



President's Message

Many of us are happy to see the very hot and wet summer entered into the history books. I sincerely hope that you had a wonderful and relaxing time with friends and family. On a personal note, our important highlight for this summer was the birth of a new grandchild, Nicholas, who decided to come five weeks early.

Our various committees are using the summer months to craft their action plans for the new Business Plan which covers the fiscal year 2013/2014. Bill Hardam will again help us finalize these plans. They will be reviewed at the September 16th Board Meeting. Our yearly Business Plan plus the 2012 - 2015 Strategic Plan are not only important internal management tools, but are also critical components of our grant applications. For example the Philadelphia Cultural Fund asked us to include these with our submission. In fact, this application is due at the end of September.

A planning team has been meeting every four to six weeks for the past year to plan and map out activities and special events for our 250th Anniversary celebrations. Overall the program is set with only a few additional events yet to be finalized. We will start the year on December 29th with a special gathering in our Library and will close the celebratory year on December 28, 2014.

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Chairman's Comments

Early this year, when planning our summer vacation, our main objective was to be away from Philadelphia when the days become hot and humid. Surprisingly though, this past summer was much more comfortable than prior years. On the other hand, it rained and rained, and thus became the wettest on record of recent years – much to the chagrin of **Tony Michels**, and his helpers – who valiantly tried to keep our "**Big Dig**" project on schedule.

Our trip to Germany was well timed - with relatively cool weather which was great for hiking. In an effort to connect with our past, we visited the Upper Franconia region of Bavaria, where my ancestors had lived 500 years ago. I had earlier established that my (ten times) great grandfather had paid to the local Bishop his dues in kind, i.e. in agricultural products from his farm, as this was still an agrarian society. These taxes became due on major religious holidays, and were painstakingly recorded in the old German script in an "*Urban*" of 1513 – now microfilmed and easily scannable. Under the leadership of **Jim Niessen**, we will hold a **Genealogical seminar** next fall, which might help you in tracing your family roots.

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Building News & More

It was truly the wettest summer in Philadelphia history and an outdoor construction job like the "Big Dig Project" received its fair share of lost workdays due to weather conditions. However, half of the Spring Garden front is completely waterproofed and the main staircase's sub construction got finished in time for our first Fall event. The temporary wooden steps will stay in place until the original granite steps and the brownstone sides are refinished and will be back in place in October. The entire construction process is full of surprises. Artifacts from the first construction work were found,

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President's Message Cont'd

Our biggest two events will be a Spring Fling, with food, music and dancing - making it a fun event for the whole family - at the Grange in Haverford on May 31st, and our expanded Stiftungsfest that will take place at the German Society on November 20th. We looked at the option of hosting our big celebratory event at a hotel or some other attractive location which could hold a large crowd. Upon careful deliberation, we decided that our space could comfortably seat 200 guests and thus agreed that for this special event we should stay in our wonderful building.

During the Anniversary year, we will have the usual social events, such as the Hamburger Abend, Bierfest, Oktoberfest - some of which will be expanded significantly.

We will host a special lecture series in our Library on German-American history over the past 250 years.

All of you should have already received the music brochure for the coming year. We call special attention to the March 2nd concert by the Bethlehem Bach Choir which will feature a new opera on our stage, called 'Young Meister Bach', written by Mr. Chuck Holdeman, a member of the Society.

As you may appreciate, we will need some special funding to make all this happen. I am happy to report that, at this time, we have five sponsors who have pledge financial support, and these include: the Arcadia Foundation, the Barthelmes Foundation, the

Max Kade Foundation, The Philadelphia Foundation and Styron LLC, as a corporate sponsor.

We will continue to seek additional support from companies and individuals, whom we will acknowledge in our 250th Anniversary booklet. If you are able to contribute or would like to purchase an advertisement, please call our office.

Once again, we recognized all volunteers who contributed a minimum of 20 hours of service to the Society during the past fiscal year. We mailed them a personal thank-you letter and a coupon for two to attend either a concert or a movie event. A listing of these volunteers is included in this issue of the Staatsbote.

Like many not-for-profit organizations, we rely on the talents of our core volunteers to serve the needs of the Society. We estimate that last year, the equivalent of three person-years were donated. We can certainly use some additional support, especially with our 250th Anniversary celebration just around the corner. If you are able to help us, please call the office.

In my report at the Annual Meeting in May, I mentioned that overall our programs are running quite well. Our fall program is about to start and we encourage members and friends to attend as many of these fun filled events as possible because we definitely need larger audiences for many of them. You may also wish to put our annual Stiftungsfest on your schedule for November 9th 2013.

As planned, we finished the fiscal year 2012-2013 with a well balanced budget. We exceeded in several important performance areas spelled out in our yearly business plan, specifically our Annual Fund Drive, the Language School results, and most importantly, our rental endeavors which continue to do quite well, accounting for approximately 20% of the revenue stream. Looking ahead, operating with a balanced budget will remain challenging, as our fixed costs continue to increase and the maintenance budget plus a number of critical building enhancements remain underfunded.

