

GERMAN MATTERS

News and Events from
The German Culture Center
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In association with



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University of Missouri–St. Louis
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*Es lebe die Freiheit!
Long Live Freedom!*

**Important New
Exhibition in
Gallery 210!**



Es lebe die Freiheit! Long Live Freedom!

The German Culture Center is bringing an important new exhibition to America in September, following its debut to great acclaim last year in Frankfurt. “Long Live Freedom” (“Es lebe die Freiheit”) tells the story of young people’s resistance to National Socialism from 1933 to 1945.

GCC to bring an important special exhibition to St. Louis in September

The massive Nazi propaganda effort was so successful, the oppressive power of the state so effective, the submission of a people so nearly complete, that it has been easy to overlook the fact that there was any resistance at all to Hitler’s fascist state.

Yet individuals and groups did resist, especially young people, whose passions were fueled by youthful idealism and disdain for oppressive authority.

The “Long Live Freedom” exhibit, created by the Research Group for German Resistance 1933-1945 (Studienkreis Deutscher Widerstand, 1933-1945), brings these compelling stories to light, many for the first time. Many of these young people paid for their bravery with their lives. To swim against the current, to fight against terrible injustice means taking great risks, as today we see young people across the globe continue to resist tyranny.



Gallery 210

**University of Missouri–St. Louis
September 19-October 18, 2012
Tuesday- Saturday 11am – 5pm**

**Official Opening Reception and Guest Speakers
SEPTEMBER 19, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.**

The German Culture Center hopes you will attend the official opening of this exhibit, featuring special remarks by the German researchers and authors. The event is FREE but you are asked to RSVP to: gcc@umsl or call 314-516-6620 in order to receive parking permits. www.germanculturecenter.org

Donations to help with this important event may be made to: German Culture Center–UMSL, 1 University Blvd., St. Louis MO 63121



They’re Back!
German Trio to present concert
for high school students!

**OCTOBER 11, 2012
10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.
J.C. Penney Auditorium**



Last year’s appearance by these young singers was a smash hit with both teachers and students. The Dorfrocker trio presents a light-hearted program in German, featuring a modern, rock-influenced version of traditional German songs. Their appearances at UMSL are made possible by the generosity of the Soulard Oktoberfest, where the group will be featured performers. The two concerts at UMSL will be “sold out” fast, so contact Larry Marsh soon at gcc@umsl.edu.

The exhibition consists of 25 large-scale panels with informative text in English and interesting photographs and documents. Following the exhibition at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, the project will be shared with other institutions in the United States.

Some of these panels illustrate events that have already been well documented, like those of organized resistance groups such as Berlin’s “White Rose.” In fact, the title of the exhibition comes from the words uttered by one of the condemned members of that group, Hans Scholl, just before he was hanged on February 22, 1942.

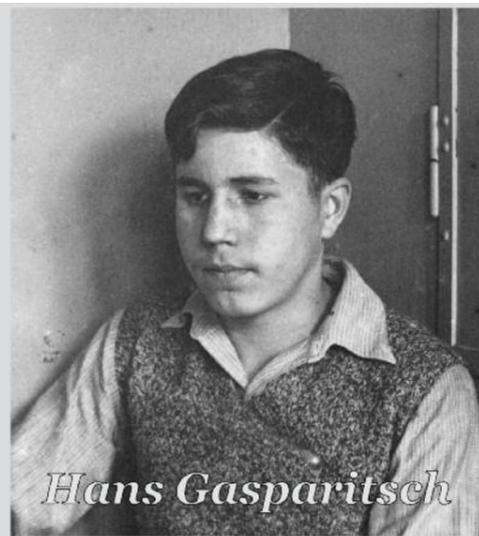
The young resisters varied widely, both in their motivation and approach. Some had been opposed to the Nazis from the outset, while others were at first enthusiastic supporters who then slowly became disillusioned and dismayed with the new order. Some were associated with the socialist and Communist workers’ movements, but others were motivated primarily by deeply personal religious and ethical considerations. Some managed to find small groups of like-minded souls, some were part of larger, more organized resistance groups, while others toiled in lonely, solitary isolation.

The presentation of this important exhibition has been made possible through cooperative efforts and funding from **Goethe Institut Chicago, St. Louis/Stuttgart Sister Cities, the German American Heritage Society, The St. Louis Holocaust and Learning Center, Kathryn M. Koch, and Mark G. Arnold.**



Long Live Freedom!

Top secret



Hans Gasparitsch

“Long Live Freedom” is result of extensive research by Frankfurt-based organization.

The panel at the left is one example of the 25 that will be shown in the “Long Live Freedom” exhibition. Each is 40 inches wide and over 6 feet tall. Following the showing at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, the exhibition will be shared with other institutions across the United States.

The Long Live Freedom exhibit is the result of years of research by the Studienkreis Deutscher Widerstand 1933-1945, based in Frankfurt.

This “Association for Studying, Researching and Imparting the History of the German Resistance 1933–1945” was founded in 1967.

Research into the period of antifascist Resistance between 1933 and 1945 in its entire political and social range is one of the most important tasks of the German Resistance Research Council. Main emphasis is put on publicizing aspects concerning the Resistance that are scarcely noticed or ignored by the public.

The council maintains the German Resistance Documentary Archives which offer a wide range of scientific literature, written and photographic records.

The German Resistance Research Council also includes research on local history and provides study projects for schoolchildren and students. It also organizes events, readings, lectures and seminars.

In the beginning, the focus had been on resistance within the labor movement. Over time, research into the resistance history of groups that have not been noticed like women, young people, Jews and Jehovah’s Witnesses has been included.

