

Germantown Historical Society **Newsletter**



INCORPORATED – 1974

MARCH 2020

Hello and thank you for taking the time to take a look at our newsletter. Here are a few items to share with you.

We are moving ahead with the plans for the Festhalle at the park. Thank you to the Gladys Muehl estate for your generous donation. To honor you it will be named "The Muehl Family Festhalle at Dheinsville Park". We have received many other generous donations and we hope to have a total raised by the Society by the end of March. If all goes well, groundbreaking will be in spring with a July completion date. If we have time, I would like to schedule a "soft" opening in August. Maybe something along the line of a scavenger hunt that ends at the park with food, music and refreshments. Ideas are always welcome.

The genealogy center is getting a new computer and printer. It should be set up by the time you get this newsletter. Jim and Mary have been very busy combing through all of the items upstairs at the Wolf Haus. They have made some very interesting discoveries that we hope to be able to bring forward in the future.

We need to do a thorough cleaning of the bells and displays in the bell museum. So far it looks like we will be hiring an outside company to achieve this task.

The museum of local history was given a barber chair that is over 100 years old. Along with the chair we got some antique barber tools. We hope to get them on display shortly. We hope to get storms on the steeple this spring. Painting of the steeple is also planned.

Another spring spruce-up, the "summer kitchen" will be getting some much needed repairs and a new coat of paint.

The soccer fields on the East end of the park should see a lot of activity this year. Some relocation may be needed to accommodate the increased activity.

Our annual dinner will be coming up in April. Please look for the information included in this newsletter.

One final thing. (I saved the best for last) Bill Gay, the author of the 3 books on Germantown and a long time teacher at Germantown High School has been selected to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Germantown Chamber of Commerce. Tickets will be available soon for the award banquet. Dinner tickets will be between \$40 and \$50 dollars. It is a very nice event and I hope we have great interest from our membership.

CONGRATULATIONS BILL!

Sincerely,

Jeff Dhein
President

We are very pleased to announce our Museum Director for the past few seasons, Shane O'Neil, will be staying on with us for 2020. Glad to have you Shane!

Bringing back a tradition from years past, we will be including a recipe in the newsletter –

Frankfurter Brenten Almond Cookies Frankfurt Style

2 ½ cups ground almonds
2 Tbsp rosewater
2 ½ cups sugar
½ cup flour
1 egg white
Flour for the work surface

Mix the almonds with the rosewater and sugar in a pan. Heat gently, stirring constantly, until the mixture comes away from the sides of the pan. Sprinkle sugar into a mixing bowl and pour in the mixture. Leave to stand for several hours in a cool place. Knead in the flour and egg white. Roll out the dough on a floured work surface to a thickness of just under half an inch. Cut out shapes with a cookie cutter. Line a cookie sheet with baking parchment and bake the cookies at 300 degrees for about 15 minutes. Cool on a wire rack.

Save the Date.....2019 Annual Meeting: Tuesday, April 21stinvitation enclosed.

Board of Directors:

Jeff Dhein - President (2017-2020)
Peggy Bast - Treasurer & Secretary (2018-2021)

Judy Bast (2018-2021)
Sandi Dhein (2019-2022)
Fritz Gierach (2019-2022)
Marge Miller (2018-2021)
Oliver Schowalter (2017-2020)

THANK YOU! To our 2019 Oktoberfest Sponsors, we couldn't do it without them! Please keep them in mind for your future needs.

Memorials

- In memory of Sila Lydia Bast on what would have been her 119th Birthday, a donation for the Sila Lydia Bast Bell Museum has been received from her niece, Muriel Underwood.
- In Memory of Shirley Schowalter, a donation was received from Harris and Beverly Wilke.

A donation has been received from Jerry and Betty Fuller for the historical society.

Genealogy: WOLF HAUS UPDATE

The Wolf Haus is located in Historic Dheinsville Park, and it is the location where the Germantown Historical Society stores the historic documents and information that relates to the people who chose to make Germantown their home from the 1830's and onward. Currently, volunteers are in the process of discovering and organizing the numerous documents and artifacts that have been preserved there over the time that our organization has been in existence since 1974.

This information includes items like the original land assessment records beginning in 1847, which we are currently digitizing to preserve that information in computers located off site. Already completed was the digitizing of the 65,000 index cards that Carol Barkow created by hand over many years of devoted work. These cards reference the name of any person who is mentioned in the records we have on file, and the cards show what page in a certain document that the individual's information can be found.

As we discover new historic information about a person or place, we organize it into topics, or add it to the numerous family histories we have on file which often date back to Germany in the 1600's. We also are updating and creating story boards which will be displayed to tell the story of our pioneer immigrant families, including specifics about the Wolf Haus and Wolf family, as well as the greater Dheinsville community of the 1800's.

We also respond to requests from the Germantown community and far beyond to help them in their quest for information about their ancestors, or their homesteads and churches. We are currently working with Father Mike at St. Boniface Catholic Church in preparation for their upcoming 175-year anniversary celebration this summer. That experience has been pleasant and mutually beneficial as together we page through numerous historic photos and documents.

This winter we find ourselves communicating via email with people in Seattle, Washington, northern Wisconsin, and even Ellern and Seibersbach, Germany. Those contacts have provided new information like the exact location of some ancestral homes of the Dhein, Dix, Klumb, and Hoelz families, at the time they left for Amerika.

If anyone is interested in helping us with this type of volunteer "work", we are happy to have you join us. Please contact me so we can talk about it. The Wolf Haus will be opening again to the public on Wednesday, June 3rd. All are Willkommen.

Jim Dix

jimsuedix@gmail.com

Annual Dinner: Please join us for the Annual Meeting & Dinner on Tuesday, April 21st at 6:00 pm at the Fox & Hounds Restaurant & Tavern. Additional details are provided on the enclosed invitation.



Volunteers Needed



Are you looking for a new opportunity to volunteer this year? Volunteers are still needed to assist with group tours at the museums. We usually have 6-10 group tours during the season which runs June 1st thru November 1st. The groups range from 20 – 60 people, and we need up to 3 volunteers for the larger groups to assist our museum employee with the tours. Responsibilities include guiding the groups between the three museums and sharing with them the history of the area, the settlers and the museums. Tours are booked weekdays usually between 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. Each tour lasts approximately 2 hours. If you would be interested in being added to our list of volunteer docents, please contact Peggy at 414.418.6496 or psbast@cs.com.

2020 Dates to Remember:

April 21—Annual Meeting
May 2—Bell Ringing & Wine & Cheese
June 5—Bell Museum Opens for the Season
June 7—Christ Church Museum of Local History Opens for the Season
June 3—Wolf Haus Opens for the Season
September 26 & 27—Oktoberfest
September 27—Christ Church Museum of Local History Closes for the Season
September 30—Wolf Haus Closes for the Season
November 1—Bell Museum closes for the season

The Wolf Haus & Genealogy Research Center will be open on Wednesdays from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm from June 1st thru October 1st.

The Christ Church Museum of Local History is open on Sundays from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm from June 1st thru October 1st.

The Bast Bell Museum is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm from June 1st thru November 1st.

We Hope to See You!

GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 31
Germantown, WI 53022
262-628-3170