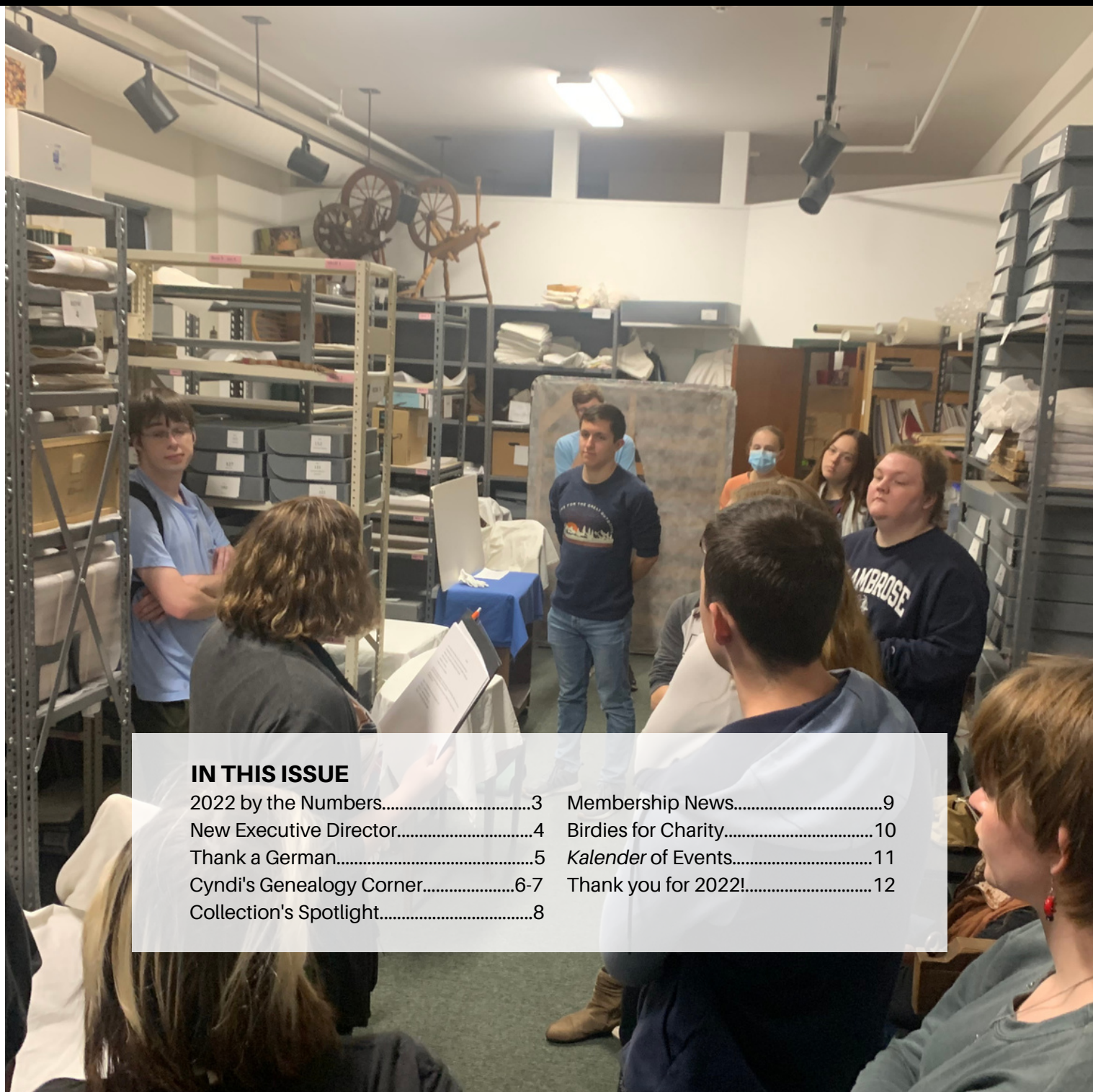


infoblatt

WINTER 2023
VOL. 37 NO. 4



A PUBLICATION OF THE GERMAN
AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER & MUSEUM



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WINTER 2023 VOL 37 NO. 4

Published Quarterly by:
**The German American Heritage
Center & Museum**

712 W. 2nd Street
Davenport, Iowa 52802-1410

Phone: 563-322-8844
www.gahc.org

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2023

ISSN 1528-185X

The mission of the German American Heritage Center is to preserve and enrich for present and future generations knowledge of the German immigrant experience and its impact on American culture.

