



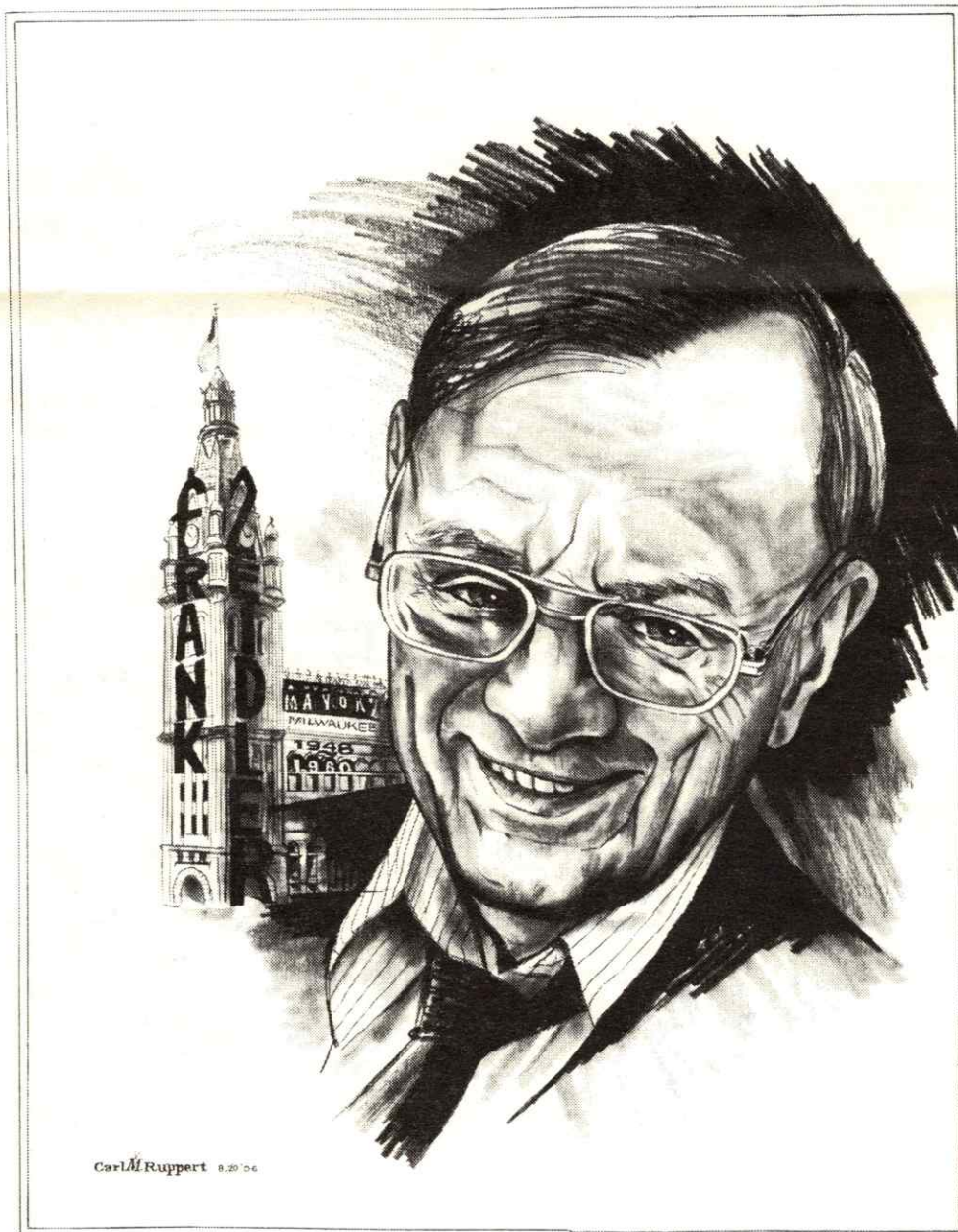
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PERSPEKTIVEN

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Fall 2006

Frank P. Zeidler - 1912 2006





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INSTITUT

Goethe House of Wisconsin

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From the President

We are once again arriving at the final quarter of a year's activities at GOETHE HAUS and thankful, indeed, are we for the many hours of volunteer time given by our Board of Directors and most recently by the individuals who made GermanFest and our annual picnic such a success. This observation brings me to the huge credit that is due our recently departed and good friend Frank Zeidler. There is not enough gratitude that we can show to "Hizz Honor, the Mayor." As one of the founders of GOETHE HAUS. He was a particular pantheon of plenitude when it came to preserving the cultural contributions that German people made to the development of our great State of Wisconsin. When the occasion arose for the need for help, the word "no" found no place in his vocabulary. He always knew of a worthwhile connection to assist the cause. There was always another article that could be written, a lecture to be given or a book to be read that would be helpful. He was good in everything that was great and great in everything that was good. We are in debt to Carl Ruppert, who upon learning of the passing of "Hizz Honor" insisted upon rendering a portrait for posterity which appears on the cover of this issue. For our good friend there are no "good-byes," for there will always be the influence of his presence!

Ted E. Wedemeyer Jr.

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814 West Wisconsin
Avenue, Milwaukee,
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Phone (414) 276-7435

e-mail:

goethe@execpc.com

Editors:

Robert W. Wiesian
Daniel P. Hanley Jr.

