

# Max Kade Institute

## FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE MAX KADE INSTITUTE. VOL. 9 NO. 3 FALL 2000

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## [Meeting: "The German Experience with the Land in Wisconsin"](#)

By Suzanne Townley

From September 7-9, researchers from Germany and the U.S. held a working group meeting at the Max Kade Institute on the subject of "The German Experience with the Land in Wisconsin." This is the title of a transatlantic study of German immigrants to Wisconsin which was initiated by the late Jürgen Heideking of the University of Cologne, and which has been supported by the Max Kade Foundation in New York, by the Graduate School of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and by the German-American Academic Council. The study began as a cooperative effort between the Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Institute of Anglo-American History at the University of Cologne, but soon links were forged to other universities and to researchers beyond academia. The weekend meeting at the Max Kade Institute provided a forum for those associated with the project to exchange practical research suggestions and share the results of their work.

At the reception on Thursday afternoon, the meeting's participants had a chance to talk informally over refreshments and meet the Hachmanns (see below). On Friday morning, the opening remarks were made by the heads of the Madison and Cologne project teams: Joseph Salmons of the UW-Madison and Heike Bungert of the University of Cologne. They explained the development of the land study. Helmut Schmahl of the University of Mainz presented some of his vast research on the Darmstädter settlements in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin. Johannes Strohschänk of the UW-Eau Claire outlined a university course he designed in which undergraduate students engage in original research on German immigration to Wisconsin. On Friday afternoon, several of the meeting's participants toured two of the areas of German settlement under investigation: the Cross Plains area in Dane County, and Reeseville-Lowell in Dodge County.

On Saturday, the transatlantic approach of the project came to the forefront, as researchers presented on both the German and American experiences of the same immigrant communities. In the morning, Ute Langer of the University of Cologne talked about the archival resources available in Germany to learn about the people who were later to emigrate to Wisconsin. Ulrich Säger, also of the University of Cologne, presented a detailed picture of a community of German farmers near Cologne, many of whom left Germany in the mid-nineteenth century and settled in Cross Plains. Suzanne Townley of the UW-Madison presented the sources which the Madison team has been using to research the origins and farming practices of the German settlers in Cross Plains. In the afternoon, Anke Ortlepp of the University of Cologne discussed the hard economic conditions of the nineteenth-century German farmers in the

Westerwald, and Kevin Neuberger of Land America talked about those immigrants from the Westerwald who settled in Reeseville-Lowell. Beth Schlemper of the UW-Madison discussed the early stages of the project, particularly the initial difficulty in establishing a link between the immigrants to the Wisconsin Holy Land settlement east of Lake Winnebago and the communities in Germany from which they came. Scott Moranda, also of the UW-Madison, evaluated nineteenth-century pamphlets designed to encourage Germans to emigrate to Wisconsin. The closing discussion was led by Cora Lee Nollendorfs and Robert Ostergren of the UW-Madison and Kevin Neuberger. All of the participants discussed the direction the project should take in the future. The short-term goals include a book of essays and a website, and the long-term goal is a monograph on "The German Experience with the Land in Wisconsin."

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## **MKI Welcomes Max Kade Foundation President to Campus**

**By Mary Devitt**

Showing off some of Wisconsin's finest late summer weather, the UW-Madison campus welcomed Dr. Hans G. Hachmann, President of the Max Kade Foundation to Madison during the first week of classes.

The Max Kade Foundation has been a long-time supporter of projects at this university ranging from medical faculty exchanges to study abroad opportunities for students, and most notably, to the establishment of the Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies.

During their visit here, Dr. Hachmann and his wife, Eve Hachmann, met with university officials, were briefed on the wide array of international programs that are part of the International Institute here, and participated in the MKI's interdisciplinary workshop on the "German Experience with the Land." The workshop, with our partners from the University of Cologne was supported by the Max Kade Foundation. A reception at the Max Kade Institute provided the opportunity for members of the Friends Board of Directors and the campus community to meet the Hachmanns.

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## **[Conference: German-Jewish Identities in America: From the Civil War to the Present](#)**

**October 26-28, 2000**

**Sponsored by the Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison and the German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C.**

Co-sponsors: George L. Mosse/Laurence A. Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies, Department of German, Center for Humanities, University of Wisconsin-Madison

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## **Visiting Research Scholars**

**Tonjes Veenstra**

## By Steve Geiger

Assistant Professor Tonjes Veenstra of the Freie Universität Berlin's John F. Kennedy Institute for American Studies has been working in the MKI sound lab for the past four weeks. While at the MKI, Dr. Veenstra listened to samples of Pennsylvania German from the Moelleken collection of dialect recordings, in order to attain background information for his "Habilitation," a second dissertation which he will write on language contact in Wisconsin. He has collected segments of the recordings to take back to Germany with him, to prepare for fieldwork with Pennsylvania German speaking Amish in the Kickapoo Valley. He expects to complete this work in the next year or two.

Dr. Veenstra works mostly with language contact (Creole studies) and syntax. He has worked on such languages as Saramaccan (a Creole language spoken in Surinam), Haitian and Jamaican Creoles, and his native language, Dutch. In addition to his work with Pennsylvania German, he will study the Palatinate dialect (the dialect region in Germany from which Pennsylvania German seems to have gotten most of its traits) in the southern provinces of Brazil. Veenstra's final two weeks in residence will be spent familiarizing himself with the landscape and atmosphere of Wisconsin. We look forward to hearing more about his research on "Language Contact in Wisconsin."

## Peter Wagener

### By Pamela Tesch

Dr. Peter Wagener of the *Institut für Deutsche Sprache-Mannheim* ([www.ids-mannheim.de](http://www.ids-mannheim.de)) has joined the MKI and the UW-German department as a guest research scholar and professor this year. In Mannheim, he leads the *Deutsches Spracharchiv* ([dsav@ids-mannheim.de](mailto:dsav@ids-mannheim.de)). Since early July, he has been utilizing the MKI digital sound studio.

