

Der Botschafter

# THE AMBASSADOR

German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA, Inc.



Spring 2023

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**GAHF to Support  
Congressional Bill  
to Address WWII  
Internment of  
German Americans**

Find out more on p. 22



### German Roots of Washington, DC

Learn about the fascinating history of Washington's German past: from the design of the U.S. Capitol to the place where Lincoln took his last breath.



### Book Launch Party at GAHM

Debut author and GAHF member Ray Kessler celebrates successful completion of his novel "A Face in the Night."

### The German-American Audio Connection

Explore the German influence on the development of audio recording.

### German Texas Heritage Society

Texas's first public school was a German creation inspired by pioneer settlers in the 1850s.

### Transatlantic Con- nections Exhibit at GAHM

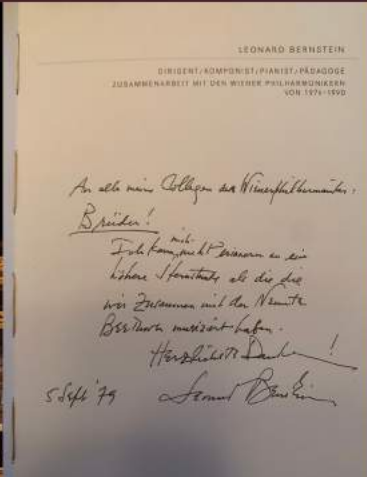
Discover the unique role of the U.S.-German relationship with its ongoing exchange of people, ideas & innovations.



From Page 1: Imperial Hofburg Palace in Vienna

Amidst an amazing collection of musical instruments from seven centuries, the Hofburg Palace in Vienna, formerly the residence of the Habsburg emperors and now a series of museums, also displays an invention by Benjamin Franklin: a glass harmonica made of 37 tuned glass bowls. Franklin was inspired to create this instrument after a visit to England in 1761.

The same building houses the Habsburg Treasure Chamber which holds the Imperial Crown, or Reichskrone, of The Holy Roman Empire. The crown was in use from ~962 to 1806 when the Empire dissolved.



The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, founded in 1842, is world famous and its beautiful concert hall, the Musikverein, is also a wonderful ball venue. Every January, the musicians pack up their instruments after a beautiful opening fanfare and musical interlude, and dance the night away. At a Viennese ball, all ladies get a small present, the *Damen-spende*; this year it was a linen-bound notebook with quotes from renowned musicians, such as Leonard Bernstein. The American composer, conductor, and pianist collaborated with the Vienna Philharmonics from 1976 to 1990. The note expresses his gratitude and joy at having played Beethoven's Ninth in Vienna.

Images provided by Katja Sipple

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# *A Word From Your President*

Spring is just around the corner. We feel it in the air. A time for renewal, growth, and expansion. We seem to have that extra energy and focus to be physically active, take action, and create change. Change is hard. We hear and say it often. However, change is something we desire and strive for; whether that means abandoning a bad habit, developing new skills, or making a big life change, we have all experienced the desire to make a change in our lives. The same is true of foundations like ours.

Recently, we reaffirmed our desire to remain in Washington, D.C. as our national headquarters. Two of our founders who were Distinguished German Americans that we honored in 2019, Helmut Krüger and Fred Hansen, have emphasized that it was always part of our vision to have a presence in Washington, D.C. Pastor Dr. Hans Haug, who in 1976, inspired by the Bicentennial Celebration, conceived an organization that would be the voice to speak for the interests of German Americans across the country, realized that this organization, whatever its final name, would have to be located in the nation's capital city to achieve the desired impact.

Regrettably, Pastor Haug, who according to Helmut, was a very charismatic and energetic individual, died far too young at age 56 in 1980, and never saw his dream come to fruition.

We believe that with the right strategic plan for the future, the long-anticipated creation of an endowment, a scholarship fund, and dedicated Officers, Board members and staff, that D.C. is indeed very much the right place for us. Let us all fulfill Pastor Haug's wish as we look towards the future with new energy and creative ideas, and prepare to plan for our 50th anniversary celebration in 2026/2027!

My thanks to all reading this message for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Donald D. Thureau  
President



# *A Word From Your Executive Director*

Dear Members and Friends,

2023 is shaping up to be a year of change, transition, and transformation for GAHF. Right now you are looking at the first tangible sign of this change: the newly revised Ambassador newsletter, which we hope to turn into a biannual magazine for the entire German American community—although you certainly don't have to be of German-speaking descent to enjoy the articles and insights provided in this issue. Please feel free to share your copy or the link to our Website with your own network of friends who might enjoy reading about German Americana. Change is always challenging, as it usually means more work and things don't always go as envisioned. My maternal grandmother, a very wise woman as well as a contemporary and neighbor of Henry Kissinger when he still lived in the Northern Bavarian town of Fürth, always said that life has a way of disrupting the best-laid plans.

The global COVID-19 pandemic has certainly caused a lot of disruptions, and we are just now returning to normal. After a two-year pause, we once again featured the ever popular German classic comedy "Die Feuerzangenbowle" starring Heinz Rühmann, and treated people to the rum-laced punch that gave the film its name. If you want to try your hand at this delicious concoction of red wine, citrus fruits, spices, sugar and Austrian rum, please visit [www.gahmusa.org](http://www.gahmusa.org) for a simple, but tasty and potent, recipe.

Our exhibit Transatlantic Connections shone a spotlight on the close partnership between the United States and Germany, and our March 3 lecture "Inherit the Truth—Culture of Remembrance in German-American Encounters" with Martin Kaiser from the Gustav Stresemann Institute for Civic Education in Bad Bevensen, Germany examined the differences and similarities between how

Americans and Germans deal with history and national trauma. If you were unable to attend the lecture in person, please visit our Website and/or our YouTube channel to watch a recording free of charge. As always, there is even more information, including many photos, on our Facebook and Instagram pages and on our YouTube channel. Please follow us and/or subscribe if you haven't done so already. Use this linktree to quickly and easily find us online: <https://linktr.ee/Gahmusa>