Managing Editor:

Helga Nikolic

Staff Writer

Kathleen Geraghty

Design:

Carl Ruppert

Partner Institute
Goethe Institut Chicago
150 N. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60601



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Toast to Goethe House visitors at GermanFest

By Katharina Hren
Executive Director



Ted E. Wedemeyer Jr. & Carl Ruppert

Thanks to all of you who visited our booth at German Fest! We had a record amount of over 700 visitors to our computer test area! Sprecher once again provided us with beer for our member hospitality corner, and several of you stopped by for a beer and a chat. We always enjoy hearing your stories, questions and insights in person.

This summer we introduced some new themes into our Kinder Camps. Our soccer camps in German were especially popular. We especially enjoyed our World Cup soccer camp, which took place during the World Cup. The day that Germany played was exciting for the campers and the teachers alike! We find that children retain language better when the topic is of interest to them. In addition to the soccer camps, we also held camps with fairytale and food themes. Locations were the Kickers/Uihein soccer park, Tamarack Community School and First Congregational Church in Wauwatosa. Tausend Dank to this year's teachers: Andrew Richardson, Ingolf Rixmann, Jammie Orth, Michael Orth, and Amy Mondry. I took a turn teaching a Grimm Fairytale camp, with help from volunteers Laurie Bernd, Lindsay Mueller, Karen Rinaldi, and Svenja, our young visitor from Germany. Next year we hope to once again have a camp in the Brookfield/Waukesha area. Be sure to look for camp details in the beginning of 2007.



This fall is a special one for me...my son begins first grade at the Milwaukee German Immersion School. I look forward to sharing my love of languages with Gustav as he embarks on his own adventures at this unique school. Last year my friend Christiane brought a "Schultüte" from Germany for Gustav. For those who don't know, a Schultüte is filled with sweets and surprises for the child's first day of school. This year she brought him a Viking pencil case filled with colored pencils of different sizes. The smell and hues of the pencils brought me back to my own childhood for a moment. I would dream about the many colored words I could write in as many languages as I could possibly learn. Yet Gustav seems to especially enjoy the eraser!

The Goethe House will be moving in the coming months...stay tuned for more programming!

Mach's gut!

Eure Katharina

Letter to the president

29 August 2006

Ted -

Thanks so much - that is my family. Nice story - also about Switzerland - where we have a house. Thank you for thinking of us.

Sincerely,

John J. Stollenwerk

[Editor's note: The Summer 2006 PERSPEKTIVEN story on the founding of St. Augustine church in Bay View in 1887, referred to Elias Stollenwerk, a director of the new parish, who was an ancestor of John J. Stollenwerk of Allen Edmonds, and to Swiss immigrants who settled in Wisconsin.]

Goethe House a co-presenter of German films

By Jill Haas

Goethe House of Wisconsin is proud to be co-presenter of the German Genre Series at the fourth annual Milwaukee International Film Festival (MIFF), which kicks off October 19th and will run for 11 days, will feature over 100 films from more than 40 countries and showcases the best in contemporary, world and regional cinema.

The mission of the Milwaukee International Film Festival is to present high-quality, thought-provoking films from around the world and here in the Midwest, bringing the city's many diverse communities together in a cultural undertaking.

The official 2006 MIFF program book, which includes the entire film schedule, will be released in the October 5th issue of the Shepherd Express weekly newspaper and distributed at festival venues, including Landmark's Oriental and Downer Theatres, the Times Cinema, the Milwaukee Art Museum's Lubar Auditorium and the brand new state-of-the-art digital Innovation Theater located in Discovery World at Pier Wisconsin.

The film festival will run a German Genre Series, consisting of feature length and short films by contemporary German film makers.

Two German films have already been chosen for the festival:

■ "Netto" is the debut film for Director Robert Thalheim, and was awarded the "Best Feature Debut" at the German Film Critics Association Award in 2005, and the Dialogue en perspective at the Berlin Film Festival 2005.

Film synopsis: When things start to get unbearable at his mother's home for 15-year-old Sebastian, he seeks out his father, Marcel, who runs a permanently closed electricity repairs shop but dreams of a career in personal security. Any bottle, can or pack containing alcoholic beverages within Marcel's reach is less than safe, however, which makes both his desired career advancement and his suitability as a father rather questionable. Invited to crash on his father's couch, — under a gigantic poster of Peter Tschernig, an East-German version of Johnny Cash or so we are told — Sebastian tries to assess whether life in his father's rubbish-filled hangout is better or worse than his mother's new Western-style house which she set up with her new boyfriend.

Notable cast: Milan Peschel, Sebastian Butz, Christina Grosse. Language: German Genre: Comedy Year: 2005. Previous screening: Chicago '05, Berlin '05. Length: 87 minutes.

Critical response: "Perfectly scaled father-son comedy hits all the right notes while scoring subtle points about East-West divisions."

■ "Requiem" is a new, award-winning film by Hans-Christian Schmid.

Film synopsis: A strict Catholic girl starts to hear voices when she goes off to college. Is it mental illness or demonic possession?

2004 Emerging Master Hans-Christian Schmid (DISTANT LIGHTS) takes the same German source material used for "The Exorcism of Emily Rose" to craft a harrowing yet somber story.

Director: Hans-Christian Schmid, born in Germany in 1965. Previous films: "Lichter" (2003), "Crazy" (2000), "23" (1998).