Dr. Wagener's main project is to bring together the archives in Mannheim and here at the Institute. Currently, Mannheim has 15,000 sound records, including some recordings of German dialects in North America. By listening to our CDs of German in Wisconsin and synchronizing them with the collection in Mannheim, he hopes to create an opportunity for more scholars to access and use the recordings.

In addition to this main project, he is also interested in investigating dialects, both Wisconsin Plattdeutsch dialects, and language change in German dialects in Wisconsin. To investigate such "linguistic change in real time," he visits people recorded 40 years ago and interviews them again to see how their language has changed. In Germany, he has conducted 20 such interviews from several regions. During his stay in Madison, he hopes to conduct similar interviews with Wisconsin German dialect speakers as well.

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### [Upcoming Fall Lectures](#)

**Mon., Sept. 25, Memorial Union, 7 p.m.**

[\*Christian Feest: Germans and Indians in a European Perspective\*](#)

**Thurs., Oct. 5, Memorial Union, 7 p.m.**

Johannes Strohschaenk and William Thiel: *The Official Word vs. the Real Experience: Comparing the Description of Wisconsin by the Commissioner of Emigration with Accounts by German Immigrants*

**Wed., Nov. 15, Memorial Union, 7 p.m.**

Dennis Boyer: *Germans and Tavern Tales in Wisconsin*

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## Antje Petty

Antje has just joined our staff as an outreach specialist serving the schools and educational community. She will be coordinating, developing, and obtaining funding for the School Project. The School Project will be expanding to include Spanish and French, in addition to German. The Social Studies topics in immigration will unify all three languages.

Antje's background teaching German, as a lecturer at Purdue and as a high school teacher in Indiana make her especially qualified to lead this project. Antje studied at the Georg-August University in Göttingen, Germany and the University of Washington in Seattle where she received a BA in International Studies and an MA in Germanics. She took courses in Education at Purdue University and received teaching certification in Indiana in 1997. "I am very excited about my position at the MKI. The topic of immigration has always been a personal interest of mine. As a teacher I am very interested in professional and curriculum development and I am looking forward to working on a project that will foster teacher cooperation across disciplinary boundaries."

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## Friends Profile: Photographer and Filmmaker Fritz Albert

**By Pamela Tesch**

Max Kade Institute Friend and former executive committee member Fritz Albert held a successful exhibit of his photography earlier this year at Memorial Union. Albert came to Wisconsin from Germany in 1954 to serve the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences as practicing photographer, film maker, and teacher.

His career in Wisconsin began after World War II: "I came here in 1950 for the first time. Then I was a special student in the department of Ag-Journalism . . . I was sent over here on the State Department program. At that time the profession of Ag-Journalism was better developed in the United States." His career combines agriculture and photography: "The films I made here served agricultural education, served the extension in its land policy efforts, and later communicated the findings of the land tenure center." The Wisconsin State Historical Society is archiving material that will eventually be published about each of the films that he has made.

Most of the photographs in the exhibit at Memorial Union, entitled "Land and People" were what he calls by products of his film making years at the University of Wisconsin (1954-1990). The exhibit included about 60 photographs reflecting his life and work as a visual communicator. He was inspired to assemble the exhibit by Jeff Mayers, a former *Wisconsin State Journal* reporter, who once featured him in a Sunday section entitled "Know Your Wisconsinite" and encouraged him to display his photography. Albert says: "The exhibit is a reflection of my insights and partially a report about the content of the films which I produced." His exhibit at Memorial Union ranged from scenic views of far and near lands to vibrant details and portraits of people. Many of the pictures were made with 35 mm film, but his early photographs from the late 40's and 50's used glass negatives. About one third of the photos were in black and white, while the others were color pictures. The exhibit included regional photos, shots of flowers in his garden, wildflowers of the Upper Midwest, and aerial pictures of Lake Superior and the Apostle Islands together with images of lakeshores and forests in Northern Wisconsin. Other pictures reported on Latin America's agriculture, farming in the Lake Titicaca region of Bolivia, and the agrarian reform in Chile. The exhibit also included photographs of farm operations in Gambia and Indonesia. Most recent were photographs depicting seed production on the Hawaiian Islands, where the climate provides an ideal growing season to speed the development of soybean, corn and sunflower seeds for farmers on the mainland.

Albert was featured in an article in *The Capital Times* (on Wednesday, January 12, 2000) and expressed that the goal of his photography is truth in the service of humanity: "I want people to have dignity."

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## From the President of the Friends Board of Directors

**By Ed Langer**

I am honored to write my first column as the President of the Friends of the Max Kade Institute. I am proud of the Institute and its Friends, for together we have created a cultural jewel in Wisconsin where our German-American heritage is preserved, treasured and shared.

The Institute is extremely fortunate to have recently received the personal library of Carl Schurz from the General Library System at UW-Madison. I would like to thank Dr. Louis Pitschmann, Associate Director of Collection Development of UW Libraries and member of the Institute's Interdisciplinary Executive Committee, again for facilitating this transfer and making these valuable materials available to scholars, historians and students with an interest in German-American Studies. The addition of this library to the Institute's collection enhances its ability to serve the Friends and other interested parties. Unfortunately, the accessibility of these materials is currently hampered by the lack of adequate and appropriate shelving and display space. Unless resources are raised to address this problem, Carl Schurz's library will not be able to be utilized as its donors intended.

As the President of the Friends for this term, I look forward to working with you to solve this and other challenges the future holds.

