

DEMOCRACY UNDER FIRE

**Support Ukraine and Democracy
in Eastern Europe**

- World's largest Children's Choir singing for Peace:
Peace Letters meet StarPeace
- Putin the new Stalin
- How can we support refugees in Eastern Europe?
- Schurz Award
- Dr. Kissinger's 99th Birthday

May 23 - 27, 2022 • Northfield, Minnesota

www.PeaceConference.us



PEACE LETTERS



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William Jewett Fulton, Jr., Keokuk, Iowa

Born 10 December 1897, Keokuk, Iowa

Died 5 July 1972, Iowa City, Iowa

Wife: Louesa Harrison Fulton (1900-1985), married 3 June 1921

Children: None

Keokuk Peace Letters, 1932 - 2022

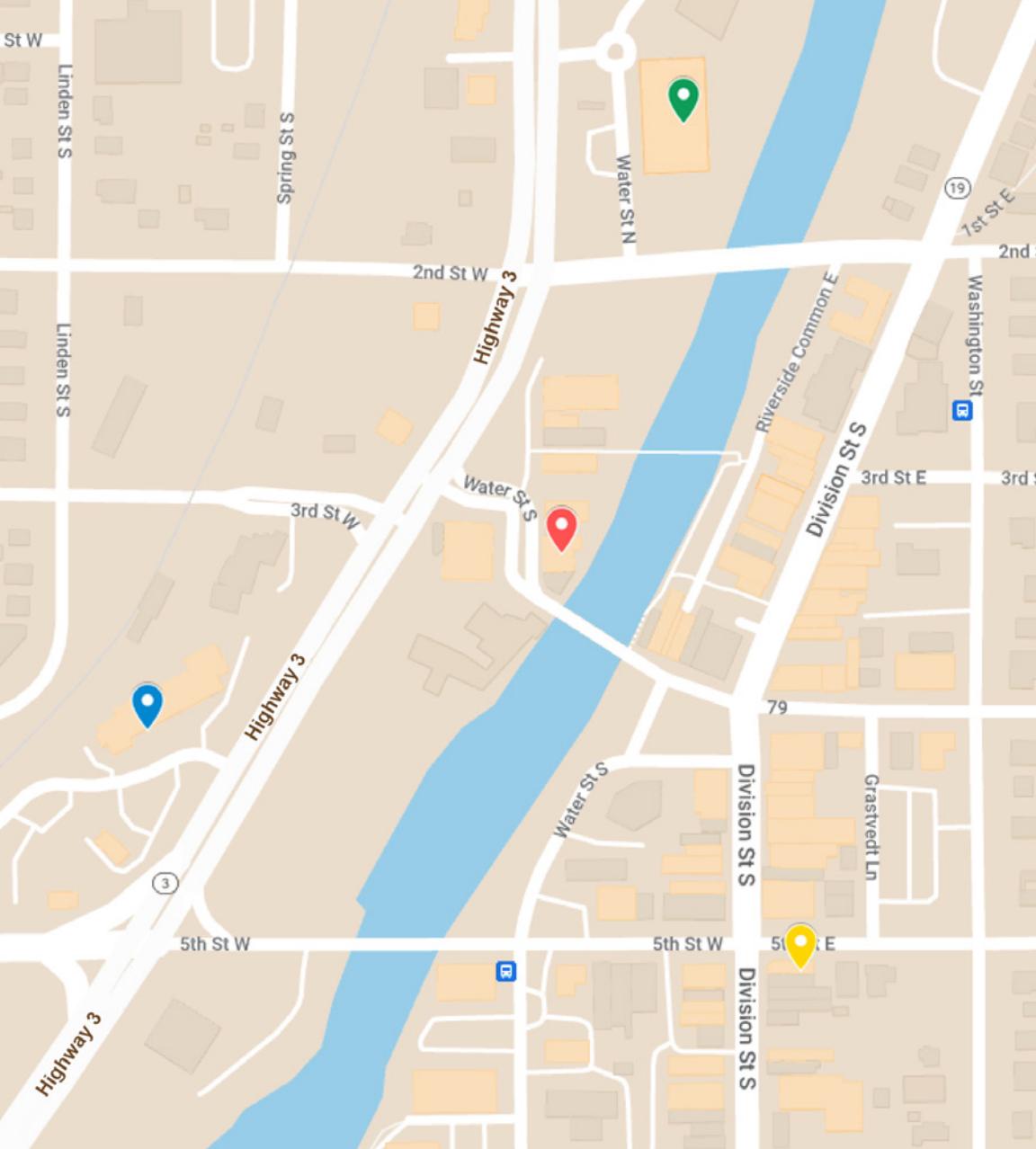
by Tony Conn (Keokuk, IA)

Jewett Fulton was baptized 12 June 1898 at United Presbyterian Chuh, Keokuk. He went by "Jewett" to not be confused with his father. Jewett graduated from Keokuk High School in 1915, went on University of Illinois, graduating in 1920 with a degree in Chemistry. At some point he served in the US Army, most likely drafted at the end of WW. His first job out of college was in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He eventually returned to Keokuk to work at Midwest Carbide, a locally owned industry which produced a component used in the manufacture of high-strength steel. Jewett worked at Midwest Carbide for the rest of his life, later becoming president and chairman of the board.

