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Neuer Pennsylvanischer

**Staatsbote**

Internet: [www.germansociety.org](http://www.germansociety.org)

**Summer 2011**

## Chairman's Comments

When Gudrun and I travelled through Germany last month, how much more the March 11 earthquake in Japan did than trigger a tsunami, causing the worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl, was brought home to us. That disaster appears to have set off an anti-nuclear aftershock - with Germany at its epicenter - that will reshape the entire global energy landscape.

Everyone we talked to had strong opinions on the issue of nuclear energy, perhaps because some of the radioactive fallout from the Chernobyl accident reached Southern Germany twenty-five years ago. Certain legumes and wild mushrooms had been rendered unfit for human consumption. We quickly learned that being "green" is very much "in" these days, as evidenced by the impressive gains of the Green Party in various state elections. Due to this growing domestic concern about nuclear power, the conservative federal government in Berlin announced it will phase out all 17 nuclear reactors - which last year supplied nearly 25% of Germany's electricity - within the next eleven years. This will leave a sizable electricity gap to be filled by that time. - *Cont'd on page 2*

## Building Update

At the end of June, we started the Restroom Renovation Project as planned and now, four weeks later, we are daily discovering new surprises behind a century's worth of former construction work.

After removing the concrete floor, it became apparent that the old clay sewer pipes had to be replaced because they leaked and do not meet today's codes. We also discovered that the entire building, including the "Townhouse", drained into a single sewer, which makes it very difficult to create a work schedule around the daily use of the building including office and language classes. The most surprising discovery were the remnants of an old filled-in well under the floor of the ladies room.

We have now installed a rainwater collection system that will prevent our basement from the kind of sewer backups into the Ratskeller area experienced in the past during heavy rainfalls. The new system will make it possible to use the collected rainwater for toilet flushing and garden irrigation.

I will gladly show you the results of our work in September and will be happy to answer any questions you might have about this project.

- Tony Michels

## President's Message

At the Annual Meeting of our Members on May 15<sup>th</sup> we elected a new slate of Directors for a three year term and a group of Officers for a two year term.

We welcome our new Directors and Officers and look forward to their contributions to the programs and activities of the Society. We also thank the following group of retiring Directors for their services: Frank Trommler, Frank Klare, Brigitte Masci, Dennis Keough, Mark Kleckner

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- Presidents Message Cont'd

In my report, I mentioned that overall our programs are running reasonably well. For example our music program has been enhanced by offering several special concerts during the past season and by offering a more varied program than in the past.

The film program continues and is probably the best bargain in town, but we could use a larger audience. The special events such as the Oktoberfest, Stiftungsfest, Hamburger Abend, Maifest are fun filled events, although some would benefit from higher attendance.

Our part-time librarian, Violet Lutz, is doing a wonderful job. The Library is available to our members during selected hours and as in recent years we host a group of academic scholars during the summer months. We are seeking a significant grant for the Library to continue our archiving and cataloging activities.

On the financial front, I reported that we seem to be on track to achieve a balanced budget for the fiscal year ending on June 30th, which is our goal. We missed the mark on a number of performance targets spelled out in our yearly business plan, specifically our Annual Fund Drive and the Language School, but these short-falls were partially met by increased income from our rental program.

Looking ahead, operating with a balanced budget will remain challenging, as our fixed costs continue to increase and maintenance and a few critical building enhancements are significantly underfunded.

At the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting I also noted that we need to add to our core of volunteers who serve the Society in so many functions. If you are able to help us, please call the office.

As we apply for grants and interact with various private foundations we keep hearing a consistent message - to reach out to broader audiences in the Philadelphia area and to collaborate with others on new programs and activities.

And finally, the membership approved the by-law changes listed in the last issue of the Staatsbote. As reported, these were required in light of the establishment of a German Society Endowment Fund at the Philadelphia Foundation.