W I L K O M M E N

Dear members and friends,

Happy New Year!

First, I would like to acknowledge our amazing staff at the German American Heritage Center. The past few months they have been working extra hard in the absence of an executive director, and have kept the center operating successfully. Additionally, I would like to thank the board members who helped in the search for our new executive director. As an organization, we were blessed with many qualified applicants and feel we selected someone to help grow the organization and further our mission.

Let us all extend a warm welcome to our new executive director, Brian Allen. He comes to us with many years of experience at the Figge where he served as the Studio School and Education Galleries Coordinator. In his role there, he grew their education and outreach programs, which is an area in which we hope to grow here at the GAHC. We are very excited to have him as part of our team and look forward to seeing what the future holds under his leadership.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,

Daniel Cabage



The cover image this quarter shows the Museum Studies Exhibitions class from St. Ambrose University in our archive. They used items from our collection to design and curate a display on the 4th floor titled, "Old Trades in the New World." Their focus of this display includes objects related to military, textiles, consumables, and printing.

2022

A YEAR IN NUMBERS!

CONTINUING OUR MOMENTUM

While we have faced many challenges in 2022, we also experienced a lot of support and were able to connect with many people. Here are some numbers to demonstrate our year!

- 5,817 Visitors
- 1,085 Volunteer Hours
- \$237,863.07 raised through Birdies for Charity
- 80 Virtual and in-person Programs & Events
- 1 Oktoberfest with the Hauberg Estate
- \$12,000+ in Holiday Gift Shop Sales
- 22 Facility Rentals
- 37 River Cruise Visits from 2 Cruise Line Companies
- 1 New Best of the Wurst: Jerry's Market
- 8 Years of Creative Arts Academy Advent Calendar
- 1 SPECTRA Reading Series at Rozz Tox Café
- 2 Interns
- 258 Darker Side of Davenport Walking Tour Participants
- 6 Temporary Exhibits
- 39 New Memberships
- 1,242 Instagram Followers; 8,466 on Facebook; 68 TikTok followers

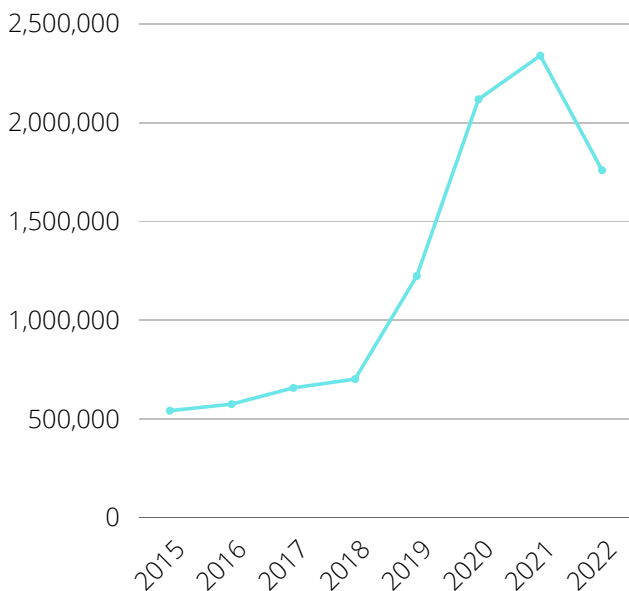


Opening reception of "Our Neighbors, Our Friends" in February 2022.

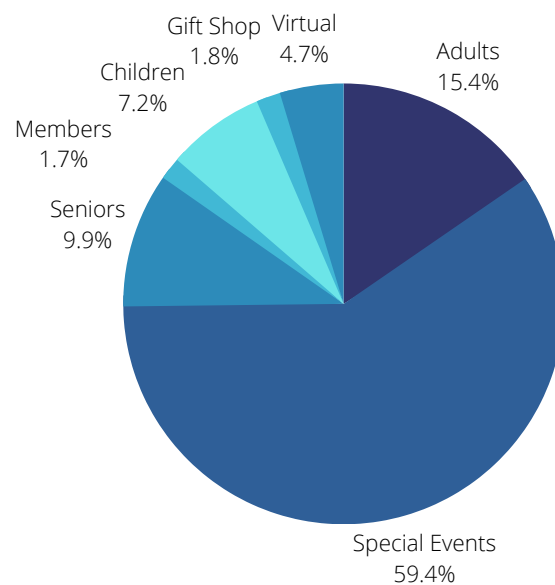


Attendees of the 2nd annual Oktoberfest QC at the Hauberg Estate in Rock Island. We had over 1,500 people in attendance throughout the day!