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## New Library Acquisitions

**By Heidi Marzen, MKI Librarian**

The Max Kade Institute has recently received a significant contribution to its library through the generosity of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and the German Consulate. These titles, published in Germany, are evidence of the continuing interest in German-American studies within German universities and institutions. They are an excellent addition to our research collection, and are available for use at the Institute.

Aengenvoort, Anne. *Migration, Siedlungsbildung, Akkulturation: Die Auswanderung Nordwestdeutscher nach Ohio, 1830/1914*. Vierteljahrschrift für Sozial Und Wirtschaftsgeschichte Beihefte Nr. 150. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner, 1999.

Allendorf, Otmar, Bernd Broer, and RolfDietrich Müller, Hrsg. *Auf nach Amerika! : Beiträge zur AmerikaAuswanderung des 19. Jahrhunderts aus dem Paderborner Land und zur Wiederbelebung der Historischen Beziehungen im 20. Jahrhundert*. Hrsg. Bd. 2 Wolfram Czeschick. Bd. 2 : *Auswanderer des 19. Jahrhunderts aus den Kreisen Bueren und Paderborn*. Paderborn: Bonifatius, c1999.

Bartoloch, Thomas A., Cornelius Neutsch, and Karl Jürgen Roth. *Siegerländer und Wittgensteiner in der neuen Welt: Auswanderung im 18. und 19. Jahrhundert*. Siegen: Universität Siegen, 1999.

Hausmann, Friederike. *Die Deutschen Anarchisten von Chicago: Oder Warum Amerika den 1. Mai Nicht Kennt*. Originalausgabe. Wagenbachs Taschenbuch 320. Berlin: Verlag Klaus Wagenbach, c1998.

Klassen, Peter P. *Und ob ich schon wanderte...': Geschichten zur Geschichte der Flucht und Wanderung der Mennoniten von Preussen ueber*

*Russland nach Amerika*. Weierhof: Mennonitischer Geschichtsverein, 1997.

MüllerBahlke, Thomas J., and Jürgen Gröschl, Hrsg. und einl. *Salzburg, Halle, Nordamerika: Ein Zweisprachiges Find und Lesebuch zum GeorgiaArchiv der Franckeschen Stiftungen [Salzburg, Halle, North America: A Bilingual Catalog With Summaries of the Georgia Manuscripts in the Francke Foundations]*. Hallesche Quellenpublikationen und Repertorien Bd. 4. Tübingen: Niemeyer, c1999.

Paul, Gerhard, Uwe Danker, and Peter Wulf, Hg. *Geschichtsumschlungen: Sozial und Kulturgeschichtliches Lesebuch SchleswigHolstein 1848/1948*. Bonn: Dietz, c1996.

Rost, Ellen, Otmar Allendorf, and RolfDietrich Müller, Hrsg. *Auf nach Amerika! : Beiträge zur AmerikaAuswanderung des 19. Jahrhunderts aus dem Paderborner Land und zur Wiederbelebung der Historischen Beziehungen im 20. Jahrhundert* Bd. 1 : Stadt Paderborn. Paderborn: Bonifatius, c1994.

Wala, Michael, Hrsg. *Gesellschaft und Diplomatie im Transatlantischen Kontext: Festschrift für Reinhard R. Doerries zum 65. Geburtstag*. USAStudien Bd. 11. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner, 1999.

Wiesinger, Gerhard. *Die Deutsche Einwandererkolonie von Holyoke, Massachusetts, 1865/1920. Von Deutschland nach Amerika* Bd. 7. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner, 1994.

The library also continues to grow through private donations, especially of nineteenth-century German-American publications, including the following new items received this summer:

*Christliches Vergissmeinnicht*. 23. Aufl. New York, N.Y.: Kaufmann, n.d.

*Das Pfarrhaus im Harz: Eine Erzählung für die Reifere Jugend und das Volk*. Cincinnati, Ohio: Cranston & Curts, n.d.

*Eins ist Noth: Worte Freundlicher Erinnerung an Unsere Confirmirte Weibliche Jugend*. St. Louis, Mo.: Concordia, n.d.

*Humoristische Blätter* Vol. No. 1643-1697. New York, N.Y.: Eichler, [1900-01?].

*Humoristische Blätter* Vol. No. 1698-1744. New York, N.Y.: Eichler, [1900-01?].

*Forged Elegance* [Videorecording] : *The Life Work of Cyril Colnik*. Prod. Bandana Productions and Wisconsin Public Television. Bighorn Forge, Inc., c1998.

Basler, Konrad. *The Dorlikon Emigrants: Swiss Settlers and Cultural Founders in the United States: A Personal Report by Konrad Basler*. Translator Laura Villiger. Swiss American Historical Society Publications Vol. 10. New York: Peter Lang, c1996.

Brennekam, Otto. *Walkenried und Clettenberg: Geschichtliche Erzählung*. Berlin: Berliner Stadtmission, 1892.

Evers, Ernst. *Fuer Herz und Haus: Erzählungen*. Band 1. Konstanz: Carl Hirsch, n.d.

Evers, Ernst. *Steinsmühlen*. 3. Aufl. Reading, Pa.: Pilger, [1899].

Frank, C. A. *Der Junge Pilgrim: Ein Erbauungsbuch für die Confirmirte Jugend*. 11. Auflage. St. Louis, Mo.: Dette, 1909.

Funcke, Otto. *Reisebilder und Heimatklänge*. 6. Aufl. Cincinnati, Ohio: Cranston & Stowe, n.d.

Glaubrecht, O. *Die Schreckensjahre von Lindheim. Ein Beitrag zur Sittengeschichte des 17. Jahrhunderts. Ein Gottesgericht. Der Weidenkaspar*. 8. Aufl. Stuttgart: D. Gundert, 1893.