I have written a separate article in this quarterly newsletter why we need an Endowment Fund, what we accomplished to date, and what are our next steps.

Let me wish all of you a relaxing and enjoyable summer.

- Ernie Weiler

- Chairman's Comments Cont'd

That shortage is to be balanced through increased efficiency, power from renewable sources, and a revamped electrical grid.

Sadly, no such public discussion is taking place here in the US. Approx. 20% of our electricity is generated by nuclear power. Several nuclear power plants in California are located close to a major tectonic fault line, making them potentially just as vulnerable as Fukushima.

Lamentably, little public support was rendered here to the victims of the Fukushima disaster. It killed 20,000 people and displaced 100,000. Our own effort to hold a benefit concert in support of these victims was stymied by a lack of community support, including the Japan America Society of Greater Philadelphia.

Hence the attendance for this concert was rather low. But still, a sum of \$950 was raised from the audience as a free will offering.

Substantially more money was sent in by personal friends and business associates. In the end we collected \$3,850, for which a check was drawn and handed over to the *Anja Fichte Stiftung* in Hannover, Germany, as transmittal agent to the people affected in the Sedona Prefecture of Japan.

That was the wish of the German Piano duo *Friederike Haufe and Volker Ahmels*, who

- GHI Fellows Cont'd from page 10  
contemporaries illuminate the Germans in Pennsylvania. I also located church regulations and other documents concerning the St. Michael's and Zion's Church in Philadelphia as well as a wide range of pamphlets concerning education and charity schools. In addition, I found supplementary sources and prints at the Library Company of Philadelphia, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Lutheran Archive Center, and in the UPenn Library.

Many thanks to the GSP and GHI and various members with whom I had helpful conversations. I also want to mention the GSP librarian, Violet Lutz. She helped with words and deeds and suspended her closing time regularly.

Editor's note:

When attending the opening ceremony of the H. M. Mühlenberg Exhibit at the German-American Heritage Museum in Washington, DC I learned that this is a traveling show which had already been claimed by numerous Lutheran churches along the Eastern Seaboard, the very territory in which he worked during the 18th century.

This highly informative sixteen panel exhibit was prepared by the Franckesche Stiftungen who had sent him here 270 years ago. It will come our way in the fall of 2012.

Stay tuned!

- Hardy von Auenmueller

Calendar of Upcoming Events

September

|               |        |  |
|---------------|--------|--|
| Sat. Sept. 10 | 10am   | Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting  |
| Mon. Sept. 12 | 6pm    | Start of Twelve-Week Fall Session of German Classes for Adults (Weeknights)        |
| Sat. Sept. 17 | 10am   | Start of Twelve-Week Fall Session of German Classes for Youths (Saturday Mornings) |
| Sat. Sept. 17 | 11am   | Children's Story Hour in the Library   |
| Sat. Sept. 17 | 1.30pm | Book Club Meeting in the Library   |
| Sat. Sept. 17 | 2pm    | <b>Oktoberfest 2011</b> , Auditorium   |
| Wed Sept. 28  | 7pm    | <i>Konversationsabend " Passivhaus "</i> , T.Michels                               |

October

|              |        |   |
|--------------|--------|---|
| Sat. Oct. 1  | 10am   | Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting   |
| Sun. Oct. 9  | 3pm    | The Wister Quartet Concert, Auditorium<br>Lombardini-Sirmen, Mozart, Dvorak         |
| Fri. Oct. 21 | 6.30pm | Friday Film Fest presents<br>"The Edge of Heaven"                                   |
| Wed Oct. 26  | 7pm    | <i>Konversationsabend " Magnetismus und Elektrizität "</i> , G.Finke                |
| Sun. Oct. 30 | 3pm    | Dagilelis Lithuanian Boys Choir, Auditorium<br>Accompanied by the American Virtuosi |

