

# *Newly elected board to begin work*

The International German Genealogy Partnership recently held its second election, and the new board will have familiar and new faces.

Officers, all re-elected, are Ingeborg Carpenter, president, U.S.; Kent Cutkomp, 1st vice president, U.S.; Dirk Weissleder, 2nd vice president, Germany; John Schulte, treasurer, U.S.; and Edie Adam, secretary, U.S.

The board, comprised of the officers and directors, represents partner societies on four continents: Europe, South America, North America and

Australia. Our directors are:

- André Hammann, Brazil
- Timo Kracke, Germany
- Eric Kopittke, Australia
- Garry Finkell, USA
- Ken Heger, USA
- Barbara Schmidt, Germany

The new board takes office in January and will serve for a two-year term through 2023.

Three of the directors on the first board are leaving — Kim Ashford, Nancy Myers and Jim Beidler — but

will stay involved with IGGP. Each will receive a certificate of appreciation for their work on behalf of IGGP.

Thanks also go to Jim Beidler, Sebastian Gansauer and Delbert Ritchhart for their work on the nomination committee and all the candidates who accepted nomination.

The partnership marked its 5th anniversary in 2020 and continues to develop policies and procedures to direct its activities. This election was held under the rules in the [IGGP by-laws](#), approved in summer 2019.

## OFFICERS & DIRECTORS AT LARGE, 2021-2022

**André Hammann** was born in Três de Maio, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, studied mechanical engineering and business management, and works in the agricultural machinery industry as Project Manager. He speaks Portuguese, English, German and Spanish. Genealogy is a hobby for André, and no wonder: 84 ancestors emigrated from different German speaking places between 1825-1897. He serves on the board of GenealogiaRS, and is a member of DAGV and VFFOW.



**Barbara Schmidt** was born and raised in Germany, and has been doing genealogy for more than 25 years. She is a member of several German societies and hosts the German versions of ancestry hour (AhnenforschSTUNDE) and genchatde on Twitter. Barbara works as a professional genealogist upon request. Her real job is internal communications, Social Media management and people engagement for a large German bank. She also works as a trainer and moderator on everything dealing with cultural change and new work.



**Eric Kopittke** is a family historian, presenter, and author. He has been researching his family since 1985 – in Australia, England, Germany and former parts of Germany that now lie in Poland. For over 20 years he has convened the Queensland Family History Society's Central European Interest Group and is part of the Ger-



man-Australian Genealogy and History Alliance. He is completing certificates in German and English genealogy with the National Institute for Genealogical Studies in Canada.

**Kenneth W. Heger** holds a Ph.D. in German History and was a senior lecturer in the University of Maryland's College of Information Studies (2014-2020), directing the Archives & Digital Curation specialization. Ken worked at the National Archives and Records Administration (1983-2014) as an archivist and program manager. He is president of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society.



**Timo Kracke** is a hobby genealogist who has more than 20 years of experience in genealogy. He volunteers for several German societies and is a board member for Oldenburgische Gesellschaft für Familienkunde e.V. Since 2012 Timo has been the voice of the German Podcast "der Genealoge" and in 2014 he started the Kids-Genealogy project "die Familienforscher" where he publishes guides and ideas about involving kids in genealogy.



**Garry Finkell** was born and grew up in Albany, New York. He has a master's degree in Industrial and Management Engineering and for much of his career did social research for the state of New York. For the past 15 years, he has worked as a medical researcher. He became a member of Palatines to America in 2009 and has



## INTERNATIONAL GERMAN Genealogy Partnership

The specific purposes of IGGP are to:

- Create an international Partnership of organizations and groups interested in genealogy and family history as it relates to German-speaking ancestors;
- Support each Partner in its efforts to fulfill its purpose and reach its goals;
- Promote each Partner's events and organization within the Partnership and to others;
- Encourage reciprocal networking among Partners and their members;
- Facilitate research assistance between Partners and their members;
- Collect and share German genealogical knowledge, references, resources, and information;
- Encourage public access to and preservation of records of German genealogical value;
- Promote ethical standards in German genealogical research and practices;
- Marshal the resources of IGGP and its Partners to accomplish goals and objectives deemed to be in the best interest of the international German genealogical community.