GAHC Endowment Accounts



Visitor Numbers



Willkommen Brian!

GERMAN AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER APPOINTS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Brian Allen is thrilled to be starting the role of Executive Director at the German American Heritage Center and Museum and can't wait to start this new chapter.

Allen has made relevance the center of his work in museums, focusing on making the content available and accessible to people from all walks of life. He has presented his work at regional and national conferences, including the National Art Education Association (2021) and the Association of Midwest Museums (2018). He looks forward to building on this visitor-centered work at the German American Heritage Center and Museum.

For the past ten years Brian has worked at the Figge Art Museum, most recently in the role of Studio School and Education Galleries Coordinator. There, he oversaw the merger of the Figge's studio program with the Bereskin Academy and created many community-oriented exhibitions with area school districts and organizations like Living Proof Exhibit. Allen is also proud to have started various educational programs, such as a regional portfolio day and t-shirt design contest for high school students.

In addition to earning his BFA in Painting and Drawing from Illinois State University (2008) and his MA in Museum Studies from Western Illinois University (2013), Brian has also studied art in Tokyo and San Francisco. He and his wife Sarah have enjoyed traveling across the country in a Volkswagen Vanagon, playing in a band together, and growing vegetables for market. They live in Orion, IL with their three children Oscar (9), Simon (7), and Anna (4), where every day is an adventure full of fireflies, shoelaces, and Shel Silverstein poems.



Dank den Deutschen: Saluting Three German Firms That Keep America Mending, Sewing, and Crafting

contribution from Janet Brown-Lowe

Jo-Ann Fabric

The leading fabric and craft supply retailer in the United States was founded in 1943 by German immigrants Hilda and Berthold Reich, Sigmund and Mathilda Rohrbach and Justin and Alma Zimmerman. The original store in Cleveland, Ohio sold overstock fabric by the bolt as well as imported German cheeses. The company name was created by combing the names of two daughters among the families, Joan and Jacqueline Ann. The textile items were immediately popular because fabric had been subject to consumer shortages during World War II. Veterans returning home were eager to outfit their growing families with play clothes, pj's and household textiles such as curtains and table linens.



The company grew steadily and became a major fixture in domestic textiles by the acquisition of 342 stores across the South known as Cloth World in 1969. Nearly 30 years later additional growth came from the purchase of House of Fabrics and So-Fro Fabrics. In recent years the company joined with seven other firms to oppose President Trump's tariffs, claiming that American manufacturers were unable to meet Jo-Ann's quality or volume needs. This led to an internal decision to move beyond fabrics and promote more craft products in their stores. Prior to the pandemic the chain lost over \$546M in 2019. However, by the end of the 2020 fiscal year it made approximately \$211M due to mask mandates and a noticeable increase in do-it-yourself projects nationwide. The company added an e-commerce facility to better serve its online sales. There are about 850 Jo-Ann stores in the United States with 23,000 employees.

Dritz

Sometimes we all need a great notion, indeed the right sewing notion can save the day. The Dritz company is likely to manufacture just what we need. During the 1920's the John (Johann) Dritz and Sons of New York City made beaded handbags, the perfect accessory to the flapper dress of the age. The family pivoted to manufacture sewing aids and gadgets such as seam rippers, zippers, elastic and later, electric scissors. The company moved to Spartanburg, South Carolina in 1959 has since been sold to three different owners. It has a strawberry-pincushion logo and is probably best known for its needles, which are sold in practical plastic disks to keep them handy and contained. Now that young creators and consumers turn to Etsy.com for handcrafted items and older folks have more time for hobbies such as quilting and needle arts, Dritz continues to befriend multiple generations with its useful and helpful products.