The overarching goal for our Endowment Fund is to help put the Society on a stronger long-term footing. We are making progress as shown on the insert. At this point we have received \$334,000 in donations and commitments for an additional \$80,000 for a total of \$414,000, but we have a long way to go to reach our interim goal of \$2 million. I feel we should strive towards a good share of its operating funds from the Endowment Fund. It should be noted that most organizations build their endowment funds from two sources. First, through current or near term donations, and second, but most importantly, through legacy gifts which typically come via estate plans. At this point we have seventeen members who have indicated that the Society is in their will. If you intend to do so as well, please give us a call so that we can add your name to our Linden Society.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Beate Brockmann, on behalf of our entire Board of Directors, for her two years as Office Manager of the German Society. She has brought a high energy level to the job, focused on many important projects and was able to juggle many diverse opportunities. I know our members will miss the cheerful and helpful voice on the phone when calling the Society. We wish her well as she and her husband relocate to Europe.

We also welcome Catherine Fuller as our new Office Manager. She comes to us from the DO School in Hamburg, where - for the past six months - she held a comprehensive planning function for a diverse group of young people doing a fellowship. She has a Bachelor's degree from Vassar College in New York and a Master's degree from the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität in Münster, Germany. — Ernie Weiler

Planned Giving Seminar

We are delighted to offer a free seminar, sponsored by The Philadelphia Foundation, on planned giving and the fundamentals of estate planning. Pat Meller, VP of Finance and her colleague, Thomas Masko, will be speakers. This is not a fundraising event and donations will not be solicited. It will also be an opportunity to socialize with wine and cheese. Please look for the announcement. The seminar is scheduled for October 30th, 5pm, and Registration will be required.

Our Volunteers 2013

For privacy reasons, these names have been removed.

A Hearty Welcome to our New Society Members!

For privacy reasons, these names have been removed.



Chairman's Message Cont'd

In this connection, I had earlier garnered important biographical data on the grandson of that forebear of mine from Franconia. He had been enrolled at the University of Jena in the mid 1570's to study theology and later became a Lutheran minister at a church in that region. Fortunately, the records of that church survived the Thirty Year War, while most others were burnt during that ugly religious strife. The registry records of universities are another good source for genealogical research.

We spent a good week in and around that old city of **Burgkunstadt**, hiking each morning on well marked trails through woods and fields, which my forbears may have once tilled. On one outing, we came upon a mighty fieldstone wall. It was too high to see over. This sparked our curiosity, and thus we followed it until we reached an iron gate. It was locked, but the keys could be fetched at the Mayor's office.

This walled-in place turned out to be one of the oldest Jewish cemeteries in Bavaria, dating back to 1623, with more than 2,000 grave sites. Most of the older headstones carry Hebrew lettering only, and tribal symbols, e.g. two blessing hands to identify the person as a member of the "Cohn" tribe. This *Stammeszeichen* was great news to our Society member, **Ed Cohen**, who had no knowledge thereof.

In the mid 18th century, one third of Burgkunstadt's population was Jewish. They elevated the town to an important regional trading post, founded its shoe industry and helped the cottage industry of basket weavers of nearby villages to international reputation – shipping their goods all over the world.

When in Franconia, you also need to sample the local wines, and this we did on numerous occasions. Among others, we went to Sommerhausen, near Würzburg, and visited the Arthur Steinmann family, which in its fourth generation, operates a local vineyard with a long history. In the old home of Germantown founder **Franz Daniel Pastorius**, where he was born in 1651, their wines are stored, filtered, racked and bottled in the distinct *Bocksbeutel* form of a flattened ellipsoid, which is traditional to that region – for subsequent sale under the Pastorius label.

When I told the Steinmanns that **Suzana Habibovic**, a former staff member and German language teacher of our Society, and her husband **Heinz Volquarts**, have recently started an importing business of European wines, they expressed an interest to work with them. Perhaps, we could thus soon indulge in some of their fine *Riesling*, *Sylvaner* and *Weissburgunder* wines. This would be yet another complement to our Jubilee celebrations next year.

While traveling through Bavaria and other parts of Germany, you could really see how well the country is doing, and how prosperous its people are. All the old *Residenzstädte* are experiencing a veritable tourist boom, and the major industries – manufacturing motor vehicles, chemicals, machinery as well as precision and optical goods – are humming. No wonder the European neighbors, particularly those along the Mediterranean Sea, are envious of Germany!

While the country has absorbed more than five million immigrants, mostly from the former USSR and its satellites, over the past two decades, it also lost close to three million citizens who moved to other Western countries for economic and other reasons. Now, a campaign has been started to entice those ex-pats back with an ambitions campaign, such as "**Return to Bavaria**", as the country is in dire need for academic *Führungskräfte* and skilled workers.

These and other impressions relative to the German federal elections – scheduled for Sunday, September 22, 2013 – where more than 4,500 candidates are vying for the 600 seats in the *Bundestag* will be discussed at our next *Konversationsabend*, on **September 25...**, provided I return unscathed from my next trip which will take me to Ukraine.

— Hardy von Auenmueller

German Book Sale in June

On the weekend of June 8th, the library team opened the doors of the Barthelmes Auditorium to GSP members and the general public for our German Book Sale.



