



THE AMBASSADOR

DER BOTSCHAFTER

A Publication of the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA®
Chartered as the United German-American Committee of the USA, Inc.

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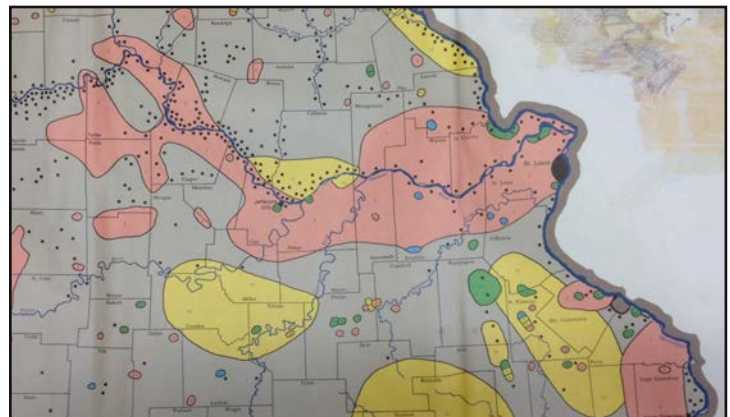
MISSOURI'S GERMAN HERITAGE CORRIDOR

In 1804, the United States purchased over 530 million acres of land they called the Louisiana Territory. It wasn't long before this new territory attracted settlers from across the ocean. This land was uncharted, fertile, inexpensive, and wide open. A young attorney named Gottfried Duden from Remscheid, Germany, took notice of this land rush and decided to investigate for himself. After a visit to the newly formed State called Missouri from 1824 to 1827, he published a small book on the subject. In 1829, A Report on a Journey to the Western States of North America described what some referred to as a veritable Garden of Eden, with rolling hills, wide fertile river valleys, and acre upon acre of inexpensive land. Even better, the land came with all of those American freedoms called Democracy, where one had the right to vote and the ability to pursue the American dream. This book was an instant best-seller; just the right words at just the right time. Thus, a new floodgate for German emigrants was opened. Within the decade of the 1830s over 120,000 Germans would emigrate to the United States with over a third of those settling in the State of Missouri, and many coming because of Duden's book.



That first decade of immigration saw huge groups of German emigrants that came from all walks of life, all religions, and all occupations. Soon they would be writing letters home to Germany, begging their friends and family to join them, and making suggestions for what to bring on the journey. In order to immigrate, families had closed their shops, sold all of their belongings and said farewell forever. Uprooting their families, they soon planted new roots on Missouri's beautiful hillsides. In the big city of St. Louis there were places where you could walk all day and never hear a word of English. Their traditions and culture were planted right alongside the vineyards and in their biergartens. With them came their singing societies, their Turner Verein, and the wine gardens, all to be unpacked and enjoyed again. Missouri was irresistible and soon transformed, as over half of all the immigrants in Missouri were German by the 1860 Census. Tiny German settlements dotted the landscape, but soon grew until they filled the state. They especially loved the Missouri River valley and thousands would choose this for their new home.

In 2015, the Missouri Humanities Council (MHC) Executive Director Dr. Steve Belko recognized the amount of German heritage that filled the state and created a new heritage program: the German Heritage Corridor. With Missouri's General Assembly also recognizing the importance of its German heritage, the sixteen counties of Boone, Chariton, Saline, Lafayette, Cooper, Howard, Moniteau, Cole, Callaway, Osage, Gasconade, Warren, Montgomery, Franklin, St. Charles, St. Louis, and the City of St. Louis, were officially signed into being by Governor Nixon on July 1, 2016 as the "German Heritage Corridor of Missouri." In the Fall/Winter 2016 issue of MoHumanities, MHC's biannual magazine, Belko states: "Although the particulars of this story center on Missouri, the Missouri Humanities Council expects national and even transatlantic interest in this project, due to both its scale and the vast percentage of Americans who trace their ancestry to Germany."



Map by Russel L. Gerlac, Settlement Patterns in Missouri,
University of MO Press, 1986

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OUR MISSION

The German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® is dedicated to preserve, educate and promote the cultural heritage of Americans of German-speaking ancestry and to be a leading voice of German-Americans in cultural and public policy matters in the USA.

We serve as a national membership organization through which Americans, proud of their German heritage and language, work together on vital issues of common concern.