Graepp, L. W. *Gerald, der Insurgent von Cuba. Historische Erzählung aus der Letzten Erhebung der Cubaner gegen die Spanier*. [Und] *Von Jerusalem nach Pella: Eine Erzählung aus der Zeit vor der Zerstörung Jerusalems*. Milwaukee, Wis.: Brumder, n.d.

Haza-Radlitz, Hedwig von. *Die Jungen Rebellen. Sonnenschein: Geschichten für Kinder und Ihre Freunde* 12. und 13. Bändchen. New York, N.Y.: Benziger Brothers, 1913.

Herzberger, F. W. *Deutsches Blut: Eine Erzählung aus dem Amerikanischen Landleben*. Milwaukee, Wis.: Northwestern, n.d.

Hoffmann, Franz. *Lebenskämpfe: Eine Erzählung für Meine Jungen Freunde*. Amerikanische StereotypAusgabe. Philadelphia, Pa.: Kohler, n.d.

Illing, Oscar. *Rosen und Dornen: Gedichte*. Dolgeville, N.J.: American Authors' Agency, 1907.

Ira, Alfred. *Das Stiefmütterchen: Eine Erzählung aus den Kupferminen am Superiorsee*. Antigo, Wis.: Antigo Publishing, 1898.

Jacoby, L. S. *Letzte Stunden, oder, Die Kraft der Religion Jesu Christi im Tode. Haus und Herd*. Cincinnati, Ohio: Curts & Jennings, 1874.

Kolping, A. *Was Gott Thut, das ist Wohlgethan: Eine Erzählung für die Reifere Jugend und das Volk. FeierabendStunden für den Christlichen Familienkreis*. Milwaukee, Wis.: M. M. Gerend, n.d.

Nagler, Franz Ludwig. *Jerachmeel, oder, in Grossen Stürmen. Eine Erzählung aus der Zeit der Belagerung und Zerstörung Jerusalems durch Nebukadnezar (Für das Christliche Volk)*. 2. Aufl. Haus und Herd. Cincinnati, Ohio: Curts & Jennings, c1892.

Nonnen, Emily. *Die Flüchtlinge, oder, Der Wahlspruch über der Haustüre: Eine Erzählung für die Jugend*. Milwaukee, Wis.: Northwestern, n.d.

Pitcher, B. *Das Pferd: Ein Buch für das Volk, Enthaltend: Die Praktischen Erfahrungen nach jeder Richtung hin, Die ein Huffschmied in Siebenunddreissigjähriger Thätigkeit Gesammelt; Sowie Manches Wissenswerthe über Pferde und Wie Dieselben Behandelt, Beschlagen und Gewartet Werden Müssen; nebst einer Anzahl Recepte, Welche der Verfasser seit Jahren Gebraucht, und für Pferde und Menschen Gut Befunden Hat*. 3. vermehrte Auflage. Chicago, Ill.: German News Company, 1881.

Schmid, Christoph von. *Wie Heinrich von Eichenfels zur Erkenntnis Gottes Kam: Eine Erzählung für Kinder und Kinderfreunde*. Neue Ausgabe. Konstanz: Carl Hirsch, n.d.

Sheehan, P. A. *Von Dr. Grans Blindheit: Eine Erzählung aus dem Irischen Priesterleben*. Übersetzung Oskar Jacob. New York, N.Y.: Benziger Brothers, 1911.

[Vollmar, A.] *Das Pfarrhaus in Indien: Ein Seitenstück und die Fortsetzung zum "Pfarrhaus in Harz."* [The Parsonage in India.]. Vorwort H. Liebhart. Cincinnati, Ohio: Jennings & Pye, n.d.

Zimmermann, G. A. *Deutsches Classisches Lesebuch fuer Höhere Klassen und Hochschulen, nebst einem Abritz der deutschen Literaturgeschichte [Classical German Reader]*. 3. Aufl. New Standard German Series IV. Chicago, Ill.: Brumder, 1888.

Finally, a special gift from the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh Archives has been added to our oral history collection. Two 1/4" reel-to-reel tapes were donated, containing an interview with Hans Reuter, a leader in the American Turner movement. These tapes were used by a former Physical Education professor at Oshkosh for her dissertation on the Turners. They make a fine contribution to our collection of sound recordings, and they will hopefully be digitized in the future.

We are grateful for the generous donations that have been made to the Institute's library. Please visit our library catalog online and search our growing collection!

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## Max Kade Institute's Librarian Heidi Marzen

As new librarian of the MKI, Heidi Marzen spends her days working on an array of interesting projects. She is responsible not only for assisting patrons using the library, by phone, e-mail, or in person, but also for acquiring and cataloging new library materials, processing donations, maintaining the library catalog online, updating the web page, and working on grant proposals for projects related to the MKI collection. She is currently developing a NEH grant proposal to catalog and preserve the Institute's specialized collection of nineteenth-century German-language imprints published in the U.S.

In May, she received her Masters of Library Science from the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. While completing her Master's degree, she worked as an assistant with the Institute's former librarian Annie Reinhardt. Last summer, she also had an internship at the Wisconsin Reference & Loan Library. She is currently also employed at the Madison Public Library. Before that she completed an undergraduate degree from Augustana College in Rock Island, IL, where she majored in English and German and spent a semester abroad at Universität Passau in Germany.

She says, "It's wonderful to be able to use my background in German in a professional setting. I find it fascinating to work with such a specialized collection. I really learn a lot here."

Heidi is available for consultation and help with specific questions. Please call for an appointment.

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## **Milwaukee Turners Art Festival**

The Milwaukee Turners are having an Art Festival in their Ballroom on September 29, 30 and October 1, 2000. This will be the first time since the 1933 fire that the ballroom will be used for a formal event. The Turners plan to restore the ballroom in time for their 150th anniversary in 2003.

Artwork by local artists will be on display from September 29th through October 7th. The evening of Friday September 29th will be highlighted with jazz and contemporary music, and refreshments will be available. Proceeds from this event will go to the "Sam Domiano Children's Art Program."