Our Auditorium at the book sale in June

The many and myriad books filling the tables included both donations and items deaccessioned from the library; some were duplicates of Horner's holdings, while others were deemed out-of-scope by the library staff. Shoppers perused biographies, Krimis, and translations as well as works of fiction, history, travel, and humor. To make the sale even more lucrative, the vast majority of books were priced at \$2 or less — quite a bargain when one considers the costs of international shipping! The sale turned out to be a great success: by the end of Sunday, we had taken in nearly \$600. On behalf of the library staff, I extend my heartfelt thanks to those who

helped make this sale possible, including our dedicated Library Committee members as well as library volunteers Jean Hunsberger, Adam Bielen and James

Esposito. While we sold a few hundred books through the June sale, we still have boxes of books that need new homes. We hope to accomplish this through another book sale in the near future, preferably during the academic

year to attract more university students. Stay tuned for the announcement of the next book sale's date!

— Chrissy Bellizzi

Max Kade Foundation

The Max Kade Foundation has been a generous supporter of the German Society for many years. Most recently we received two significant grants. The first is a \$75,000 award for a two year project to retrieve, archive and catalog books, manuscripts and other items of interest in our Library for the period from 1918 to

1960. And in July, we received a supplemental award of \$50,000 to support the restoration of the main entrance stairs to our building. This is an integral part of the ongoing waterproofing project. These generous grants would not have happened without the very active support of Lya Pfeifer, J.D., President of the Max Kade Foundation.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it was my pleasure to present Lya a framed copy of the German version of our Declaration of Independence in her New York office. I am happy to report that she was very surprised by my visit on August 7th and very pleased by this gesture. Renate Genieser, Chair of our Arts Committee, selected the very attractive frame.

— Ernie Weiler



Lya Pfeiffer, President of the Max Kade Foundation, with the German version of our Declaration of Independence.

Introducing the PhillyKinder

From the Ground Up

Three years ago, a handful of dedicated mothers, along with their children, launched **PhillyKinder** with the aim to foster a sense of community among bilingual German-speaking families in Philadelphia and the surrounding suburbs. We started with about 10 of our own children who met for one afternoon each week. Since then, PhillyKinder has experienced a tremendous growth in attendance, now totaling 85 children, who meet in seven different classes at our location in Overbrook this fall. The primary goal of our community consists of strengthening and cementing our children's existing German language skills in a way that conveys the joy of speaking German - for the children, as well as, the adults.

PhillyKinder's ages range from as



ABC Schützen 1 having fun

young as 12 months up to 12 years. At the beginning of the school year, the students are divided into small age groups and remain

there throughout the year. The one to three-year-olds and their caregiver



ABC Schützen 1 performing the Bremer Stadtmusikanten in 2011

make up the **Kleine Freunde 1&2** (Little Friends), the three to 5-year-olds are our **Junge Entdecker 1,2&3** (Young Explorers) and the school-age children attend the **ABC Schützen 1&2** (ABC Marksmen). The lesson plan is taught by a head-teacher with the support of teenage and parent helpers - a system which allows for individualizing instruction for each child.

Hands-On Learning

While the program for the younger age groups is comparable to "Mommy and Me" groups and a contemporary German preschool and kindergarten program, among the older groups, emphasis is placed on thematic units specifically aimed at vocabulary building and writing. As such, among the topics the ABC Schützen 1 (1st & 2nd graders) explored last year: our body, experimenting with colors, the globe and continents, and traffic safety. One highlight for the ABC Schützen was the book they read, discussed, practiced and then performed for all chil-

dren and parents about *Die Geschichte vom Löwen, der nicht schreiben konnte* (*The story of the Lion Who Couldn't Write*). The 6 and 7-year-olds wore hand-made animal masks, helped each other memorize their dialogue and bravely and beautifully performed the play on stage. "Projecting their 'German' voice is a key confidence builder and greatly enhances group cohesion," remarks their teacher Birgit Splitt.

Children above the 3rd grade level go to the ABC Schützen 2, where emphasis is placed on free-flowing story-telling, reading, writing, public



Science experiment and understanding states of matter

speaking, performing, group-centered activities, as well as, the acquisition of grammar. The thematic units of instruction cover topics that are typical for a German primary school curriculum, such as, the Federal States of Germany (*Bundesländer*), the environment, history, wildlife, humans, and planet earth. In line with the PhillyKinder teaching philosophy, which emphasizes group-centered activities to promote a vital sense of community, the older students wrote, practiced and performed three plays during the year,

including *Der Buchstabenbaum* (*The Alphabet Tree*, by Leo Lionni). Jointly with the younger ABC Schützen, they performed the play wonderfully at the closing event in May. It was a good way to end the year.

Carrying on Holidays and Cultural Traditions

“Within the PhillyKinder community, we aim to support each other, to form friendships, and to celebrate and carry on cultural traditions and holidays”, says teacher Alexandra Brock. During the *Adventszeit* (*Christmas time*), each group made Christmas crafts, learned familiar Christmas songs, and explored German Christmas traditions. For St. Martin’s Day in early November the children created lanterns and learned about the origin of this holiday. For *Fasching* in February – a favorite among the young ones – the Junge Entdecker dressed up as knights and learned about medieval lore. Our Junge Entdecker discover the German language and culture through movement, finger plays, storytelling, traditional and contemporary nursery rhymes, singing, dancing, craft projects and performing art – all based on a sensory approach. Other past special projects have included a hands-on introduction to musical instruments that the children would ordinarily not be exposed to. A youth or parent volunteer brought in their hobby instrument for “Show and Tell.” After singing some favorite songs together, every child had a turn on that week’s instrument,

which included the drums, accordion, saxophone and transverse flute. “What a fun hands-on way of exploring,” says Paul Ehrhardt, drummer and one of the handful teenage volunteers who graciously donate their time and efforts to PhillyKinder.