Notable cast: Sandra Huller, Burghart Klaubner, Imogen Kogge. Language: German Genre: Drama/horror/thriller year: 2006. Previous screening: Berlin '06, Seattle '06 Awards: FIPRESCI Prize and Silver Bear @ Berlin '06, several other German film awards. Length: 93 minutes.

Critical response: "Built around an extraordinary, lacerating, Silver Bear-winning leading performance by stage actress Sandra Hueller, this stunningly played story of faith vs. family, sold as a character piece rather than the genre thrill ride it most definitely isn't, could segue to art houses following strong word of mouth."

Individual tickets for the 2006 film festival are \$9 per film and will go on sale to the public in early October. Moviegoers can achieve significant savings by purchasing advance full festival passes and 12- and six-ticket packages now to save up to \$28 off the door price. Ticket packages may be redeemed for individual tickets at the main MIFF box office located in Landmark's Oriental Theatre opening Oct. 4.

For further ticketing information or to purchase festival passes, ticket packages, and tickets to the Opening Night Gala on Thursday October 19th and the Closing Weekend Award Ceremony on October 28 visit **HYPERLINK** "www.milwaukeeifest.org" www.milwaukeeifest.org or call (414) 225-9740.

Goethe House a viable legacy of Frank P. Zeidler

Goethe House of Wisconsin has lost a patriarch - Frank P. Zeidler - who was there at the beginning for our non-profit German-American cultural institute founded in 1958.

Zeidler was on the board of directors of Goethe House of Wisconsin, and then an honorary board member and a contributing editor of **PERSPEKTIVEN**.

When the first edition of **PERSPEKTIVEN**, Goethe House of Wisconsin's quarterly, was published in December 2001, Zeidler heralded the international concept of Goethe Institutes for our readers and told us about the history of our chapter.

Zeidler had been mayor of Milwaukee from 1948 to 1960, was among the most successful Socialist elected officials in the United States, and was in the middle of his third term when Goethe House of Wisconsin found a home.

Zeidler had this story to tell:

"At the end of the second World War, serious efforts were made in the United States to re-establish good relations with the people of Germany. In Milwaukee, members of the Steuben Society and individuals such as Otto Robert Hauser and Bernhard Hoffmann, who were civic leaders, sought to provide relief for the people of German and to re-establish social and cultural ties.

"The government of West German, now the Federal Republic of Germany, on its part cooperated with the United States government in sending individuals representing the different sections of Germany, different cultures and occupations to the United States for tours. In this effort, the city of Milwaukee took an active part. It was the original concept of the government of Germany to establish information centers emphasizing the culture of Germany. These were centers featuring books, periodicals and films about German life past and present. Such centers were called Goethe Institutes or Houses after Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, the greatest of recent German literary figures.

"Milwaukee was naturally an important location for a Goethe House because of numerous descendants of German immigrants. The area seemed attractive to the members of the German department at Marquette University who elicited the support of Attorney Henry S. Reuss, later a member of Congress. An effort to provide a location for Goethe House in a building at Marquette did not prove fruitful. Instead the city of Milwaukee was approached for space.



Frank P. Zeidler

"I was the mayor of the city at that time and welcomed the proposal. It was arranged through the Common Council and the Milwaukee Public Library Board to provide a space on the first floor of the main library. Richard Krug was the City Librarian at the time and was very cooperative in the effort.

"Funding of the Goethe House initially was provided in generous amounts by the German government. Later Goethe House in Milwaukee generated some money from grants and membership. The first director of Goethe house was Attorney Herbert Spenner, a native born German. He was succeeded by Ernst Edelhauser, of Austrian background. The current director is Katharina Hren, who was born in Berlin.

"Over the years, Goethe House has become a home for a vast collection of books in the mother language as well as a provider of films, tapes, videos, periodicals and newspapers to its members and the public at large. Its collection is solid and up to date. Since the 1950s Goethe House through its music and cultural programs has greatly enhanced the social and intellectual life of the greater Milwaukee community."

That is a legacy of Frank P. Zeidler, who died July 7, 2006, at the age of 93.

Hitler ordered death of Mildred Fish Harnack

The Milwaukee native was the only American woman executed for being a member of the resistance in Nazi Germany in World War II

By Art Heitzer

Countless United States' residents who are not of German origin have been deeply influenced by the humanistic aspects of German culture, but how many have given their lives as a result?

That is what happened to Milwaukee native Mildred Fish, better known as Mildred Harnack based on her marriage to Arvid Harnack, a German lawyer and economist who studied under John R. Commons at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where they met as students in the 1920's.

Arvid came from one of Germany's most prominent intellectual families: Both his father and uncle were prominent theologians, and the latter, Adolf Von Harnack, was also an advisor to the Kaiser and head of the scientific institute that later gave birth to quantum physics through the work of Max Planck, Albert Einstein and others.

Both Mildred and Arvid perished as part as the internal German opposition to Hitler, as did their relative Diedrich Bonhoeffer later in the war. There are many questions concerning members of the German Resistance and what motivated them:

Why were they so few and relatively ineffectual?

Why are some well known, such as Bonhoeffer and the generals executed after the failed July 1944 plot to assassinate Hitler, while others (particularly left-wingers) are largely ignored and still thought of by some as being "traitors to Germany"?

And added to those questions is one particularly concerning "Mildred from Milwaukee," as she has sometime been referred to in Germany.