Saturday evening is the Turners night to shine. A varied, upscale program of ethnic music and dance with supper-horsd'oeuvres and dessert in the ballroom will make for an exciting time of fun and *Gemütlichkeit*.

Sunday is scheduled to be a typical "Turner Family Fun Day." There will be free introductory classes in gymnastics and rock climbing in the gym, hands-on arts and crafts, music, performances, tours of historic Turner Hall, and a bake sale in the ballroom. There will be something for everyone. For more information or reservations call Rose Marie Barber at (414)-272-1733.

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## **MKI Keystone House to be Featured in the "Sunday in Shorewood Hills Home Tours"**

The Max Kade Institute is pleased to announce its participation in the 6th Annual Home Tour sponsored by the Madison Trust for Historic Preservation.

The Institute will be on tour from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 24, 2000. The house, known as the Petheridge-Isom-Keystone House, was built by Englishman William J. Petheridge. It is the oldest in the Shorewood Hills village, dating back to 1853. It is the larger of two examples of the Side Gable form found in Shorewood Hills.

For more information about participation in the Shorewood Hills Home Tours, please call Barbara Essock at (608)255-7276.

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## **Madison Männerchor**

The Madison Männerchor is pleased to announce the beginning of the 2000-2001 season. New members are always welcome. Rehearsals are every Thursday at 8:00 p.m. in Turner Hall, located at 3001 South Stoughton Road in Madison.

Both men and women are welcome as Associate Members, to assist in the promotion of German Music. All Associate members are invited to social events and concerts. Members also receive two free tickets to the Männerchor Spring Concert. Dues for Associate members are \$20.00 per year. Contributions above this amount are always welcome.

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# "The German Experience with the Land in Wisconsin"

Working group meeting at the Max Kade Institute

September 7-9, 2000

## Thursday, September 7

4:30 Reception at the MKI (dinner afterwards)

## Friday, September 8

8:30 Coffee and pastries

9:15 Opening remarks: Joseph Salmons (*UW*) & Heike Bungert (*Universität zu Köln*)

"How this project developed"

9:45 Helmut Schmahl, *Universität Mainz*

"The Darmstädter settlements in Wisconsin"

10:35 Johannes Strohschänk, *German, UW-Eau Claire*

"Piecing together a critical history of German immigration to Wisconsin"

11:25 Anke Ortlepp, *Universität zu Köln*

"Leaving the Eifel: Farming conditions southeast of Adenau"

## 12:15 Lunch

Friday afternoon: Excursion to Cross Plains and Reeseville

## Saturday, September 9

9:30 Ute Langer, *Universität zu Köln*

"Using archival resources in Germany"

10:20 Ulrich Sängler, *Universität zu Köln*

"Before Cross Plains: Auswanderer aus der Kölner Bucht"

11:10 Suzanne Townley, *German, UW*

"Rhenish settlement in western Dane County, Wisconsin"

## 12:00 Lunch

1:30 Anke Ortlepp, *Universität zu Köln*

"Aus dem Wiedschen Land: Families from the Westerwald"

2:20 Kevin Neuberger, *Laywers Title Insurance Corporation*

"Westerwald immigrants at Reeseville-Lowell, Wisconsin, 1847-1920"

3:10 Beth Schlemper, *Geography, UW*

"Selecting and delineating a church-based community: Johnsburg, Wisconsin"

4:00 Scott Moranda, *History, UW*

"Forest and prairie in German-American settlement and agriculture"

## 4:50 Break

5:30 Bob Ostergren (*Geography, UW*), Kevin Neuberger (*LTIC*), Cora Lee Nollendorfs (*German, UW*)

"Thoughts on where we go from here"

5:45 Closing discussion

**Saturday evening:** Informal dinner at 127 S. Brittingham Place (Partners/spouses heartily invited.)



# German-Jewish Identities in America: From the Civil War to the Present

October 26-28, 2000

Sponsored by the  
Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
and the  
German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C.

Co-sponsors:

George L. Mosse/Laurence A. Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies  
Department of German  
Center for Humanities  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Within the vast literature on both German-speaking immigrants to this country and on Jews in America, relatively less attention has been paid to the intersection of these two groups, German-speaking Jews. This conference will examine the experience of this large and historically important group of immigrants from the mid-19th century into the 20th. In particular, we will focus on the creation, recreation, and negotiation of a complex set of interlocking, overlapping identities: linguistic, national, regional, religious and ethnic.

A number of senior and younger scholars contributing to this area will present papers. The conference will be firmly anchored in History, but with strong connections to immigrant, ethnic and urban studies, as well as other neighboring disciplines.

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## Thursday, October 26

University Club, 803 State Street, on the Library Mall

6:30 p.m. Dinner and Welcoming Remarks

Dr. Joseph C. Salmons, Director, Max Kade Institute

Dr. Christof Mauch, Acting Director, German Historical Institute

8:30 p.m. Keynote Address, University Club

Henry Feingold, Graduate School, CUNY

Director, Jewish Resource Center, Baruch College

[\*German Jews and the American Jewish Synthesis\*](#)

**All plenary sessions will be held in the Memorial Union, 800 Langdon Street  
The conference is free and open to the public.**

## Friday, October 27

8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Registration and coffee

9:00 - 10:30 a.m. I. Community Formation

Moderator: Christof Mauch

Leah Hagedorn, Tulane University

*"We Allow No German Jews to Settle Among Us": Reconstructing and Deconstructing Confederate Civilian Anti-Semitism During the American Civil War*

10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. II. Gender

Moderator: Karen Jankowsky

Anke Ortlepp, University of Cologne

*"Give to the Poor! Yourself You'll Bless!": Jewish Charities in Milwaukee 1865-1920*

