



In this issue:	
Cliff's Notes	Page 1
Damenchor Notes	Page 1
2018 Schedule	Page 2
District Saengerfest	Page 2
How About You?	Page 3
Membership Corner	Page 4
Membership Form	Page 5

♪ Cliff's Notes

I am pleased to say that we had a good year in 2017. Our decision to grant free admission to our Bock Bier Fest and Oktoberfest continues to work well. At the annual meeting, I intend to propose we continue that in 2018.

We continued to make improvements to our building including new siding and a sign on the east side, and we hope to install a new floor and ceiling in the lobby and coatroom in the near future.

We also performed several times in the inaugural Christkindlmarkt in Carmel. Loesje talked to the sound crew after our final performance, and they told her that we were one of the most popular groups! It was great exposure for our club, and there were always more people standing in front of the stage listening at the end of our performance than were there at the beginning.

In 2017 we also experimented with selling tickets to some of our events on the Eventbrite website. I'm hoping we can expand on that for 2018.

One concern that we may need to address in the not too distant future is our parking situation. We are very fortunate to have permission from the state FOP to our east and Ivy Tech to our west to use their parking lots when we have events. Ivy Tech is in the process of trying to sell their campus on Washington Street, and when they do we could be out of a parking lot that accounts for about half of our parking. I have spoken with them, and they let me know that they will keep us in mind and explain the situation to whoever purchases their property so that we can speak with them when the property is sold. However, the possibility still exists that the new owner would have need of that space or wants to re-sell it at a price that would be prohibitive to us. We will try to prepare for whatever we encounter, but there is no question that we will have to cross that bridge in the next two or three years.

There is a lot that goes in to making our club successful, and everyone who does something to help is part of that success! You can email me at president@indyliederkrantz.org or call me at 317-782-9216 if you want to help, but don't know what to do.

You'll find a schedule of events elsewhere in the newsletter and some information about paying dues. Our annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 20, 2018, at 10:00AM. Everyone with a valid 2017 or 2018 membership is welcome to attend and have input.

I hope to see you in 2018 at one or more of our events!

Cliff Chandler, President

Damenchor Notes

I can't believe that a whole year has passed! Time goes way too fast for me. The Damenchor had a very successful and busy year. Our members and friends seemed to enjoy our Maifest concert, dinner and dance. We helped with food for the Bockbierfest, Oktoberfest, Cabarets, and the Summerfest at German Park. The Oktoberfest cake booth at German Park was staffed by our ladies. Our Bunter Abend was well attended because I heard, people like our food and our singing. This Advent season we sang by ourselves and few times in combination with our great sounding Liederkrantz men's choir at the Christkindlmarkt in Carmel.

Our Christmas Party for the kids was supported by our ladies. The highlight of the year was our two Weihnachtskonzerts that we performed with the men. I think we sound so good together. Our two clubs work very well together. We have to thank our great leader and choir director LOISJE CHANDLER for a lot of that.

Our biggest and very exiting undertaking is coming up in April: the "64ste Bezirkssaengerfest" (District Saengefest). There is more about it in this newsletter. The big concert will be on April 14th at Union Station. Our concert is FREE and open to the public. I hope I will see many of you at the Saengerfest.

We are always looking for new singers. You don't have to speak German (we will teach you how to pronounce words). You just have to have a love for music and singing! Choir practice will start on Wednesday, January 24th at 7:15 PM. It would be great to see some of you there. Try us out, and I'll bet you love it.

Margit Ball, Damenchor President



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2018 Schedule

February 24.....Bock Beer Fest
 March 4.....Das Bell Concert
 March 10.....St. Paddy's Party with Pat Grant
 March 24.....Allie Burbrink Show
 April 13-15...District Saengerfest in Indianapolis
 April 21.....Men's Concert & Dance
 May 5.....Damenchor Maifest
 Aug. 4.....Summerfest-German Park
 Oct. 6.....Oktoberfest
 Nov. 3.....Men's Concert & Dance
 Nov. 17.....Damenchor Bunter Abend
 Dec. 2.....Children's Christmas Party
 Dec. 16.....Weihnachtskonzert

District Saengerfest, April 13 - 15, 2018

The Indianapolis Liederkrantz Damenchor has the pleasure of hosting the 64. SOKII Bezirkssaengerfest, April 13 - 15, 2018! This will be our first time as hostesses of this event, and we could not be more excited! We will host a welcome dinner at the club on Friday evening, the mass concert will be on Saturday - in the historic Grand Hall at Union Station - followed by Frueschoppen on Sunday, also at Union Station.

The Committee has been working for months to put together what we hope will be a memorable fest! We've created a page on our website to keep everyone up to date on the latest happenings (<http://indyliederkrantz.org/saengerfest-2018/>). Registration for the event is now open, and I'm sure Cliff and Margit will be asking for counts soon for our singers and their guests! If you are interested in staying downtown for all of the fun and festivities of the weekend, you can make reservations at the host hotel - the Crowne Plaza at Union Station - via our website. There is a special link that will allow you to book under our room block pricing. (\$139/night plus parking)

We are fortunate to be recipients of a Humanities Initiative Grant to help fund the event! As part of the grant requirements, we are working with a local professor at IUPUI to help educate our guests and the community on the history of German immigrants in Indianapolis and the profound impact they've had on our great city. While we are very thankful for this grant money, it is only a drop in the bucket compared with what we need to make this festival a success. We would like to thank all those who have chosen to be patrons, sponsors, and advertisers. We can't do this without you! If anyone else is interested in providing support, please visit the website for details or send an email to saengerfest@indyliederkrantz.org.