Jewett became a member of RC Keokuk in 1927. He served as Club President July 1, 1930 to June 30, 1931. In those days, it was customary that the sitting club president attend the annual Rotary International Convention, held in the month of June at a location determined by Rotary International. In 1931, the convention was held in Vienna, Austria. In late May 1931, Jewett and his wife Louesa boarded a train at the Keokuk Railway Depot, and traveled to Montreal, Canada. There they boarded an ocean cruiser, the SS Duchess York, chartered by Rotary International, and sailed to Antwerp, Belgium. They then traveled by train across western Europe before arriving in Vienna. The Fultons attended the convention events and made many Rotarian friends. After the convention, they traveled throughout Europe, including a stop in Munich, where he visited a famous beer hall. This was special to Jewett as prohibition was the law in the US, and no such place could be found back home. They returned to the US aboard the SS Bedford, arriving back to Montreal July 24, 1931.

Upon return, Jewett reflected on the subjects discussed at the Vienna convention and what he seen and heard during his travels through Europe. Times were not good in those days, and the threat of war was real. He had an idea which he felt would support Rotary's sixth object, promote world peace and international understanding. His idea was to get ahold of an authentic Native American peace pipe, and send it around the world to all international rotary clubs. When each club received the pipe, they would smoke it at their next meeting, then send it off to the next club. This would be a complicated task even today, let alone in the early 1930's. Fulton's committee then decided maybe it would be better to send a letter to all international clubs, and ask them to "...smoke the pipe of peace in spirit..." He would also ask each club to reply back and continue communications with him. These returning letters were later called the Keokuk Peace Letters.

Book Publication: The Keokuk Peace Letters 1931/32 [here](#)



- **Fairfield Inn by Marriott** 114 2nd St W, Northfield, MN 55057
- **Froggy Bottoms River Pub** 307 Water Street South Northfield, MN 55057
- **REUNION Restaurant** 501 Division Street S. Northfield, MN 55057
- **Country Inn by Radisson** 300 S Highway 3, Northfield, MN 55057

WELCOME

Dear Friends,

**Democracy Under Fire — The Peace Letters, 1932-2022
on May 23-27, 2022 in Northfield, Minnesota
at the REUNION Restaurant**

You can register for our conference at our Eventbrite page here. Be aware, there are only 100 seats per day, so get your tickets early!

Peace and Democracy: an extraordinary example of this involvement is associated with the name Jewett Fulton. Fulton, an American Rotarian, traveled to Europe in 1931 to participate in the International Rotary Convention held that year in Vienna. He was deeply disturbed by the political, economic, and societal tensions he sensed on the European continent. Once back in his hometown of Keokuk, Iowa, he initiated a global action in an effort to counter the approaching calamity. Mr. Jewett Fulton sent a letter to each of the then-existing 504 Rotary Clubs outside the United States, offering to smoke the peace pipe symbolically with them.

Today the notion of the Keokuk Peace Letters is more relevant than ever.

Nationalism, authoritarian forms of government, and an emphasis on viewing the world in terms of spheres of influence have increased to a dangerous level. The sense of democratic renewal that prevailed at the end of the Cold War has vanished. This is why we Rotarians hope to activate Jewett Fulton's peace pipe initiative anew.

The moving responses received by Jewett from all over the world at the beginning of the 1930s and the further development of this global action up to the present day are documented at

www.PeaceConference.us / www.KeokukPeaceLetters.com

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Sabine (Sabee) Schwachula (Bonn, Germany)

sabineschwachula@gmail.com / +49 163 3111624

Dr. Todd Thomson (Northfield, MN)

Anthony Conn (Keokuk, IA)