November

|              |        |   |
|--------------|--------|---|
| Sat. Nov. 5  | 10am   | Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting   |
| Sat. Nov. 12 | 6pm    | <b>Stiftungsfest 2011</b>   |
| Fri. Nov. 18 | 6.30pm | Friday Film Fest presents<br>"Sissi" (part 1 of trilogy)                        |
| Sun. Nov. 20 | 3pm    | Delius Society Concert, Auditorium<br>Lloyd Smith, cello and Davyd Booth, piano |

Save the Date!

|             |        |                              |
|-------------|--------|------------------------------|
| Sat. Dec. 3 | 12noon | <b>Christkindlmarkt 2011</b> |
|-------------|--------|------------------------------|

- GHI Fellows Cont'd from page 9

was a key figure in Indian politics in the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. He spoke the Mohawks' language and was familiar with the customs of Native Indians. So he served as an interpreter. He also was an intelligent mediator facilitating peacemaking between colonial governments and Iroquois, Delawares and Catawbas.

At that time William Penn's dream of a "Peaceable Kingdom" in America - where European colonists and Native Indians live together in harmony - was already fading. Yet Pennsylvania still stood in the center of a policy of peace due to the strong traditions of communicating with Indians. During my stay at the Horner Library I was able to study the political culture in Pennsylvania, and thus got valuable insight in strategies to bring the protagonists of different cultures together. Very helpful for me were books dealing with Conrad Weiser's role in this process as Joseph S. Walton's *Conrad Weiser and the Indian Policy of Colonial Pennsylvania* and Paul A. W. Wallace's *Conrad Weiser. Friend of Colonist and Mohawk*. A very rare book owned by the Horner Library is Friedrich S. Weiser's edition of Conrad Weiser's autobiography. Very important were also the "Minutes of the Provincial Council of Pennsylvania" and manuscripts of peace conferences between In-

dians and Colonial Governments in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Friederike Baer and Frank Trommler helped me to get in contact with scholars, such as Daniel K. Richter (UPenn), Timothy J. Shannon (Gettysburg) and Christopher Densmore (Swarthmore). In Swarthmore College's Quaker Collection I found interesting manuscripts of the "Friendly Association for Regaining and Preserving Peace with the Indians by Pacific Measures" which was founded in 1756. That agenda arose from public debates about peacemaking policy in Pennsylvania which many people considered a failure. They tried, however, to revive Penn's ideas. The catalogue of the Library Company indicates a strong increase in publications on peace negotiations in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

At times they addressed the Germans directly. *Der Inhalt von verschiedenen Conferenzen mit den verschiedenen Indianern gehalten zu Eston (Easton)* was printed by Christoph Saur in 1757. This increase of publications of peace treaties deserves more attention.

**Identitätsbildungsprozesse der deutschen Lutheraner in Pennsylvania 1742-1825**

Wolfgang Flügel,  
Martin-Luther-Universität,  
Halle-Wittenberg

The four-week stay at the Horner Library has helped tremendously

in advancing my project, "The Shaping of Identity of the German Lutherans in Pennsylvania, 1742-1825." It focuses on Heinrich Melchior Muhlenberg and 13 other theologians that were sent by the Orphanage of the city of Halle (today known as 'Franckesche Stiftungen zu Halle' - *Francke Foundation*) to Philadelphia. Here they worked as pastors until 1825.

Their major achievement was to establish a self-contained Lutheran church in a world whose political and social framework changed dramatically. My project surveys the mechanisms with which these Halle pastors built their parishes, trying to stabilize them as an independent organization between the challenges of acculturation and maintaining their German legacy. How did the pastors maintain language, national and denominational affiliations as well as a sense of religious authority?

The Horner Library owns numerous 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century titles that help answer these questions. I found important hints in the 'Henry Melchior Muhlenberg Papers, 1771-1776', in the 'Mosheim Society Minute books, 1790-1791' and in other sermons delivered by Rev. Justus Christian Helmuth, who was another pastor who moved from Halle. Important imprints by Benjamin Rush, William Smith and other famous

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- Chairman's Comments Cont'd

had volunteered their services for this concert.