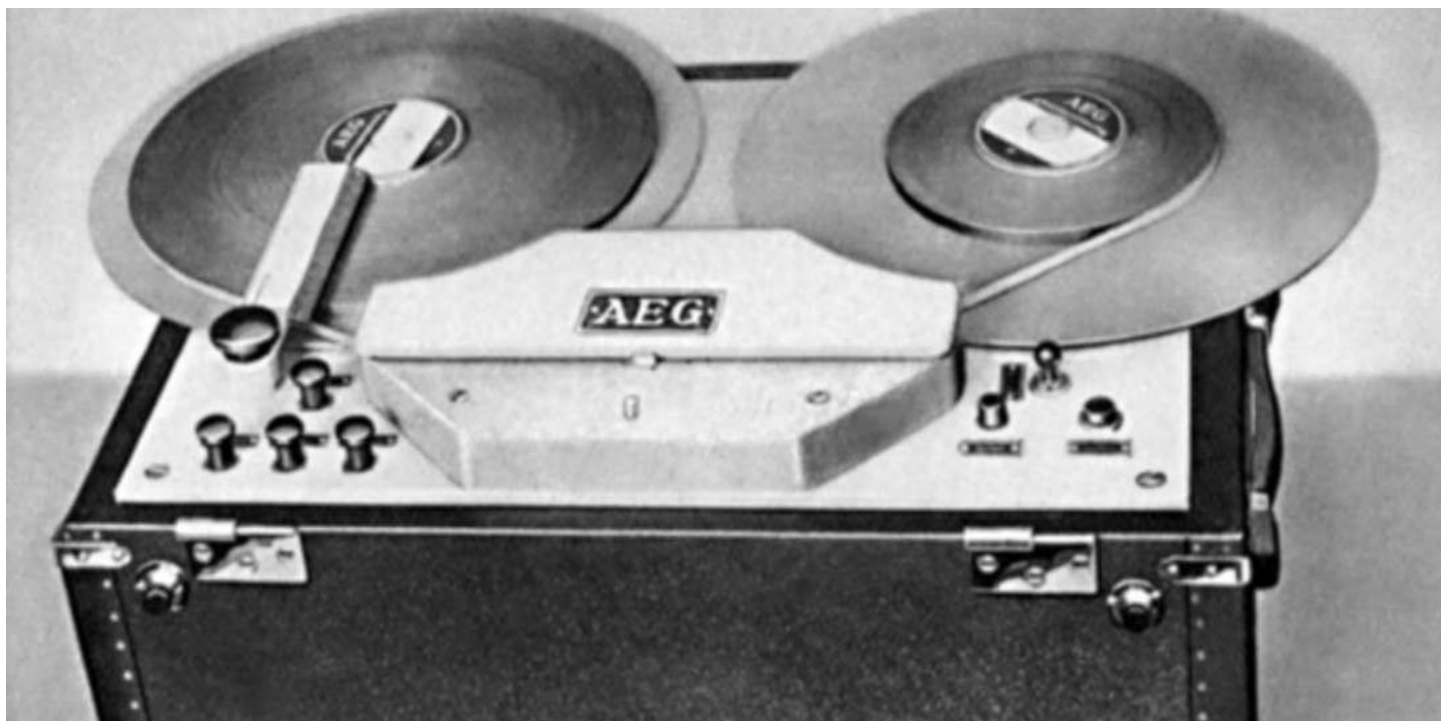
With the redesign of the newsletter completed, we are now focusing on other objectives, which include the creation of an official endowment to secure GAHF's future as a national German American umbrella organization, and the development of a scholarship program for young German Americans to help educate and prepare the next generation of leaders. If you are interested in contributing to our scholarship fund or would like to create a named or legacy scholarship to honor a loved one, please contact me directly at [sipple@gahmusa.org](mailto:sipple@gahmusa.org).

That also goes for story ideas and contributions to our next issue of the newsletter. Thank you to everybody who has written to us, and if your article did not make it into this issue, please be assured that we have received it and will save it for the next one. Happy Spring, auf Wiedersehen und bis bald.

Yours sincerely,

Katja Sipple  
Executive Director





# The German American Audio Connection

*By Dr. Toby Mountain, Adjunct Professor of Music Technology at The George Washington University*

If you ask random people on the street how audio recording began and developed, you'll get a whole slew of answers. Teeangers might simply point to their iPhones. An older adult would tell you it was the digital recording revolution of the 80s. And if you could conjure up your great grandfather's ghost, he'd probably say it was Edison's phonograph.

All of these answers are correct. Sound recording has been around for more than 125 years, starting with the phonograph in the late 19th century and culminating with digital technology and the Internet in the early 2000s. But your respondents might leave out one critical advancement from the 20th century. It was invented and developed in Germany, and after World War II, introduced and fostered in America. We are talking, of course, about magnetic tape which revolutionized not only the music industry, but the video and computer industries as well.

Magnetic recording was a theoretical concept in the early part of the 20th century, but it took a German chemical engineer named Fritz Pfeumer to put it into practice. Pfeumer had gained notoriety creating the stylish "gold tipped" cigarettes—all the rage in the late 1920s—by fusing bronze powder to cigarette paper. He was well acquainted

with the properties of magnetic recording and believed he could come up with a viable alternative to the phonograph. He glued iron shavings to long paper strips, wound them onto reels and passed them over an electro-magnetic transducer fed by a microphone, which imprinted magnetic fluctuations onto the paper. He called his invention the "sound record carrier", or *Langschrifträger*, and it is considered the first real working tape recorder.

Pfeumer's efforts caught the interest of AEG-Telefunken in Berlin (the German General Electric), which acquired his patent in 1931 and set about making improvements. The first priority was to replace Pfeumer's flimsy paper strips with a robust material appropriate for mass production. Huge sheets of cellulose acetate, already used in the film industry, were sprayed with a mix of lacquer and carbonyl iron compound, slit into 6.5 mm wide strips and wound onto individual hubs. Magnetic tape was born.

Back in Berlin, AEG made a series of mechanical and electrical improvements to Pfeumer's original design. Chief engineer Eduard Schüller invented a curved electromagnet "head", or *Ringkern-Magnetkopf*, for more accurate recording. The tape path was optimized with three separate motors for playback, rewind, and fast forwarding.

By 1935 they had a working prototype named the “Magnetophon” which debuted at the Berlin Audio Fair to great acclaim.

One reporter from “Aus Aller Welt” exclaimed enthusiastically, “the Magnetophon can be put into motion and the iron particles will capture the gratifying music.”

But there were shortcomings to the sound. One early Magnetophon recording from 1936 of the visiting London Philharmonic Orchestra reveals an abundance of surface noise, static, and distortion, no better than a phonograph system. So the AEG engineers went back to the drawing board, searching for audio quality that matched the attractive qualities of the tape: long recording times, with easy editing and reuse.

A breakthrough came in 1939, almost by accident, when an AEG engineer named Walter Weber discovered a phenomenon known as AC bias, or *Hochfrequenz-Vormagnetisierung* in German, which stabilized the oscillation of the magnetic field, and resulted in a huge improvement in fidelity, making the Magnetophon the best recording device in the world.

The Berlin-based German radio station, the Reichs-Rundfunk-Gesellschaft, began using this wonderful new recording medium for all of their in-house concerts and sessions. Over the next four years, over 2,000 magnetic tape recordings were made of classical and jazz ensembles, most notably the Berlin Philharmonic under the baton of Wilhelm Fürtwangler.

Remarkably, the rest of the world was completely unaware of this discovery until the war ended in 1945.

An American signal corps sergeant named Jack Mullin, stationed in London, wondered why re-broadcasts from German radio always sounded as good as a live performance, with none of the phonograph’s telltale crackles, pops and surface noise. Mullin guessed that the Germans possessed some sort of amazing new recording technology.

When the war ended, Mullin was assigned to the U.S. Army’s FIAT initiative, to search for any unusual equipment at German broadcast facilities. He stumbled upon a small radio station in Bad Nauheim outside of Frankfurt, where several Magnetophons were in use. After hearing a tape played back for him, he later exclaimed, “I’d never heard anything like that in my life before. This was the great revolution as far as I was concerned.”

Mullin had the transports of two Magnetophons packed up and shipped, along with fifty reels of German type “L” tape, to his mother’s address in San Francisco.

After he got home, Mullin spent the next two years improving the electronics of his two Magnetophons, while promoting the new format. Word spread quickly, and within a year, a Bay Area wartime manufacturer Ampex began manufacturing magnetic tape machines. Soon, major artists like Bing Crosby, Merv Griffin, and Les Paul were showcasing the technology. By 1950, almost every radio station and recording studio in the United States had adopted magnetic tape for recording.

The revolution did not stop there. Over the next twenty years magnetic tape’s usage extended into the video and computer industries. Then came the development of the multitrack tape recorder, which allowed artists to stagger performances in time and mix them together to a final master. John Coltrane made experimental stereo recordings in the 1950s. The Beatles graduated from 2- to 4- to 8-track in the 1960s. By the mid 1970s, hundreds of bands like Queen were using 24-track recorders to build complex arrangements and manipulate the sound with amazing dexterity. Today’s digital audio software still mimics the inherent geometry of the multitrack analog recorder: unlimited tracks piled up vertically, moving linearly through time on a computer screen.

Historians can easily relegate magnetic tape to the long list of “confiscated technologies” after the war. But the impact on our culture was far deeper and more meaningful. The next time you bring up that cherished playlist on your iPhone or laptop, remember Germany’s contribution to the music world.