A different kind of hands-on project took place when a scientist parent volunteered to run a science experiment with the children. Using dry ice, they learned about the states of matter (gas, liquid and solid). They created hypotheses and performed experiments to understand the differences in the densities of gas. The highlight was being able to play with their own cup of dry ice in water. To



Everyone got a turn on the drums

top it off, it all came together for the children as they understood why soda tickles their nose as they were drinking it.

In another activity, the children learned about First Aid and what to do in an emergency. Vocabulary such as sterile gauze, ice pack, hydrogen peroxide, tweezers and cast were discussed by the Junge Entdecker. ABC Schützen learned through play how to bandage a pretend broken bone.

The PhillyKinder year culminated in a joint on stage presentation and sing-along among all parents and children who each were presented with a certificate of completion. The year ended with our usual end-of-year summer party – a fun social for children and parents alike to come and play, meet all teachers and volunteers and socialize all-the-while enjoying a spread of German pot luck. This event was open to everyone.

As we get ready to start the next year of activities, we wish to thank all our hard-working volunteers, teachers’ aids, teachers and caring parents for their hard work and loving services. PhillyKinder also extends a special thanks to The German Society of Pennsylvania and, in particular, its Vice President Dr. Maria Sturm, without whose tireless efforts this program would not exist as such.

— Manuela Sieber



PhillyKinder is grateful to Dr. Maria Sturm’s stewardship



Photos courtesy of K. Lafferty

German Historical Institute Fellows

This year several members of the German Society had a lively exchange with one of our GHI-GSP Fellows some time before the traditional brown bag seminar in the Society's Ratskeller on July 11, 2013. They actually became the veritable object of an interesting research project of **Christiane Bauer** who is writing her dissertation at the University of Munich:

Another Fellow from Germany, Assistant Professor **Julia Abel** from the University of Wuppertal, used her fellowship as part of her habilitation in Germanistik, the scholarly project necessary in Germany on the way to a full academic career. Julia was particularly happy with the rich holdings of the Society in readers and textbooks for German Americans

documents during his stay at our John Horner Library.

Several of them had come to us by way of the Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation which sponsored transatlantic exchanges in this area and whose holdings we received in the 1970s.

Our fourth fellow, **Esther Sahle**, a PhD candidate at the London School of Economics, will join us in September. Esther is writing a study about the economic impact of the Quakers across the Atlantic: "The Competitive Edge of the Reliable Friends: Quaker Merchants and Institutional Change in the Early Modern Atlantic."

— Frank Trommler

German-American Readers and the History of the Literary Anthology

As part of my habilitation about the History of the literary Anthology at the University of Wuppertal I have used my time as a GHI-GSP Fellow for the extensive study of German-American readers between 1800 and 1945. The Horner Library owns an extraordinary amount of German language readers which give insight into all sorts of cultural and political tendencies that can be seen as an interesting complement to the anthologies in German-speaking countries.

In the short time at the Library, I checked about sixty readers and found a wide variety of school-books which reflect the changing



Our "Brown Bag Lunch" in the Ratskeller with this year's GHI Fellows was well attended

She interviewed them about their feelings and ideas about Germany as descendants of immigrants who came to the U. S. after World War II. As Christiane reported at the seminar, she received a great response with her announcement about her intention to gather information in several areas of strong German immigration. So far she has conducted 37 interviews, ten of which took place in our area. Her short account is part of this report.

since she can apply her insights for a major study of the aesthetic, cultural, and political features of the literary anthology.

Associate Professor **Scott Moranda** who teaches history at SUNY Cortland pursues a totally different route with his project on the different approaches taken by Germans and American in regards to forestry and land use. Scott also found a surprising number of

self-image of the German-American community, reacting to the adjustment - both to the political developments in Germany and the changing German-American relations.

In 1830 the first readers alluded to the fact that, due to the needs of the German-American readership, the 'German' nature of the books had to be adapted. The first readers that contained a selection of texts especially for Americans began to appear in the middle of the nineteenth century.

Probably the most exciting case of this kind is a reader of 1876, the *Handbuch der Deutschen Literatur Europa's und Amerika's*. Its selections of texts reflects the ambivalence of the German-American community between the politics of the newly founded German Reich and the democratic traditions of the United States. For example texts by the Prussian king stand next to the American Declaration of Independence. This *Handbuch* attempts a balance between two different cultures.

I would like to thank the German Society of Pennsylvania for the opportunity to pursue my study of these readers and anthologies in the Horner Library. A special thanks to Chrissy Bellizzi and Beate Brockmann for the wonderful support as well as to Frank Trommler and Maria Sturm for the interesting discussions.

— **Julia Abel**,
University of Wuppertal

Images of Germanness among Descendants of German immigrants in the U. S.

My dissertation project at the University of Munich aims at the attitudes towards Germany and *Germanness* among German-Americans of the second generation whose parents or one of the parents immigrated to the United States after 1945.