The German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® was established in 1977 and chartered the following year as the United German-American Committee of the USA, Inc. as an independent, tax-exempt, educational not-for-profit organization.

We are committed to:

- Sharing a positive image of Americans of German-speaking heritage by focusing on their historical contributions to American society
- Strengthening the ethnic awareness and cooperation of German Americans
- Promoting the German language and culture
- Cultivating German-American friendship and cooperation
- Supporting cooperative efforts among German-Americans and their organizations

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Message from the Executive Director

Dear Members and Friends,

I have recently returned from St. Louis, Missouri, unquestionably one of the pillars of German-American history. During this trip, I was made aware of the diversity of programs and projects that exist to promote the heritage of Americans of German-speaking ancestry, but also the challenges many organizations are facing to keep their doors open.

I began my trip by learning about the German Heritage Corridor of Missouri from Steve Belko, Executive Director of the Missouri Humanities Council MHC. Approved now by State Legislation, this project documents the large and steady migration of Germans into Missouri. I hope you enjoy the article about the corridor. This project is the inspiration of our national German-American Heritage survey.

Engaging youth is one of the priorities of the GAHF. Allowing them to learn about their heritage and promote an active understanding not only of history, but also of current relationships between German speaking countries and the US is one of our goals. I was invited to the alumni event of St. Charles Sister Cities German Club, opened by the Mayor of St. Charles. The highlight of the evening was the exchange with the young participants of the program and their perceptions of Germany.

My host, Dorris Keeven-Franke, Executive Director of the Missouri Germans Consortium and member of many other organizations, also showed me the challenges many organizations are facing: declining memberships; aging populations and a lack of engagement with future generations; and a shortage of resources to preserve their buildings, to name a few. We have made it a priority to continue to support our clubs in outreach and visibility. We are creating more traveling exhibits and working in collaboration with others as we did with the Germanna Foundation and the German American Heritage Center. We want to see these iconic German-American clubs thrive.

Immigration is a topic that is on everyone's mind. This year, we have focused on highlighting the migration of Germanic people with their diverse backgrounds and traditions: the Volga-Germans that settled primarily in Kansas; the Zoar community of Ohio; immigrants to Missouri; and being the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, the Lutheran migration and its impact in the United States.

We invite you to be an active part of the German-American Heritage Foundation. Share with us your stories, nominate a German-American site, festival or tradition. Reach out to us if you are a club and interested in collaborating.

It is my goal to visit many of you this year and learn about your work and impact as well as create long lasting partnerships.

With deep appreciation,

Erika Harms
 Executive Director

Message from the President

Dear Members,

Immediately prior to the state visit of the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany Angela Merkel here in our Nation's capital, the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® announced the launch of the German-American Heritage Survey to every member of the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives.



Just as we are asking you, we asked for their help in nominating sites that showcase the breadth and depth of German-speaking settlement in this country. The German-American Heritage Survey is a major step forward to document and preserve historical and archaeological sites to tell the stories of German-speaking immigration to America, from 1607 at Jamestown through today.

As the survey results grow state by state, we will work with individual members, member clubs, and other partners to create heritage trails that will contextualize these sites to attract tourists from the U.S. and overseas to these destinations. We have had very significant talks with potential partners in Germany and Luxembourg to connect heritage trails of German-speakers in America across the Atlantic to pick up the trail back to the ancestral villages of those intrepid few to emigrate to the New World.

GAHF would like to invite you to be part of this initiative. Please e-mail Michael Heinen at our DC-based museum at heinen@gahmusa.org to receive a German-American Heritage Survey nomination form, and watch for the growing catalogue of sites to be made available on the website of our museum in Washington, DC at www.gahmusa.org.

You can help us in two more ways by calling Congress: First, the GAHF has asked that each Senator and member of Congress identify a staff member who can be our point of contact to nominate German-American sites of regional importance for inclusion in the German-American Heritage Survey. Please ask them who that staff member is.

Second, GAHF is encouraging each Senator and member of Congress to join the Congressional German-American Caucus so that German-American culture may be emphasized in strengthening our Nation's transatlantic ties. To join, Congressional staff should contact Erin Wilson with Congressman Glenn Thompson or Kerry O'Brien with Congressman William R. Keating, the co-chairs of the Congressional German-American Caucus. You can reach your Representative and both Senators by calling the Capitol switchboard at (202) 225-3121. Please email your results to Michael Heinen at the address above.