Visit <https://youtu.be/s3TtzxekEYg> to learn more about the German American inventor of the gramophone record, Emile Berliner, in this GAHF video.



# The American Vosslers have Roots in Tuningen

*By Tom Vossler, Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired) & Military Historian*

In March 1853, three friends in their early twenties, Christian Vosseler (German spelling), Agatha Kaiser, and Christian Gallmann, left their families and their small home village of Tuningen in the Kingdom of Württemberg for America. Arriving in New York in May 1853, the two men initially found work on a farm mid-state near Utica where Agatha also worked as a seamstress. Christian Vossler (American spelling) and Agatha Kaiser married later that year in Utica. The following year of 1854, found the three friends relocated to the rural, forested, hill country of Allegany County, in south-central New York State very near the Pennsylvania state line about 70 miles southeast of Buffalo, New York.

The area appealed to them in part because with its forests and rolling hills, it looked much like their childhood home on the edge of the Black Forest 90 kilometers southwest of Stuttgart near the origins of the Danube River. Also, many German-born families had already settled in the Allegany County area. The two men went to work in a local saw mill. They each purchased their own plots of land on Niles Hill, near the settlement which came to be known as Wellsville, New York. Fully engaged

six days a week at the mill, they spent what spare time they had working together to build their log cabins and barns. In true pioneer spirit they blazed interconnecting farm lanes and roads through the forest among the watchful eyes of the local bears, panthers, and deer. The two Christians took part of their compensation from working in the saw mill in the form of finished lumber with which they improved their rustic but sturdy homes and barns and also built their church in the village of Wellsville. In 1857, Maria Braunschweiger, Christian Gallmann's friend from Tuningen, arrived in America and joined the trio of friends in Wellsville. Maria and Christian Gallmann married that year.

Over time additional land was purchased on Niles Hill and added to the Vossler family homestead. Christian and Agatha prospered not only in their hard work and labors on their farm but in raising their family. Between 1856 and 1875, 13 children were born to Christian and Agatha. Their children in turn kept the Vosseler / Vossler family tree growing. Christian and Agatha died in 1916 and 1917 leaving a wonderful family legacy. The family Ahnentafel, German for family tree, records six generations of Voss-



elers in Germany before Christian were born back to the year 1640. There are seven generations of Vosslers in America since Christian and Agatha's generation to the present time.

In September 2022, GAHF member Tom Vossler and three of his American Vossler cousins and their spouses, conducted a pilgrimage to the Heimatland of their great-great-ancestors Christian and Agatha Vosseler. The village of Tuningen lies in the Schwarzwald-Baar District of Baden-Wuerttemberg, a few kilometers east of The Black Forest.

The American visitors were hosted in Tuningen by their "German cousins" with surnames of Vosseler and Braunschweiger, descendants of Christian Vossler's "family tree" who had remained in Germany in the 1800s rather than emigrate to America. More than half of the village of Tuningen had been destroyed by a devastating fire in 1860. The village was rebuilt after the fire but still closely resembled the village which Christian and Agatha would have remembered from their youth. The American visitors were taken by their "German cousins" to those areas of the village where they were able to walk in the footsteps of their ancestors.

Included in the walking tour guided by the German cousins was the village neighborhood known as "The Hasenloch" where the family homes of the two Christians once stood. Also, the much re-modeled, but still standing, church where the two boys had been baptized and confirmed was visited, the church steeple still occupied now as then with a stork's nest. The site where the boys' elementary school once stood was visited, the original building destroyed by the 1860 fire. Also visited was the village

cemetery where many of the family members are buried and commemorated. Appropriate acknowledgement of the faithful departed of the family Vosseler/Vossler was made.

It was an inspiring visit by the American Vosslers to their ancestral home in Tuningen, confirmation of the thought that we are who we are now because of who they were then. In Germany, family genealogist Emil Klaiber, 82 years old, recorded the family adventure and visitation in an article which was printed in November 2022 in the local German newspaper "Die Neckarquelle". The headline: Die amerikanischen Vosslers haben Wurzeln in Tuningen.

The American Vosslers indeed found their roots in Tuningen. Retired U.S. Army Colonel, military historian and author Tom Vossler submitted this article to the "Der Botschafter" for publication. He hopes to soon visit the childhood home of his other paternal great-great-grandfather, Henry Heers, an American Civil War Veteran, who came to America with his family in 1851 from the village of Gamsen in the Giffhorn District of Lower Saxony.





# Novel Launch Party Brings Crowd to GAHM for Festive Get-Together

*By Katja Sipple*

On Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022 a group of old and new friends gathered in Washington, DC to support and celebrate debut author Ray Kessler at his book launch party for “A Face in the Night”. Kessler is the pen name of former GAHF First Vice President Ron Kosmahl. Additional guests joined via Zoom from all over the United States and Europe. Kessler’s historical novel begins in Berlin in 1999 where District Attorney Kurt Becker discovers illegal campaign funds linked to a flawed Berlin construction project. The project becomes his worst nightmare. A secret 1945 Nazi bunker is unearthed. Workers discover “Nazi Wonder Weapons.”

During the last days of World War II, an SS division defended these weapons to the last man. Were these secret weapons the reason why the Nazi leadership predicted Final Victory? Were famous scientist Nikola Tesla’s stolen “Death Ray” plans used? And what links a mysterious SS officer to Kurt Becker and his villa?

On New Year’s Eve, Kurt sees a face peering at him through the window of his villa. Is it a reflection or an illusion? Things are no longer what they appear to be. Kurt’s past investigations, family issues, drugs, and insomnia haunt him as his reputation suffers. Is someone out to get him? He shares a secret with neighbor Anne Macmillan, the English Ambassador’s wife. They seek out an Israeli-German investigator who could change their beliefs about reality and redemption.

Kessler takes us on a roller coaster ride through 20th Century German history by weaving a fictitious tale of history, suspense, and redemption, asking the ultimate question: What is reality? Book lovers and history buffs can purchase their own copy of “A Face in the Night” at Amazon.com or through Kessler’s Website at <https://afaceinthenight.com/>.

Together with GAHF, Kessler has also been preparing a series of podcasts that explore historic themes connected to his book. These will be released in the coming months and



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# Der Grüne Baum or *The Green Tree*

*By Margie Gibson, Partenkirchen, Bavaria*



Of all the gin joints in all the towns in all the world. . . no, I mean, of all the restaurants in all the towns of Bavaria . . . , why did I walk into that one, the Grüner Baum in Treuchtlingen?

In early August 2021, I spent a week on the Altmühl River in central Bavaria. That's where my great grandfather, Christian Rathsam, was born—in the town of Treuchtlingen. He grew up there, was conscripted there to fight in the Franco-Prussian war, which made him despise Bismarck and the Hohenzollern, and from there he left Treuchtlingen to travel to Bremen, to catch a boat across the Atlantic, enter the United States through Baltimore, and to end up in St. Louis.

Although I never met him, I feel like I did and he holds a special place in my heart. While I was in Treuchtlingen, I went to the Rathaus, or city hall, to see if I could find any records of his life before he left Bavaria. Mom and I had done the same thing 50 years ago, but then we were told the records were in a delicate shape because they were in a fire, I assume a fire caused by Allied bombing during WWII. I was pretty sure I'd get the same answer this time, but I didn't. I was sent up to the city archives, and talked with a woman who was leaving for vacation that day, but she said she would look into it for me when she returned. I gave her Grandpa Rathsam's birthdate and that was that. By that time, I was hungry. I was disappointed when I saw that the restaurant I remembered from earlier visits had

turned into a pan-Asian restaurant. I like Asian food just fine, but I was in central Bavaria and I wanted local food. So I asked questions and wandered, mostly following my nose, and ended up at a simple "Wirtschaft" called Der Grüne Baum (The Green Tree). It was a down-home place, nothing schiki-miki about it, but the scents emanating from the kitchen were exactly what I wanted.