Why did she choose to risk and ultimately sacrifice her life, after her husband and others had urged her to stay in the U.S. when she returned here on visits?

Was it merely her love for her husband, who worked as an official in the Third Reich's Economics Ministry and relayed information on military preparations to the Allies (both the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.); was it based on her anti-fascist politics; or was she also motivated by a deep love for the Germany of Goethe and Schiller?

Of course we can't ask Mildred, whose birth date of September 16 (1902) is a state-mandated Special



Mildred Fish Harnack

Recognition Day throughout the schools of Wisconsin. But we do have the benefit of her writings and of an extensive biography, *Resisting Hitler: Mildred Harnack and the Red Orchestra*, by Shareen Blair Brysac (Oxford University Press, 2000).

The answer is undoubtedly a combination of all three. While millions of people resisted Hitler, from every nation of the world, Mildred is the only American woman who was executed by the Nazis for being part of the German Resistance. To honor her sacrifice, the Soviet Union had awarded her its highest civilian honor from World War II (posthumously), but recognition here has been relatively muted.

It is doubtful that any other victim of the Nazis so eloquently expressed his or her motivation as being based on love for Germany and its progressive culture as did Dr. Mildred Harnack.

[Please turn to Harnack, Page 7]

Hitler ordered death of Mildred Fish Harnack

Mildred was nearly 30 before she first visited Germany. Although of English ancestry, she grew up in the heavily German immigrant west side of Milwaukee. She excelled at West Division High School, now known as the Milwaukee High School of the Arts (MHSA), and later enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she graduated in 1925 and lectured in American Literature beginning in 1926. There, she met and married Arvid Harnack, who was studying American labor history and conditions on a Rockefeller grant.

Young Mildred was a budding scholar, who completed her senior thesis on a translation of Homer's Iliad, edited and contributed poetry to the Wisconsin Literary Magazine, and then became society editor for the Wisconsin State Journal. She excelled in languages, and also became active in social causes such as trying to save the lives of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, left-wing anarchists who were later executed in Massachusetts.

Mildred joined her husband on his return to Germany in 1929, where Arvid served in the German Economic Ministry until his arrest in 1942. Mildred became a major exponent of the study of American literature in Germany, was a gifted lecturer, and received her Ph.D. from the University of Berlin after studying at Jena and Giessen.

Notably, she also became a fixture of the German-American social scene in Berlin. However, the Harnacks' life in Germany went far beyond socializing.

Besides their demanding professional careers, both began working for one of the most significant early resistance groups inside the Third Reich. The Harnack/Schulze-Boysen Organization circulated literature that had been banned by Hitler's government; published an underground resistance newsletter, "Die Innere Front," which was translated into multiple languages of the laborers forcibly imported from occupied Europe; and most notably, supplied the Soviet Union with key information concerning Nazi invasion plans.

Mildred, who deeply admired the German humanists of the 19th century, felt strongly that the Nazis had defiled Germany's rich cultural tradition and sought to end Hitler's rule so that creativity and humanism could once again flourish.

In late 1942, the Nazi Gestapo captured the Harnacks along with many of their resistance partners. Arvid was executed shortly thereafter for treason while

Mildred was left to suffer in prison under a 6-year sentence.

Despite torture authorized by a Nazi judge and being quite ill after her arrest, Mildred dedicated her time to translating Goethe's poetry into English. After Hitler ordered a re-trial in 1943, she was sentenced to death.

Before facing the Nazi guillotine, Mildred Harnack's last words were, "And I loved Germany so much!"

Over 60 years after her death, the spirit of Mildred Harnack lives on.

While she has been recognized as a heroine by many in Europe, Mildred's story was unknown in the U.S. for decades, and is now remembered here due to a modest Mildred Harnack Memorial Fund, set up in 1996 by the Wisconsin Community Fund.

Since 1998, an outstanding senior graduating from her former high school has received a \$1,000 scholarship in her name. In addition, the UW-Madison Law School sponsors a lecture series in her honor, and plaques memorializing her are on display at Milwaukee High School of the Arts, as well as at Milwaukee's historic Turner Hall and the Peace Action Center in Riverwest.