As a supporter of GAHF, I know you appreciate the timely importance of continuing to build strong transatlantic relationships through culture and heritage.

Thank you in advance for your good work!

Sincerely,

J. Marc Wheat
President

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The program explores the state's German heritage in five phases: Early Settlement (1819-1848), Revolutionary 1848-1875, Growth and Prosperity 1875-1914, World at War (1914-1945) and Modern (1945-present). To better understand and interpret these phases in Missouri's history, the project uses five themes: Environment (which includes the parks and trails), Demographics, Work and Technology, Institutions, and Values. According to Belko, all of this combined gives us a much greater picture of the state's German heritage. From the little village of Dutzow, where they first settled alongside Duden's Missouri farm, to the huge City of St. Louis, this heritage can still be found today. It is heard at the St. Charles Oktoberfest in the fall and or Hermann's Maifest in the spring. It is tasted in the wineries near Augusta, which lies in the first such designated American Viticultural Area in the U.S., or in the breweries in St. Louis. It is also heard in the voices of the Damenchor as they practice in the German Cultural Society's hall, or the young children's voices as they practice their German at the St. Louis German School. Sometimes, we come upon it by surprise when we discover the German settlement of Munichburg inside Jefferson City, our state capital.



From one end of our State to another, our German heritage encompasses more than just the Corridor; its inventory gathers the stories, the history, the festivals, and the places that help us identify with our German ancestry. Collecting the organizations that still exist, some of which are nearly 200 years old, help us to better understand our ancestors' lives. This German American identity is what sets us apart and makes us proud. We take pride in this heritage and celebrate its history. When our ancestors left Germany's shores, they came packed with all of this. Today, we must take responsibility and see that it is not lost. We must first gather the information and slowly unpack it, share it, and celebrate it, in order to ensure future generations may know and appreciate our German American heritage.

— Dorris Keeven-Franke, Executive Director, Missouri Germans Consortium

BALTIMORE IMMIGRATION MUSEUM

On March 24, our Executive Director was invited to view the recently opened Baltimore Immigration Museum. She was welcomed by GAHF members Brigitte and Nicholas Fessenden, drivers of this monumental endeavor.

The Immigration Museum honors and educates about Baltimore's significant immigration history between 1830 and 1914 and the role it played in the peopling of America — commemorating the 1.5 million European immigrants who first set foot on American soil in Baltimore.

In 1868, an official immigrant ship landing site was established in Locust Point by the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and the North German Lloyd Steamship Company, connecting "sail to rail" and enabling immigrants to travel west if they chose.

In 1904, the German Evangelical United Church of Christ on Beason Street decided to build a large, 3-story house next to their church building to accommodate and assist newly arrived immigrants and their children who had no place to go, as well as sailors in transition.



Ribbon cutting at the
Baltimore Immigration Museum
left: Dr. Nicholas Fessenden
right: Brigitte Fessenden

The Museum exhibit is located on the first floor; it chronicles the history of the "Great Wave of Immigration" (19th century and early 20th century) and Baltimore's role as an immigration gateway to America by telling the stories of the major ethnic groups who arrived here: Germans, Irish, Poles, Jews, Lithuanians, Czechs, Italians, and Greeks. The planning and research for exhibitions on current immigration patterns into Baltimore (Hispanic, Asian) and the history of African-American and Southern migration into Baltimore is under way.

Future plans consist of a complete historic renovation of the immigrant house to National Park Service standards and expanding the museum exhibits to the second floor.

— Brigitte and Nicholas Fessenden, Baltimore Immigration Museum

UPCOMING EVENTS

Historic Zoar Village Traveling Exhibit March 24 — May 26

Throughout Spring 2017, the German-American Heritage Museum of the USA™ in Washington, D.C. will feature a temporary exhibit that commemorates the 200th anniversary of Historic Zoar Village, Ohio, and shares the story of how German immigrants created one of America's most successful communal settlements.



"We are excited to share Zoar's German roots all across the country," says Tammi Mackey-Shrum, site manager – Historic Zoar Village. "Throughout 2017, the exhibit will travel to a variety of museums and cultural centers focused on both German-American history and the utopian societies of the 19th century. There is no greater place for the exhibit to make its debut than at the Heritage Museum – the foremost institution for sharing America's German story with visitors from around the world."