I do not know whether or not any of you has ever been exposed to a major earthquake. In the fall of 1989, I was in San Francisco when the Bay Area was hit by an earthquake that measured 6.9 on the Richter scale -far less than was registered in Japan. Nonetheless, it was terrifying - similar to the air raids I experienced during WW II. It presaged big changes in my life, when a few weeks thereafter the Berlin Wall came down.

That incident prompted me to give up a very lucrative consulting job and offer myself with a helping hand in the rebuilding effort of Eastern Germany. After commuting to my home state of Saxony monthly for twelve years, I was glad that our relocation to Philadelphia gave me an opportunity to volunteer my services to the German Society - with the benefit of a substantially shortened travel time.

These days my overseas trips are mostly for pleasure. Making them in the summertime is not a bad idea, as the weather here turns out to be unbearable at times. Nonetheless, I wish you all a wonderful summer. Stay cool. 'See you in the fall when a full cultural calendar will be beckoning you.

- Hardy von Auenmueller

**German Historical Institute Fellows**

Now in its fifth summer, the joint fellowship program of the German Society and the German Historical Institute in Washington brought four fellows to the Horner Library between May 23 and July 15, 2011. Three of this year's fellows came from Germany, one from the U.S. All were deeply involved in topics of the "older" German-American history while in other years the interest also included the precarious issues of 20<sup>th</sup>-century German-American relations. All four fellows are breaking new ground with their respective projects which they summarize in this article. This year we had to forego a luncheon seminar for GSP members since the dates of their stay at Horner did not overlap. In its stead the following summaries should give an impression of the breadth and depth of their research.

- Dr. Frank Trommler

**Epistemologies of the Playroom**

Patricia Simpson,

Montana State University

During the month I spent at the Horner Library, I conducted research crucial to the completion of a book project, tentatively entitled: *Epistemologies of the Playroom*.

I was able to consult the Library's extensive collection of German-American children's literature of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, but also

a series of texts pertaining to pedagogical theory, international societies connected with Friedrich Froebel's Kindergartens, and narratives that involved adventure, religious education, and the construction of citizenship in children living in immigrant communities primarily in Pennsylvania.

I explored the German-American collections related to children's literature of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, illustrated prayer books from this time period, and especially books and records that inhabit the intersection of play, pedagogy, and immigration history.

The Library holdings include a handbook for women from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century that contains an appendix with an elaborate description of the ideal *Kinderstube*.

At the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, I gained access to some "regalia" associated with play, including toy catalogs and newspaper advertisements specifically for toys, musical instruments, and mechanical toys imported from Germany during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

I am very grateful to the German Historical Institute and the German Society for the generous support of my research. I would also like to express special thanks to Dr. Violet Lutz for her help and expertise.

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**John Muller (1908 - 2001)**

We continue with the series of articles of individuals or families who have made major financial contributions to the German Society. In the past year we have written about Mr. Ulrich Both, Mr. Joseph P. Horner, and the Haas Family. We now continue with Mr. John Muller:

**John Muller** and I (**George Beichl**) were born and reared in a German village called Brewerytown, a part of Philadelphia. We lived on the same street, Myrtlewood Street, and he and I shared the same godparents, Hans and Theres Karl, even though he was in the Lutheran and I was in the Catholic church.