### Board | 2019-2020

**President:** Ingeborg Carpenter

**1st Vice President:** Kent Cutkomp

**2nd Vice President:** Dirk Weissleder

**Secretary:** Edie Adam

**Treasurer:** John Schulte

#### *At-large directors*

Kim Ashford, GGS, Minnesota

James Beidler, MAGS, Maryland

André Hammann, GenealogiaRS, Brazil

Nancy Myers, Ahnenforscher Stammtisch

Unna, Germany

## OFFICERS & DIRECTORS AT LARGE, 2021-2022

held various positions in the New York Chapter. He maintained the YouTube channel for PalAm, in addition to the Facebook page for the New York Chapter. Garry created and maintains the IGGP YouTube channel, and is collecting videos for the playlist promoting the partner societies.



**President:** Ingeborg Carpenter, MA, was born and raised in Germany, and is a U.S. Air Force veteran. She has been president of the Sacramento German Genealogy Society for the last 6 years. Ingeborg has been conducting German genealogy research for more than 30 years. She often presents on life of our German ancestors and translates and teaches the old German script.



**1st Vice President:** Kent Cutkomp is a co-founder of IGGP and frequent moderator of IGGP partner calls. He was chair of the committee that developed the initial structure for the partnership and was co-chair of the first IGGP conference held in Minneapolis. Kent lived for several years in Bavaria and Austria and speaks German fluently. He is past president of the Germanic Genealogy Society and currently serves as program chair among other volunteer activities.



**2nd Vice President:** Dirk Weissleder, born in Hannover, Germany, took his first steps in genealogy in 1982. He is co-founder of the WEISSLEDER family association and was just re-elected chair of the Deutsche

Arbeitsgemeinschaft genealogischer Verbände (DAGV), the umbrella of genealogical societies in Germany. Dirk is another co-founder of IGGP, and became General Secretary of the International Confederation for Genealogy and Heraldry (CIGH) in 2019 — further demonstration of his goal to connect genealogists worldwide.



**Secretary:** Edie Adam is a retired journalist and IT specialist whose German ancestors lived in the Russian Empire. Her relatives emigrated to the U.S. after World War II, and she has been researching her family history for more than 25 years. Edie has been a volunteer in several record indexing projects related to Germans in Russia and Poland, and is a past president of the Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe.



**Treasurer:** John Schulte has been interested in genealogy since the mid 90's and has been researching locally and overseas for a number of years as a hobby. He has held various board posts for the Germanic Genealogy Society in Minnesota, and is the current treasurer. John also is a member of the Gottscheer Heritage and Genealogy Association and the Westphalian Society for Genealogy and Family Research.



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## PARTNER SHARE

# IGGP ‘zooms’ with idea-filled virtual weekend

2020 is an exceptional year in every respect: Due to the Corona/ Covid-19 epidemic, personal meetings at big events had to be cancelled, even the third IGGP conference 2021 in the traditional form.

Despite the challenges, it is important to keep up the momentum. This is what inspired Dirk Weissleder and Sebastian Gansauer, both board members for the DAGV, to suggest an IGGP “Virtual Leadership Weekend.” After hours of planning, and with the help of many others in IGGP, the result — held the weekend of Oct. 3-4 on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of German unity — was a success.

About 45 people participated in activities for 4.5 hours each day. They live in 17 time zones, clearly demonstrating the global reach of the IGGP.

Dirk and Sebastian, as moderators, introduced participants to several key questions on specific topics that were intended to kick off discussion. The large group was then divided among virtual break-out rooms, where the question could be discussed and ideas were shared. After a set time, the larger group came together, each break-out group shared its ideas and notes were taken for further review. In total, about 200 ideas for the further development of the IGGP from the discussion groups were noted.

The weekend turned out to be time very well spent in gathering ideas to provide direction about what IGGP could or should be. As many said, the IGGP needs to clarify what it does in the field of international cooperation between German genealogists — that it is more than the organizer of international conferences.