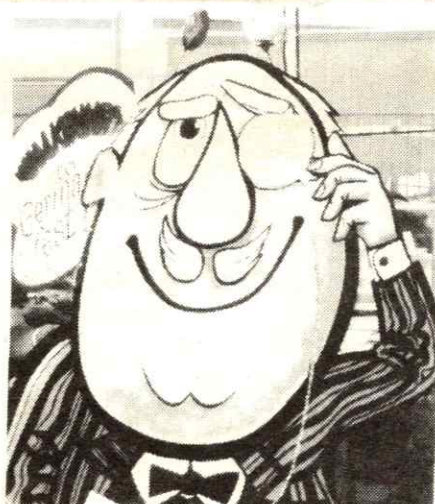
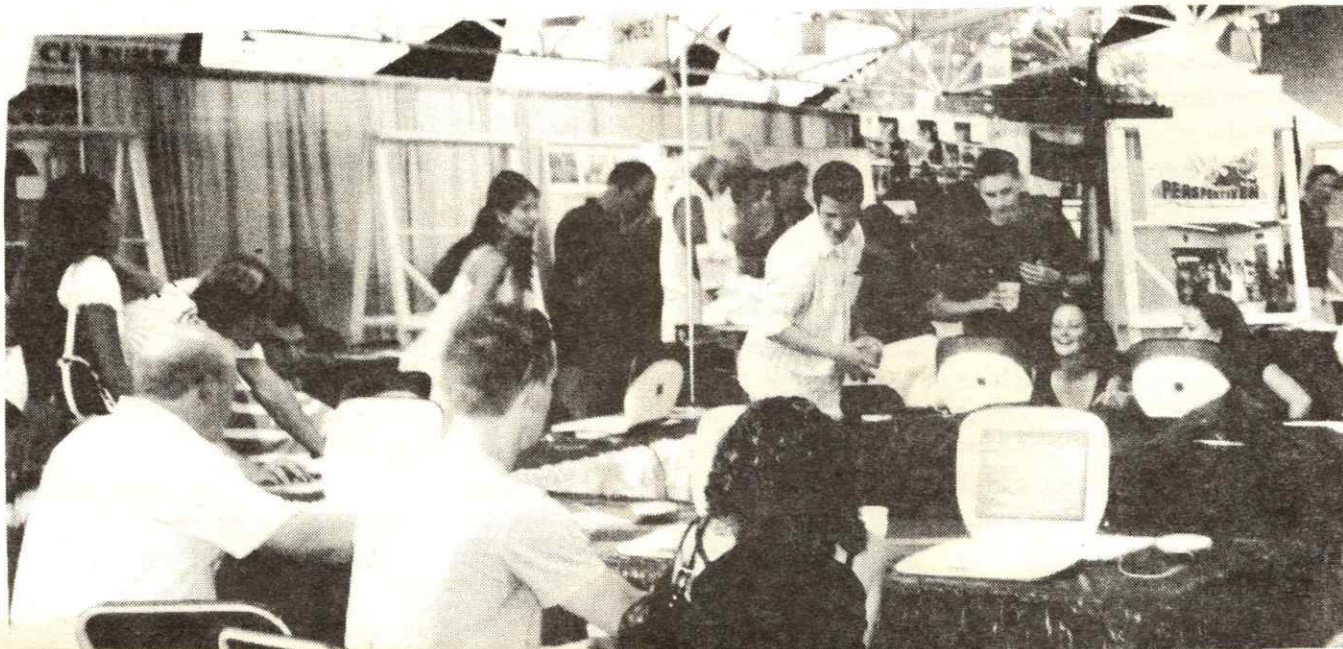
But fuller appreciation of Mildred Harnack and her sacrifice remains in order. A top level UW-Madison plan to honor her was shelved after World War II, as the Cold War began and Sen. Joe McCarthy was on the rise. Too few Wisconsinites know anything about the only American woman executed for being a member of the Resistance in Nazi Germany. Put simply, there is ample room to increase recognition of Mildred Fish Harnack in Wisconsin with a fitting public memorial.

Milwaukee attorney Art Heitzer has helped Wisconsin re-discover the story of Mildred Fish Harnack, including passage of the 1986 Wisconsin law designating her birthday as a Special Observance Day in the state's schools. He maintains an archive of materials on her and helped initiate the Wisconsin Community Fund in her honor.

He can be reached at 414 273-1040 ext. 12 or at aheitzer@igc.org

Summer fun for Goethe House

GermanFest, a picnic outing, learning at Kinder Camp



Goethe House of Wisconsin is now online.

Visit us at and send your friends to:

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Information available on Goethe House events, membership and other resources.

Satisfy your need for German culture 24 hours a day.

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Summer fun for Goethe House

GermanFest, a picnic outing, learning at Kinder Camp



Goethe House of Wisconsin is a non-profit German-American cultural institute serving Wisconsin since 1958. Our mission is to serve as a statewide resource for information about the past and present culture of all German-speaking people - especially those in the Federal Republic of Germany. Goethe House of Wisconsin invites the financial support of individuals, companies and organizations who share our mission and recognize the value of this important cultural exchange. Goethe House of Wisconsin is a not-for-profit (501) (c) (3) organization. Donations are tax deductible as the law allows.



Goethe House of Wisconsin

We would like to thank our friends who have generously supported us. Herzlichen Dank!

Ted E. Wedemeyer Jr.

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Spielplatz: Make a magic leaf, light a lantern

A Jan Beger Production



Spielplatz

Magic Leaf Drawing

- ✿ Find a nice leaf.
- ✿ Put it on a flat surface like a desk.
- ✿ Cover the leaf with a piece of paper.
- ✿ Crayon on the paper over the leaf.
- ✿ Magically, a leaf image will appear.

Kinder Crafts @ EnchantedLearning.com

Herbst

Can you find 6 German words and 3 English words in the puzzle?

L N O O M G E
O E M T Ü E D
O F F I T M N
H Ü A P T Ü O
C H N E A S M
S C H U L E A
S K Ü R B I S

St. Martins' Day

On November 11th, German children celebrate St. Martin's Day by singing special songs & carrying lanterns. A bit like trick or treating, they are rewarded for their singing & the beauty of their lanterns, with candy & other goodies. You can find patterns for lanterns at <http://www.labbe.de/zzzebra/index.asp> Scroll down to Inhaltsverzeichnis and click on St. Martin, under „Festliche, festliche.“



Laterne, Laterne

This is a favorite song sung on St. Martins' Day!