Godparents served not only a spiritual function but saw to it that their “Taufkinder” were well-behaved. John often recalled for me an incident when his mother sent him with a pitcher to fetch milk from Mosebach’s Dairy at the corner of Myrtlewood and Master Streets. He decided to have some fun on the errand and bounced a rubber ball which he caught in the pitcher. Hans Karl encountered him en route, put his hand on John’s ear and led him back to his home where his mother washed the pitcher and sent him back on his chore with a clean pitcher but no ball. John was slated to work in a brewery as did his father and his

godfather, but Prohibition had closed the breweries. He found an opening in the National Umbrella Factory at the corner of Myrtlewood and Thompson Streets. Later in life when his colleagues cited the U of P and UCLA as their alma maters, John would mention he was an alumnus of NUF. With the repeal of Prohibition, he founded the Holmesburg Beer Distributing Company in 1939. At that time, he also joined in founding the Philadelphia Beer Distributor Association of which he was elected first president. He held that position until 1943 when he was drafted into the Navy at the age of 35.

When John Muller entered the service, he did not get a desk job despite his executive experience. He was assigned to an LST (Landing Ship Tank). There he distinguished himself in the invasion of Mindoro Island in the Philippines in 1944 for which he received six island invasion battle stars. In addition, he was awarded a medal for bravery in repelling direct and severe aerial attacks on his vessel.

Upon his discharge from the service in 1945, he returned to the beer distribution business, and in 1956 merged with John A. Clement to form Clement & Muller of

which he became the sole proprietor in 1958.

In 1986, his wife, Josephine, succumbed to the ravages of ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease. This catalyzed John Muller to join the fight to find a cure for this crippling affliction. He sponsored symposiums on Lou Gehrig’s disease and as a memorial to Josephine Muller he built a wing at Chandler Hall nursing home in Newtown for those suffering with ALS.

John Muller was a generous philanthropist, providing funds whenever the need was apparent. Thanks to him, the German Society parking lot was built in 1991, and he made major contributions to the renovation of the Society library as well. John also donated a 450-seat Auditorium to the Abington Friends School, and the Abington Hospital operates the Muller-Senior Center, funded by a generous donation. Generosity was recognized as a striking characteristic of Germans by Dr. Benjamin Rush, physician to Washington’s army at Valley Forge and one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, but also by the Roman historian Tacitus who, back in 98 AD, cited the conspicuous hospitality of the Germans. For John Muller, this stemmed from

- *Cont’d on page 4*

no longer walk, her son made the painful decision to admit her to St. Monica’s Manor, a Catholic Nursing Home in South Philly in 2009. She stayed there until her death on March 23, 2011.

A Memorial Service was held in her beloved garden at her son’s home on May 21, 2011. Her urned ashes were given a special place of honor. A very good friend and musician, Willi Aust, played and sang her favorite melodies, and many toasts were made to our beloved *Oma*.

It can be stated with unquestioned certainty that she was a pillar of the German Society, who kept our organization afloat at a very critical time in its history. Without her devotion for 30 years, things might have been very different today. She will be sorely missed by many of us.

- Lou Oschmann

**GHI Fellows**

*Cont’d from page 3*

***Shaping the Natives: Education, Mission, and Assimilation in the British Colonial World***

Felicity Jensz,  
Universität Münster

As a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Münster, Germany, I study the education of indigenous peoples by missionaries in the English-speaking colonial

and post-colonial world of the 19th century. The missionaries whom I focus upon are members of the Moravian Church with roots in Germany. The Moravians’ presence as missionaries in North America began in 1735, when they began working amongst the Delaware (Lenape) in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kansas, and Canada. My work focuses on the tensions between missionary education, Western ‘modernity’, indigenous responses, and increased governmental involvement in missionary schooling at the end of the 19th century. At the Horner Library I examined German-language periodicals to assess how education was spoken about in various German communities in the U.S.; if and how education to Native Americans was reported upon, and the Moravian Church and their missionaries were spoken about by fellow German-Americans. In examining periodicals from Catholics, Lutherans, Jews, Freethinkers, and non-denominational groups, I found that German-language education was an important topic for all. These groups saw education as a necessity to foster a German-American identity, however, the desire to educate stopped at their own members. Thus, education to Native Americans through German-American groups was seldom a topic of note in the periodicals I looked at. Throughout much of the 19th century, most of the German