<http://www.widerstand-1933-1945.de>

WORKSHOP FOR TEACHERS on September 14, 2012

The German Culture Center has planned a number of events for local school teachers and their students. On September 14, teachers will have an after-school opportunity to preview the exhibit and participate in a workshop, presented by Thomas Altmeyer and Gabriele Prein, creators of the exhibition, who will travel from Frankfurt to St. Louis for the opening. Altmeyer and Prein will provide teachers with a wealth of teaching materials and activities that can be used in the classroom. Space is limited for this special workshop and teachers should RSVP immediately to Larry Marsh, Coordinator at gcc@umsl.edu or by phone at 314 516-6620. The workshop is free and will include a light dinner.

2012 Goessl Book Prize Winners Announced

Books Awarded to Outstanding Graduating High School Seniors

Eighteen of the St. Louis area’s best students of German have received the eighth annual Goessl Memorial Book Prize awarded to graduating high school seniors. The awards are supported by funds given in honor of the late Dr. Alfred Goessl, German teacher emeritus at the University of Missouri–St. Louis.

This year’s book is the newly published *Dictionary for German as a Foreign Language* from Langenscheidt. Congratulations to the following students and their teachers who nominated them.

Dr. Ingeborg Goessl expressed her congratulations received to the students who received the book prize named in honor of her late husband. “When reading letters like these, I realize that as long as there are students like these and the teachers to teach them there is hope for the future. My special thanks go to all those fine teachers and their exceptional students.”

Kayla Nienhaus Nerinx Hall Nominated by Kimberly Ady McDonald	Tyriesha Robinson Marquette Senior High Nominated by Kim Hotze	Emily Hahn Ladue Horton Watkins Nominated by Deborah Lund
Stephen Heatherly Rockwood Summit H.S. Nominated by LeAnn Falcetti-Sevcik	Michael Twellman Wentzville Holt High School Nominated by Dee Elder	Salena Maurer Webster Groves High School Nominated by Cindy Sittmann
Adam Lair Pattonville Senior High Nominated by Stephanie Frerker	Kathlyn Olsen Oakville Senior H.S. Nominated by Caryn Miller	Terence Traugher McCluer South Berkeley H.S. Nominated by John Slattery
Kymberly Maine Fort Zumwalt North Nominated by Eric Richards	Madelaine Azar Parkway Central Nominated by Amy McMahon	Sophia Critchfield-Jain MICDS Nominated by Nancy Richardson
J.P. Swigert Seckman High School Nominated by Alan Kirby	Spencer White Parkway South Nominated by Leslie Peterson	Allison Czech Eureka Senior High School Nominated by Christine Staszczuk
John Ems Kirkwood Senior High Nominated by Eric Hasselschwert	Rachel Maxwell Lindbergh High School Nominated by Laura Conti	Ducota Henry Francis Howell North Nominated by Anne McPartland



Hans Gasparitsch and his parents
Photo credit: Jackson Hoeger

In March, 1935, 17-year-old trainee Hans Gasparitsch is arrested in Stuttgart. He is taken to court. Hans is sentenced to imprisonment for 30 months. In fact he will spend a total of ten years in jails and concentration camps until the end of the Second World War.

Disillusionment with Adults

Born in 1918 in Stuttgart, Hans grows up in a blue-collar family. Most of his free time is spent at the employees’ swim club, he vacations in youth camps of the “Red Falcons”. With his schooling ended for financial reasons, he commences training as type-setter.

Slowly but surely the Nazis put a stop to all existing organizations for the young. Both Hans and his friends from the swim club reject the pseudo-military drill of the Hitler Youth. Instead they continue to meet under the cover of a hiking club. They commence with political resistance: on home-made machines they print information sheets on the situation in school and at work, on arrests in the neighbourhood and murders of opponents of the regime. They are known as “G-Group” (G stands for secret) and give each other alias names. Hans is now “Micha”.

Hans recalls: *»One of our main topics was our disillusionment with adults who put up no resistance to the Fascists, to the Nazis, although there was ample information in the newspapers.«*



Gasparitsch's boycott group
Photo credit: Jackson Hoeger

Betrayal through Paint Blobs

In March, 1935, the Gestapo arrest one of the group leaders. To protest against this arrest Hans paints slogans in Stuttgart’s Castle Park. “RED FRONT” and “HITLER=WAR”. He does not spot the paint on his jacket. Shortly afterwards he is arrested; other group members suffer the same fate.

After months in custody and tortuous interrogation the trial takes place in 1936. 19 boys and girls are prosecuted for “High treason” and given long prison sentences. After that is over Hans is put into “Preventive Detention” by the Gestapo. The subsequent years until the end of the World War II are spent in inhumane conditions in various concentration camps, finally in Buchenwald.

After liberation Hans returns to Stuttgart. For the rest of his political life he struggles against Fascism, for a better and just world and for peace. *»From texts and books by socialists, pacifists and humanists I had culled words to express my lifetime dream that I hoped to preserve both for myself and for all young people. Social justice for everyone, tolerance and friendship with all, culture and education for mankind – regardless of artificial boundaries. And freedom worldwide. That is my dream – and still is!«*



Hans at the kitchen desk on his 15th birthday. He is reading the anti-war novel “At quiet on the western front”
Photo credit: Jackson Hoeger



Hans and his friends on an excursion in the 1930s
Photo credit: Jackson Hoeger

- 1918 March 30:
Born in Stuttgart
- 1933 Illegal political activism
- 1935 Imprisonment
- 1936 Trial and condemnation
- 1945 Liberation from Concentration Camp Buchenwald
- 2002 April 13:
Died in Stuttgart