Prym

The William Prym Group has its origin in Germany and is recognized as Germany's oldest family owned business, founded in 1530. It is located in Stolberg near Aachen. The company manufactures semi-finished copper and brass products and has four divisions. It has been an industry leader in zipper technology and press fasteners ("snaps"). Prym Consumer division is now the owner of the Dritz Company and continues to innovate in sewing and needlework accessories. In recent years Prym also purchased Omnigrid, a manufacturer of measuring, grid and cutting products which aim to make the craft of quilting easier for both hobbyists and professionals.



cyndi's genealogy corner



This is part 14 of a recurring series in our Infoblatt. Part 13.75 can be found in the Fall 2022 issue. These letters were written by immigrants in America and mailed to the local newspapers in Probstei, printed in the Preetzer Zeitung and the Preetzer Wochenblatt from 1835-1852. Translated by Clara Mortiboy, Nick Pitz, and Scharlott Goettsch Blevins.

Through the goodness of the Teacher Mester in Döhnsdorf, we have the capacity to relate to you in letter form from earlier immigrants in North America various and interesting things to our readers The letter is dated 21 June 1852, in Davenport, Scott County, Iowa.

The trip via New Orleans is indeed cheaper but more dangerous because some get sick on this route: I absolutely advise everyone to travel via New York and ask you to make this view known and to therefore warn everyone about the trip via New Orleans. This trip has already cost some their lives, especially when the people travel up the Mississippi below the decks. The trip from New York to here costs approximately \$20 per person. One must however not go with the emigrant trains and only take tickets for the next train or steamship line; for example, one gets a ticket in New York to Dunkirk on lake Erie. There one should take a second ticket to a steamship going to Toledo then a third one to Chicago, a fourth one to St. Louis, and then to Davenport. Otherwise, one is very often cheated/betrayed.

Whoever wants to travel this year, he should leave soon as soon as this letter arrives which you will receive by the end of July. The preparations might take two to three weeks. At the end of September one can then be in New York. The autumns here are very beautiful; in the fall is the best time to arrive here, especially if one has to take health precautions. Arriving in the hottest months, for part of June and all of July and August is not advantageous for your health. The winter here is certainly harsh but at least it is not unpleasant. The sky is clear most of the time and most of the time it is bright sunshine most of the year, and such a beautifully clear sky as you have never seen in

Europe. On the 12th of October the last steamship came here to Davenport and on the 4th or 6th of March, the next one came up the river. Approximately 3 months long the mighty current of the Mississippi was closed to shipping traffic. For about 2 months the ice was thick enough for horses and carts; for about 2 to 3 days now, we have had 27 degrees here according to the thermometer under the freezing point. And then for about 8 days an absolutely cutting cold, however, in January many mild days; April and March however were quite unpleasant. This spring however, as everybody assured me, has been unusually unpleasant. May and June are quite pleasant and the heat was not so noticeable; July and August should be very hot. I myself came on the 3rd of August this year from New York and found the first half of September very hot in St. Louis, where it is, by the way, much hotter than here.

If one comes here, I mean to farm the West (that means to become a farmer) then he must however possible buy public land, which is in Scott County where in Davenport lies, but not near the Mississippi River and not near or in the city. The neighboring Clinton County with two cities on the Mississippi, Lyons and Camanche had this spring public land fairly close to the cities. Whoever would come this fall would perhaps be able to get approximately 10 to 20 English miles from one of these cities, public land through warrants (official ownership documents). Around 160 acres for approximately 140 dollars. --- If a man used to the hard work of a Holstein day laborer or a small farmer and with outwardly hard demands on himself which such a person can do could receive here with around 500 dollars, thus with that he could in a few years, however not without a lot of hard work, establish an independent and worry free existence. Above all, if he can bring grown sons with him who would like to do hard work in the fields and

continued on page 7

he would also have a large amount of business capital, he could double it and he could own the farm. A good horse costs \$100 here. A pair of oxen costs \$70 to \$80 dollars, a pound of butter \$.10 to \$.15. (that is 6 to 8 pfennig). At the same time many farmers have few cattle, because they do not have the means to raise one the half or 2/3 of the farm lies unused for a number of years. To plow the prairie one needs a pair of oxen together with capital of at least \$300 besides the daily wages for two men who would daily plow 2 acres. Whoever does not have the money for that, he has it plowed for \$2 per acre. Through persistence and doing without and hard work, in 4 to 5 years these difficulties are able to be conquered here; all thrifty hardworking and virtuous, that means those people used to hard work, can get farther here. If they start with one or two cows and each year increase their herd and put more land under the plow in such a way, they have an outlook for a better future and soon overcome the hard years of trial.