The board has already begun reviewing the suggestions and thinking how to move forward, and this work will continue with the newly elected board of directors.



It became clear that we are all at a turning point in international cooperation. We are experiencing an epochal upheaval, which only allows us to hold virtual events and in the long term is likely to lead to hybrid forms.

We definitely have to break new ground if we as want to survive as organizations. We want to encourage our partners and lead by example.

Through the IGGP Virtual Leadership Weekend, we have taken a big step forward and learned a lot.

We continued the tradition, stayed in touch and even enabled new contacts between participants. Everyone who took part was proud of the good discussions and the outcome.

— Dirk Weissleder

## What's coming next ... what can you do?

The IGGP board met shortly after the leadership weekend to sift through the many suggestions for moving the partnership forward. Several committees, or teams, were identified: 2021 virtual Conference 2021 (see page 4); Education; Partner Outreach; Connecting and Networking; Resources; Research Queries; Website/Technology; Long-range Planning; and Volunteers.

The board also reviewed the list of volunteers who expressed preferences for working on specific topics during the leadership weekend and will begin contacting them over the next few weeks. Anyone who could not attend the weekend and is interested in volunteering should email to [info@iggp.org](mailto:info@iggp.org).

## PARTNER SHARE

### Here's an update on planning for the virtual 2021 IGGP conference.

The conference team is in final negotiations with a vendor to manage the technology. Live presentations will be offered on Saturday, July 17 and Saturday, July 24. During the week between will be time for virtual vendor visits and IGGP Connections sessions.

The goal is to deliver similar activities as those when in-person.

Registration expected to open in early January.

The plan is to include a number of pre-recorded lectures as part of the conference packages. Each package will be priced to offer different levels of participation.

Jim Beidler is the team chair, along with Nancy Myers. Bernie Guenther is recruiting vendors and sponsors, Katharine Schober will do publicity, and well-known speaker Luana Darby from Utah is program chair.

Additional volunteers from among the partnership will be contacted.



The new board of the DAGV — the umbrella of genealogical societies in Germany with 74 associated members, and a co-founder of IGGP — has started its 2020-2023 term of office. The officers and their area of responsibility:

- Dirk Weissleder, chair
- Manfred Wegele, Dep-

The *Partner Zeitung* is edited by Edie Adam. Articles may be sent to [info@iggp.org](mailto:info@iggp.org).

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR 2021

Partner representatives, here are the conference call dates for the coming year. Please plan to join the discussion. While calls are scheduled in both German and English, all representatives are welcome to participate in all calls.

ENGLISH 3rd THURSDAY   noon CT <a href="#">Link to join</a>	GERMAN 3rd WEDNESDAY   1900 MEZ <a href="#">Link to join</a>
Jan. 21	17 February
March 18	21 April
May 20	16 June
July 8 <i>(moved due to virtual IGGP conference)</i>	18 August
September 16	20 October
November 18	(none)

uty Chair, Deutscher Genealogentag

- Freya Rosan, Secretary
- Edgar Hubrich, Treasurer/Website
- Sebastian Gansauer, New Media/IGGP rep
- Christian Kirchner, Archival Questions
- Hans-Joachim Lünen-schloß, Webmaster/DAGV Inquiry Center

Every board member is available by e-mail using [firstname.familyname@dagv.org](mailto:firstname.familyname@dagv.org)

DAGV hopes to be able to invite you to the 73rd Deutsche Genealogentag Sept. 10-12, 2021 in Kleve.

In the meantime, it will explore online opportunities for all its members as well as other IGGP partners.



André Hammann shares from Brazil that his society is launching its newest book project, *The legend of the ship Cäcilia*, based on the history of a group of emigrants from the Palatinate to Brazil. The journey started in late 1827 and only ended in early 1829.

The story came to light after finding a letter of one passenger in a library in the USA. English and German versions will be available starting in 2021.



Nancy Myers and others have begun experimenting with virtual Connections sessions for IGGP partners and their members. Research in Pommern kicked off the effort, which soon will include a session on Westfalen.