Dr. Joachim (Yogi) Reppmann (Flensburg, Germany & Northfield, MN)

yogireppmann@gmail.com / +1507 581 6734

DEMOCRACY UNDER FIRE

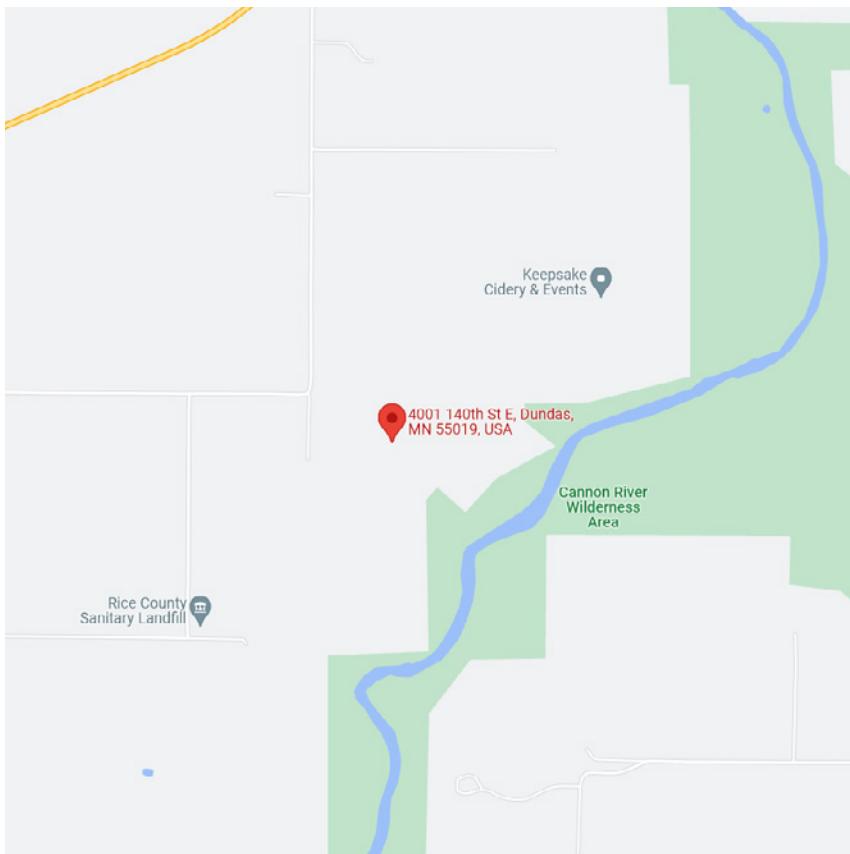
– the Peace Letters, 1932-2022

www.PeaceConference.us • May 23-27, 2022 • Northfield MN

PROGRAM

Mo, May 23

Welcome Party at 4 pm
Brett Reese, Ramblin' Ranch
4001 140 Str. E, Dundas, MN



DEMOCRACY UNDER FIRE
Conference 2022

REUNION Restaurant
300 S Highway 3
Northfield, MN 55057

www.peaceconference.us
www.keokukpeaceletters.com
+1507-581-6734

Tu, May 24

**Conference location:
REUNION Restaurant, Northfield MN**

- 8:00 - 9:00 A Breakfast at the REUNION**
- 9:00 Welcome address to Conference participants**
- 9:10 Tony Conn & Yogi Reppmann**
The Keokuk Peace Pipe Letters as timeless documents; responses in 1932 from German RCs; quotations from selected letters; the expulsion of Thomas Mann; RC Tallinn's Tragedy and Stalin, etc.
- 10:15 -10:45 Coffee break**
- 10:50 -11:50 Continuation of above session:**
- **Tony Conn**
Putin as the new Stalin
 - **Stephan Richter & Matthias Schütt**
Why the International Media ought to use the Keokuk Peace Letters.
- 12:00 -13:30 Lunch at the REUNION**
- 13:45 -15:30 Discussion / Q & A**
- 15:30 -15:50 Coffee Break**
- 15:50 -16:50 Holocaust Education: Presentation by Joni Sussman, a child of Holocaust survivors (cp. Appendix I, p. 24)**
- 17:00 -17:45 Discussion**
- 18:00 -19:30 Dinner at REUNION**
- 20:00 -21:00 Panel Discussion: "Zeitenwende" (A New Epoch) in Germany – the Long Shadow of the Third Reich**
- **Carol Kahn Strauss**, Leo Baeck Institute, NYC (see p. 13)
 - **Joni Sussman**, Minneapolis, MN
 - **Gabrielle Robinson**, South Bend, IN (see p. 14)

