

Briefe Letters

Better Late Than Never

First, Alevtina Altenhof's wonderfully endearing depiction of "A Nuremberg Christmas," and then, as if that wasn't enough to wet one's whistle for something special, Dave Schwan's absolutely amazing article on "Chicago's Christkindlmarket"! Your Annual 2010 Holiday Issue this year was just too much! It was over the top!

My father always said if you want something to be around, you have to support it, especially when times are tough! A few days later, we found ourselves off to Chicago for the day, taking the subway from the airport in search of Daley Plaza, to celebrate my son's birthday. We had the best time!! We stayed an extra day and didn't want to leave! We all agreed to come back next year before we even left Chicago. Was it the true spirit of the Advent Season, the *Gemütlichkeit*, or just the *Glühwein*?

The Chicago Christkindlmarket at Daley Plaza, a little bit of Germany right here in the US for a magical moment of time every December! How Wunderbar! God willing, we will all be back next year!! My sister even wants to come with us next time! Thank you, *German Life*, for giving us a wonderful new centuries-old family tradition to look forward to each Advent Season!

Denise Crockett
Via email

Each Christmas I re-read back issues of *German Life*. The article "How Bright Appears the Morning Star" by Pastor Roy Ledbetter in the December 2006/January 2007 issue reminds me that I tried to make a Moravian Star years ago from drinking straws. Now, with more time, I would appreciate directions.

In the August/September 2009 issues is "POW Remembrances." During World War II, I lived in Indianapolis, Indiana. Some friends and I would take candy bars to the POWs there. We took a streetcar to the end of the line and then walked to a wooded area and followed a path to a chain-link fence where the POWs would be waiting. The inability to communicate was frustrating.

German Life is the greatest! Keep up the good work!
Bertha Kiechle
Wadesville, IN

A Suggestion

Last year in April I visited Germany after thirty-eight years. I was so anxious to see Hamburg, my place of birth. There was, unfortunately not much time. One thing I wanted to go back to was the church I was confirmed in. It is St. Michaelis Kirche. At the time, in 1948, the church was in shambles, it was only a shell. The confirmation instructions and church services were held in the Fellowship Hall (*Ge-meindesaal*). On March 21, 1948, the confirmation was also celebrated there. I remember our Pastor Klaus Eckert took us up in the tower and we had a view of what was then left of Hamburg. When I was there last year, we also got up in the tower and looked down on the renewed, rebuilt city. But to my great disappointment, the inside of the church was being reconstructed and I was not able go inside. It would be wonderful, if *German Life* could do a story on St. Michaelis Kirche once the remodeling is done. Thank you for all the wonderful articles and pictures published.

Grete Schuenzel
Hayward, WI

Loving Luxembourg

As a teacher of German and someone who frequently travels to Europe, especially German-speaking areas of the continent, I am always delighted to receive the next issue of *German Life*. Congratulations on a job very well done!

In your most recent issue, Lucy Gordon penned a terrific piece on Luxembourg, where I spent nearly a week this past December, doing a "dry run" for an upcoming Battle of the Bulge tour. Gordon's praise for this small country is most justified, and I was pleased to see her pay particular attention to the charming town of Clervaux.

However, she did make a few minor mistakes regarding that long, arduous 1944 battle in the Ardennes. First, while George Patton's Third U.S. Army did play a very significant role in stopping the German offensive—including breaking the Siege of Bastogne on December 26, 1944—it was Courtney Hodges's First U.S. Army that bore the brunt of the assault, and all of the U.S. forces were part of Omar Bradley's 12th Army Group. So, although Patton and his men deserve a tremendous amount of credit for what they did in this month-long battle, it was an outstanding effort by other U.S. commanders and their forces.

Secondly, Gordon was mistaken in her accounting for