Whether it is an advantage or not to bring European goods here, I am not so sure. The import tax is high. Smuggling is not feasible and in any case dangerous; also it would be difficult to remove or to get rid of the goods brought over. The many Germans here, instead of a city business, would prefer to work the land. In the city and surrounding area there are at least 2000 Germans especially in Davenport and also a lot of

German shop keepers.

Young, practically raised girls would easily find work here and in all probability soon married. If they know how to make clothes, then they will have enough work. A woman's dress costs about 75 cents to \$1 to make. If they want to be an American domestic, where, of course, they have to learn some English, then they can earn \$7 to \$8 monthly. A servant will be much better taken care of here than a shop girl in Europe. Our neighbor here across from me takes care of the cows, and the girl looks out the window and widens her eyes to the pasture. Every servant girl is a "lady" here and expects to be treated as a "lady". The American has an unusual respect for the feminine gender. "Whoever seduces a virtuous girl will be punished with up to 5 years in penitentiary. Only the girls in Davenport work only half a day; on Sunday, they are dressed up like ladies because some of them earn between \$80 and \$90 a year."

We have to stop here at this time. We will in the meantime follow this as soon as possible with some interesting comments of our friend Claussen about the sensibility and lifestyle of the Americans, especially the farmers.

[This article appears now and it is unclear because one cannot determine during a long period which specific time Claussen means. - the editor]

Something Special for Your Valentine



This year, why not share your German heritage with your beloved? We offer a very old poem from the Middle High German period of language, approximately 1050-1450 A.D. It appears here in Modern High German and it's yours to script and shape into a handcrafted valentine that no store-bought sentiment can match. Enjoy!

Du bist mein, ich bin dein.

Thou art mine, I am thine!

Das sollst du gewiss sein.

Certain of this, thou must be.

Du bist verschlossen

Locked thou art

in meinem Herzen

within my heart

Verloren ist das Schlusselein.

Lost is the key.

Du musst immer drinne sein.

There thou must forever be.

Ein frohes Neujahr!

HOW DO GERMANS CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR? HERE ARE SOME COMMON WAYS

- **“Guten Rutsch”**

Wishing one’s friends and loved one a “good slide.” It is meant to hope that one’s life path is smooth and glides along without bumps or bruises in the year ahead.

- **Drink some “Bowle”**

Toasting in the New Year with a homemade punch, the bigger the batch, the better. Ingredients include fruits, juices and various spirits. Recipes are endless.

- **“Dinner for One”**

This British comedy sketch was first shown on German TV at New Years in 1963 and is the most watched program in German television history. It’s in English and the humor may escape some, but it’s a cult holiday classic for thousands.

- **“Long” food**

To while away the hours prior to midnight, many Germans enjoy eating dishes which can stretch out the time and keep everyone both well fed and occupied. Think fondue or perhaps raclette, which is prepared over a small table grill on special spatulas that melt cheese, dripping the results over small meats, tiny potatoes, and pickles.

- **Feuerwerk**

Private firework shows and community firework displays light up to greet the new year. The spectacle is especially dazzling in snowy mountain areas.

- **Bleigiessen**

An old custom has enjoyed renewed enjoyment in recent years. It consists of melting lead in a spoon over a candle and tipping the molten liquid into a pan of water, then divining a fortune for the new year from the respective shapes. Lead has now been banned for environmental and health reasons, but alternatives are available.

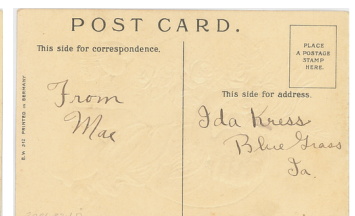
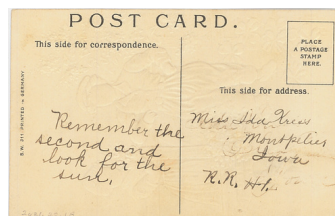
- **“Prosit Neujahr”**

This is the classic toast to ring in the new year. Be sure to face your friend or special someone and make eye contact as you clink, which the proper etiquette for a bubbly toast. The phrase comes from Latin and means “May it succeed.”