We, May 25

**Peace Letters meet Star Peace
REUNION Restaurant, Northfield MN**

- 8:00-9:00 Breakfast at REUNION**
- 9:00 StarPeace – a New Peace Movement**
Opening of the Exhibition: The Biggest Children's Choir in the World – **York Penno** (Paris), Graphic Artist – presentation of two posters.
Todd Thomson (Northfield), Singer/Songwriter: interpretation of "Imagine".
- 12:00-13:30 Lunch at Reunion**
- 13:45-14:30 Warsaw's response to the Keokuk Peace Letter, 1932. Dr. Magda Hulas:**
Poland's two million Ukrainian Refugees
- 14:30-14:50 Discussion**
- 14:50-15:00 Break**
- 15:00-15:30 Dr. Dominika & Tadeusz (Teddy) Moscicki:**
Warsaw – What kind of support for democracy and for the refugees is needed for Poland and Ukraine?
- 15:30-15:50 Coffee Break**
- 15:50-16:50 Tony Conn and Dr. Carmen von Schöning**
the Keokuk Peace Letter from Estonia in 1932:
Tallinn's Tragedy & Stalin & Putin, today.
- 16:50-17:00 Break**
- 17:00-17:30 Discussion**
- 18:00-20:00 Dinner and Award Ceremony for PRI President Holger (& Susanne) Knaack, Germany; Charlie (& Nalone) Cogan, USA.**
Carl Schurz Friendship Award. (cp. Appendix 3, p. 26)



Th, May 26

**Conference location:
REUNION Restaurant, Northfield MN**

8:00-9:00 Breakfast at REUNION

9:00 Dr. Andrzej Wasilewski (Kyiv; at present in Cologne)
Rotary in Ukraine – How can we support democracy and
rebuilding? Coffee Break and Discussion Q & A

12:00-13:30 Lunch at REUNION

13:45-14:30 Gabor Daniel Nagy & Andrea Tajti (Szeged-Dom)
(Hungary) Five responses from Hungary – How
strong is Putin's influence in that country today?

14:30-14:50 Discussion

14:50-15:00 Break

**15:00-15:30 Klaus Kirchhoff, Hamburg, Honorary Consul
General of Romania**
Response from Timisoara (Romania) in 1932
to the Keokuk Peace Pipe Letter – Impact on the
German minority.

15:30-15:50 Coffee Break

16:50-17:00 Break

17:00-17:30 Discussion

18:00-20:00 Dinner & Concert

Fr, May 27

**StarPeace congratulates
Dr. Henry Kissinger* on his 99th birthday**

8:00-9:00 Breakfast at REUNION

9:00 "Hands-on" session: What new concepts for helping Eastern Europe can we suggest to the worldwide community?
How can we organize sustainable reconstruction aid to Ukraine? What practical organizational structures have been developed during our conference?

11:00 End of Conference

PEOPLE

Wednesday, December 22, 1999

Kissinger on Carleton College: 'das ist gut'

FROM STAFF REPORTS

NORTFIELD — In 1952 two young historians from two separate countries met at Harvard University: Gerhard Stoltenberg from Kiel University, in the Schleswig-Holstein region of Germany, and Henry Kissinger. Both men went on to have extremely successful political careers in their respective countries.

Behind the backdrop of these 47 years of close friendship, former Carleton professor Yogi Reppmann, and his former student of German, Matt Sarno, had been invited to the office of former Secretary of State Kissinger on New York's Park Ave. They produced a five minute video in which Kissinger, speaking his native German, expressed his deep admiration for his German colleague and friend Stoltenberg. The video was presented as a surprise on Dec. 12 in Flensburg, Germany before 1500 guests in honor of Stoltenberg's latest publication.

Stoltenberg, who is a likely candidate for the Chancellor of Germany himself, has written a book about his political career in which he explains the value of his early visit to the U.S. in 1952 and his friendship with Henry Kissinger.

What began as Reppmann and Sarno's five minute video-taping



From left to right: Matt Sarno, New York; Dr. Henry Kissinger, and Yogi Reppmann in the office of Kissinger Associates, Park Ave. (Submitted photo)

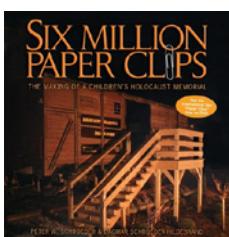
* Cp. Appendix II, p. 25

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

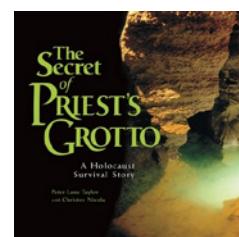


JONI SUSSMAN

Joni Sussman, a child of Holocaust survivors, is active in Holocaust education in the Midwest. She is a past-president of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas, where she continues to serve as Chair of Holocaust Education. She is a founder of CHAIM (Children of Holocaust Survivors Association in Minnesota). She was an interviewer of Holocaust survivors for the Steven Spielberg Shoah Foundation. Her father, Leo Kibort, was a survivor of Dachau Concentration Camp and a witness at the Nuremberg Trials. Her mother, Hinda Danziger Kibort, was a survivor of Stutthof Concentration Camp and active in the post-war Council for Liberated Jews. Joni is a children's book publisher at Lerner Publishing Group in Minneapolis, where the titles she has published include several Holocaust-themed titles for children including the award-winning "Six Million Paper Clips" and "The Secret of Priest's Grotto."