The exact German title indicates the focus more succinctly: **“Deutschlandbilder der Nachfahren deutscher Immigranten in den USA – Eine erinnerungsgeschichtliche Auseinandersetzung mit Migration und Identität.”**

The central method of this research is oral history. I plan to conduct sixty qualitative interviews with second-generation German-Americans throughout the United States. Besides the very personal perceptions collected through the interviews, I also research the cultural programs of the various German-American clubs and societies such as the German Society of Pennsylvania.

During my two weeks in Philadelphia as a GHI-GSP Fellow at the Joseph Horner Library I looked at all kinds of event programs, year books, brochures, and clippings concerning the cultural events and festivities taking place in Philadelphia, New York, and Washington, D.C. The German-American Collection (GAC) is a truly great and unique source for this undertaking.

I encountered very interesting documents that not only serve as a source of understanding the cultural life since 1945 but also illustrate the tremendous impact the German Society of Pennsylvania and other clubs had on the shaping of the German-American community.

Next to my archival research, I was able to conduct ten interviews here in Philadelphia, summing up to a total of 37 interviews being conducted within the last ten weeks. These interviews cover the Washington area, New York City region, as well as Chicago and Milwaukee, and now also include Pennsylvania. I hope to be able to come back to the U. S. soon in order to conduct further interviews and also be able to include the West Coast.

Many thanks to the German Society of Pennsylvania for distributing my inquiry to its members, thus enabling me to get in contact with interested German Americans of the second generation.

Also, many thanks to all of the members who forwarded my request to their children, parents, siblings, and friends! Your assistance is highly appreciated and contributed valuably to my project!

— **Christiane Bauer**,
University of Munich

*Transnational Negotiations over
Nature and Private Property in
Germany and America – Focus
on Forestry*

With my GHI-GSP Fellowship I researched how German and German-American scholars, journalists, and travel writers criticized American uses of soil, forests, and water and presented German land use traditions as a cure for wasteful American practices.

While in Philadelphia, I investigated the archival records of the Oberlaender Trust at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. I also used the German Society's extensive collection, especially economic studies and travel accounts published between 1870 and 1940.

In 1931, industrialist Gustav Oberlaender donated one million dollars to the Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation for the support of scholarly research trips to Europe to study recognized areas of German excellence. Though initially unmentioned in plans for the Trust, forestry research eventually received more support than any other single research area between 1931 and 1939.

The incredible attention to forestry, I discovered, owed much to Dr. Wilbur K. Thomas, who managed both the Oberlaender Trust and the Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation and had served briefly as the President of the

Pennsylvania Forestry Association. Moreover, early advisors and associates of Thomas quickly identified forestry as a realm of German expertise overlooked by the trustees.

The Oberlaender Trust especially encouraged research into forestry on private lands. Several American landowners and executives of regional timber companies, for example, received the first official fellowships in 1934. While the United States Forest Service had become well known for its management of national forests, the Oberlaender Trust and its advisors believed that Germany had much to teach Americans about land use in areas dominated by private land ownership. Fellows travelling in Germany, in fact, mostly visited private forests (often owned by aristocratic families). They went to Germany, in other words, to study the management techniques, tax laws, and cultural norms that guided German landowners.

Even more often than I had expected, German writers identified land use as a key to understanding cultural differences. While at the Horner Library, I consulted over 100 books or pamphlets by Germans or German-Americans. In particular, writers singled out what they saw as America's "plunder economy," or *Raubwirtschaft*, as one of this country's distinguishing features.

Moreover, many of these texts contrasted American farming with German or German-American agriculture, which they portrayed as a realm of industriousness, efficiency, and care.

While "Yankees" supposedly mined the soil to get rich quickly before abandoning worn out soils and moving westward, German settlers practiced "permanent agriculture" that retained the soil's fertility, prevented erosion, and nurtured forests.

In sum, a transatlantic discourse celebrated a "German capitalism" marked by care, sustainability, and efficiency. Capitalism, per se, was not the explanation for the destruction of natural resources. Instead, many writers argued that Yankee barbarism or Anglo-Saxon racial characteristics led America astray. German-American comparisons, I have found, proved especially useful for critics considering the damage done by private landowners to the land. While Americans had made great strides in managing federal lands, German comparisons fueled demands for a more wide-reaching reform of American land use that would require widespread cultural change at the grassroots level.

— **Scott Moranda**,
SUNY Cortland

The Stiftungsfest - its 249th Celebration

In spring of each year, a special German Society committee gears up in preparation for the annual Stiftungsfest, a gala commemorating the founding of the German Society of Pennsylvania in the year 1764. This year the event will take place on Saturday, November 9.



Our ballroom set-up for the Stiftungsfest

The evening starts with a reception in the Joseph P. Horner Memorial Library on the top floor. Thanks to the elevator, installed four years ago, one does not have to climb the steep stairs anymore, although most guests always thought the effort was well worth it! Guests, who may not have seen each other for a while, happily exchange greetings while sipping champagne. A trio plays classical music to underscore the festivity. The officiating MC will make brief introductions and, finally, a call to enjoy a German dinner downstairs.

For this occasion, the Barthelmes Auditorium will be transformed into an elegant ballroom with round tables, decorated with color-themed tablecloths, napkins and creative

floral arrangements in the middle of each table. Candles will give the room the magic lighting conducive to an intimate setting. Flags of all sixteen German Bundesländer flying from the mezzanine make us look for the one from our roots. Musicians on the stage will lighten the atmosphere with tunes for all to listen and dance to. In the course of the evening there will be some short speeches, introductions and recognitions by the German Society's president.