Now that we are coming to the beginning of the year, I know Loesje will have the choirs working harder on "das Book" so that we can truly shine at the concert. We hope you all will tell everyone you know about the Saengerfest so that we can make it the best it can be! We invite you to attend our free performance at Union Station on April 14, 2018 at Union Station.

Amanda Groce, Fest Chair

HOW ABOUT YOU?

By Loesje Chandler

My first experience at the Liederkrantz was in 1974 when I was asked to play the keyboard in Ed Miller's German Band---the "house band" of the Liederkrantz. I learned hundreds of German songs in that band, which served me very well six years later---when I was asked to become the Men's Choir Director. It's been quite a journey! I began by organizing the un-alphabetized (and very messy) music library, adding more singers, and new music. Next came the Damenchor, the Cabarets, the Weihnachtskonzerts, the Brass Band, and the Bell choir. Throughout that whole musical journey.....something else happened to me: I fell in love with the Liederkrantz AND our building. Back in 1974, it looked very different than it does now. When I would inquire about making some improvements, I often heard this: "Well....we're probably not going to be here that much longer." I was stunned!

In 2002, we began with our Cabaret Series, and I decided to paint the two little dressing rooms at the sides of the stage---so that the performers could change their clothes in there. Margit Ball helped me paint---and after that there was no stopping us. Next we painted the Kranz, the little Hallway, the Lobby, the Coatroom, the Front and Backsides of our building (making it more German-looking), parts of the Bar, the Elevator Shaft, the West Staircase, and, lately, a large storage area in our basement. (Yes, there IS a basement.) ☺

I'm so proud of the Liederkrantz--that we are alive and well, even in our 146th year, and I firmly believe that we ARE going to be here "that much longer." Many people---men and women---have joined in to help us, and given of their time, their expertise, and their money. (Think of Horst and Helga Michaelis' major remodel of the whole 2nd floor! Think of our Wednesday afternoon work crew!) We're not done yet!

HOW ABOUT YOU? Can you:

weed	shovel snow	sing Tenor or Alto
mulch the roses	wash the dishes	ring a bell
cut the grass	paint	assist the handicapped
mop a floor	teach a kid to Polka	help with publicity
print tickets	help sell tickets	sing the Hallelujah Chorus
dust the chairs	peel potatoes	wash tablecloths
visit a shut-in	be an officer	work on our music libraries
play an instrument	start a carpool	make some phone calls
wash some windows	sing Bass or Soprano	donate an unused horn
join the Brass band	decorate for Christmas	put away decorations
be an usher	run the elevator	work in the coatroom
vacuum and scrub	make repairs	make dessert

Can you add to this list? Can you volunteer for some of it? Can you organize all the volunteers this article might bring?

Can you become a patron for the upcoming District Songfest hosted for the very first time by our Damenchor?

There is much to do here, but I found that the more I DID, the more I WANTED to do. I still feel that way---so when it's time to retire as director, I will join the choir! HOW ABOUT YOU?

Membership Corner

The New Year brings with it our annual membership drive. We'd love to have you back with us in 2018! I understand that we used to have about 250 annual memberships. Last year, our membership was 140 members (this includes family as two and singles) plus our six lifetime members in 2017. Our numbers for last year could have been higher if some of the active singers had remembered to submit their memberships. Check your wallet, do you have a 2017 membership card? If each of you who had a membership in 2017 would renew and then encourage one additional membership, our ranks would be growing again in no time.

Our memberships run the calendar year. The membership gives you discounted admission fee to some of our events at the club during the course of the year. If you're needing the use of a hall for a private event, you can rent our facility for half of the established rate. We have been able this past year to improve our building outside with new walk ways (\$5,000) and new siding on east and west sides (\$30,000). Also, we're considering improvements to the lobby and "Krantz" room, and these major expenses have been paid with funds generously donated. Membership dues along with funds earned through concerts and special events pay for those continuing expenses such as heat, lights, water, phone, liquor license and our director. **More importantly**, your dues help fund the very existence of our **Liederkrantz** and its mission of preserving German culture thru song in the Indianapolis area.

A membership form is provided for your convenience as a part of this newsletter. Please mail the completed form, along with a check for your dues/donation, to the address shown on the form. If your dues are paid or postmarked by the end of February, you can designate a free membership for 2018 for a new member, provided they have not been a member for the last three years.

Please also consider a tax-deductible donation over-and-above the membership dues. We now have a 501(c)(3) tax status, which makes your donation tax-deductible if you itemize deductions.

Thanks for your past support. We hope to see you soon.

Ted Hartman, Membership Chairman

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2018 Memberships Due