KAR-BEN
PUBLISHING
www.karben.com



Children's book publisher Kar-Ben Publishing is offering conference-goers 25% off on all Holocaust-related titles on their website at www.karben.com. Just put in the code LOVEIT during check-out to receive your discount!

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CAROL KAHN STRAUSS
CARL SCHURZ AWARD RECIPIENT, 2017

On January 20, 2015, Leo Baeck Institute, NYC & Berlin, International Director Carol Kahn Strauss was presented the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. The decoration was awarded in appreciation of her outstanding accomplishments and commitment to German-American-Jewish relations for more than two decades.

Carol Kahn Strauss was born in New York to a highly respected Jewish family who had come to the United States after fleeing Nazi-Germany. Her father had been the president of the district court in Dortmund when the Nazis expelled him from his post in 1934. After the November pogroms of 1938, he and his family finally left Germany.

It would have been understandable if Strauss had turned her back on Germany for the evils that her family had endured. Instead she decided to make the fostering of the German-Jewish relationship and continuous cooperation with Germany the leitmotiv of her life. Carol established an exceptional and unique network in Germany. In these years she nurtured countless contacts with German partners for whom she became the symbol of trustful cooperation in the German-American-Jewish dialogue.

www.lbi.org/news/carol-kahn-schurz-thanked-two-decades-leadership/



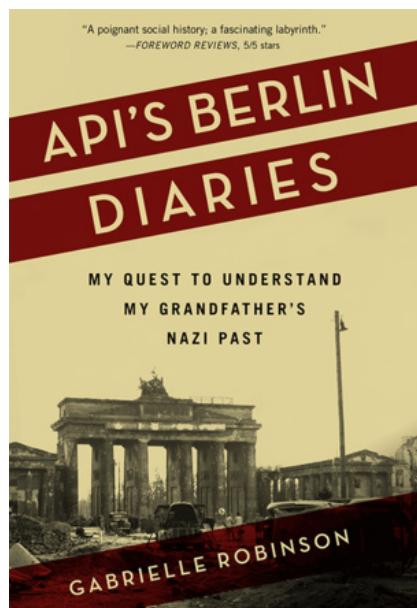
GABRIELLE ROBINSON

Born in Berlin in 1942, her father's fighter plane was shot down in 1943. After her family was bombed out twice, they fled Berlin in 1945 and became refugees in a North German village. In 1962 she moved to Urbana, Illinois with her mother and stepfather. After a 1964 BA, she won a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship and got an MA at Columbia University in 1965. She then moved to London with her Scottish husband and earned a PhD from the University of London in 1968. Gabrielle taught at the University of Illinois, where her only son was born, at Indiana University South Bend, and abroad. Gabrielle now is settled in South Bend, Indiana, with her husband Mike, a sociologist turned sustainable neighborhood developer, and their cat Max. Her son is an English professor at SUNY Stony Brook. Perhaps it's a sign of having found a home at last that Gabrielle has won a number of local and statewide awards for her writing and community engagement.

Api's Berlin Diaries

After her mother's death, Gabrielle Robinson found diaries her grandfather had kept while serving as doctor in Berlin 1945—only to discover that her beloved Api had been a Nazi. *Api's Berlin Diaries* offers a first hand and personal perspective on the far reaching aftershocks of the Third Reich and the author's own inconvenient past.

www.gabriellero宾son.com



DR. TODD CAMERON THOMPSON

Todd has taught people of all ages, has degrees in mathematics, chemistry and music, has written and/or produced many books and recordings, has lived and taught in Guatemala and is active in many civic groups in the Northfield, Minnesota area. Currently he is the director of *Songs of My Life*, a community building project in schools and churches, a substitute teacher with Northfield Public Schools, a customer service representative for *Graphic Mailbox* and a freelance musician.



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TONY CONN

Anthony Conn is president of Conn Communications, Inc., a wireless communications agency in Iowa and Missouri. He served 10 years in the United States Army as an officer in the Corps of Engineers, stationed at posts in South Korea, Germany, and the United States.