And the DAGV has opened registration for a discussion on research in East and West Prussia. Keep an eye on the IGGP website and Facebook pages for details as these sessions are organized.

Maybe you have a suggestion for a virtual Connection session? Message to [info@iggp.org](mailto:info@iggp.org).



The partnership has welcomed two new partners, and both focus on genealogy using social media methods rather than the traditional society model.

[German Genealogy in South Africa](#) is a Facebook-only group. It's administered by Andre Martinaglia. And has more than 1,500 members.

Andre shares many German speakers came to South Africa before and during the Dutch occupation. After World War II, many German immigrants went to South Africa, including Austrians and German-speaking Swiss.

In Namibia, Germans landed first at Luederitz in 1884 and spread inland and eventually colonized the country. Many German-speakers still live there.

Our other new partner is a Twitter-only group, #genchatDE. It's hosted by Barbara Schmidt, who also is a new director at large for IGGP. [Genchat](#) is *auf Deutsch* and "meets" the second Wednesday of the month from 8-9 p.m. CET. View the [calendar](#). Barbara also hosts the weekly German ancestry hour on Twitter — every Thursday at 8 p.m. CET. #afstunde



Another of our newer partners, the Kentucky Genealogical Society, is asking for assistance in finding speakers. Christopher Padgett writes: *I am planning a September 2021 virtual webinar series to coincide with Oktoberfest. The topic is Germans to the Ohio Valley. I am looking for speakers who have topics specific to Germans migrating to the Ohio Valley Region. ... Looking for speakers from Germany or*

(Continued on page 5)

## PARTNER SHARE

(Continued from page 4)

*U.S. as it will be virtual.* If anyone has any speaker suggestions, [email](#) Chris.

Chris's request is another reminder that in a virtual world, speakers can live anywhere and present to audiences at a distance.



Roland Geiger shares his experience with an IN-PERSON conference, giving us hope that these may be possible again.

He writes about a seminar with which he has been involved for 22 years, Vertiefende Familienforschung“ (Advanced Genealogy) at Schloss Dhaun in Rheinland-Pfalz.

The October seminar had stayed on the calendar despite coronavirus with 20 guests and four speakers. But when cases of the virus began increasing again in Germany, it was expected that the event would be canceled. The restrictions, however, did not reach that

### Would you like a Q&A on virtual experiences?

At the November partner conference call, we had to cut short discussion about virtual meetings due to time constraints

But there were still a lot of questions and advice to share regarding planning, pricing, timing, etc.

Would your group be interested in a special conference call just for the purpose of talking about our virtual experiences so far? If so, send a note to [info@iggp.org](mailto:info@iggp.org) by Dec. 31.

point and, in the end, 10 people and three speakers attended. Roland filled the speaker gap with additional presentations, and all guests followed all the rules regarding mask wearing and keeping distance. As Roland reports, “We had a great time, great talks and no infection. Just the genealogy bug.”



Dirk Weissleder met genealogist and author Hank Jones last year in California and shares news of his new book.

Jones is best known for his extensive work with Palatine genealogy.

The new book, *The Palatine Families of New York — 1710: A Supplement*, contains all Jones' discoveries since publication of his original two-volume set in 1985.

That publication researched the 847 “Palatine” families who arrived in colonial New York in 1710.

For information and to



The **Sacramento German Genealogy Society (SGGS)**, has been of service to the German genealogy community in the United States for over three decades and is a major organization in its field.

The Sacramento German Genealogy Society is the latest IGGP partner to share a video introducing the group. We would like all our partners to create a video — and remember, you can use this tool in a variety of ways to market your society. (Click to view)

order, visit Jones' [website](#).



Garry Finkell, who manages the IGGP YouTube channel, shares the link for our [play list](#) to encourage more partner groups to submit a video describing your organization.

Garry writes: These videos can act as models for other organizations. Please contact me if you have a video, or if you have any questions about producing

one for your organization.