Collections Spotlight Valentine's Cards

The GAHC's collection is full of photographs, documents, and paper items including these Valentine's postcards. These were sent to Ida Kress Buck of Walcott, Iowa. Ida's mother was the daughter of Jacob Brus, an early settler of Blue Grass, Iowa. His brother, John Brus, built and managed the Germania Haus (present day German American Heritage Center) when it was a hotel for immigrants. These postcards were donated by Edwin Geest, Ida's nephew.

In the early 1900s before telephones and automobiles, many people did not live close together. Their form of communication was post cards. It was an easy way to keep in touch with loved ones and friends.



memberships & memorials



OCTOBER 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2022

WILLKOMMEN AN BORD

Chandler, Christine	Davenport, IA
Conklin, Bob & Christina	Rock Island, IL
Hageman, Stephanie	Eldridge, IA
Hickey, Dennis	Springfield, VA
Ploog, Randy	Boalsburg, PA

MEMORIALS

Wm Jens Mollering

Barbara Mollering

August Wilhelm Mueller

Christian Mueller

Dick Stahl

Helen Stahl

Bob Varner

Nancy Varner



Willkommen Marisa!

We are excited to introduce our new Administrative Assistant to our members and friends. Be sure to say hello to Marisa next time you find yourself at the GAHC!

Hello! My name is Marisa Bloom, the new Administrative Assistant at the German American Heritage Center & Museum. I come to GAHC with nine years of non-profit work under my belt, mainly focused on child and family advocacy. I have been a part of the GAHC team for a few months now, and I am looking forward to learning and growing in my new role.

Originally from Central Iowa, but spent my early adulthood traveling around the United States. Finally settling in Portland, Oregon where I became a mother to my now 16-year-old, wonderfully spirited daughter Lula. We moved to the Quad Cities in 2007. My mother was born and raised in rural Central Iowa to German American parents. My father was born in Jalisco, Mexico, and immigrated to the United States 50 years ago.

In my free time, I enjoy traveling, spending time in nature, dinner dates with my treasured friends, and practicing hot yoga.



Thank you to all who donated through Birdies for Charity in 2022!

Ahrens, Arthur
Alm, Brian & Diana
Andersen, Barbara
Arp, Shirley
Arp, Anita
Baker, Esther P.
Bald, Jerome
Beck, Alfred
Beckman, Phil
Beiwel, Ferenc
Bernauer, Debra S.
Blackledge, Theresa
Bleedorn, Mike & Barb
Blue Horizon Travel - Meadors, Linda
Borchardt, Lois
Brown-Lowe, Janet & Jerry
Burchett, Robert L.
Cabbage, Daniel
Cardiff, WM (Bill)
Carton, Sara
Casillas, Elizabeth
CBI Bank & Trust
Chamberlain, Barbara
Conrad, Gene & Mollie
Cosentine, Sherry
Danz, Janice
Dengler, Wayne
Duncan, Marcia
Eis, Loryann M.
Eli, Nick
Engel, Mary Ann
Felden, Tamara
Fiedler, Gloria
Finkenhoefer, Joan
Fischlein, Tom
Fleming, Joy
Franklin, Kylie
Geise, Donna
Glanz, David
Glockhoff, Gail
Gusse, Nancy
Haack, Linda & Joel
Hatchel, Dale

Hartman, Bill & Ruthann
Hein, Elaine
Heuer, Lance
Hingst, Carolyn
Hoff, M
Hoffman, Marie
Hoffmann, Kathlyn
Holst, Anita
Horstmann, James
Hustedde, Michael & Hedy
Jansen, Marilyn
Kell, Kathryn
Ketelaar, Bill & Barb
Kittlaus, Janet & Lloyd
Knudsen, Sonja
Knutsen, Terry
Koehler, Tim
Koen, Ron & Connie
Koenig, Dave
Kramer, Rodger & Sandy
Krause, Dean
Kuehn, Lynda
Kurtz, Joe
Lackey, Diana
Lao, Jose
Laverenz, Margy
Lawrence, Elmer
Martens, Waltraud H.
Martin, Sylvia
McLaughlin, Kathleen
McGuire, Bernadine, F.
Meumann, Mary
Meyer, Bev
Moeller, Bonnie
Mott, Dale & Mary
Motto, Mike
Mueller, Denise
Nelson, Betty J.
Nieman, Jerry
Nuernberger, Dave & Joyce
Paustian, Joyce
Perry, Susan B.
Peterson, Mr. & Mrs. Dick