-American missionary work was focused on the ‘home’ mission; i.e., establishing missions amongst German-Americans in America, rather than sending out missionaries to the so-called ‘heathen’ mission field of Native Americans. Moreover, the Moravians, although praised in early Lutheran missionary periodicals as the forerunners of the evangelical missionary movement, became less relevant for Lutheran missionary periodicals towards the end of the 19th century as German-American Lutherans began themselves to engage more in missionary work, including missions to ‘heathen’ peoples. The results from my research at the library will provide an important conceptualization of German-American attitudes towards education, in particular towards Native Americans. They have enabled me to place the Moravian’s work in North America in a broader context.

***The Art of Peacemaking in Early Modern Pennsylvania***

Ralf-Peter Fuchs,  
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität  
München

Conrad Weiser (1696-1760) was a well known man in Pennsylvania. In Virginia and in Carolina leading politicians held him in high esteem as well. Living in Tulpehocken Valley, this German immigrant

- *Cont’d on page 10*



### Elfriede Sonnenberg - A Grand Dame

Elfriede Töpfer Sonnenberg was born in Schwerin, Mecklenburg, on May 21, 1914. Her mother operated a retail store selling knitwear to help support her family. Young Friedel learned the trade from her mother, and assumed complete business responsibility at age 20 when her mother died. Three years later she met her future husband Karl. After the birth of their daughter, Karla, the couple decided to sell their shop and pursue a business opportunity at the resort town of Swinemünde. Two sons, Peter and Jochen, and daughter Sabine, who died as a child, were born there. They enjoyed occasional visits to the nearby beaches on the Baltic Sea. At the beginning of WW II, Karl was drafted into the army, and Friedel had to raise the children all alone. Fortunately, her husband survived the war and ended up in an American POW camp in Italy. After his release he could not return to Swinemünde from where his family was expelled in 1946. Meanwhile, Friedel and the kids had fled to Schwerin. Communications were difficult in those tumultuous times. Neither party knew where the other was. One day, a friend heard her husband's name on the radio with a West German address. She wrote to him, and soon they were re-

united in Schwerin where they stayed for three years. In 1953, the family escaped to West Berlin, and after a series of temporary living quarters settled in Lage (Lippe), Nordrhein Westfalen. Four years later, their marriage broke up. She and the children moved to Bielefeld, where she stayed until she came to the US in 1967. Soon after Friedel arrived here, she was offered the position of Business Manager and *Hausmeisterin* at the German Society. At that time, the Spring Garden Street neighborhood was filled with abandoned houses and the building had little security. Friedel hesitated until Karla and her husband, Hans Meyer, offered to move into the

building with her. Hermann Witte was president of the Society then. He and his five successors had the good fortune of Friedel's services during their terms in office. In those days, she did all the office work by herself, i.e. maintaining membership files, answering the phone, fielding questions from members and others, planning and executing major social activities, such as the Oktoberfest and Sylvesterfeier, and established the Hamburger Abend, one of the most popular events at the Society to this day. She held that job for almost thirty years, and repeatedly stated that it was the most satisfying and fulfilling of her life. The members of the German Society became her extended family, and she was much loved for her friendliness, hospitality, and culinary delights. In 1997 at age 83, she retired and moved in with her youngest son, Jochen, in South Philadelphia near the Italian Market. While she was there, she enjoyed spending time in the city garden that her son had created in the back of the house. Unfortunately, at that time, Friedel's eyesight became worse until she eventually went blind. She also experienced a severe hearing loss, but was able to hear via a special device that her son had made for her. When she could