### 10 tips to create a video

1. 45 seconds to 2 minutes.
2. Use your phone
3. Place on a solid surface or hold with a steady hand.
4. Dress neatly but casually
5. Shoot upward from the waist or higher if standing
6. If sitting, shoot upward from the desktop or higher
7. Use props if desired
8. Speak clearly at a normal pace, and distinctly
9. Look directly at camera.
10. Smile. 😊



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## IN BRIEF | KURZ BERICHTET

Many researchers value their family papers for the genealogical information contained in them — births, marriages, deaths, etc. But the coronavirus pandemic is opening eyes to the fact that many have ancestors who survived the influenza pandemic of 100 years ago, prompting them to revisit boxes and trunks in the attic in search of letters, journals and other mementoes. His niece prompted Bobby Clifton to see his mother with new eyes and to read letters she wrote to her soldier brother in 1918. He said, it was like his mother was guiding him through the current-day crisis. [Article](#).

✳

The Germans have a word, *Vergangenheitsaufarbeitung*, which translates as “working off the past.” This is the word author Ann Banks uses to describe the journey she made with Karen Orozco Gutierrez, one being made by a growing number of African-Americans researching their history by contacting descendants of white, slave-owning families. Banks, whose great-great-grandfather owned a cotton plantation, and Gutierrez, whose great-grandfather had been enslaved in Alabama, worked together to make discoveries that expanded the understanding of the roles both families played in history. [Article](#).

✳

Deanna Bufo Novak writes for LegacyTree Genealogists about the need to build generational bridges in order to preserve family stories. While the pandemic may prevent many of us from having big, multi-generational family gatherings for the holiday season, it’s still a good time to use your devices and online tools to connect and help the children to learn about their heritage. Read the techniques to build your B-R-I-D-G-E. [Article](#).

✳

Did you know Germans “love getting naked in public?” Maybe you’ve run across sun bathers on beaches and in parks during your travels. BBC Travel reports this is not about sexual expression, it’s about *Freikörperkultur*, or “free-body culture”. And it has a long history in Germany where, as the BBC writes, “stripping down to your essence in the natural world has historically been an act of both resistance and relief.” [Article](#).

✳

Reclaim The Records has made a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the United States National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), to ask that billions of digital images of U.S. records finally be made available for online access. The images were created as part of a public-private partnership program to digitize many of the important historical documents NARA holds, particularly records that would be useful for family history research. These include multiple enumerations of the United States Federal Census (through 1940), immigration and naturalization records, military and veteran

records, tax assessment lists, and more. In exchange for spending private money to digitize the records, NARA agreed to let these partners have the exclusive use of those materials on their own websites for a certain amount of time. Then the images, and their metadata were to be made available for online access by NARA, something Reclaim the Records says has not happened. [Article](#).

✳

The Shoah Foundation partnered with Ancestry to digitize about 50,000 records, adding them to what the genealogy giant has promised will be a free searchable database in its Holocaust archive. But a paywall glitch during the initial rollout last summer added to concerns from survivors and family members about having their very personal stories on a public website. Ancestry also has posted millions of records from the Arolsen Archives — passenger lists of World War II displaced persons and other documents. [Article](#).

✳

The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) was created in 1943 to provide relief and assistance to victims of war, in particular World War II. Photo archives of its work are broken into areas of coverage and are interesting to scan for anyone who had relatives in the various war zones. The [photo albums](#) are listed on Flickr; the [German album](#) is a starting point with others listed on the webpage.

✳

The Text Message, a blog maintained by the U.S. National Archives, recently posted about [World War I naturalizations](#), a topic of potential interest to German researchers since many German-speaking immigrants naturalized around the time of the war. Normally, it took years to become a citizen. But immigrant non-citizens who enlisted could naturalize in one day with the right proof.

✳

A new book about German contributions to American society will be available in January. It’s the first book published by the German-American Heritage Foundation and Museum in Washington, D.C. *How German Ingenuity Inspired America: More Fun, More Beauty, More Freedom* is described as “an entertaining and informative journey through the centuries illustrated with more than 300 pictures.” The book will be available on the museum’s [website](#) starting in January for \$39.99 (plus shipping & handling). To pre-order, contact Katja Sipple at [sipple@gahmusa.org](mailto:sipple@gahmusa.org).