Anthony is a graduate of St. Ambrose University, B.S. Mathematics. He has served on many civic organizations in his community and is currently a board member of Keokuk Area Community Foundation and Rotary International. He is President and co-founder of Peace Pipe Proposal, LLC., a non-profit organization that promotes world peace and international understanding.

Book Teaser: [Rotary under Nazi Rule](#)

*Book order:
Anthony Conn
conn.tony.2013@gmail.com
+1515 418 5865*

We found Tony Conn's recent research concerning letters written from the Rotary Clubs in Tallinn, Estonia and Warsaw extremely informative. In the context of those peace letters it became crystal clear just how brutal Stalin's treatment of countless human beings had been, and certainly comparable to Hitler's attempt at exterminating those he considered undesirable. It was Tony, incidentally, who in the year 2016 came upon a timeless treasure trove of Peace Letters. These had been written from around the world in 1932 and subsequently resulted in our joint publication in:

www.KeokukPeaceLetters.com



DR. JOACHIM (YOGI) REPPMANN

Joachim (Yogi) Reppmann, Ph.D., was born in Flensburg, Schleswig-Holstein, in 1957. He attended Altes Gymnasium, a school founded by Danish King Frederick II in 1566. In 1984, he completed his masters thesis entitled Transplanted Ideas: The Concept of Freedom and Democracy of the Schleswig-Holstein Forty-Eighters — Origins and Effects 1846-1856. He has written several books on notable Schleswig-Holstein emigrants and the mass migration to the United States; served as a professor of German at St. Olaf and Carleton Colleges in Northfield, Minnesota; and chaired several conferences on topics ranging from the Low German language to Forty-Eighter Hans Reimer Claussen. 1995: marriage to Gitta in Las Vegas.

www.Moin-Moin.us

www.PeaceConference.us

www.KeokukPeaceLetters.com



HOLGER KNAACK

Holger Knaack, a member of the Rotary Club of Herzogtum Lauenburg-Mölln, State of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, had been president of Rotary International in 2020-21. Knaack believes that the People of Action campaign offers new public awareness possibilities for Rotary. "This campaign conveys our global image while still respecting differences in regions and cultures," he says. A Rotary member since 1992, Knaack has served Rotary as treasurer, director, moderator, member and chair of several committees, representative for the Council on Legislation, zone coordinator, training leader, and district governor. Knaack is the CEO of Knaack KG, a real estate company. He was previously a partner and general manager of Knaack Enterprises, a 125-year-old family business. He is a founding member of the Civic Foundation of the City of Ratzeburg and served as president of the Golf-Club Gut Grambek. Knaack is also the founder and chair of the Karl Adam Foundation. His wife is Susanne.

<https://www.rotary.org/en/holger-knaack-selected-be-2020-21-rotary-international-president>



CHARLES ADAMS COGAN

Dedicated higher education professional with three decades of experience in international development leadership, strategic planning, and targeted fund-raising. Former Peace Corps Volunteer, Fulbright Scholar, and active Rotarian, with proven effectiveness in developing partnerships between U.S. and international organizations. Demonstrated track record of securing major gifts, cultivating, and stewarding donors, and cross-functional collaboration. Commitment to weaving DEI initiatives throughout an organization and strengthening intercultural communication and understanding.

www.linkedin.com/in/charles-cogan



DR. SABINE (SABEE) SCHWACHULA

- Study of medicine at the Universities of Heidelberg and Bonn, granting of Ph.D. in 1982
- Specialist medical trainings in psychiatry & psychotherapy 1986
- Establishment of the Psycho-Social Crisis and Consulting Service at the Foreign Office in Bonn 1989
- Beginning in 1995, specialized practice in psychotherapy and journalistic work in this field
- Research in the areas of „Psychiatry under National socialism“, personality development in the social context, in the individual necessity of coming to terms with Germany's Nazi past, and in the dynamics of personality in power structures; intercultural psychiatry and migration research
- Since 2006 committed to Rotary in Peacebuilding and Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE); the founding of the first RAC-HYBRID in Europe, Founder of one of the first Peacebuilder-Clubs in Europe and Founding Member of the German Chapter of the Rotarian Action Group for peace (RAGFP)
- Current: incoming President of the RC e-Club in Cologne – Peacebuilder Club in Peacebuilder District 181

rotary@schwachula.com / +49 163 3111624



MATTHIAS SCHÜTT

Matthias Schütt was born in 1955 and attended school in Lübeck and in Rockford, Michigan. He majored in German Studies, Journalism, and Theater Arts at the Free University of Berlin, where he received his Master of Arts, and has been a journalist since 1983. Following his work in various positions in Berlin, he has been with the ROTARIAN (the Rotary Club magazine) in Hamburg since 1994, including seven years as its editor-in-chief. Schütt has been an independent journalist and editor since 2008. He has been the Rotarian correspondent for the Rotary Magazin and is the publisher of several books. He is a member of the RC Ratzeburg-Alte Salzstraße, District 1940 and was its President in 2002-2003.