Laterne, Laterne, Sonne, Mond
und Sterne,
Brenne auf, mein Licht,
brenne auf, mein Licht,
aber nur meine liebe Laterne
nicht.



Gebrannte Mandeln

This is an adapted recipe for a traditional Oktoberfest treat.

Ingredients

- 2 T butter
- 2 cups blanched almonds
- ¼ cup sugar
- ½ tsp. cinnamon
- 1 T brown sugar

In a large microwaveable bowl melt butter for 30 seconds. Add nuts. Microwave [high] 4-5 minutes stirring every minute. Combine sugars & cinnamon. Stir into nut mixture. Spread on paper towel to cool.

German-speaking Swiss in Wisconsin

"No matter how good you have it in Switzerland, you have it better here."

Jakob Bühler, a Swiss immigrant, who settled in Sauk County, Wisconsin in 1847

By Maralyn A. Wellauer-Lenius M.A.

Approximately 12,000 Swiss immigrants came to Wisconsin in the 19th century, according to the U.S. Federal Census. The Summer 2006 PERSPEKTIVEN told the story of some of these immigrants. Other significant settlements are presented herein with brief descriptions, together with their founding dates and pioneer families.

Alma and Tell City, Buffalo County

The Swiss in Buffalo County came from several cantons. Their major influx came in the 1840's and continued into the mid-1850's. The earliest settlers were Bündners, residents of canton Graubünden, in the mountainous area of eastern Switzerland. (Many of whom are listed with their communes of origin in Augustin Maissen's article titled, "Bündner Einwanderer in Wisconsin 1847-1867." Bündner Monatsblatt. Nr. 11/12, Nov/Dec 1960 Chur. (366-374).)

They came to the thriving lumbering region in 1846 and 1847 along the Mississippi River. In many cases, these immigrants were small farmers who owned 40 to 60 acre parcels of land. They settled near what is today Alma (Twelve Mile Bluff), Tell City, and Fountain City.

Some of the early immigrants to this area included: Nicholas Liesch from Schiers, GR; Victor Probst and Joseph Berni from Biberist, SO; Andrew Baertsch, from Trimmis, GR; John Conrad Waecker from Unterhallau, Schaffhausen; and Caspar Wild, from Gossau, ZH, who came in 1848.

(Biographical sketches of these and other early Swiss can be found in Lawrence Kessinger's, History of Buffalo County Wisconsin. 1888.)

Town of Ashford, Fond du Lac County

Times were bad in Europe. Over 10 percent of the inhabitants of the district of Werdenberg, St. Gallen left for the United States between 1845 and 1880. They were mostly from the communities of Sevelen, Sennwald, Buchs, Grabs, and Wartau. Some passages were sponsored by the communities, who paid travel expenses for their citizens to sail away to New York or New

Orleans. Tischhauser, Schlegel, Rohrer, Senn, Müntner, Litscher, Engeler, Hofman, Schwendener, Gantenbein, Hansgartner, and Güntli are names of those who came to the Town of Ashford, which is located in the southeastern part of the county, in 1854. Some went on to Washington County and made their homes there. After a few years, several families found the Wisconsin winters too cold and left for Kansas.

Bangor and Mormon Coulee, La Crosse County

The Welsh and the Yankees (from the eastern U.S.) were the first to settle in Bangor. Afterward, Florian and Christian Ruedy, Jacob and Christian Hatz, John Bosshard, Joseph Zimmerman, and Andrew Wolf arrived in 1851 from Switzerland. Darms' Prairie, a farm community southwest of Bangor, was named after Michael Darms, a Bündner, who settled there in 1847. At the end of the 1840's, there were a few Swiss in this area, namely the Witmanns, Hoffmanns, Sprengers, and Schweizers. The later two families were from Zürich. In 1852, Henry Bosshard, a Swiss from Zürich, made a trip to the United States to explore the possibilities for Swiss immigration. Based on his findings, which he published as "Views and Experiences in America," a group of 52 people left in 1856 from Brienz (BE) a town that produces renowned wood carvers. The group included over 50 people with the surnames, Bernet, Flick, Kienholz, Schild, Eggler, Schmoker, and Thomann. Some went to live in other areas after their arrival in the U.S., but later joined up in Mormon Coulee. After the Civil War, other Swiss came from the same area in Bern. These were the Andereggs, Egglers, Grässles, Seilers, Stähli, Otts, and Zopfis.

(See "The Swiss Settlers of Mormon Coulee" by George Zielke. Reprinted from La Crosse Tribune and Leader Press, La Crosse, Wisconsin, Liesenfeld Press, 1931.)

Honey Creek, Sauk County

Sauk City, on the banks of the Wisconsin River, was the destination point for many Swiss. In 1842, Christian Ragatz and his family settled in the town of Sauk City. In the spring of 1843, 41 more families joined the settlers at the Sauk Prairie settlement. Other Swiss went to Honey Creek, lured by reports from family and friends. In an open letter to the members of his home commune, Jacob Bühler, who came to Honey Creek in

German-speaking Swiss in Wisconsin

1847 wrote: "No matter how good you have it in Switzerland, you have it better here."