- John Muller Cont'd

his religious conviction that you must not only love God but also your neighbor. About his personal life he is known to have said, "I live a good clean Christian life and God knows this." John was a member of the Zion Presbyterian Church in Brewertown. He was also a member of the committee that arranged the merger of Zion with the Olivet Covenant Presbyterian Church where he became the oldest parishioner. Mindful of his roots, he wanted to preserve some memento of his original church. He saw to it that the stained glass window depicting our Lord's agony in the Garden of Gethsemane was transferred from Zion to Olivet Covenant in time



for his wedding to Sandy Robinson in 1987. Sandy supported him in his manifold activities and guided him in his commitment to enrich the community in which we live. In 2001 at the age of 92, John Muller passed to his eternal reward. Although he is no longer with us, the products of his generosity are a continual reminder of the contributions of a great German American to the German Society of Pennsylvania. Sandy Muller shared one his favorite lines for this article, "Do your giving, while you are living, so you will be knowing, where it is going." She tells us that John lived by this rule when it concerned his family, the Muller Company family of employees and his German community. We at the German Society are proud and privileged to have been part of his life. - Ernie Weiler, George Beichl

**Scholarship Awards 2011**

We are pleased to announce that the German Society, and its Women's Auxiliary, have again awarded this year various scholarships to the following students, living in the Delaware Valley area, who pursue a German degree at a local college:

Joel Faltermayer, Timothy Kautsky, Brian Lallier, Lindsey Lemmel, Cameron Scotese and Melissa Zirkel All six students, with the exception of **Brian Lallier**, a Washington Township, NJ High School graduate, who garnered the most prestigious prize worth \$4,000 (Dr. George Beichl Award, funded by the Women's Auxiliary) attended the AATG Award Ceremony at the Cannstatter Volksfestverein late in April. A serious illness in his family prevented Brian from attending. Since this year's crop of award recipients was of such a high caliber, a photo was taken of them - together with **Christel Tillman**, President of the Auxiliary, and yours truly - which we are publishing above with their permission. Congratulations to each and everyone! And many thanks to the members of the Scholarship Committee for their diligent work. You are a great team. It is a pleasure to work with you. - Hardy von Auenmueller



The German Society Endowment Fund

Why an Endowment Fund?

We have identified three major challenges in our 2010 and 2011 Business Plans. First, we need to expand our membership; we have been around 600 family members for a number of years. Second, we aim to increase the number and the diversity of programs and events offered at the Society. These events need to serve the interest of our members and the public at large. And finally, we need to address long-term funding issues, by building a vibrant giving program, with special emphasis on our annual fund drive and by building a significant GSP Endowment Fund; our long term target is \$ 5 MM and the shorter term goal is \$ 2MM.

What is an Endowment?

An endowment is a gift of financial assets, which the donor specifies are to be held in perpetuity for a charitable purpose. The funds are usually invested to earn a return of income and growth and a percentage of the account value is used each year for the specified charitable purpose.

Why do we need an Endowment Fund?

Our membership is aging, and we find that newer and younger members are not yet financially secure and therefore are less able to support the Society. We believe this trend is likely to continue.

Over 94% of our revenues are derived from five categories – membership dues, the annual fund drive, rental income, the language programs, and our annual formal Stiftungsfest celebration, which includes a silent auction.

By comparison all program and related activities contribute only very modest incomes, yet they are vital to our mission and in fact we expect to develop additional offerings. We have also concluded that it is unlikely that in the near term we will substantially increase funds from the group of five categories listed. Hence, we need a new income category, which we believe should the GSP Endowment Fund.

If significant repairs are required within our venerable building, a special fund drive needs to be implemented.

In the past six years, we have been fortunate to have garnered sizable grants from foundations for major capital projects, but all required matching funds from the Society.

We rely heavily on our annual fund drive to meet yearly operating expenses, and in the last 5 years, results from these drives have varied by as much as \$ 30,000.

What are our present constraints?

Our operating reserves are not appreciating as needed. Further-

more, we do not earmark enough funds for anticipated capital expenses; our goal should be to set aside \$ 50,000 per year. Given the age of our building, our maintenance budget needs to be increased significantly. And finally, we have no discretionary funds to adequately market or support our programs or activities.