The German Separatists who founded Zoar fled religious persecution in their homeland of Württemberg. In 1817, 200 men and women arrived on the banks of the Tuscarawas River in northeast Ohio and began building a communal settlement that would last until 1898. The Separatists thrived on agriculture but also applied their work ethic and entrepreneurial spirit to other endeavors, such as helping to construct a portion of the Ohio and Erie Canal, creating a "Zoar-style" of furniture for export, and building a popular tourist destination for weekenders in the mid-1800s.

In addition to highlighting these and other aspects of Zoar life, the exhibit also includes a three-dimensional replica of the Zoar Garden – a 2.4-acre, scripture-inspired meditative space that remains the centerpiece of the village today – and displays of Zoar artifacts including furniture, tools, pottery and art.

Lecture Ambassador of Liechtenstein Kurt Jaeger Wednesday, April 19



The German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® and the Embassy of Liechtenstein welcome Ambassador Kurt Jaeger of the Embassy of Liechtenstein, who will give an introduction to the history, form of government, international engagement, and US interests in Liechtenstein in a casual setting. Refreshments will be served. RSVP kindly requested.

Ambassador Jaeger was appointed Ambassador to the United States in 2016. Prior to this post, he served as Ambassador to the European Union and Belgium. He has 25 years of experience in international regulatory affairs, 15 of which were in the airline industry and civil aviation administration. — This event is co-sponsored by the Embassy of the Principality of Liechtenstein.

The Missouri Immigrant Experience: FACES AND PLACES Exhibit June - July

"FACES AND PLACES" is a collection of contemporary and archival photography, and is particularly relevant as it celebrates the irrefutable role of immigrants in the development of St. Louis and Missouri, and simultaneously illuminates the human side of immigration in Missouri today. Early in the 19th century, Missouri began welcoming waves of immigrants from Germany and Ireland, followed by Italian, Polish, Greek, and Eastern-European Jewish communities establishing themselves closer to the turn of the century. By 1900, St. Louis, Missouri was the fourth largest city in America, and one of the most predominately foreign born in the entire country.

THE MISSOURI IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE "FACES AND PLACES" exhibit from the Missouri Immigrant and Advocates, was curated by Danny Gonzales and features photos by Juan Montana, Amela Sinanagic, Oscar Pedroza and Rita Chu. This project was done in support of the German Heritage Corridor of Missouri, and in partnership with the Missouri Germans Consortium and the Missouri Humanities Council.



—Dorris Keeven-Franke, Executive Director, Missouri Germans Consortium

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS - PASTOR HAUG

In 1976, one of the dreams of Pastor Dr. Hans R. Haug became a reality, when leaders of the German-American community gathered in Philadelphia to conceive an organization that would speak as one voice for the interests of the largest minority group of the United States – the German-Americans. In 1977, the organization was chartered under the name of United German-American Committee, Inc. In November 1980, this was amended to: United German-American Committee of the USA, Inc.

Rev. Haug was born in Tübingen, Germany on March 30th, 1924. He came to the USA in 1948 with a scholarship to the Theological Seminary in Mr. Airy, Pennsylvania and a year later completed a Masters at the Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University, NY. In 1950, he returned to Germany and was ordained in 1952. In 1956, he returned to Philadelphia and in 1958, he became the Pastor of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Philadelphia. In 1974, he undertook the construction of a new church where he served his bilingual congregation until his passing.



Rev. Dr. Hans R. Haug

Rev. Haug was an activist. He was convinced that German-Americans had to raise their profile and stress the contribution of German-Americans to the founding and strengthening of the United States of America. When the German Consulate in Philadelphia was closed, Rev. Haug felt the void and facilitated the cooperation and dialogue between several German-American clubs in Philadelphia until they created the Deutsch-Amerikanisches Komitee. Local leaders who were involved included Dr. George Beichl, Harry Schaub, Carl Schmollinger, and Fritz Weber.

With the celebration of the country's bicentennial, Dr. Haug saw an opportunity to show the role that German-Americans had played in the history of this great nation; he used the opportunity to promote unity among German-American groups. Dr. Haug served as the Chairman of the Ethnic Committee of the City of Philadelphia's Bicentennial Commission.

