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## ♪ Cliff's Notes ♪

We had a really good year at the Liederkrantz in 2015, as we added a new brass band and a bell choir. Although we experienced a few "bugs" with the operation of the vertical lift (elevator), we seem to have most of them ironed out. The brass band has played for several functions (including at the Oktoberfest in German Park). The bell choir had a very successful first concert and a "gig" at a local business that landed us on YouTube.

In addition to our musical programs, we started on some more capital projects at the club. We upgraded plumbing to the men's room on the second floor, and we've contracted for new gutters all the way around the building. We were hoping the gutters would get installed before winter, but we didn't quite make that. In addition, we have approved the following projects for 2016:

- (1) Replacing all of the cracked sidewalks and installing a new sidewalk from the parking lot to our front door;
- (2) Installing a ramp at the front door to make our building more accessible;
- (3) Painting the sides of the building;
- and (4) Adding some signage to make the building a little easier to find.

In addition to what is on our 2016 schedule, we have been asked by the Holy Cross Neighborhood Association to be part of an Indiana Landmarks walking tour of the neighborhood in May.

Our annual meeting is set for Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend and voice your opinions and concerns. All active members are eligible to vote. Under our new bylaws, you don't have to be in the men's choir to be an active member. Also, an active member who is not in the men's choir is eligible to hold certain offices. We are always looking for ways to improve the club and make it more relevant. If you have ideas, we'd like to hear them.

Cliff Chandler, President

## Damenchor Notes

I can't believe that 2015 lies behind us. It seems that a year goes by faster and faster. I hope that you all had a blessed Christmas and good start for the New Year 2016.

The Damenchor had a very good year. We performed at our "Maifest" (spring concert). Our choirs were invited by the Eintracht Singing Society of Dayton, Ohio to perform at their "Fruehlingskonzert" (spring concert). The 2015 Bezirkssaengerfest (district singing festival) was held in Evansville, Indiana. It is always fun to go and meet other singers and friends from previous years. We were about 300 singers, and it is so much fun. Our "Bunter Abend" (fall concert) was very successful. The DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) invited us to perform at their Christmas party. I personally think that our Christmas concerts are the best, because our choirs sound so good together. Both concerts were well attended. If you missed it this past year, then try to make it this year. It will put you in the Christmas spirit.

As we look forward into the new year, we have great things coming up. We have our Maifest (spring concert). All the other events are listed on our calendar. We will sing at the "Nationales Saengerfest" (National Singing Festival), and it will be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in May. We will start practicing on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Our practices are on Wednesdays and start at 7:15 p.m. If you love to sing, now is the time to start singing with us. You don't have to know German. We will be glad to help you with the pronunciation. If you can't sing, then you are always welcome to help the Ladies Auxiliary cook or decorate.

We are so lucky and blessed to have Loesje Chandler, the greatest and most talented choir director. Join us and you will be so glad that you did.

In the past year, we had Lydia Schaefer and Aggie Hildebrand retire because of medical problems. We sure do miss them. Our singer and auxiliary member Betty Fentz has been very ill, and we wish her a speedy recovery.

I want to wish all of you a very HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR 2016, and I hope we will see you at practice or at our functions.

Mit lieben Gruessen,

Margit Ball, Damenchor President



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### 2016 Schedule

February 27.....Bock Beer Fest  
 March 5 .....St. Paddy's Party...with Patrick Grant  
 March 19 .Allie Burbrink & Frank Lee Old-Time Duets  
 April 2.....Men's Concert & Dance  
 April 16.....Liederkrantz Bell Choir Concert  
 May 7.....Damenchor Maifest  
 May 27-29.....Saengerfest in Pittsburgh  
 Aug. 6.....Summerfest-German Park  
 Oct. 15.....Oktoberfest  
 Nov. 5.....Men's Concert & Dance  
 Nov. 19.....Damenchor Bunter Abend  
 Dec. 4.....Children's Christmas party  
 Dec. 11.....Weihnachtskonzert

### Membership Corner

The New Year brings with it our annual membership drive. We'd love to have you back with us in 2016! I understand that we used to have about 250 annual memberships. For the last eight years, we have had about 100 memberships. In 2015, we only had 98 memberships. If each of you would renew your membership and encourage one additional new membership, our ranks would be back in great shape in no time.

Our memberships run the calendar year. Members receive a discounted admission fee to our Bock Bier Fest, Men's spring concert, Liederkrantz's Oktoberfest, and the Men's fall concert. More importantly, your dues help fund the very existence of our Liederkrantz and its mission of preserving German culture and song in the Indianapolis area. If your dues are paid or postmarked by the end of February, you can designate someone to receive a free membership for 2016 (provided they have not been a member for the last two years).

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.

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.

Stephen L. Koepper, Membership Chairman

### Electronic Newsletter

If you would prefer to have an electronic version of this newsletter, please send an email to Kathy Hoke at [kthoke@att.net](mailto:kthoke@att.net). She will send you a PDF version of this newsletter.

### The Indianapolis Liederkrantz Special Membership Offer

If you pay your 2016 dues by February 29, 2016,  
you can give a free NEW (not a member in the last two years) membership!

Please fill out this form (PRINT neatly and clearly),  
include a check for the membership dues payable to the  
Indianapolis Liederkrantz,  
and mail it to:

Indianapolis Liederkrantz  
Attn: Membership Chairman  
1417 E. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46201

Help our club grow by giving a free membership to your friends!  
**Please, also, consider making a donation to the Club.** Thanks!!

#### Member

Single Membership (\$25.00)

Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Family Membership (\$50.00)

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Man's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Woman's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work/Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

(Circle one)

(Circle one)

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission to the Indianapolis Liederkrantz to include my contact information on the website in a password protected area accessible only by other members Yes No (circle one)

#### Gift membership

Single Membership

Family Membership

Man's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Woman's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work/Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

(Circle one)

(Circle one)

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## Another “German Connection”

Those of you who have attended any of our Weihnachtskonzerts are familiar with the annual segment in which someone speaks to the audience about something familiar here in America --- which actually had its roots in Germany. This time I want to tell you about that same connection in my own life. Her name was Elisabeth Wilhelmina Hölscher, and she was my Mother---obviously with a German background. We lived in Amsterdam, Holland, and I was brought up in the post WW II time. (Of course, German things were not too popular back then, and in my childish mind German things were scary things!) Mom used to tell me of the German songs she knew, and sometimes I would try to play them on our piano. She knew many German words as well, but never tried to teach them to me. I was not really very interested in her German background. I never looked at the German song books that we had in our home.

As fate would have it, our family immigrated to America, and we all knew Mom was homesick. Then she became very ill with cancer, and died after only living here for six years. Years later I became a musician, and I ended up here as the Liederkrantz Music Director. Now I think to myself how much my Mom would have LOVED our concerts, eating the delicious German food, hearing the German language, and having that feeling of “gemutlichkeit.” She would have been so proud of me, and also of my brother Albert Verdouw---who has been singing here for many years. (In fact, President Cliff would have been her son-in-law!) The Liederkrantz was already here, of course, but unfortunately my family didn’t know about it. Therefore, my Mom never had a chance to come here. I’m certain it could have helped her homesickness.

Today, whenever I hear---or direct---one of my Mothers’ German songs---I absolutely love it! It’s as if I can almost hear her voice again. I know the Liederkrantz has meant many things to many people ever since 1872. And now for me...it’s become the German Connection too!

Loesje Chandler, Dirigent

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2016 Memberships Due