I walked through the restaurant. It was a large, open room with simple wooden tables and chairs, green table cloths, and large windows to maximize the light. I went out the back door and sat outside in the beer garden. Of course, I ordered a beer. Then I ordered lunch. I ordered Bratwurst—not the skimpy single Bratwurst that I usually allow myself, but two good-sized sausages—which came with Bauernbrot, a brick-oven sourdough rye, and potato salad. I am very particular about potato salad.

My grandmother Frieda, Christian's daughter, made the best potato salad in the universe. To Grandma's embarrassment, my grandfather once told my very proud aunt—her sister, who also made a darn good potato salad—that her version was good, but no one could come close to Frieda's "Kartoffelsalat". I hesitated about ordering the potato salad and almost asked for sauerkraut. Instead, I asked for sauerkraut in addition to the potato salad. The waitress, who was also the cook, looked at me like I was a bit crazy, but agreed to bring me both. My lunch was as simple and good as could







be—the Bratwurst were golden brown, the potato salad was a proper potato salad that my grandmother would approve of, and the sauerkraut, redolent of smoked pork or sausages, was out of this world.

In late September, almost two months after my trip, I received a copy via email of the document from the city archives about my great grandfather. It recorded his wife's name (not my great grandmother—his first wife died after emigrating to St. Louis) and the names and birthdates of their children. It mentioned his religion and his war service as well as his occupation. Then it

mentioned his address, Luitpoldstrasse 13, and noted that the building still stands today. My heart skipped a beat. I had long wondered where he had lived. Now I knew. I used Google maps to find the location. You guessed it: Luitpoldstrasse 13 is the Grüner Baum, the restaurant I just happened to walk into for lunch the day I was there. The only problem was that I was 140 years too late to catch my great grandfather and his family having lunch.

# A German Pennsylvania German Connection

*By Lisa Breininger Randolph*

My father, Lester Breininger, loved to say that he was a ninth-generation Pennsylvania German. He chided my mother that she was a newcomer, as she was only a seventh generation Pennsylvania German. Who are the Pennsylvania Germans? It is generally agreed that Pennsylvania Germans are the descendants of those immigrants who arrived in America prior to the formation of the German Federation in 1815.

The first German settlers arrived in Pennsylvania in response to an invitation from William Penn in 1683, and founded the settlement of Germantown, near Philadelphia. The majority of the other German immigrants arrived in Pennsylvania between 1720 and 1770 when fleeing the horrors of a series of wars in Europe. So many immigrants came from Germany into the port of Philadelphia, in fact, that it caused the authorities to establish an oath of allegiance to the (then) British crown. The lists of oath takers and the ships on which they came were recorded and are still in existence. These boat rosters are used by genealogists, including my parents, to find out the names of the relatives who came to America.

For example, my family's genealogical research discovered names of some family members who arrived on such boats included Johan Michael Fuchs and Jacob Graff, who arrived in Philadelphia on Oct. 22, 1773 on the ship *Charming Molly*. Also, Johannes Schwartzhaupt arrived on the ship *Anderson* on Aug. 21, 1750. It is also interesting to note that on Feb. 3, 1778, Johannes Schwartzhaupt's daughter, Anna Margarotha, married Johan Michael Fuchs in Berks County, Pa.

Among the German immigrants who came to Pennsylvania were farmers, blacksmiths, potters, weavers, and other artisans who helped establish virtually self-sufficient communities. The potters who came continued on with the craft as they had learned it and as it had been employed by their forefathers in Germany.

One of these potters was Joseph Henne, descendent of immigrant John Conrad Henne, who had arrived in 1754 and was my mother's great-, great-, great-, great-grandfather. Knowing there were potter relatives in the family tree led my parents to search for and purchase early Henne pottery and that of other early potters.

My father bought an antique pottery dog and decided to make a partner for it on his own. That piece led to his making of other animals, then plates, and more. My parents had so much fun that their pottery making continued. Research generated more enthusiasm. They learned about the traditional techniques, tools, and practices of those early German craftsmen.

On the earthenware plates that they purchased were inscribed old German sayings or Sprichwörter. There were also etchings of the customs of the potters, such as animals they raised, the flowers which they cultivated and figures of people in their period garb. My parents studied their purchased antique pottery, as well as other examples in museums and books and strove to copy them, putting German sayings and historical etchings on their own pottery, eventually calling their own pottery "reproduction redware."

During this time, in Germany, the Rheinisches Freilicht-museum took on a project to document the emigration from the Rhineland to North America. They documented the members of 13 families from the Lower Rhine who departed from Krefeld in 1683, and established the first German settlement on the North American continent: Germantown, Pa., mentioned above. In the early 2000s, this museum invited my father, Lester Breininger, to give a lecture on Pennsylvania German Pottery and the Pennsylvania Germans in general.

Thus, the interest goes both ways—Germans in Germany are interested in knowing what became of those who emigrated, and Pennsylvania Germans are interested in knowing more about the culture of their forefathers who immigrated. Thank you to the German-American Heritage Museum for providing a forum for the bilateral interest to continue. For more information about this pottery, search online for "Breininger Pottery."







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# Washington DC's German Past is Everywhere

*By Katja Sipple*

It is a well-known fact that German immigrants helped shape the United States, and that many important structures and landmarks, such as Brooklyn Bridge, are the work of German American engineers. The iconic U.S. Capitol is instantly recognizable, but few people are aware that the unique dome was the work of German American architects August G. Schoenborn and Thomas U. Walter. Join us on a fascinating journey of discovery through Washington, DC and its German past!

In November of 2022, YouTube sensation Feli from Germany came to the German American Heritage Foundation & Museum, which is located in the Penn Quarter, DC's former Little Germany. Together with GAHF's executive director Katja Sipple, Feli and her boyfriend/cameraman Ben began a two-day exploration to discover the capital's forgotten German history and sites. We did the work and the walking, so you can enjoy the finished video from the comfort of your own home.







Starting at St. Mary Mother of God Catholic Church on 5th Street NW, a parish founded by and for Southern German immigrants in the 19th century, the discovery tour includes stops at the German-American Heritage Museum on 6th Street NW; the District's bustling Eastern Market, designed by German immigrant and renowned architect Adolf Cluss; a visit to the newly restored German-American Friendship Garden on the National Mall, nestled between the White House and the Washington Monument; the National Archives Building with its pediment sculptures by Adolf Weinmann; the Albert Jaegers Steuben Statue in Lafayette Square. and finally the Petersen House, built and owned by German immigrant tailor Wilhelm Petersen and his wife Anne, which became famous, or perhaps infamous, as the place where President Abraham Lincoln died on April 15, 1868 following an attack at Ford's Theatre the night before.

The second day of filming culminated in a trip to the U.S. Capitol with its dramatic dome. Construction of the Capitol began in 1793 with the cornerstone placement by President George Washington in a Masonic ritual. In November 1800, Congress, along with the Library of Congress and the Supreme Court, moved into the newly completed north wing. The south wing was finished by 1807, but in 1814, the British burned the Capitol during the War of 1812. What is now the center portion of the Capitol was only completed in 1826. The remarkable dome structure, which gives the building its current impressive form, was the work of German American architects Thomas U. Walter and August G. Schönborn. Whilst Walter was of German descent, Schönborn was a new arrival who immigrated from Suhl, Thuringia to the United States drawn by the promise of work.

He came to the US in 1849, and arrived in Washington, DC in 1851, where he began working as a draftsman under









Walter, the Capitol's fourth official architect. He created the impressive dome using only a small scale model and rough drawings, which greatly impressed Walter who had not known that Schönborn was a trained architect. President Millard Fillmore was also very fond of Schönborn's work, and often visited him in the architectural offices at the Capitol. His other big contribution to the Capitol was an iron library after a fire on Christmas Eve 1851 destroyed the original Capitol library.

