas gained currency and violence wracked Berlin. The disorder was so great that the government could not meet in Berlin to draft the new constitution. Instead, they chose Weimar.

From the ashes of an authoritarian empire, the delegates in Weimar forged a remarkably liberal and democratic government. They extended the vote to all adult citizens, enfranchising women for the first time. Their constitution also protected civil rights including: free speech, free assembly, a right to privacy, and freedom of religion. The delegates also expanded Germany’s welfare program and guaranteed universal childhood education. The government devised innovative tax breaks, grants, and loans to builders and homeowners. Overall, the Weimar constitution was among the most progressive constitutions of its
day.

The perception that Weimar Germany was mired in economic chaos from 1918 through the Great Depression ignores the significant boom of the mid-1920s that living standards for German workers. Gustav Stresemann, briefly chancellor and later foreign minister, helped stem hyperinflation by creating a new currency indexed to gold and backed by mortgages, the rentenmark. The rentenmark helped Germany regain the trust of international creditors, which aided economic expansion. The innovative and fast-growing German economy attracted American investors. In addition, renegotiating reparations payments under the Dawes Plan brought even more American capital to Germany.

After WWI, Germany’s was an international pariah. Again, Stresemann played a key role in restoring his nation’s prosperity. He signed multiple treaties with the Allied powers, including the Treaty of Locarno in 1925, which earned him the Nobel Peace prize. The following year Germany joined the League of Nations.

At the same time, women joined the workforce in record numbers. Ever more women attended universities and became doctors, lawyers, and scientists. The Weimar constitution guaranteed equal pay for equal work and the government was supposed to be an equal opportunity employer. Women also became socially active, with over one-million women had joined Germany’s largest feminist organization. In the 1920s, female elected officials were three times more common in Germany than in the UK and six times more common than in America.

Berlin was both the political and cultural capital of this new society. Throughout the 1920s, the city hosted social reformers and artistic visionaries. The drive for gender equality coincided with a sexual revolution too. Berlin opened the Institute for Sexual Research in 1919, which conducted scientific research on the previously taboo topic of sexual orientation. Within this more enlightened climate, the first gay rights movement was born. Berlin had dozens of gay bars and clubs and complex gay characters were common on stage and in novels. In 1929, a parliamentary committee recommended repealing anti-gay laws, a campaign that was just narrowly defeated by conservative opposition.

The progressive environment also fostered innovative artistic movements. Walter Gropius founded the Bauhaus school whose modernist style inspired architects and designers around the world. The Bauhaus attracted renowned instructors, including painters Paul Klee and Wassily Kandinsky, George Grosz and John Heartfield who often filled their works with strong political messages. Otto Dix’s Der Kreig questions the costs of war in fifty nightmarish and fantastical drawings. Fritz Lang’s classic Metropolis uses science fiction to grapple with issues of class, human nature, and technology.

Musical and literary works, such as the symphonies by Richard Strauss and pioneering musicals by Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill like Three Penny Opera. Jazz performers delighted crowds. Author Thomas Mann won the 1929 Nobel Prize for Literature and Erich Maria Remarque’s All Quiet on the Western Front remains the among the greatest anti-war books.

From 1918 to 1933, Germany won 20 Nobel Prizes featuring luminaries like Albert Einstein, Werner von Heisenberg, Fritz Haber and Carl Bosch. Lise Meitner and Otto Hahn did experiments that would later demonstrate the power and potential of nuclear fission. German factories were world leaders in the production of pharmaceuticals, electronics, cameras, and automobiles.

Weimar Germany not perfect, but the narrative of unmitigated catastrophe falls into the trap of reactionary conservatives. The “golden twenties” in Germany saw a young democracy find its footing and contribute to world culture and knowledge. The forward-thinking and liberal policies of the Weimar Republic were viciously attacked by right-wing enemies of democracy. When the Nazis took power, they destroyed this progress with breathtaking speed. Gays were persecuted and murdered, and women were pushed into traditional gender roles. New art was declared “degenerate” and atomic science was condemned as “Jewish.”

The open society of the 1920s closed forever when Hitler became chancellor. Artists, intellectuals, and scientists fled abroad in an unprecedented brain drain. Even today Germany has not recovered the cultural and scientific preeminence it had before 1933. The Nazi rise was not an inevitable consequence of a failed state, but a sudden and dramatic reversal in human progress. The Weimar Republic serves as both lesson and warning. It is a lesson in how quickly progress can be undone and a warning that every advance of must be jealously defended.

**Auf Deutsch!**

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832) was a German poet, novelist, playwright, natural philosopher, diplomat, civil servant. His body of work includes epic and lyric poetry, prose and verse dramas; memoirs; an autobiography; literary criticism; treatises on botany, anatomy, and color, four novels and over 10,000 letters.