YORK PENNO

Born on April 4, 1960 in Hamburg. After completing his studies in Kiel in 1985, York worked in France and Germany for over 40 years as a freelance graphic designer and illustrator in advertising and visual communication. He was active in promotional campaigns for Kellogg's in France and worked in cooperation with the NBA, Warner Bros, and FIFA. He also created communication and advertising materials for the Gillette Company, Procter & Gamble, Pepsico. In addition, York designed various theme-related appearances in connection with colloquia and conferences for a French ministry, and the logo GEOPARK for UNESCO.

York had the opportunity to meet and work with La Toya Jackson during her performances at the Moulin Rouge in 1992 as well as with many international musicians and Cirque du Soleil artists.

York is happily divorced, father of three children, and grandfather of four. Today he is living in Paris again, has finally given up his job, and is campaigning for advertising to be banned! York is fully dedicated to his most deeply felt project: StarPeace.

www.go-starpeace.com



About StarPeace

StarPeace is a young, innovative book and game publisher that was founded in April 2021 in Paris. StarPeace is an association of people who work for world peace and the preservation of living nature on this earth.

The Mission

1. Entertain

StarPeace aims to educate children and their parents about respect for nature and life-giving water in a playful way, with prescribing rules of conduct.

2. Inform

In collaboration with professors and students, StarPeace aims to incorporate elements of biology and ecology into its stories in order to create the awareness that humans are an integral part of nature.

3. Motivate

Through its stories and concrete actions, StarPeace wants to encourage children, their parents, and all others to treat each other with respect and to live and act in harmony with nature.

4. Help

StarPeace does not only want to support humanitarian organizations/associations and environmental protection initiatives with donations. Joint communication is desirable rather than competition. We are only strong together and only together can we actively work for a livable planet. Common goal: world peace in an intact nature.

Publications

The very first StarPeace book, "Mission H2O-Explosion, Vol. 1", is freshly printed in French and serves as a pilot project. First reactions have been consistently positive!! Digital versions in French, German, and English are scheduled for April 2022. A follow-up book, "Mission H2O-Explosion, Vol. 2", is in the conception phase and is expected to be available as of November 2022.

www.go-starpeace.com

APPENDIX I - Holocaust Edu in the 21st Century



A Flensburg Perspective — Erna de Vries and the Holocaust Boxcar

In 2015 Yogi & his wife organized the transportation of what can be called a "Holocaust boxcar" from a forest in central Germany to the impressive Fagen Fighters World War II Museum in Granite Falls, Minnesota, where it is now on display. On January 12, 2017, the Auschwitz survivor Erna de Vries, age 93, was featured in the filming of an "Untold Story" in the city of Flensburg. Integral to the background of the story is the fact—certainly unknown to most Americans—that in the final days of the war hundreds of high-ranking Nazis went into hiding in this city, which briefly became a sort of new "capital of the Reich."

Full Article [here](#)

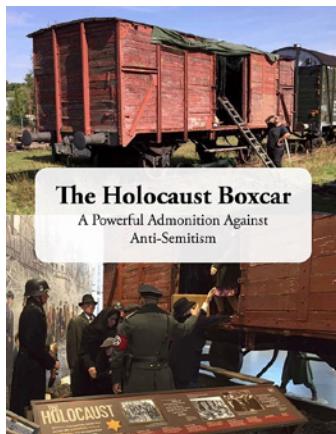
Video (18:38), 2017, Auschwitz Survivor Erna de Vries in Flensburg, Germany

Script and Interview by Stephan Richter (RC Flensburg)

Production by Stephan Witthöft, Weimar (www.salve.tv)

The Holocaust Boxcar

The period of National Socialism in Germany and the horrors of the Hitler regime cannot be understood apart from the political and societal developments that preceded them. The events that took place between the wars and during the Nazi dictatorship have been analyzed, illuminated, and described many times. The literature on the structure of the Nazi system and on its leading figure, the "populist" Adolf Hitler, has thus been published extensively and in many languages. For the first time, however, there is now available for American and German readers in particular a highly compact "Fact Book" that illuminates the most important aspects of the developments in Germany in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.