The interior of the Capitol was also shaped by German American artists, especially the fresco artist Urban Geier. Geier, who was born 1819 and grew up in Königheim, just southwest of Würzburg, a major center of decorative arts in the 18th and 19th centuries, had heard about the sweeping plans to extend and enlarge the U.S. Capitol, and understood that the resulting demand for decorative technicians and artists – many of whom came from Austria and Germany – meant plentiful employment opportunities. Together with his family, he arrived in the U.S. in 1853, and was soon hired by the great Italian fresco artist Constantino Brumidi. His work can be admired in the Lyndon B. Johnson Room. Even long after Brumidi's death in 1880, Geier worked for the Architect of the Capitol until the 1890s when he was more than 70 years old. He served alongside some of the most talented German – and Italian – artists of his time to make America's national legislature the architectural jewel that it is today.

Of course, everything and more of what you just read is also available in the resulting YouTube video, which you can conveniently view by visiting <https://gahmusa.org/washington-dcs-german-roots/>. Please note that you do not need to register nor do you need a YouTube account to watch the film. We hope you thoroughly enjoy this sightseeing tour through the nation's capital city and its surprising German past.







# A Lesser-known German New Year's Tradition

*Shared by Tobias Muench*

*Although the new year is already a few months old, we want to share a special regional, but seasonally adaptable, German tradition with you. Pretzels can be enjoyed year-round, and this particular recipe can also be enjoyed for Easter or a regular Sunday brunch. We thank GAHF Board member Tobias Münch from Sacramento, Calif. for sharing this unique custom, and encourage you to let us know about old family recipes and traditions that have become a part of your family's repertoire.*

Together with my German American children I have rediscovered many traditions from the homelands for my family and for me over the years. One example is something that I myself cherished during my own childhood and youth: the New Year's Pretzel or Neujahrsbrezel. It's a lesser-known tradition as it is only observed in some sub-regions like Baden, my home province, the Rhineland, and Münsterland.

On New Year's Day, or during the following days, a large, sweet, home-made pretzel is enjoyed by family members or by a group of friends. The pretzel is cut into pieces, topped with butter, and served with mulled wine, hot chocolate or tea and coffee. This dish is ideal for breakfast or as a mid-afternoon snack accompanied by coffee or tea later in the day. The Neujahrsbrezel, unlike its common pretzel cousin, is not salty, but instead baked with a sweet yeast dough similar to the dough used for Weckmaenner or Hefezopf.

During my childhood in Baden, it was common for

each family to order a Neujahrsbrezel from the local bakery right after Christmas so it was ready for pick-up by the beginning of the new year. Typically, it was as large as a big cookie sheet, the kind that fits into a household oven, and decorated with the new year's number and baked ornamental shapes, sometimes with added symbols for good luck such as a little piglet or a chimney sweep. And this is also the whole point of the Neujahrsbrezel: it's all about bringing good luck for the new year to all who enjoy it. One Neujahrsbrezel was barely enough for our family of five and pretty quickly only crumbs were left.

Today, I make the effort myself to bake the Neujahrsbrezel every year together with my children and it has become a standing family tradition. The kids are really enjoying the baking activity with their German American dad and seriously—who can resist the smell and taste of freshly baked sweet dough with butter on it?



# Recipe:

250 ml (1 cup) of milk  
1 cube of fresh yeast (dry yeast can be used as a substitute)  
500 g (4 cups) all purpose flour  
100 g (½ cup) granulated sugar  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
100 g (7 tablespoons) unsalted softened butter  
1 egg  
Egg yolk and milk to brush the dough

- Warm milk and dissolve yeast. Let sit for a minute, then stir to combine. Let sit until frothy, about 10 minutes.
- Combine flour, sugar and salt. Mix in yeast with milk, softened butter, and egg until dough forms. Knead until dough becomes smooth and elastic. Place in a lightly oiled bowl, cover, and let rise in a warm place until doubled, 1- 1 1/2 hours.
- On a lightly floured large surface, lightly knead dough. Roll the dough into a long rope, about 3 feet long. Place a piece of parchment the size of your baking sheet under the middle of the rope.
- Twist the ends together and place over the middle of the rope to form a pretzel shape. Cover the entire pretzel with a cloth and let rise until puffy, about 1 hour.
- Place rack in center of oven and preheat to 350 degrees In a small bowl, whisk together egg and milk for topping. To keep the holes in the center of the pretzel open, fill with crumpled pieces of foil. Brush the entire surface with the topping. If desired, sprinkle with sugar or almond slices. You can also use the dough to form a braided loaf or a wreath.
- Bake in a preheated oven until golden brown, for about 30 minutes. Allow to cool on the baking sheet for 15 minutes before serving. Serve warm with butter and/or jam.





# New Congressional Bill Addressing Wartime Violations of German American Civil Liberties Seeks Supporters

*By Katja Sipple*

More than a year ago, in February of 2022, I sent out an email bringing the treasures of our museum here in Washington, DC to your screen. The subject of that email was a 3D model of a World War II era family housing unit in Crystal City, Texas, which had served as the home of Arthur “Art” Jacobs and his family following his German-born father’s arrest in New York City as an enemy alien. The email, which was also posted on social media, generated a tremendous amount of interest about a chapter of history that has been kept under wraps for many decades. Virtually everybody had heard or read about the internment of Japanese Americans, but German Americans? People were surprised, and a bit shocked to say the least. Fast forward to November 2022 when I received an email from the Office of U.S. Representative Joaquin Castro, a Democratic Congressman from Texas, about helping his team spread awareness and create support for a new Congressional Bill: the Wartime

Violation of German American Civil Liberties Act of 2022.

When World War II began in September 1939, German Americans once again became suspects and many were deemed “less than” because of their ethnic ancestry. The proposed legislation aims to formally acknowledge the internment of German Americans and German Latin Americans between 1939-1948, in camps and makeshift facilities, and “directs the Attorney General to create a report that fully details the injustices suffered by people of German descent.” It further recommends that the federal government supports projects that study and “increase awareness of these actions.”

Although it may seem difficult to believe, the United States federal government deliberately curtailed people of German ancestry’s freedom of movement through restrictions, registrations, arrests, exclusions, internment, exchanges, and even deportations. 300,000 Americans were labeled as potentially dangerous “enemy aliens” and over 11,000





German Americans were interned. The largest of these internment camps was located in Crystal City, Texas which only closed almost three years after the conclusion of World War II on Feb. 27, 1948. The U.S. Department of State even chartered an ocean liner, the Swedish MS Gripsholm, which served as an exchange and repatriation ship from 1942-1946. The official mission, sanctioned by the International Red Cross, was to bring Japanese and German nationals to exchange points followed by picking up U.S. and Canadian citizens with the goal of returning them to the USA and Canada, and repatriating American POWs. However, the deportees were not just German nationals, but included naturalized and even American-born citizens, such as New York-born Art Jacobs and his younger brother. The U.S. government also worked with several Latin American nations to have their residents of German, Italian, and Japanese ancestry deported and interned in the United States.

In 1988 and 1999, the federal government formally recognized the internment of Japanese Americans and Italian Americans respectively, but the U.S. government has yet to formally acknowledge and fully understand the internment of German Americans and Latin American citizens of German descent. Rep. Castro is introducing this bill to “remember those whose lives were unjustly disrupted, to repair damage to the German American and German Latin American community, and most importantly to discourage this practice and similar violations of civil liberties in the future.”