Karla Goldman, Jewish Women's Archive

*Patterns of Philanthropy: Nineteenth-Century Women's Societies in Germany and the United States*

Lunch break

1:45 - 4:30 p.m. III. Community Evolution

Moderator: Marc Silberman

Gerhard Grytz, University of Nevada

[\*"Whose Frontier?": Experiences of Gentile and Jewish German Immigrants in Arizona during the 19th Century\*](#)

Tobias Brinkmann, University of Leipzig

[\*"We are Brothers! Let us Separate": "German Jews" in Chicago between Einheitsgemeinde and Network-Community 1847-1923\*](#)

Break

Ruth Goldman, University of Wisconsin

*"And These Were Jews?": A Documentary Film in Progress about the German-American Jewish Community of Cincinnati*

## **Saturday, October 28**

8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Registration

9:00 - 10:30 a.m. IV. German Jewish Institutions

Moderator: David Sorkin

Cornelia Wilhelm, University of Munich

[\*Shaping the American Jewish Community: The Independent Order of B'nai B'rith 1843-1914\*](#)

Derek Penslar, University of Toronto

[\*Brahmin Philanthropists: The Leadership of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee\*](#)

10:45 a.m. -12:15 p.m. V. Biographies

Moderator: Tony Michaels

Mitch Hart, Florida International University

[\*A Jew Grows in Brooklyn: German Science and American-Jewish Identity\*](#)

Bobbie Malone, Wisconsin State Historical Society

[\*Russians, Race, and Reform: The Making of a Southern Zionist in 1890s New Orleans\*](#)

Lunchbreak

1:45 - 3:15 p.m. VI. Theater and Culture

Moderator: Cora Lee Nollendorfs

Harley Erdman, University of Massachusetts

[\*German Jews and American Show Business: A Reconsideration\*](#)

Thomas Kovach, The University of Arizona

[\*German Jews and Ostjuden in the American South: Alfred Uhry's "Last Night of Ballyhoo"\*](#)

3:30 - 5:00 p.m. VII. Contemporary Perspectives

Moderator: Joe Salmons

Monika Schmid, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

[\*"I always thought I was a German - it was Hitler who taught me I was a Jew: " National-socialist Persecution, Identity, and the German Language\*](#)

7:00 - 10:00 p.m. Film and Discussion - Grainger Hall, Room 2120, 975 University Avenue

Moderator: Mary Devitt

Manfred Kirchheimer, Independent Filmmaker

[\*We Were So Beloved : The German-Jews of Washington Hts., New York\*](#)

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## ABSTRACTS

### Henry Feingold

#### *German Jews and the American Jewish Synthesis*

I want to suggest, hopefully without overstating it, that the basic terms of the Jewish encounter with America -- its strategy and its modalities -- were initially set down by the rustic Bayern, Hessians and Alsatians of Jewish faith who arrived on these shores in numbers after the 1820s.

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### Gerhard Grytz

#### *"Whose Frontier?": Experiences of Gentile and Jewish German Immigrants in Arizona during the 19th Century*

Historical studies on Jewish immigrants in the American West are plentiful. The majority of these studies neither distinguish German-speaking Jews as a separate group nor do they acknowledge their affinity to Gentile Germans. A different approach, however, shows that Jewish and Gentile Germans, together, "transplanted" nineteenth-century social structures, cultural values, and economic attitudes to the American West. This group of immigrants, overwhelmingly consisting of Jewish German merchants and Gentile German artisans, promoted "home-style" capitalistic ideas and values. In the case of Arizona, despite being a minority, they significantly influenced the socio-economic development of the Territory as a result of their advanced economic status. Together with other ethnic groups, the "Arizona Germans" played a substantial part in creating a new and unique regional "Creole Culture" in the American Southwest that was neither the product of a Turnerian confrontation between the individual and the frontier environment nor the result of assimilation to supposedly "dominant" Anglo-American values.

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### Tobias Brinkmann

#### *"We are Brothers! Let us Separate.": "German Jews" in Chicago between "Einheitsgemeinde" and Network-Community 1847-1923*

After the 1840s Jews in the United States organized communities increasingly beyond the religious sphere on ethnic terms. Jewish immigrants lamented the loss of close-knit Jewish "Gemeinschaft" and praised, sometimes in the same breath, the unique possibilities in the United States to form new Jewish communities. The paper will analyze the centrifugal and centripetal forces that influenced Jewish community-building in America's fastest growing city between 1847 and 1923. While Jewish immigrants individually had close relationships with other German-speaking immigrants and helped to organize the short lived German "umbrella"-community, the Jewish community was never a part of the German community. The paper questions the bipolar model of interpreting modern Jewish history by asserting that "assimilation" led not to the disintegration but rather to the transformation of Jewish "community" into what Arthur Ruppin characterized as "new [Jewish] milieux." The paper is based on my dissertation: *"Wir amerikanisch-deutsche Juden": Jewish immigrants in Chicago 1840-1900* (TU Berlin, 2000).

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## **Cornelia Wilhelm**

### ***Shaping the American Jewish Community: The Independent Order of B'nai B'rith, 1843-1914***

Founded in 1843 by German immigrants to the United States, the Independent Order of B'nai B'rith constituted the first and largest national American Jewish organization in nineteenth-century America, providing a platform for sociability and mutual support, a network of communication, representation and community for American Jews. Created as a fraternal lodge, it addressed a membership composed of diverse religious or denominational affiliation, ethnicity, or class, and defined a practical Judaism stressing a strong universalism and could embrace more than just one fraction of the diverse American Jewish groups. The paper will discuss how this organization helped to shape the young community structurally, for example by substituting old-fashioned concepts of "community" with a modern organizational framework, which allowed the American Jew to maintain a Jewish identity while adapting to American forms, or by balancing the economic and social situation of small and needy communities. It will explore how the organization succeeded in giving the young community a new vision of its role in America of raising the individual's self-awareness of his potential as a Jew in American society, continuously blending its mission with the general understanding of religiosity and with American Civil Religion and the limits of such activity.