*Author: Friedhelm Caspari, Husby,
Germany*

Book publication [here](#)



APPENDIX II - Dr. Henry Kissinger's 99th Birthday

born in Fürth, Germany on May 27th 1923

(Birthday Party by American Academy,
Berlin, in New York City)

How the Ukraine Crisis Ends by Dr. Henry A. Kissinger

The Washington Post, March 6, 2014

Public discussion on Ukraine is all about confrontation. But do we know where we are going? In my life, I have seen four wars begun with great enthusiasm and public support, all of which we did not know how to end and from three of which we withdrew unilaterally. The test of policy is how it ends, not how it begins.

Far too often the Ukrainian issue is posed as a showdown: whether Ukraine joins the East or the West. But if Ukraine is to survive and thrive, it must not be either side's outpost against the other — it should function as a bridge between them.

Russia must accept that to try to force Ukraine into a satellite status, and thereby move Russia's borders again, would doom Moscow to repeat its history of self-fulfilling cycles of reciprocal pressures with Europe and the United States.

Read the full Article here
www.henryakissinger.com/articles/how-the-ukraine-crisis-ends/

APPENDIX III - Stoltenberg Institute for German-American Forty-Eighter Studies

Press Release

As a German historian who lives half the year in the United States and the other half in Germany, I was impressed by Norman Watt's recently published novel *Fanatic*, both for its evocative setting on an idyllic American college campus and for the variety of German and German/American topics it presents. These range from the quirky founder of the college himself, who fought in both the German revolution of the mid-nineteenth-century and the American Civil War, his enormous collection of artworks by the great Renaissance master Albrecht Dürer, and his creation of a convoluted puzzle which, over a hundred years later, still has not been solved.

These aspects form the backdrop for the contemporary storyline of *Fanatic* and its protagonist, a newly-hired professor of German who ends up, step by step, trying to make sense of the many stages of the puzzle—and, simultaneously, of the ins and outs of his own love life. Along the way he learns of a recent and as yet unsolved murder on the campus grounds, and subsequently begins to investigate certain activities of one of his colleagues, who happens to be the son of a Nazi SS officer. This he feels driven to do, even though he realizes that he may be endangering his life by doing so. All in all, a compelling read!

Scott Christiansen, Iowa City: *I just finished Fanatic. A TREMENDOUS book!*

Our great friend, 96-year-old Dr. Nicholas Rossi, will love this book. He's given several art lectures (the most recent one in our house several weeks ago) on the history of art, with a big emphasis on Albrecht Dürer, the "star" of Norman Watt's book. In fact, one of the characters in the book is also named "Rossi."

If you ever talk to Mr. Watt, please tell him HOW MUCH I enjoyed his book. I plan on giving it as a Christmas gift to Dr. Rossi, and perhaps several others. Alles Gute!

PS: Wow! What a brilliant guy.

*(Scott is the author of "The Soul of Schleswig-Holstein")
in: www.moin-moin.us Link under "Who is behind the site".*

<https://www.moin-moin.us/stoltenberg-institue>

APPENDIX IV - German American Heritage Center & Museum

The German-American Heritage Center, Davenport, Iowa, a National Historic Site, has evolved a museum that includes a large permanent exhibit and two rotating special exhibits. Within the permanent exhibit, visitors enjoy an orientation theater, six education stations, and two restored hotel rooms. Visitors enjoy an interactive experience as you learn about immigrants' journey by sea, train and foot, to their final destination at the German American Heritage Center building, which was originally a very busy hotel for thousands of immigrants in the 1870s. One of the highlights in the exhibit is called "Step into my Shoes." Visitors will find footprints of a child, female and male at this section. They can step on any set of the footprints, which then triggers the corresponding character to appear before them on a screen and talk about their personal experience as an immigrant. Visitors may also try on clothing that immigrants would have worn during the turn of the century, and enjoy exploring many artifacts on display. The museum also provides educational programs, workshops and classes relating to the German American experience and culture

German American Heritage Center
712 W 2nd St.
Davenport, IA 52802
www.gahc.org
+1563-322-8844



German-American Heritage Museum



German-American Heritage Museum

719 6th St. NW,
Washington, D.C., 20001, USA
www.gahfusa.org
(202) 467-5000

Please consider a membership for yourself or your loved ones in the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA, GAHF, which runs a first-rate museum in Washington, D.C. (The museum occupies a former villa owned by a German-American beer brewer and is not far away from the White House). Annual individual membership starts at \$50 (Associate Member [non-voting]). Membership includes an informative newsletter on glossy paper, an invitation to a wonderful gala (German-American of the Year), along with exhibits and events, sometimes including a "Frühschoppen" (morning pint) on a weekend!

www.gahmusa.org/product/individual-membership