Pitz, P. Nicholas
Plambeck, Travis
Pruter, Vicki A.
Reiter, Robert
Robb, Joe & Deb
Schaefer, Jack
Schaefer, C.H.
Schafer, David
Schneider, Linda
Schultz, Tony & Helen
Schweibert, Mark
Scott, Julie
Smith, Kerry
Snyder, Christine
Sommer, Carol
Specht, Rita
Spencer, Alice
Stahl, Helen
Stanley, Laude & Hunter
Straetker, George & Dori
Strunck Family
Stuhr Family
Switzer, TD
Thoms, Stuart
Thorensen, Sue & Bob
True, Mr. & Mrs. John
Vincent, Arlene
Wagner, Dinah
Wallaert, Judith
Welch, Janice M.
Wellendorf, Clarice
Wellhouse, Joyce
Woeber, Todd
Wohlford, Pat
Woitte, Marlene
Wooten, Don
Zimmerman, Barb & Mark

We raised
\$237,863.07
for the GAHC&M!

kalender of events

1

jan.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY 7-8TH. COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE. Free admission

SATURDAY 21ST. GAHC BOOK DISCUSSION. 10:30am. The group will discuss *Maus I & II* by Art Spiegelman. New members welcome! Info at <https://gahc.org/events/gahc-book-club-2/>

MONDAY 23RD. ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERSHIP. 5:30pm. In-person and virtual. RSVP on eventbrite.com

WEDNESDAY 25TH. EXTRACTING INFORMATION FROM GERMAN VITAL RECORDS WEBINAR. 7pm CST. Virtual genealogy webinar. Recording will be available for 30 days after the program. Register at eventbrite.com, \$20 members, \$25 non-members

SUNDAY 29TH. HAMBURG ON MISSISSIPPI PART 1. 2pm. Hybrid presentation. FREE members, \$5 non-members. Register at eventbrite.com

2

feb.

SATURDAY 4TH. SCIGS: JUMPING THE POND TO DEUTSCHLAND. 1pm. Hybrid SCIGS meeting and presentation open to the public. FREE. Register at <https://davenportlibrary.libcal.com/event/9191481>

SATURDAY 11TH. LOVE, MURDER, AND ALGORITHMS. 2pm. In-person lecture with Dr. Tyler Carrington. \$5 members, \$10 non-members. Light refreshments will be served. Register on eventbrite.com

SUNDAY 12TH. HAMBURG ON MISSISSIPPI PART 2 . 2pm. Hybrid lecture. Register at eventbrite.com, FREE members, \$5 non-members

3

mar.

SATURDAY 4TH. INDIGO TIE DYE WORKSHOP. 12-2PM. \$10 members, \$15 non-members. Register at eventbrite.com. Spots are limited.

SUNDAY 5TH. BASKET WEAVING WORKSHOP. 12-4pm. Weave your own Easter basket! All materials provided. \$42 members, \$47 non-members. Spots are limited. Register at eventbrite.com

SATURDAY 11TH. PYSANKY EGG WORKSHOP. 12-3pm. \$25 members, \$25 non-members. Spots are limited. Register at eventbrite.com

SATURDAY 18th. GAHC BOOK DISCUSSION. 10:30am. The group will discuss *Kepler's Witch: An Astronomer's Discovery* by James A. Connor. New members welcome! More info at <https://gahc.org/events/gahc-book-club-3/>

SATURDAY 25TH. PYSANKY EGG WORKSHOP. 12-3pm. \$25 members, \$25 non-members. Spots are limited. Register at eventbrite.com

SATURDAY APRIL 1ST. EIERMARKT SPRING CRAFT FAIR. 10am-2pm. FREE ADMISSION. Many local vendors with handmade gifts, decorations, baked goods, and more!

For full details of all our events visit gahc.org/events

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Rock Island, IL