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## **Derek Penslar**

### ***Brahmin Philanthropists: The Leadership of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee***

During the interwar period, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee was the most powerful Jewish philanthropy in the United States and the second wealthiest in the world (behind the London-based Jewish Colonization Association). This paper will analyze the leadership style, operating methods, and goals of the Joint. Although the Joint's hierarchical managerial style caused friction with American Zionists, the goals of the JDC and American Zionism overlapped considerably. An examination of some of the Joint's most prominent leaders - including Felix Warburg and James Rosenberg - and of the Joint's activities in Palestine and Eastern Europe, will reveal that the Joint was viscerally linked with many aspects of the Zionist project.

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## **Mitch Hart**

### ***A Jew Grows in Brooklyn: German Science and American-Jewish Identity***

Early on in the 1997 novel *The Actual*, Saul Bellow's narrator is describing his first encounter with the elderly millionaire Adletsky. "In the New World, [Adletsky's] immigrant melting-pot malnourished teeny-weenies produced six-foot sons and large, luxuriant daughters. I myself was both larger and heavier than my parents, though internally

more fragile, perhaps." Bellow is reproducing here, in highly abbreviated form, a standard set of images and ideas from the scientific literature of the early twentieth century. This paper explores this scientific literature, and the theme of America as the place of Jewish physical and psychological regeneration. While American Jewish social scientists accepted to one degree or another the standard image of the modern Jew as degenerate, they sought to prove through science that the American environment would exert a meliorative effect on the Jewish body and mind. The Jew would literally grow in New York and elsewhere, if allowed to enjoy the political and social freedoms associated with the New World. The paper focuses on the reciprocity between scientific studies produced in Germany and the United States in the first decades of the twentieth century, the role of German science in shaping a particular sort of American-Jewish social science, and the politics impelling this social science.

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## **Bobbie Malone**

### ***Russians, Race, and Reform: The Making of a Southern Zionist in 1890s New Orleans***

Rabbi Max Heller was a man of both passionate conviction and inner contradiction. In his public life, he consistently sought center stage, sometimes as an agitator, and sometimes as a mediator. During his first two decades in the United States, Heller confronted some of the major social problems that dominated the late nineteenth century--emancipation and racism, nationalism and nativism, immigration and assimilation--issues that remain unresolved even today. In grappling with these issues, he found his own voice.

In his Germanized Jewish upbringing in Prague and in his rabbinical training at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Heller had imbibed the principles of a rationalized, liberal, and universalist Judaism. From the vantage point of his pulpit at Temple Sinai in New Orleans, his perspective began to change. By the turn of the century, these ideals no longer seemed adequate guidance in a world increasingly threatened by ethnic and racial nationalism. Earlier than most, Heller realized that such nationalism would ultimately cause European Jewry to be scapegoated. At the same time he recognized that the spiritual roots of his faith were embedded in traditions casually abandoned by the Jewish reformers who had come of age at midcentury. Their sanitized Judaism now appeared sterile. As the twentieth century dawned, the coincidence of local, regional, national, and international events created an epiphany for Heller. At midlife, these events impressed upon him the profound cultural as well as religious implications of the contemporary Jewish experience. Integrating his new conception of Judaism and its mission, he became a passionate Zionist and an ardent humanitarian, a risk-taker who championed social justice and defended the underdog. This paper will discuss the precipitating incidents in this epiphany, which centered around a small group of Russian Jews who had recently immigrated to New Orleans.

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## **Harley Erdman**

### ***German Jews and American Show Business: A Reconsideration***

Many accounts of the prominent roles Jews played in early 20th century American show business -- as performers, writers, composers, directors, and producers -- ascribe the phenomenon to a kind of lower-east-side "ghetto energy," linking these entertainment forms to a rising generation of Eastern European immigrants while noting the influence of Yiddish theater in particular and yiddishkeit in general. This paper reconsiders this popular narrative, arguing instead that many of the country's most influential and successful Jewish show business figures came from relatively assimilated German or Central European backgrounds (often from locations outside New York City). It suggests that the roots of "Jewish" show business in the United States may be more German than has been commonly assumed. The paper also considers why performing artists and historians alike have tended to "Yiddishize" the Jewish experience in American show business.

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## **Thomas Kovach**

### ***German Jews and the Ostjuden in the American South: Alfred Uhry's Play 'The Last Night of Ballyhoo'***

Alfred Uhry's Tony Award-winning play presents a family of well-to-do German Jews in 1939 Atlanta. As Hitler's armies are invading Poland to start the Second World War, the consequences of which are well known to the play's audience but unknown to the characters in the play, the family of Adolph (!) Freitag is discussing the arrival of Clark Gable et al. for the opening of *Gone with the Wind*. Thoroughly acculturated, they speak disparagingly about the "other sort" of Jews, those of Eastern European descent who live on the wrong side of town, represented in the play by the Brooklyn Jew Joe Farkas, the family firm's newest employee, who is amazed to see a Christmas tree in their home, and whose Yiddish expressions are met with blank stares by the family. In the course of the play, a romance arises between Joe and Sunny, the younger daughter of the Freitag clan, which serves to highlight the gulf separating the worlds they come from.

I will examine the play as a mirror of the tensions between the older German-Jewish families in the South and the more recent arrivals, examining Uhry's presentation in light of historical research on Jewish life in the South. However, I will argue as well that the tension between German Jews and Ostjuden represented in the play replicates to a remarkable extent the tensions between Eastern and Western Jews within Germany and Austria during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Finally, I will discuss the play's ending, a kind of wish-fantasy in which Joe, Sunny, and the whole family join in saying blessings over a Shabbat dinner, a scene inconceivable in light of the family attitudes represented in the rest of the play.