The Spanish American writer and philosopher George Santayana once stated poignantly that “those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it”, and that is why I urge you, dear reader, to help us spread the word about this bill. The office of Congressman Castro is currently looking for Congressional co-sponsors of this bill, and if you know a U.S. Representative who might be willing to support this

important endeavor, I encourage you to reach out to his/her office and/or to contact me directly at [sipple@gahmusa.org](mailto:sipple@gahmusa.org) so we can reach out to him.

Please also visit our Website at [www.gahmusa.org](http://www.gahmusa.org) to put your name and contact information into our database to register your support and receive important updates. The time to act is now to ensure that documents and firsthand experiences and personal knowledge from the few remaining survivors are preserved for others to learn from.

If you are interested in learning more about this topic, I highly recommend the documentary “Children of Internment” (<http://www.childrenofinternment.com/>) by filmmaker Joe Crump and his sister, the actress Kristina Wagner. The Website of the German American Internee Coalition (<https://gaic.info/>) is another excellent resource to learn about the fates of German Americans during the Second World War. Thank you for your support and for helping GAHF promote German American issues throughout the country.



# Internment of German Americans in the US During WWII

*By Anita Yellin Simons*



In 2005, I caught the end of a documentary about World War II which mentioned that during the war the US had over 400,000 Axis prisoners of war held captive on army bases all over this country. In addition, many of them were sent to local businesses and farms to work while the men were overseas. As a playwright always looking for new stories, it got me thinking: if there were young POWs on farms, what if one fell in love with a farmer's daughter?

I spent the next year searching the Internet and reading books on the subject of POWs in the US. After tons of research, I struggled as to how to tell a story that would be interesting to an audience in the middle of the Iraq war. How could I bring these events together? I pitched the idea and shared my research with a fellow playwright who agreed to collaborate. But again what story should we tell? We knew we wanted to include a love story, but we also wanted to show the difference between how POWs were treated here during WWII and what we were hearing about the detention of terrorist suspects at Guantánamo Bay Detention Camp in Cuba. From research, I learned that not only were the POWs of WWII allowed to create their own

newspapers and work outside the camps, but were fed quite well. In fact, with the U.S. under strict war rationing, this became the subject of many letters to local newspapers. We struggled with whether it should be a story that went inside the POW camps or took place at a farm location?

Finally, we chose Wisconsin as the location because of its many dairy farms in close proximity to POW camps. Once we knew the setting, we conducted additional research on dairy farm life and I googled "German Americans during WWII." Up popped a website called "The Freedom of Information Times," created by Arthur D. Jacobs, who was a young boy when his German-American father was arrested by the FBI. Jacobs documented his story in the book, "The Prison Called Hohenasperg: An American Boy Betrayed by his Government during World War II." Jacobs stated that many German Americans were arrested and then interned just like the Japanese and were thought to be either Nazis or Nazi sympathizers. But during and after the war, over 1,100 were sent back to war-torn Germany. Even more astonishing to me was the fact that one of the internment locations was Ellis Island.

Everyone knew about the Japanese internment camps, but





Germans? How could we never have learned this from our history books? This was even more compelling than a love story. Surprisingly when I shared this knowledge with my writing partner, she didn't believe it was true and thought I had fallen for some internet hoax. I corresponded with Jacobs, who shared his story and provided me with the names and contact information of other internment researchers, many of whom are former internees or children of internees. I contacted Dr. John A. Heitmann, Professor of History at the University of Dayton. When I called him, I had already formulated a new plot line for our play and ran it by him. Was it feasible that the widowed German-American matriarch who had not become a citizen could be arrested and interned with little or no evidence? He concurred it was possible and encouraged me to write the play. I went back to my writing partner, told her what I had learned and after feeding her more information, she agreed and we moved forward.

Our play HEARTLAND was now a story about two German POWs working on a farm owned by a German immigrant who had not filled out citizenship papers, and was arrested and interned when someone complained that she and her children were too friendly with the POWs. HEARTLAND, which was co-written by Anita Simons and Lojo Simon, was published by YouthPLAYS in 2019 and is available for production at [youthplays.com](http://youthplays.com). It was also published as a book by Sense Publishers in the social-fictions series 2014. Prior to the first production of our play at MiraCosta College in November 2008, we won a play contest at Dayton Playhouse. Upon my return from Ohio, I received a phone call from Karen Ebel, the daughter of a former internee and founder of the German American Internee Coalition (<https://gaic.info/>). She had heard about our play and said that two of the former internees who lived in California wanted to attend the production. After we contacted them and confirmed they could attend, the college decided to add an additional performance with a talk-back after the show.

In the meantime, I met Rob Miller, a young man, who wanted to do a documentary about the making of our play. He documented the rehearsals, the production and the interview of one of the former internees, Lothar Eiserloh. His film, "From Page to Stage: The Journey of Heartland", won an award at the 2010 Idyllwild International Festival of Cinema. We were very nervous about having former internees in the audience without knowing what they thought about the play. After the performance, both Lothar and Suzy Kvammen, another internee, said that they had shown a part of their lives that they didn't realize was so traumatic for their parents. They were young children during their internment, and looked at this part of their lives as an adventure so to speak. Both of their families were sent back to Germany, and it turned out that they were both on the same ship, but never knew that until they met at the play.

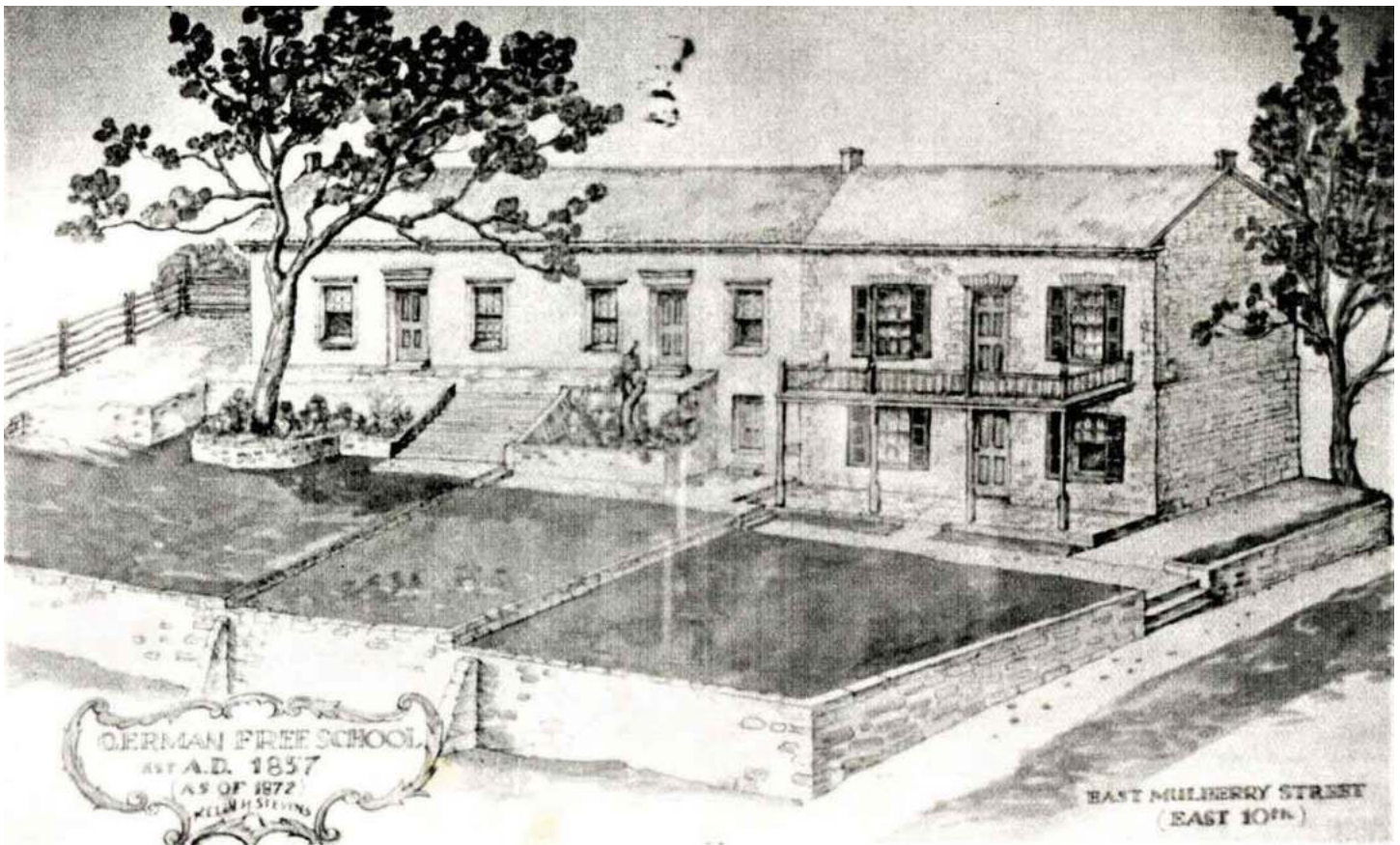
Since then, I continued to research the subject with new information and have given several talks on the topic where most of the audience is astounded by what they learn. As Katja Sipple wrote in the Spring 2022 issue of "The Ambassador": Educating about the past and its implications on today and tomorrow is important for the future, and that is and remains at the very core of GAHF's mission and vision.