He knew the time was right for the creation of an organization that would aim to speak as a united voice for German-Americans at a national level. To that extent, in 1976 he engaged a group of influential German-American Leaders, who convened primarily in Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey. Amongst them were Erich Ast, Helmut and Elizabeth Krueger, Bernie Freitag, and Fred Hansen. The road was not easy, but Dr. Haug was a charismatic and persuasive orator who inspired numerous talented and like-minded people to dedicate themselves to achieving these shared goals.

On June 5, 1977 in a meeting held at Cannstatter Volksfest Verein, Dr. Haug achieved his shared vision and the United German-American Committee, Inc. (UGAC) / Vereinigtes Deutsch-Amerikanisches Komitee (VDAK) was established.

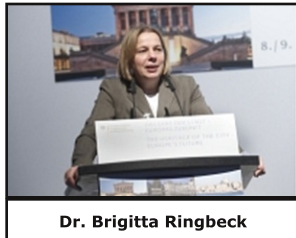
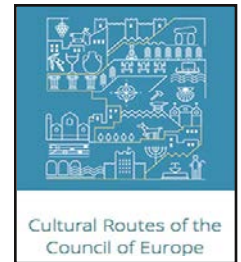
Rev. Haug was elected the 1st President. He was adamant that German-Americans had to deepen their awareness of our history and heritage, and stressed the importance of building on the past to forge ties for the future between the USA and Germany, not only at the level of government and business, but also on the individual level as well.

Dr. Haug was awarded the Cross of Merit 1st Class on March 14, 1979 by Walter Scheel, President of the Federal Republic of Germany. Rev. Haug passed away on September 15, 1980, leaving behind his wife, Marianne, and daughter Dorothea, and those that continued to build what is now the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA®.



BUILDING TRANSATLANTIC ROADS

During the last Board meeting of the GAHF, strengthening the transatlantic relationships became a high priority. The ties between Americans of German-speaking ancestry and their places of origin has been strong and those ties remain even today. Through exchange programs, sister-cities, studies abroad and ancestry trips, we bring the continents together. Our recent initiative: to inventory the German-American heritage sites, and link them through routes, as another way to create closer ties.



Dr. Brigitta Ringbeck

During my last trip to Berlin, Germany, I had the opportunity to present the German-American survey project to Dr. Birgitta Ringbeck. Dr. Ringbeck is Adviser to the Secretary in the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, and a member of the World Heritage Committee as well as of the Council of ICCROM, The German Commission for UNESCO, and ICOMOS amongst others.

Dr. Ringbeck is also leading, within the Federal Foreign Office, the EU project "Culture Routes of Europe," an initiative hosted by the Government of Luxembourg. Very much like the German-American routes, the European routes demonstrate a journey not only through space, but also through time, and how the heritage of the different countries and cultures of Europe contributed to a shared and common way of life. It brought to mind our recent Volga-German Exhibit and their cultural route. With the Reformation being celebrated this year, these routes become ever more relevant. Reformation routes started in Germany, grew throughout Europe and finally came to America, with at least five defined cultural routes. Needless to say that our conversation has just begun.

Our next stop: Der Bundestag. We were welcomed by Abgeordneter (Representative) Volkmarr Klein – CDU Siegen-Wittgenstein. He was also fascinated by the idea of building the cultural routes, bringing Siegen home to the Germanna migrants. His main interest, however, was in demonstrating the impact of the modern transatlantic relationship as well. He was also intrigued by our initiative to get proclamations by state that would showcase the economic impact of German and German-Americans in those states. He suggested developing a similar approach for those states with large migrating populations to the US, but also with large US economic influx. We look forward to working with Abgeordneter Klein and his team.



Volkmarr Klein

— Erika Harms, Executive Director

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PAST EVENTS

Book Reading and Discussion with Author Jonathan Huston, 2/8/2017

The GAHF partnered with the Embassy of the Principality of Liechtenstein to welcome guests and members for a book reading and discussion with distinguished author Jonathan Huston. The evening began with introductory remarks from Kurt Jaeger, Ambassador of Liechtenstein to the US; the book talk was moderated by Dr. Astrid Weigert, Teaching Professor, Department of German, Georgetown University. Bilingual writer Jonathan Huston read from several of his published and unpublished works, including excerpts of English translations from his collection of German short stories, *Mondstaub – Erzählungen*, which was published in March 2016 by the van Eck Verlag in Liechtenstein and presented at the Leipzig Book Fair. The title story of his collection was included in the Best European Fiction 2017 anthology published by Dalkey Archive Press. The GAHF would like to thank the Embassy of Lichtenstein for co-sponsoring this event and author Jonathan Huston for sharing his captivating stories with us.