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## **Monika S. Schmid**

### ***"I always thought I was a German - it was Hitler who taught me I was a Jew": National-socialist Persecution, Identity, and the German Language***

This paper will present the findings of a study on language use and language loss of German Jews who left Germany during the Nazi regime and have lived in English-speaking countries ever since. The study of individuals forgetting a language they grew up with (first language attrition) has only been a research topic for the past twenty years, and the influence of personal factors like age at the time of emigration, intermediate language contact, and personal attitudes is still very much in debate. This paper argues that the breakdown of a language system after sixty years of non-use or restricted use is to a large degree determined by personal attitudes.

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### ***We Were So Beloved : The German-Jews of Washington Hts., New York***

#### **A film by Manfred Kirchheimer**

This unique documentary examines the experiences of German-Jewish refugees who fled their country in the 1930's and settled in New York's Washington Heights. Having assimilated in Germany, they found themselves living exclusively among Jews for the first time, and were called "more German than Jewish." Today these people who lost so much are secure and patriotic Americans. In frank conversation they discuss the trauma of leaving their homeland, the difficulties adapting to life in the U.S., the relief and remorse of having escaped the Holocaust, and the moral and emotional implications of their survival. This important film fills a gap in American social history, showing us the story of this brave group of survivors.

145 Minutes, Color

## Upcoming Events: Fall 2000

### Lectures:

Thurs.-Sat., Sept. 7-9, MKI	<a href="#">"The German Experience with the Land": Working group meeting</a>
Mon., Sept. 11 MKI, 7 pm	Klaus Dehne, Dept. of Geography, Universität Passau: "German Immigration and Its Influence on Knox County, Indiana"
Thurs., Sept. 14 Pyle Center, 3:30 pm	<a href="#">Honoring Mildred Fish-Harnack: Dedication of the Mildred Fish-Harnack Human Rights and Democracy Lecture</a> <a href="#">Featured Speaker: Shareen Blair Brysac, Author</a>
Mon., Sept. 25 Memorial Union, 7 pm	<a href="#">Christian Feast: "Germans and Indians in a European Perspective"</a>
Thurs., Oct. 5 Memorial Union, 7 pm	Johannes Strohschänk and William Thiel: "The Official Word vs. the Real Experience: Comparing the Description of Wisconsin by the Commissioner of Emigration with Accounts by German Immigrants"
Wed., Nov. 15 Memorial Union, 7 pm	<a href="#">Dennis Boyer: "Tavern Traditions in Wisconsin: The German-American Connection"</a>

### Conference:

October 26-28	<a href="#">"German-Jewish Identities in America: From the Civil War to the Present"</a>
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## Honoring Mildred Fish-Harnack: Dedication of the Mildred Fish-Harnack Human Rights and Democracy Lecture

### Featured Speaker: Shareen Blair Brysac, Author

Thursday, September 14, 2000  
Pyle Center, 702 Langdon Street  
Public Talk: 3:30 p.m., R.P. Lee Lounge  
Reception: 4:30 Ameritech Lounge

Free and open to the public

For more information, contact Donna Veatch at 608-262-2042 or [dlveatch@facstaff.wisc.edu](mailto:dlveatch@facstaff.wisc.edu)

Sponsored by the International Institute and planned in cooperation with the European Studies Alliance, Department of German, Global Studies Program, George L. Mosse/Laurence A. Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies, Women's Studies Program, Women's Studies Research Center and Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies

The International Institute presents this talk in honor of Mildred Fish-Harnack, UW-Madison alumna and faculty member from the 1920s and Milwaukee native executed by Hitler during World War II for her resistance work. Brysac will present an illustrated talk about Harnack and introduce her book, *Resisting Hitler: Mildred Harnack and the Red Orchestra*, forthcoming by Oxford University Press.

Brysac's talk will feature the dramatic reading of letters by Mildred, her husband Arvid Harnack, a fellow graduate student from Germany in the 1920s, and others. An exhibit about Fish-Harnack will be in the Memorial Library lobby display during the week of their visit. September 16, Mildred's birthday, is "Mildred Harnack Day" in the State of Wisconsin.

Shareen Blair Brysac is an author, screenwriter, director and documentary film producer in New York City. Her films have won five Emmys, the Writers Guild Award, the George Foster Peabody award, and gold and silver medals from the Chicago and New York Film Festivals. She is currently contributing editor of *Archaeology Magazine*.

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## *Germans and Indians in a European Perspective*

Christian Feest

Monday, September 25, 2000

Memorial Union, 7:00 PM

Co-sponsored by Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies, the Center for the Study of Print Culture in Modern America, the American Indian Studies Program, and the German Department.

For at least two hundred years Germans have shown an equally emphatic and empathic interest in American Indians, which is reflected in the arts, scholarship, popular literature and culture, and even politics. This well-publicized fact has given rise to ideas about a specific affinity or relationship between the two "peoples." Closer inspection of the evidence, however, reveals that the fascination with "Indians" as an expression of "Otherness" is a widespread European phenomenon, which is more closely related to the European perception and imagination of the "Self" than to the aboriginal inhabitants of the Americas and their descendants.

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## *Tavern Traditions in Wisconsin: The German-American Connection*

Dennis Boyer

Wednesday, November 15, 2000

Memorial Union, 7:00 PM

Taverns are central to understanding the Wisconsin narrative, no matter that the discussion focus on politics, culture, recreation, folklore, community identity, or sense of place. German traditions left their mark on this institution and German Americans continue to shape today's taverns. Listen to a story collector explain the spirit of Wisconsin taverns, the spirits that dwell in them, and the pull of the spirits consumed in these friendly confines.