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**Mailied**
by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Wie herrlich leuchtet
Mir die Natur!
Wie glänzt die Sonne!
Wie lacht die Flur!

Es dringen Blüthen
Aus jedem Zweig
Und tausend Stimmen
Aus dem Gesträuch,

Und Freud und Wonne
Aus jeder Brust.
O Erd, o Sonne!
O Glück, o Lust!

O Lieb, o Liebe!
So golden schön,
Wie Morgenwelken
Auf jenen Höhn!

---

**May Song**
German Translation by Richard Stokes

How gloriously
Nature gleams for me!
How the sun sparkles!
How the field laughs!

Blossoms burst
From every bough
And a thousand voices
From every bush

And delight and rapture
From every breast.
O earth, O sun!
O joy, O bliss!

O love, O love!
So golden fair
As morning clouds
On yonder hills!
Wednesday, March 13: Board Meeting, Stammtisch and Program: *The History & Rehabilitation of the South Side Turnverein Hall* presented by Architect Benjamin Ross of RATIO Architects. The presentation will provide an overview of the history and significance of the South Side Turnverein Hall and information on the building’s comprehensive 2017-2018 rehabilitation for a preservation-minded new owner."

Benjamin Ross has degrees in architecture, with a focus on historic preservation and sustainable design, and has been a historic preservation specialist with RATIO for the last 11 years. Ben works with a wide range of clients on projects to maintain and revitalize historic buildings and communities. Ben’s experience includes scholarly research, planning, design, and implementation for restoration, revitalization, rehabilitation, and adaptive reuse projects. He has many German-American ancestors, the earliest coming from Thuringia in 1738 and the most recent from Baden in 1880."

Wednesday, April 10: Stammtisch and Program: *German Cities, Jewish Spaces: Belonging, Sociability, & Cultural Transformation in the early 19th Century* by Dr. Simone Lässig, Director, German Historical Institute, Washington DC.

Dr. Simone Lässig is the director of the German Historical Institute Washington, DC and a cultural and social historian of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. She obtained her PhD from the Pedagogical University of Dresden for her thesis on "Military Political action of social democracy in Eastern Saxony". In 2003 she completed a study on the "gentrification of Jews in Germany" and received the 2004 Habilitation prize of the German Historians Association.

Wednesday, May 8: Board Meeting, Stammtisch and Program: *The History and Restoration of St. Mary Catholic Church in Lockerbie* by Jim Kienle and Jim Divita.

St. Mary's Catholic Church (St. Marienkirche) is a Roman Catholic Church situated in historic Lockerbie Square, which in its early years was known as Germantown, due to the numerous German immigrants living in the district starting in 1849. The German-speaking parish built their first church in 1858 to serve the city's growing German Catholic population. The present church at the corner of New Jersey and Vermont streets was completed in 1912. Designed by German-born architect Hermann J. Gaul in the late Gothic Revival style, it follows a cruciform plan modeled after the Cologne Cathedral in Cologne, Germany. The church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is currently undergoing restoration.

Preservation Architecture Consultant, James Kienle, has spent the majority of his more than 45 year architectural career specializing in preservation design; bringing new life to historic structures, campuses and urban environments. In 2016, he retired from Moody Nolan Inc., where he served as the Director of the Historic Preservation Studio. In recognition of his work in Preservation...
Design, he was elevated to the American Institute of Architects’ esteemed College of Fellows and Governor Frank O’Bannon awarded him the Sagamore of the Wabash for his pioneering work in Indiana Historic Preservation. He lives in an 1872 house that he restored in 1976 in Lockerbie Square.

James Divita, professor emeritus of history at Marian University in Indianapolis, has been an IGHS member since the mid-1980s and is presently an IGHS board member. His mother’s ancestors originated in West Preussen and settled in Chicago in the 1880s. He earned the Ph.D. in modern European history at the University of Chicago and taught at Marian for over 40 years. His research interest is in local ethnic and religious history. He has written a dozen Catholic congregational histories, and many journal, newspaper, and newsletter articles over the years. His most recent articles are on the origins of German religion in Indianapolis: the Catholic one stresses the development of St. Mary’s and Sacred Heart of Jesus parishes, the Protestant one on the beginnings of Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ and the two Missouri Synod Lutheran churches, St. Paul’s on Indianapolis’ southside and Zion Evangelical Lutheran in Hancock County.

Wednesday, June 8: Board Meeting, Stammtisch and Program: Germans in the New World of Indiana presented by William Selm.