(See "A Swiss Family in the New World: Letters of Jakob and Ulrich Bühler 1847-1877." IN: Wisconsin Magazine of History, Vol.6, Nr.3, 1922-1923. (317-333)

Families from the Graubünden communes of Tamins, Felsburg, Masans, Haldenstein, Trimmins, Zizers, Maienfeld, Valzein, Schiers and Davos arrived mainly between 1842 and 1860. Eighteen families from Nänikon (ZH) among them, the Ochsners, Morfs, Hagers, and Bosshards, left their homeland in May 1851 destined for Sauk County. Interestingly, an area of 12 square miles comprising 46 farmsteads and 12 other sites where German-speaking families from Graubünden settled, were designated a historical district because of its distinct masonry pattern executed in locally quarried stone.

(See Eisely and Tishler's article, "The Honey Creek Swiss Settlement in Sauk County." IN: Wisconsin Magazine of History, Vol.73, Nr.1, Autumn 1989, (3-220.)

Brookfield, Waukesha County

The first Swiss in Waukesha County, according to early accounts, may have been Fred Hassler, who settled in 1841 in the Town of Genesee, a community consisting mainly of Welsh immigrants. Thereafter, a small group of immigrants, lead by a wealthy man from Bern named Schluraff, established itself in Waukesha. They included Jacob Kunta and Jacob Hengy (Hänggi.) Johann, the brother of the latter, also immigrated but returned to his native Solothurn where he authored a guide to emigrants. A number of Swiss immigrants who landed at New York in 1849 made their way to Waukesha County, and settled in the Town of Brookfield. Among them were the Hoffmanns, Schmutzes, and Wellauers.

Georg, Rudolf, and Henry Wellauer and their families came from Wagenhausen, Canton Thurgau (TG) located on the Rhine River, near the German border. Georg's skill as a tailor and Rudolf's leather working abilities were needed in the rural community. Henry and his wife moved to Milwaukee in 1862, but several of their daughters already were married into other area Swiss families, namely Nass, Breu, Kuhn, and Ryf and remained in Brookfield. Anna Elisabeth Wellauer, the eldest daughter of Henry and Anna Wellauer, married Johann (John) Hoffmann from Horgenbach (TG.) The couple managed

the Phoenix Hotel, a famous stopping place for travelers and farmers who brought their produce to Milwaukee.

Three Schmutz brothers, Christian, John and Frederick (Fred) came to America in 1849 and 1851. John's obituary states he was born at Interlaken, "one of the most beautiful places in the circle of the Bernese Alps." John bought a farm on which was located the Brackett tavern, an old landmark, where he established a cheese factory. Another Thurgauer from Wagenhausen was Christian Ochsner and his wife, Elisabeth. Waukesha County historian, Lacher, once called Jacob Spycher "a literary light among the Swiss of this country." Born in Oberbalm (BE,) Spycher was an accomplished farmer, weaver, baker, cheese manufacturer, and wine maker. In 1863, he made the first "self-grown wine" in Milwaukee. He was an intellectual who contributed articles on Swiss history to the Schweizer-Zeitung. In the 1850's, three more families arrived from Canton Bern. Gottfried (Godfrey) Ries, emigrated from Burgdorf BE) in July 1851 and became a successful dairyman.

For more information on the Brookfield Swiss, see "Waukesha County's Swiss Pioneers by Maralyn A. Wellauer, IN: Landmark (Waukesha County Historical Society) Winter 1982, Vol.25, No.4 (2-6.)

Iola and Scandinavia, Waupaca County

A small, rather well known Swiss reformed chapel, located on the Walter Staub farm in the township of Scandinavia, marks the Swiss settlement in Waupaca County. It was built in 1893 by a Count Bentzel, who came to the area from Erlenbach, ZH, in 1854. Services were held in Swiss-German and several Swiss families worshipped there. It was a popular site for weddings. Helvetia township was first settled in 1853 by Protestant Reformed emigrants.

No comprehensive, in-depth study of Swiss immigration to Wisconsin has been compiled. The author has been working on a long-range project since 1980. The goal is to produce brief biographical and genealogical studies of all persons of Swiss birth who resided in Wisconsin prior to 1900. The purpose of the research is to identify individuals by name, age, and occupation; locate immigrants, communes and cantons of origin; chronicle their settlements; and identify their descendants.

Any information is appreciated:

Maralyn A. Wellauer-Lenius:

Biedermeier 1815-1848: "Die gute alte Zeit"

With the defeat of Napoleon, the general population in Germany and Austria had hoped for a change in their political structure.

The Congress of Vienna (1814-1815), however, re-instated the status quo, issuing in political restrictions and societal controls. The Germans and Austrians, having lived with the French Revolution and enduring the Napoleonic occupation, were happy that peace and order prevailed once more. Most of the population did not want to hear anything of politics; they were tired of fighting and, perhaps out of resignation, they focused on things closest and dearest to their hearts, i.e. family, employment, and home.

In the early 1800's the bourgeoisie had developed into a better educated and more self-assured social group. It was a rapidly growing culture of lawyers, doctors, civil servants, teachers, merchants and early industrialists.

The industrialization had strengthened the middle class, but it was still under the iron fist of the Metternich State and remained powerless.