The annual silent auction, held throughout the evening, may just make you bid on something you always wanted and hopefully win!

Come and enjoy the celebration with family and friends of the German Society.

A ballroom is just an empty space, a table a piece of furniture, a stage yawning until you add color, flowers, lights, music, good food and - of course - people. Thus you have all the makings of a beautiful time. We'll see you at the German Society on the evening of November 9.

— Frank V. Klare

Silent Auction

As August turns into September our thoughts turn to the fall. One feature of the fall social season at the German Society is our Stiftungsfest and its Silent Auction. Over the last three years I have enjoyed contact with members of the Society who donated many attractive and desirable items to our Silent Auction. I would like to express my thanks to all who did so and ask all who read this to consider giving again to this year's

Silent Auction. In the past, we auctioned a range of items - great and small: the rental of vacation homes in Virginia, Barcelona, on the Jersey Shore, and on an organic orchard in rural Pennsylvania; dancing, sailing, and painting lessons, tickets to Phillies, Flyers, and

Union games; delicious food and drink items; gift cards for dining and shopping; and many other items.

These donations are a great help to the German Society, as they provide a multiplier effect to the fund-raising power of the Stiftungsfest.

If you have any items for the Silent Auction, please feel free to contact our Office Manager at the German Society or contact me at 610-660-1546 (email apayne@sju.edu).

— Andrew Payne



The Silent Auction - a highlight of our Stiftungsfest celebrations

Building News & More Cont'd

glass bottles, tools and leftover building material. The building material tells the story that the main staircase was most likely constructed in large sections on site. The lack of a continuous foundation under the staircase revealed one important reason for the bad condition which resulted. The lack of proper maintenance and repair and finally the cheap fix of painting over the brownstone made the full restoration unavoidable.

The other upcoming big issue in the building is providing a safe environment for our valuable library and archives. The air conditioning system installed in the late 1990's has very limited capabilities, is high maintenance and not at all user friendly. A concept for how to heat and cool the entire building must be developed and become a priority for the near future.

In addition to the necessary upkeep and development of the building, it is extremely important to bring more of our activities to the public's attention. The German – American community lacks wide recognition in the city. As part of our 250th Anniversary Celebration, we are discussing establishing a German Heritage Festival on Spring Garden Street in September 2014. All German American Clubs of Philadelphia and vicinity have been invited to participate. We need to share our culture and heritage in order to attract more participation in our organizations. — Tony Michels



Temporary steps in front of main entrance.

Civil War Exhibit

By the time this issue of our newsletter is reaching you at home, you may have missed our symposium on the US Civil War which was held in our library on September 7, 3013.

However there will be an opportunity to view a **multi-panel display** at the Society **on the Civil War** throughout September and October of this year – as seen through the eyes of two German-American caricaturists, **Thomas Nast** and **Adalbert Volck**.

As you may remember from your school's history lessons, German-Americans – as the largest ethnic group to fight for the Union in the Civil War – played a critical role in its outcome. Lesser known, but also important, was the work of two German-American caricaturists who not only influenced public opinion, but also portrayed how the conflict came to be viewed and mythologized.

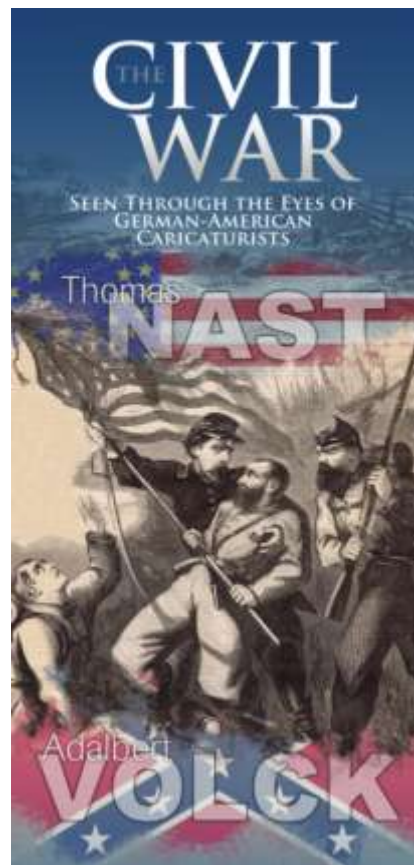
This exhibit covering "The Civil War as seen through the eyes of two German-American Caricaturists" features the work of Thomas Nast, illustrator for Harper's Weekly, and Adalbert Volck, a Southern sympa-

thizer, caricaturist and spy for the Confederacy.

Comparing and contrasting the work of these two artists, the exhibit explores the historical context of their work and sheds light on the issues and controversies that led to the deadliest conflict in our nation's history. It can be visited in our Library on Tuesdays and Thursdays, until the end of October.

— Hardy von Auenmueller

PS: We are indebted to the German-American Heritage Foundation for putting this exhibit at our disposal.



Unser Wandertag AD 2013

(abridged version - full text available upon request)

Der 15. Juni war ein strahlend schoener Tag! Meine E-Mail sagte mir, Startzeit sei 10:00 Uhr frueh. Nicht, dass das ein Evangelium gewesen waere, eine fruehere E-mail verkuendete 11:00 Uhr. Zur Erklaerung erzaehlte man allerlei lustige kleine Witze, berief sich auf "Force majeure", dann das Ablenkungsmanoeuver: "Nun lasst uns singen!"