The Germans arrived in the Indiana as pioneers and confronted the conditions of the wilderness. In the case of the Harmonists/Rappites, they carved out a religious communal colony in the wilds of Posey County on the banks of the Wabash. Soon after in the 1830s Indiana was flooded with land-hungry Germans seeking farmland and creating their own villages and towns such as Oldenburg and Ferdinand where they found opportunities working as craftsmen and merchants in these communities. Throughout the state growing rural communities founded more towns such as Hessen Cassel, Bingen, Darmstadt, Berne, and Hamburg.

William Selm is a co-founder of IGHS and the Athenaeum Foundation, the last historian of the Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission, adjunct faculty member for IUPUI, free-lance historian and tour guide. He has authored the Wegweiser: A self-guided tour of German-American sites in Indianapolis and Vonnegut’s Walking tour of Indianapolis, as well as entries in The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis.

As always, the programs are held at the Athenaeum, 401 E. Michigan St., Indianapolis. They are in English--free of charge and open to the public. Optional dinner and conversation at 6:30 p.m. with the program at 7:30 p.m. Dinner costs $15.00 per person (tax, ice tea, gratuity and parking included). Vegetarian option available. Complimentary parking: Athenaeum Parking Lot (east side of building). For questions contact Ron Flick at rflick1881@att.net or 812-309-2141.

Other Programs in Indianapolis

Friday, March 15 & Saturday, March 16: IGHS Annual Meeting and Symposium. See Page 1 of this Newsletter. Registration information and specifics will be in the next newsletter.

March 22, 2019, 9am – 2pm: One-Day Workshop on "Social Issues and the Civil Society" at Athenaeum, 401 East Michigan Street, Indianapolis. Speakers: Sven Schumacher, Honorary Consul; Marlene Walk, School of Public and Environmental Affairs, IUPUI.

Saturday, April 6, 2019: The Spring meeting of the Indiana Chapter, Palatines. Indianapolis Liederkranz, 1417 E. Washington St., Indianapolis. For more information see page 7 of this Newsletter or visit the Pal-Am website at http://www.palam.org.
Wednesday, April 10: Stammtisch and Program: *German Cities, Jewish Spaces: Belonging, Sociability, & Cultural Transformation in the early 19th Century* by Dr. Simone Lässig, Director, German Historical Institute, Washington DC. *This presentation will be held in lieu of at April Stammtisch at the IU-PUI Campus Center, Room 305, starting at 6 pm. Details on the time and place of the April board meeting will be sent out by email following the March annual meeting.*

**Friday, April 19, 10 a.m.: German Good Friday Service** at Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ, 603 North New Jersey Street, Indianapolis. The service is in German with easy to follow English translation. Info: 317-639-5411 or zioneucc.org. Admission is free.

**Saturday, April 27, St. Benno Fest at the Athenaeum.** Join St. Benno for the annual Spring Beer festival at the Athenaeum. For more information, visit: [http://www.athenaeumfoundation.org/events/](http://www.athenaeumfoundation.org/events/)

**Other Programs**

Saturday, March 9, 12 noon: *Eight Hours Don’t Make a Day*, a film by Rainer Werner Fassbinder.

Monday March 18, 7pm: *The Marriage of Maria Braun*, a film by Rainer Werner Fassbinder.

The Indiana University Cinema is an art film cinema located on the Indiana University campus in Bloomington, Indiana. The cinema is housed in the 1930’s era former University Theatre building located at 1213 E 7th St, Bloomington, IN 47406. Since opening in 2011, the Indiana University Cinema has hosted retrospectives for dozens of eminent filmmakers whose influence is felt every time the movie screen lights up. Their 2019 series will be offering a peek into the canon of this celluloid legend. Visit [https://cinema.indiana.edu/](https://cinema.indiana.edu/) for more information.

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
(please enter/ renew my membership) according to choices above.

Second person for family membership

Name: ____________________________________________________________

E-Mail: ____________________________________________________________

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City: ____________________________  State: ____  Zip Code: ______ - ______

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I would like to receive the IGHS Newsletter:

☐ E-Mail  ☐ US Mail

Specific Interests:

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

Knowledge of German Language:

☐ None  ☐ Some  ☐ Fluent

Knowledge of Old German Script (Sütterlin):

☐ None  ☐ Some  ☐ Good

I am willing to help with activities (Circle one):

☐ Yes  ☐ No

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

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

________________________________________________________________

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!
IGHS
35th Annual Meeting & Symposium
Indiana and Germany:
Education, Business, Culture -- Then and Now

Friday, March 15th & Saturday, March 16th

Inhalt

35th Annual Meeting & Symposium  5
Auf Deutsch  15
Calendar  15
FOW Report  6
Golden Years of Weimar  12
Good Bye and Auf Wiedersehen  2
Letter from the Max Kade Director  1
Model T Killed German Dialects  7
Remembering World War I  11
Stille Nacht Bicentennial  10