## THE PRISON CALLED HOHENASPERG

*An American boy betrayed by his Government during World War II*



by  
**Arthur D. Jacobs**  
*Born in the U.S.A.*



# Spotlight on German American Clubs The German-Texan Heritage Society.

## A Brief History

*By Manuela Markely*

It might not look like much from the sidewalk: A limestone house, a few feet above East 10th Street in downtown Austin, Texas. Located in the heart of the Red River Cultural District, you will find one of Austin's best-kept secrets, a historical building, and terraced gardens. The German Free School building, or GFS, was built in 1857 using a unique rammed-earth construction and today is Austin's third oldest building. Our teachers have transformed education in Austin and Texas. Originally, the German Free School was open to all children; boys and girls represented by many faiths and ethnicities, which was unheard of at that time. GFS was the largest school in Austin until 1881 with the advent of Austin's public schools. GFS served as a model for public education in Texas—one of German Texans' most lasting legacies. After having served as a German-based school for about 30 years in the mid-1800s, today it comprises the headquarters

of the German-Texan Heritage Society or GTHS. GTHS is a nonprofit organization committed to the preservation of the history and heritage of German-Texans with an eye toward present-day German culture and language.

If you're looking for some fun inspired by Texas Germans past and present, look no further. The German-Texan Heritage Society is located in the heart of the early German settlements along Red River Street in Austin. Per the Austin Chronicle in 2018 "The German-Texan Heritage Society certainly brings the most authentic Oktoberfest game in town". Year-round. This most famous German celebration has been happening for 200 years. It is so über that GTHS ensures Austin gets to share in this celebration. In 2019, pre-Covid 19, the GTHS Oktoberfest ranked 3rd that day for top events in Austin. Only Guns & Roses and Third Eye Blind were ranked higher.





Join us for Oktoberfest in the fall and get to know its Little Sister, Maifest, in the spring. Come back in winter; it's the most wonderful time of the year. Get into the holiday spirit by visiting the most authentic German Christmas Market in Texas. The German Free School and its gardens transform into a traditional German Christmas Market. Over 2,000 visitors attend this one-day event. Enjoy some Glühwein and real German holiday cheer at our Christmas Market. Wander back in time and experience live music, food, and Gemütlichkeit in our beautiful gardens. Gemütlichkeit, you ask? It's a German word used to describe a state of belonging, warmth, and friendliness. GTHS offers authentic German Christmas decorations as they are imported from the Erzgebirge, an East-German region that is internationally known for its Christmas customs.

Want to learn more German words? GTHS can help. We offer German Language Programs for both adults and children based on worldwide recognized standards set by the Goethe-Institut, Germany's cultural institute. Education is our foundation: GTHS has offered language courses for the past 26 years. Over 200 children and 300 adults take part in our language program yearly. Thousands have taken part over the years. GTHS has taught adults and children in Austin, San Antonio, West Austin, Round Rock, online, along with home-school and summer day camp offerings. We reach across the world via our kids and adult in-person and online programs. We give out yearly scholarships to high school students at the Texas State German Contest.

Since we are a certified Goethe-Institut Examination Center, the exams provide evidence of German language skills. Professional employers and academic institutions around the world recognize the certification. GTHS just opened the German International School of Texas at Austin with a Pre-K and Kindergarten class in 2021 and 2022 catering to the growing demand in the Austin area for a total immersion German language school.

GTHS practices outreach through its online & business Stammtisch and roundtables.

Speakers have included a German Ambassador, the German Embassy's Economic Development Head for USA, and members of the German political parties SPD, CDU, and Alliance 90/The Greens.

The quarterly GTHS Journal keeps all members informed about past, present and future happenings at GTHS. GTHS Reads, Speaker Series, Stammtisch, and Cooks are quarterly initiatives to engage and connect community members with German-Texan heritage and the German language through books, German cooking classes, and encouragement to speak and practice the language in a fun and relaxed environment.

If you live in the Austin area, become part of our GTHS family by volunteering, attending our classes, outreach programs or festivals or supporting us through your membership or donations. Help us spread the knowledge of German Texan history and most importantly, help us make new history. More information about GTHS is available online at [www.germantexans.org](http://www.germantexans.org)

# Exhibit at the GAHM Explores Transatlantic Connections and German American Partnership

Germany and the United States have a long history as allies, partners, and at times, adversaries. Today, the transatlantic alliance is strong as our governments and people work together to address global challenges. We are connected by educational exchanges, traditions, sports heroes, pop culture including Hollywood, which wouldn't be what it is today without its Austrian and German pioneers, the desire to protect the environment and promote renewable energy sources, and so much more. Discover the depth and breadth of German American relations. This exhibit is on loan from the Germanic American Institute in St. Paul, Minn. and is also available online at <https://gahmusa.org/transatlantic-connections-exhibit/>





## Connecting through Education

Germany is one of the most popular destinations for international students to get a degree or study abroad—for good reason!

<p><b>Quality</b></p>	<p>Germany's universities are among the best in the world. From science and technology, to literature and philosophy, German universities have a long history of providing the highest-quality education.</p>	<p><b>Did You Know?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Heidelberg University, the oldest university in Germany, was founded in 1386 and is also the sixth-oldest university in Europe. The university has a long tradition as a research university and has produced more than 30 Nobel prize laureates.</li> <li>➤ Many German universities include a free transportation card with the tuition, so students can ride local and regional public transportation for free during their studies.</li> <li>➤ German life insurance company Allianz, one of the world's largest insurance companies, has its headquarters in Minnesota. Minnesota is home to over 80 German companies.</li> <li>➤ German universities take a hands-off approach. Attendance at seminars and studying is up to the student. For many courses, the entire grade is based on the final paper or exam.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cost-effective</b></p>	<p>German universities are affordable! With little to no tuition rates, students can obtain a degree without taking on student loan debt. According to a survey conducted in 2018, 35.3% of prospective foreign students in Germany highlighted low or no tuition fee universities as the top reason why they would attend higher education in Germany.</p>	
<p><b>Career Development</b></p>	<p>A degree from a German university or an exchange experience will not only open doors to new language and culture, but also for employment—including the 3,500 German companies with a presence in the U.S.</p>	
<p><b>Travel</b></p>	<p>Studying in Germany is a gateway to world travel. Take the train to Paris for a weekend, or fly off to the global metropolis of Dubai. Germany is not only a destination for many but also a world-class travel hub.</p>	

**Was studierst du?**

- Most international students study **Engineering** at German universities.
- In 2018/2019, **119,666 international students** were studying Engineering in Germany.
- The second most preferred study fields for international students are **Law, Economics, and Social Sciences**.