Stammtisch, 2/15/2017



Stammtisch is a popular German tradition where people gather in an informal setting to socialize and discuss common interests. Our *Stammtisch* events also give the local community an opportunity to practice their German and it is a popular networking event. Set up around the GAHM's latest exhibit *Unter unser Leit: Finding Kansas's Volga-Germans*, attendees learned about the history of the more than 100,000 Volga-Germans who immigrated to the United States in the late 19th century along with their achievements and contributions to the US. Wishing to provide an assortment of cultural programming, the GAHF looks forward to hosting more *Stammtisch* events throughout 2017.

Fruehschoppen, 3/4/2017

A popular pastime at the GAHF, we welcomed guests to our first *Fruehschoppen* of 2017 on Saturday, March 4th. *Fruehschoppen*, which means "early glass," is a popular Bavarian and Austrian tradition where friends typically meet for food and drink. The highlight of this *Fruehschoppen* was the exhibit "Unter unser Leit: Finding Kansas's Volga-Germans" and the documentary screening of *Children of the Steppe*, *Children of the Prairie*, courtesy of Prairie Public Broadcasting. Guests also enjoyed German refreshments, including Bavarian-style pretzels and Weisswurst.



Easter with the Alpine Dancers & Singers, 4/8/2017



Numerous visitors and families gathered at the GAHM for our first Easter celebration. Children enjoyed the Easter egg hunt and quickly found all the hidden Easter eggs around the museum. Later that afternoon, we welcomed GAHF member club, the Alpine Singers, who sang a repertoire of folk music in German and in a regional German or Austrian dialect. We also welcomed the Alpine Dancers who performed a variety of southern German and Austrian dances. Adding to the program, GermanFoods.org opened a stand complete with an assortment of authentic German products. The GAHF was delighted to host its first Easter event and we look forward to welcoming families next Easter.

IN MEMORIAM

Horst William Stabenow

July 2, 1934 — February 15, 2017†



Horst William was born on July 2, 1934 in Düsseldorf, Germany. He emigrated to Canada in 1954 where he pursued his taste for culinary arts as a chef. There he also met and married his late wife Gabriella. After a short time, he was offered a more lucrative position at IBM involving the operational functions of the securities industry. In 1965, he joined Baker Weeks New York where he became a partner and vice president. In 1970, the firm was restructured and as a result, he accepted a position with John Nuveen & Co. where he advanced to the position of vice president and treasurer.

Horst Stabenow took pride in his German heritage. In addition to his professional life, he discovered the "Deutscher Club of Clark" and the presence of his German cultural heritage. His passion in this arena led him to eventually become an honorary president of the Deutscher Club of Clark and also served him well in nurturing his efforts, which included a multitude of German-American organizations, namely: The German-American Society of NY, German-American Steuben Society of the Greater New York area, Schwaben Verein of Chicago, Schwaben International-Germany, German-American Heritage Foundation in Washington, DC, and the German-Bohemian Heritage Society of Minnesota.

Horst was also the main facilitator for bringing more than 50 bands from Germany to the United States, including New York, New Jersey, Chicago and Pennsylvania. His goal was to grow the hearts of Americans to the German culture.

Last but not least, Horst Stabenow was our Regional Vice President and in such he supported us with a major contribution towards acquiring Hockemeyer Hall to become our National Headquarters and the first German-American Heritage Museum of the USA™ in Washington, DC.

He is survived by his devoted son, Gerald Stabenow, his wife Holly Lytell, and his cherished grandchildren, Isis and Ian.

2017 MEMBERSHIP DUES

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- ☐ Yes, I/we want to also support the Annual Operating Fund of the German-American Heritage Museum of the USA™ and the Foundation offices:

<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Donation for 2017 Operations	\$ _____
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By including the German-American Heritage Foundation in your will, you help us to preserve, promote, and educate about the impact of Americans with German-speaking ancestry in building our nation; and to excite the next generations to rediscover their roots while strengthening the political, cultural, and economic transatlantic relations.

You can also name GAHF as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy or your retirement plan (such as 401(k), 403(b), IRA or other pension plan). By naming GAHF as a beneficiary, you maintain complete control over the plan while living, but at your passing the plan passes to GAHF free of both income and estate taxes.

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