Wir starteten um 10:30, natuerlich mit einem Lied auf den Lippen: "Hinaus in die Ferne mit " na, Sie kennen das ja. Die Luft war klar und frisch, wir atmeten tief ein und waren eigentlich alle guter Dinge. Die Unterhaltung war zahm bis frivol. Jemand sagte Goethe haette auch JOINTS geraucht, worauf sich in das Rascheln der Baumkronen ein leises Kichern mischte, die Waldgeister. Ich nahm mir aber vor, nach Marihuanapflanzen Ausschau zu halten, sollte ich nochmal an Goethes Gartenhaeuschen an der Ilm vorbeikommen.

Nachdem wir eine Weile ruestig fuerbass geschritten waren, warnte uns ein fremder Wanderer. Ein s c h l a m m i g e s , n a h e z u unpassierbares Terrain harre unser. Wir bedankten uns. Aber ein stilles Einverstaendnis stand auf allen Gesichtern: Da muessen wir durch - wir sind Deutsche. Der Schlamm kam. Stephan, ein strategischer Denker, meinte, wir sollten uns alle einen Stock suchen, besser zwei.

Wir schlugen uns also ins Gebuesch, wo wir viele Stoecke fanden, aber unheimlicherweise brachen sie alle. Ueber uns schwankten die Baumkronen im Wind, und im Rauschen der bewegten Blaetter kicherte es schadenfroh.

Wir starteten tapfer die Ueberquerung. Jemand hatte Bohlen gelegt, so dass man von Bohle zu Bohle springen musste, unsere Waldfuehrerin furchtlos voran. Ploetzlich entschwand sie unseren Blicken. Ein *Sink-Hole*! Nun galt es "einer fuer alle, alle fuer einen". Vereint zogen wir sie raus. Wundersamerweise hatte das Schlammbad ihr keinen Schaden getan, wir dagegen sahen nicht mehr so gut aus.

Die Belohnung folgte auf dem Fuss. Vor uns lag ein Fluesschen, dessen Wasser sich hier gestaut hatte. Uns wurde beschrieben, wie koestlich und erfrischend das eiskalte Nass sei, die reinste Kneipp-Kur. Aber wir dachten an Socken und Schuhe und leisteten der mutigen Fuehrerin keine Gesellschaft. Das uebernahmen drei riesige Golden Retrievers, die mit Herrchen unterwegs waren. Die stuerzten sich mit Elan in die Fluten und begannen ein Frolicking, dass das Wasser schaeumte. Als sie genug hatten, sprangen sie ans Ufer und schuettelten ihr Fell - eine kuehlende Dusche fuer uns.

Endlich verliessen wir Wald, Bach, Stock und Stein und wanderten ueber eine leuchtende Wiesenlandschaft zum Picknick-Platz. Margot wartete dort geduldig auf uns. Aber war sie allein? Nein! Bei ihr sass Dr. Cohen, der uns klagend seine E-Mail entgegenhielt: 11:00 Uhr!

Waehrend wir beim Picknicken von unseren Abenteuern erzaehlten, sahen wir fernab ein Sonnenschirmchen, das, wie ein Kompliment an den schoenen Tag, kokett auf und nieder huepfte. Wie hingezaubert stand ploetzlich ein aetherisches Wesen, Schirmchen in der Hand, Toechterchen an der Seite, vor unserem Tisch und fragte : "Sind Sie die Gruppe, von der in dieser E-Mail die Rede ist?" 11:00 Uhr!

Man lenkte schnell das Thema auf den oesterreichischen Zungenschlag. Wir bedauerten lebhaft, dass sie sich nicht hatte anschliessen koennen. (Wie gern haetten besonders die Herren sie dabei gehabt.) Aber heute sei nicht das Ende der Geschichte. Im naechsten Jahr werde wieder gewandert. Wenn sie dann dabei sein koennte... Die Huebsche laechelte anmutig und versprach's. Wir riefen der Oesterreicherin noch ein tiefgefuehltes Gruess Gott hinterher, als es, ich schwore, in dem Rauschen des Baumwipfels ueber uns kicherte. Die Waldgeister wieder. Auch wir brachen auf zum Heimweg. Servus!

— Inge Niebisch

Welcoming our new Office Manager Catherine

Liebe Mitglieder der GSP,
I am very much looking forward to mid September when I join the Germany Society of Pennsylvania in the role of Office Manager. In addition to supporting the organization in administration and event/volunteer coordination, I will use my experience to contribute to the sustainability of the organization.



I have had an interest in German language and culture since starting my German language studies during high school here in Pennsylvania. But it wasn't until I was at Vassar that I discovered how extensive and fascinating German culture and history is. Courses on German contemporary films, the Weimar Republic, German memorials to the Holocaust, and the classic works of authors like Goethe and Mann allowed me to discover and develop a keen interest in the nuances of German cultural history. It was also the Vassar German Studies Department that sup-

ported me in developing a passion for learning the German language. My desire to improve my German and to pursue a Master's degree led me to the idyllic student city of Münster, where I spent a few years completing my MA, improving my language skills, riding my bike, and learning the ins and outs of German culture firsthand. I moved to Hamburg after finishing my MA to work with an education non-profit. The DO School gGmbH brings together a diverse group of people from different countries to participate in a year long fellowship, two months of which are spent in Hamburg. My responsibilities included organizing travel for Fellows and teaching experts, scheduling and maintenance of the calendar, special event planning, everyday logistical program support, maintenance of Fellow information in our database and being the first point of contact for Fellows, visitors and external experts. I come to this position with more than three years of extensive project coordination and logistics experience in non-profits, all with an international/intercultural focus. I look forward to meeting you and contributing to the great work the GSP is already doing.

