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**Juneteenth Event will feature “The Shared History of Germans and African Americans in Missouri” with a Symposium, drama, music, food and gallery exhibit at HLGU**

**Hannibal, MO** – Jim’s Journey: The Huck Finn Freedom Center and the Deutschheim Verein will present a “Symposium on the Shared History of Germans and African Americans” on Saturday, June 10, 2023 from 2 PM-4PM at the Roland Arts Center at Hannibal LaGrange University. A public reception will precede the Symposium at 1:00 P.M. with a **Taste of African American and German African Appetizers**. Bethel Colony German Fest Hall Restaurant will provide authentic German food. (Note: No German Chocolate cake which is not a German dessert!) The African American food comes from Nathan's South Florida Style Ribs, Chicken and Seafood Caterers in Columbia, Missouri-expect down-home southern cooking. Menu includes fried chicken, mac and cheese, bratwurst and kraut, sweet potato pie, Linzer cookies, collard greens and more.!

The **Symposium** at 2:00 PM will include highly reputable speakers, **musical presentations** by the Good Hope Church Praise Singers, and a **30 minute excerpt from the play**, *An Amazing Story: German Abolitionists of Missouri*. Symposium speakers include Gary Kremer, Executive Director of the Missouri State Historical Society; Dr. John Wright author of 12 books on African American history in Missouri; Sydney Norton author of *German Immigrant Abolitionists: Fighting for a Free Missouri* and Cecilia Nadal, sociologist and playwright who wrote *An Amazing Story: German Abolitionists of Missouri*.

Actors in *An Amazing Story: German Abolitionists of Missouri* include: Dick Dalton (Columbia) recently in lead role of *Grumpy Old Men*, Sierra Smith (St. Louis) also a singer involved in theater and film projects such as *Dreamgirls* and *Hercules the Brave and the Bold*. Lydia Foss is returning to *An Amazing Story* with numerous credits as an *actress* though still in High School. Jacob Allen Farmer is a junior at the Webster

University Conservatory of Theater Arts with lead roles in *Godspell* and *Burial at Thebes*. Director, Lee Patton Chiles has directed numerous plays for Historyonics Theater and Gitana Productions including *New World* and *Black and Blue*.

Attendees will also have an opportunity to check out a very special visual arts exhibit next door at The Hagerman Arts Gallery. It will feature an exhibit of photomontages created by Faye Dant called “SEEN”. The pieces depict the lived experiences of local Black residents from enslavement to the 1960s. Since she began showing Faye’s work has been hosted widely in Missouri galleries including the Hannibal Arts Council, The Alliance Art Gallery, the St. Louis Artists Guild, Presser Performing Arts Center (Mexico, MO) and the Quincy Art Center. Hagerman will be open from 11:00 AM until 5:00 PM on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

This event will be the first time in Missouri that a Juneteenth celebration has focused on the contributions of German Abolitionists and the relationships between Germans and African Americans. Faye Dant, Executive Director of Jim’s Journey: The Huck Finn Freedom Center in Hannibal said “Juneteenth is about education and unity. This event allows us to recognize the little-known contributions of German Abolitionists in Missouri and to bring our communities together as fellow Americans.”

In addition to the above mentioned major event the Deutschheim Verein will engage in community engagement in Hannibal including: a) asking citizens of Hannibal to send in family or personal stories about German and African American relationships before, during or after the Civil War that are a source of inspiration followed by b) an invitation to a small group dialogue sharing stories between Germans and African Americans at the Hannibal Free Library on Saturday, July 22 from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Questions: Visit [deutschheimverein.org](http://deutschheimverein.org) or email [info@gitana-inc.org](mailto:info@gitana-inc.org) for more details.)

Support for this program in part comes from the following organizations:



**About the Deutschheim Verein** The Deutschheim Verein in Hermann is dedicated to the preservation of the culture and heritage of the Germans who migrated to Missouri in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. We

support the mission and programs of the Deutschheim State Historical Site in Hermann and engage in strategic collaborations to share German history in Missouri with diverse audiences.

**About Jim's Journey: The Huck Finn Freedom Center** Jim's Journey recognizes one of Mark Twain's most complex yet locally under-represented literary figures: Jim, the runaway slave and friend to Huck Finn. Though Jim is a fictional character he was based on a real person, Daniel Quarles. As Hannibal's first African American history museum, our mission is to honor Daniel Quarles' legacy and to glimpse what life was like for him, his descendants and other African Americans living in Hannibal during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century.

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**Interviews granted and photography available at the event**