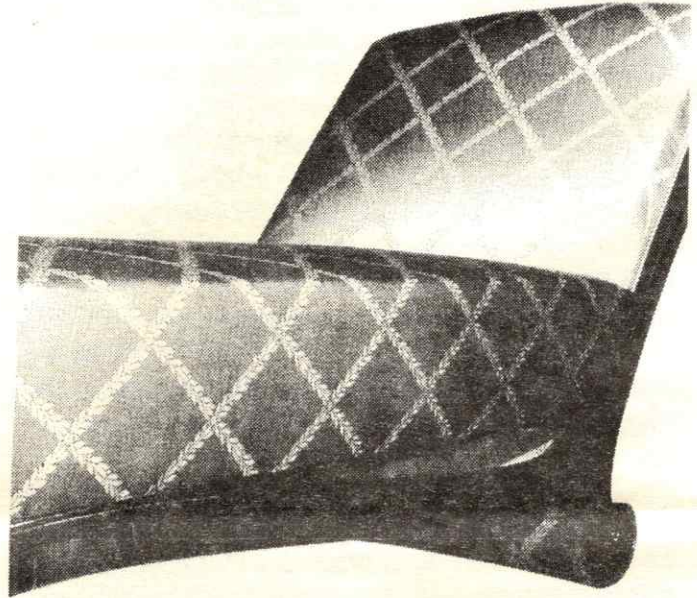
The Metternich State was not about to let a repeat of the French Revolution occur. As Metternich saw things, an aristocratic world order based on sound common sense provided a framework for society: in this society individualism, the leveling of society, freedom, equality and human rights, the sovereignty of the people and popular representation had no place.

Because the individual was prevented from influencing the Metternich police state, people placed their personal interests in the foreground.

As prosperity slowly returned, first for the aristocratic class and subsequently for the bourgeois class, there arose a culture of domesticity.

The home was seen as a place of refuge in which personal interests and a social culture could be nurtured, such as Hausmusik, card games, dances and afternoon coffees. Domestic space became revered as the central site for harmonious personal and family life, a place in which individual definition became tied to comfort, security, and informality of the home environment. It became a form of retreat: privacy was the ideal, domestic happiness was the goal.

The important focal point of the Biedermeier period became the Wohnzimmer. Value was placed on coziness (Gemütlichkeit), and a lovingly decorated home filled with portraits and landscape paintings. Knickknacks, souvenirs and gifts were displayed in glass



THE INVENTION OF SIMPLICITY

BIEDERMEIER

cabinets or on shelves. Fabrics and upholstery, along with colorful paint and wallpaper patterns, emphasized unifying elements of the room. The arrangement of the furniture played an important role, defining many Wohninseln with a variety of activities in one room, i.e. writing, sewing, music and entertaining guests. This was "die gute Stube." This was also the start of the living space as we know it today.

In the 20th century, Biedermeier was rediscovered and became appreciated for the qualities of the interiors such as comfort, functionality, simplicity, and the harmony between beauty and the natural beauty of the woods. Even though the lives of the Biedermeier citizens testify how difficult it was to find balance between public life and private existence, one looked nostalgically back at this period as "die gute alte Zeit."

Biedermeier Exhibit, Jause offer glimpse of the past



Ron Ross



SyKreilein

Sylvester Kreilein and Ronald J. Ross, members of the Goethe House Board of Directors, gave informative, animated lectures in mid-August to more than 100 Milwaukee Art Museum staff members and docents in preparation for the opening of the exhibit, *Biedermeier: The Invention of Simplicity*.

Kreilein is Professor of German at Marquette University High School, an award-winning teacher and a widely respected interpreter of German culture.

Ross is Professor Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where from 1968 until his retirement in 2004 he taught 19th- and 20th- century German history and the social and political history of Modern Europe.

The Milwaukee Art Museum exhibition, with its focus on early 19th-century interior design and furniture from Germanic Central Europe, is displayed in the Quadracci Pavilion (designed by Santiago Calatrava) from September 16 to January 1, 2007. The lectures by Kreilein and Ross explored the historical background, the economic context, and the cultural values or assumptions that shaped and molded the Biedermeier era.

The exhibition itself, the first of its kind in North America, showcases more than 350 items, including furniture, paintings, ceramics, glass, metalwork, wallpaper, and fashion. All these works capture the path-breaking character of the Biedermeier period—the decade of the 1820s in particular—and call attention to its affinities with present-day design.

Following its venue in Milwaukee, the exhibit will travel to Berlin, Paris, and Vienna.

For more information, call the Milwaukee Art Museum at (414) 224-3842.

Kreilein, together with his wife, Joan Parsley, artistic director of Musical Offering, Ltd., will also be a host for *In Harmony: At Home with Biedermeier and A Biedermeier Christmas*. These special presentations, offered at 157 N. 87th Street in Wauwatosa, will run concurrently with the Museum exhibit at 4 o'clock on Saturday and Sunday afternoons beginning October 28 and 29.

Featuring a Schubertiade atmosphere, artists performing music from the period on historical instruments and special Biedermeier guests from the humanities disciplines of language, history, art as well as the natural sciences afford a glimpse into the *Wohnzimmer*, or living space, that lay at the heart of the Biedermeier experience.

An Austrian *Jause*, i.e., light refreshments based on the recipes from the period, will be served to add just the right touch for the afternoon. \$50 Advance Registration (includes \$35 tax deduction and valet parking) is required as seating is limited.

To make your reservation, please call (414) 258-6133 or send an email to [HYPERLINK "mailto:musical.offering@yahoo.com"](mailto:musical.offering@yahoo.com) musical.offering@yahoo.com.