Sonnige Grüße aus Hamburg und bis bald,

— Catherine Fuller

Saying goodbye to our old Office Manager Beate

In a few weeks, when September changes into October, I will be on my way back to Europe, moving with my husband to Paris. While I'm very much looking forward to being close to my family and old friends again, I will miss Philadelphia a good deal - especially the swimming pools, the restaurants and museums, the Wissahickon and the sunny weather. Well, you can't have it all at the same time...

A big share of my Philly-time was spent in the German Society - for everyday work, weekend events, evening meetings...making it something like my second home.

When moving away from here, I will not only miss many of our members, but I also regret that two years were too short to make all the ideas and projects I had in mind for the German Society come alive.

The buzzing life in the office leaves hardly enough time to conceive and implement important long-term projects, let alone all those exciting opportunities and tempting cooperation projects that arise everyday. There are just never enough hours in the day for all I wish to do!

I wish my successor Catherine best of luck with making all these ends meet, and I ask all of you to support her, and help her during the first time here, as you did for me.

So long, and au revoir !

— Beate Brockmann

FilmFest Season 2013/14

Our FilmFest season will start on October 25th this year, with "Barbara" by Christian Petzold (German with English subtitles). This drama from 2012 about a doctor working in 1980s East Germany was nominated for best foreign movie at the Oscars.

The November movie "Vitus" from 2006 (shown on 11/15) tells the story of a highly-gifted boy who struggles between fulfilling his parents' ambitious plans and finding his own path in life (German with English Subtitles).

The documentary "Marlene", a 1984 retrospective on the career of enigmatic screen diva Marlene Dietrich, will be shown in January (date tbd). In February, spotlights are on the German American actor, screenwriter, producer and film director Ernst Lubitsch (1892 – 1947), as we show the 2006 documentary "Ernst Lubitsch in Berlin - Von der Schönhauser Allee nach Hollywood" by Robert Fischer. Both, the movie about Marlene Dietrich and the one about the inventor of the "Lubitsch Touch", are the FilmFest's thematic contribution to our 250th Anniversary year, as they highlight and explain the impact and contributions of German-Americans to the US film industry. For the April and May dates, the films have yet to be chosen, but one thing is sure: we are looking forward to an exciting new movie season !

— Beate Brockmann

Calendar of Upcoming Events

September 2013

- Thur. Sept. 12 Start of German Society's Philly Kinder, Overbrook
 Sat. Sept. 14 1:30pm *Buchclub*, Library, with Ralf Rothmann's "Junges Licht" (Young Light)
 Sat. Sept. 14 10am Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting in the Ratskeller
 Mon. Sept. 16 Start of Fall Term 12-Weeks Language classes for Adults
 Mon. Sept. 16 7pm Board of Directors Meeting, Ratskeller
 Wed. Sept. 18 Women's Auxiliary Bustrip to Morristown, NJ
 Sat. Sept. 21 9am Start of Fall Term 10-Weeks Language classes for Kids
 Sat. Sept. 21 2pm German Society Oktoberfest
 Sun. Sept. 22 3pm **"Wister and More!" Concert Series** - The Wister Quartet (Staneck, Haydn, Beethoven)
 Wed. Sept. 25 7pm *Konversationsabend - The German Federal Elections of the prior Sunday - Hardy von Auenmueller will lead a discussion on the election results and preceding campaigns*

October 2013

- Sat. Oct. 5 10am Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting in the Ratskeller
 Mon. Oct. 21 10am Executive Committee Meeting
 Fri. Oct. 25 6:30pm Friday FilmFest presents "Barbara" (German with English subtitles), Ratskeller
 Sun. Oct. 27 3pm **"Wister and More!" Concert Series - Elissa Lee Koljonen & Natalie Zhu**
 Wed. Oct. 30 7pm *Konversationsabend - Hommage an Richard Wagner*
 Wed. Oct. 30 5pm Planned Giving Seminar (sponsored by The Philadelphia Foundation)

November 2013

- Sat. Nov. 2 10am Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting in the Ratskeller
 Sat. Nov. 9 249th Stiftungsfest (Founders' Ball)
 Sun. Nov. 10 St. Martin's Parade
 Fri. Nov. 15 6:30pm Friday FilmFest presents "Vitus" (German with English subtitles), Ratskeller
 Sun. Nov. 17 3pm **"Wister and More!" Concert Series - The Barnard Trio**
 Mon. Nov. 18 7pm Board of Directors Meeting, Ratskeller
 Wed. Nov. 27 7pm *Konversationsabend, Topic: tbd*

The German Society of Pennsylvania



Come and join us on Saturday, Sept. 21, 2013 at 2:00pm !

For more information, visit

www.germansociety.org/oktoberfest.html !

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Anticipating our 250th
Anniversary Celebrations
throughout 2014