In summary, to free us from this year-to-year funding uncertainty and to help us fund the items noted in the previous paragraph, we established the GSP Endowment Fund with the Philadelphia Foundation (PF). Income from the Endowment will provide ongoing funding for special capital projects and afford a cushion for inevitable year-to-year fluctuations in income.

How will the funds be managed?

The Society has entered into a partnership with the PF to provide administrative support for the planned gifts earmarked for our Endowment Fund. Income from the fund up to 4% of the average fund value for the previous 20 trailing quarters will be distributed to GSP every year. The PF will provide professional assistance to our prospective donors in making gifts of securities, real estate, and setting up various types of charitable annuities and other types of planned gifts.

- Cont'd on page 7

- Endowment Fund Cont'd

Who is the Philadelphia Foundation?

Established in 1918, The Philadelphia Foundation is a \$275 million pool of more than 800 charitable trust funds created to benefit our local region.

PF helps local residents manage their charitable giving. PF has its own investment vehicles and works with seven leading banks in the region that also serve as trustees of the Foundation's investments.

The general asset allocation policy is to diversify investments to provide a balance that will enhance total return while avoiding undue risk concentration in any single asset class or investment category.

The Foundation has achieved a very respectable total return for donors in recent years; returns over time continue to be strong. The growth of fund value ensures the PF's future ability to fulfill donors' wishes.

How you can participate

There are many ways to participate. The following is but a partial list of possibilities; you may: donate cash and securities; make commitments to bequests through estate plans; donate life insurance proceeds – either from new policies listing the Society as the beneficiary or rewriting existing policies to benefit the Society; purchase charitable gift annuities,

which offer an immediate tax deduction as well as an income stream to the donor; contribute from IRA accounts which can also have a tax saving consequence.

The Philadelphia Foundation offers additional options, which might be of interest to you;. Please feel free to call PF at 215-563-6417 and ask to speak to Ms. Pat Meller, or call the office and ask us to call you or to set up an appointment.

What are our next steps?

We asked our Board of Directors to participate, and to complete the attached pledge. We have received pledges from over half of our Directors. Several purchased attractive gift annuities which have significant tax advantages and also provide a good income stream.

As noted in the next column GSP Director, Bill Hardam, found this to be the case, and we believe many of our members looking for attractive stable returns, may find this a good investment vehicle.

With the pledges on hand our account balance at PF in 2014 should be \$ 107,200. It is a start, but a long way from our \$ 2 MM shorter term goal.

Over the coming year, we intend to work with friends and members of the Society to build our Endowment Fund. This is a unique opportunity for you to help us assure that your Society will remain financially viable for years to come.

If you are able to help us now, complete the attached pledge form and mail it to Mr. Lew Volgenau, our Treasurer, at the Society.

Please note that we have created new Honor Society, called the Linden Society, to acknowledge contributions as well as future commitments to the GSP Endowment Fund. We intend to share this summary with our membership periodically and, it may in the future be displayed at the Society as well.

- Ernie Weiler, Bill Hardham

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**Bill Hardham**, one of our GSP Directors doubled the income he was getting from a bond fund investment that he converted to a gift annuity to benefit the GSP.

Sample Annuity Payments for a \$10,000 Gift\*

| Age | Payout |        | First Year      |  |
|-----|--------|--------|-----------------|--|
|     | Rate   | Amount | Tax Deduction** |  |
| 60  | 4.8%   | \$480  | \$2,753         |  |
| 65  | 5.3%   | \$530  | \$3,063         |  |
| 70  | 5.8%   | \$580  | \$3,605         |  |
| 75  | 6.5%   | \$650  | \$4,162         |  |
| 80  | 7.5%   | \$750  | \$4,685         |  |
| 85  | 8.4%   | \$840  | \$5,447         |  |

\* for a single beneficiary  
\*\* a major portion of the yearly payouts is also tax-free until the full amount of the gift has been satisfied.