**By the numbers**

Of international students studying in Germany:

- 33.7%** are at the undergraduate level
- 27.3%** are at the graduate level
- 30.7%** are non-degree seeking

**Germany is 5th** in U.S. Study Abroad Destination Ranking (2018/2019)

**Hörsaalgebäude**



Students at Leipzig University, the second-oldest university in Germany. Photo: iStock

**Mensa am Park**



UN Sustainable Development Goal

**4** QUALITY EDUCATION



GERMANIC AMERICAN INSTITUTE





# Entertainment and Sports

Germany is well-known for highbrow cultural exports, but its popular culture also has traveled the world.

## Television

### Dark (2017-2020)

This mystery drama is German, but 90% of the audience are from outside of Germany. The mind-bending series is one of the most-watched shows filmed in a language other than English on Netflix. Often referred to as "the Stranger Things for grown-ups," this series has a sophisticated time-traveling plotline that is split between three time periods—modern day, 1986, and 1953.

### Babylon Berlin (2017–present)

Set in Berlin during the later years of the Weimar Republic, *Babylon Berlin* is inspired by film noir. It's a journey into the rise of German nationalism in a sleeping democracy and the police brutality and government control that aided it. The show is often praised for its universal and contemporary ability to capture police brutality protests and the governmental response to the protesters.



The city of Berlin became a movie set during the filming of the series, *Babylon Berlin*.

## Movies

### Hans Zimmer

While perhaps not so much a celebrity in the typical sense, Zimmer has earned his place as one of the most highly sought after composers of this time. He has worked on music for Hollywood films such as *Thelma & Louise* (1991), *The Lion King* (1994), *Crimson Tide* (1995), *Gladiator*, *The Rock* (1996, two themes), *The Prince of Egypt* (1998), *Gladiator* (2000, Golden Globe Award), *Pirates of the Caribbean* (all films, 2003–2017), *The Dark Knight* (2008), *Inception* (2010), *Interstellar* (2014), *Dunkirk* (2017), and *Dune* (2021).



Actress and director Franka Potente holding her Margot Heckler Award at Filmfest München in July of 2021.

### Franka Potente

While she is best known for her title role in *Lola Rennt* (*Run Lola Run*) (1998), Potente has had quite the career in American film. From major films, *The Bourne Identity* (2002) alongside Matt Damon and *The Conjuring 2* (2015), to a minor role in the second season of *American Horror Story*, Potente has made her mark in Hollywood. She made her directorial debut in 2020 with the internationally co-produced film, *Home*.

## SPORTS

### Hockey

Many German, Austrian, and Swiss athletes have competed in the NHL. Two notables:

#### Nico Sturm, Minnesota Wild forward

Sturm was drafted in 2019 to play for the Minnesota Wild hockey team. Originally from Augsburg, Germany, Sturm is ranked 41st out of over 780 players in the league as of April 2021.

#### Leon Draisaitl, Edmonton Oilers center

Originally from Cologne, Germany, Draisaitl was drafted into the NHL in 2014. The center-forward is now a top goal scorer for the Edmonton Oilers.

### Basketball

#### Victor Moritz "Moe" & Franz Wagner

After being drafted in 2018 to the Los Angeles Lakers, Moe Wagner, a Berlin native, now plays for the Orlando Magic. The 24-year-old is an astounding 6'11" tall. Moe's younger brother Franz, who was the 8th overall pick in the 2021 NBA draft, also joined the Orlando Magic. Franz is 20 years old and stands a couple inches shorter than his brother at 6'9".

### Baseball

#### Max Kepler, Minnesota Twins outfielder

Kepler, whose full name is Maximilian Kepler-Rödycki, is a 28-year-old professional baseball player from Berlin. He got his start in the Buchbinder Legionäre Regensburg of Bundesliga. Kepler's contract with the Twins goes through 2023.



Leipzig midfielder Tyler Adams on the ball. Photo: Jan Wotass/dpa

## Americans in the Bundesliga 2021/22

**Gio Reyna** | Club: Borussia Dortmund | Position: Midfielder

**Tyler Adams** | Club: RB Leipzig | Position: Midfielder

**John Brooks** | Club: Wolfsburg | Position: Center-back

**Chris Richards** | Club: Hoffenheim (on loan from Bayern Munich) | Position: Center-back

**Timothy Chandler** | Club: Eintracht Frankfurt | Position: Full-back

**Joe Scally** | Club: Borussia Mönchengladbach | Position: Right back

**Julian Green** | Club: Greuther Fürth | Position: Forward

**Timothy Tillman** | Club: Greuther Fürth | Position: Midfield



## Clean Energy Partnership

### U.S.-German Climate and Energy Partnership Good for business and the environment?

In July of 2021, President Joe Biden and Chancellor Angela Merkel launched the U.S.-German Climate and Energy Partnership.

#### Partnership Goals

• Accelerate clean energy innovation

• Promote clean energy investment

• Enhance clean energy workforce

• Increase clean energy leadership

• Strengthen clean energy resilience

• Promote clean energy security

• Enhance clean energy cooperation

• Increase clean energy leadership

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• Increase clean energy leadership

• Strengthen clean energy resilience

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# In Memoriam

## *Wendy Wurlitzer (1955 - 2022)*



Wendy H. Wurlitzer died on Oct. 2, 2022 at her home in Bend, Ore. surrounded by her family after a long illness. She was born in Whitefish Bay, Wis. as the daughter of Rymund Pabst and Margaret Holt Wurlitzer.

She was the great-, great-granddaughter of Captain Johann Gottlieb Friedrich “Frederick” Pabst, the namesake of the Pabst Brewing Company.

She graduated from Whitefish Bay High School before continuing her studies at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Ore. Having completed her undergraduate degree with honors, she was offered a graduate-level scholarship from Marquette University. She earned a master’s degree in German Literature. She also spent time in Munich, Germany. Wendy then went into the management training program for First Wisconsin Bank. She worked there before being asked to become Vice President of Citizens Bank of Delavan, Wis. She eventually became the Chairwoman of the Board. During her tenure at Citizens Bank, the financial institution became first in return on assets in Wisconsin, and number eight in the United States. When

Wendy decided to leave the bank was sold to M&I Bank in Milwaukee.

In 1994, she moved to Richmond, Va. where she became the Assistant Vice President of Union Bank. When Wendy retired from banking, she turned her efforts to non-profit work. As a board member of The Byrd Theatre, she gave her time and money to help restore one of the few remaining Wurlitzer Theatre organs. Wendy became a Colonial Dame like her grandmother, and was the treasurer of Wilton Manor in Richmond. She was also a board member and treasurer of the German American Heritage Foundation and Museum in Washington DC, and donated a Wurlitzer Baby Grand piano, which can be admired in the museum today.

Her brother Prescott Wurlitzer preceded her. She is survived by her husband Bruce Evans of Bend, Ore., daughters Alexandra Wurlitzer of Washington, D.C., Elise Carey of Richmond, Va., and Dr. Kate Wurlitzer of Bend, Ore. as well as seven grandchildren and three sisters. We express our gratitude to Wendy for the work she has done on behalf of GAHF/GAHM and in honor of German American contributions.



## Our Mission

The German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® (GAHF) is dedicated to preserving, educating, and promoting the cultural heritage of Americans of German-speaking ancestry. Our mission is to be an effective voice for German-Americans in cultural and public policy matters in the United States.

## 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 diversity of German-Americans.
- Promoting the German language and culture.
- Cultivating German American friendship and bonds.
- Supporting cooperative efforts among German-Americans and their organizations.

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