



## Chairman's Comments (More than) Building News

In mid-January when a cold front was approaching Philadelphia, I attempted to escape it by flying to Germany – only to face a Siberian winter with lots of snow and temperatures in the single digits on the Fahrenheit scale upon my arrival in Frankfurt. Our plane had to be de-iced before flying on to Hamburg. The roads were barely passable. The only mode of transportation that worked like a charm was the German Railway. Luckily, I had made all my reservations on line – at a substantial discount – and did not miss a single connection. *Hoch lebe die Deutsche Bahn!*

After a Board meeting with my colleagues at a Rostock-based shipbuilding company, I went to Dresden hoping to corral support from the Saxon government for a concert by the *Dresdner Philharmonie*, and to Halle to thank the *Franckesche Stiftungen* for financing the *H.M. Muehlenberg* exhibit which was on display in our library last November. My trip concluded in Bayreuth, where the city prepares for the 200th anniversary celebration of *Richard Wagner*, and the 250<sup>th</sup>, of *Jean Paul*. There is a bust of Jean Paul in our library. His real name was *Johann Paul Friedrich Richter*, but all his writings  
*Cont'd on page 2*

A few weeks ago we started the construction work on the “Big Dig Project.” This project will address a 120-plus year old problem of water intrusion into the basement now and will continue to protect the building for the next 100-plus years. During the next 10 months, there will be a lot of very visible and sometimes irritating construction work going on when you come to our building.

The entire project is scheduled to be completed in 8 sections – the first of which has started in our garden. Given certain circumstances and our limited financial resources, we decided to excavate the entire 24ft long, 4 ft wide and approximately 9 ft deep trench by hand. It's a journey of discovery because there are absolutely no records about the below grade structure of our building. We are determined to develop a solution that solves the water intrusion problem once and forever.

Section 2 includes an option that many members have dreamt about for a long time. I propose to establish direct access from the Ratskeller level to our garden. This would make the garden much more usable than ever before and would create an advantage for the Ratskeller too; indoor-outdoor events like the “Summer of Riesling” last year would be much  
*Cont'd on page 4*

## President's Message

I am constantly surprised at the generosity of our friends and members who believe in the mission of the Society and who continue to support us in many ways. In fact we could not maintain our building nor could we continue to offer new programs and activities without the help of many members and friends.

Our Annual Fund Drive goal this year is \$55,000, and it will be a challenge to reach this level of  
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*Chairman's Comments Cont'd*

were under the pen name *Jean Paul*. He was a prolific German Romantic writer, best known for his humorous novels and stories. His birthday, March 21, is also revered by devotees of *Johann Sebastian Bach*.

The music of *Richard Wagner*—likewise a Leipzig native—will be heard throughout the world during his jubilee, and the Bayreuth Festival will be expanded this year. There will be at least five *Lohengrin* performances in May, by the *Semper Opera* ensemble under the baton of *Christian Thielemann*. I had the privilege of hearing them while visiting Dresden in January. It is a pity though that the *Markgräfliche Opernhaus* — with its new UNESCO World Heritage label — is currently obstructed by scaffolding, as is the *Festspielhaus*, which is also in need of major repairs. Couldn't the Wagner clan have timed these *Baustellen* better for this year's celebration?

Fortunately, our auditorium and stage are not suitable for Wagnerian music, so we will concentrate our efforts for the next season on chamber music, piano recitals and choral works, just as in years past.

As of this writing, we have made the following commitments: The **Wister Quartet** will open the season with a performance on September 26, to be fol-

lowed by **Elissa Lee Koljonen & Natalie Zhu** on October 20 (May-be Roberto Diaz, President of the Curtis Institute and husband of Ms. Koljonen, will again surprise us with his viola, as he did last April), and the **Barnard Trio** — comprising Nancy Bean, Lloyd Smith and Davyd Booth — will make its debut on our stage on November 17. The **Ephratha Cloister Chorus** will again return to our premises with their vast repertoire of choral music, just before the Christmas Holidays on December 15.

The new year will start again, on January 5, with a recital by the dazzling young pianist, **Claire Huangci**, who enchanted us on prior occasions. A four-handed piano concert will be rendered by our **Davyd Booth & Michael Stearns** in a joint venture with the Delius Society on February 2.

Thereafter, we are planning to present a **new Bach opera**, currently written by Chuck Holdeman who recently became a member our Society — in cooperation with the **Bethlehem Bach Choir** under the direction of Maestro Greg Funfgeld on March 2, provided the appropriate funding support can be secured. You surely do not want to miss that event. So please mark your calendar.

That is not all. There will be a performance of the **Wister Quartet** on March 23, to be followed by a return of the **American Virtuosi** — represented by the Bo-

rowsky siblings, Elizabeth, Emmanuel and Francis Grace — on April 20; and as a closure for the season, we plan to present, on May 18, yet another four-handed piano concert by the **Estrella Piano Duo** — featuring two Russian emigres, Elena Doubovitskaya & Svetlana Belsky, who are now teaching and living in Chicago.

Please make your booking early, as we expect a full house for each and every performance while celebrating our **250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** in the coming year. I hope to see many of you on those Sunday afternoons. Coffee and Cake, as well as the opportunity to talk to the artists, will be offered after each concert in our Ratskeller.

— Hardy von Auenmueller

PS: The following friends and members of our Society made further contributions to the **SAVA Educational Fund**, lodged with the Philadelphia Foundation for the benefit of the German Society's Endowment Fund: Hans & Cherry Bombeck, Kimberley Clark, Werner & Marleen Hein, Gabriele Windeck Lee, Philip & Doris Steinberg, Hank & Dore Stoffel and Hardy von Auenmueller.

This fund has now passed the \$10,000 mark, and needs to grow tenfold before distributions will be made.

*President's Message Cont'd*

giving. To date we have received \$41,600 and members of the Board of Directors have contributed \$17,100 or 41% of the total. I thank all who have donated. We will keep the Drive open through the month of April. So it is not too late to participate.

We were awarded \$7,289 by the Philadelphia Cultural Fund which can be, and more importantly, will be used to support operational expenses. With 246 non-for-profit cultural and historic organizations participating in the City's Cultural Fund of \$1.8 MM this year, we just about received our fair, proportioned share.

As noted in prior reports, the City of Philadelphia has significantly reduced the funding level for this important program. We were asked and have written letters to the City administration with the request that prior funding levels are restored.

I am so happy to report that we received several special grants from the Cannstatter Foundation Inc., the Max Kade Foundation and the German Society of New York City for capital building projects, funding for our Library and general operating support, respectively. We are very grateful for these grants.

Efforts to fund our Endowment continue. Twenty-seven friends and members have contributed \$327,000 and we have \$52,000 in outstanding commitments. And fifteen have indicated that the Soci-

ety is included in wills and estate plans. Six donations were made in memory of a parent, parents or a spouse. Four annuities have been written with the Philadelphia Foundation and, as Charles Birnstiel describes in an accompanying article, these investments provide the donor with very attractive returns while the Society is ultimately the beneficiary. At the February meeting of Women's Auxiliary, I had the opportunity to speak to the group about our Endowment. I would like to again thank all who have participated and also acknowledge the many good discussions I had with members as well as friends of the Society. I should also note that at the invitation of our good friend, Ray Dietrich, I attended the October meeting of the *Schlaraffia*, in their *Burg* at the Erzgebirge Club. Not only was I treated as a special guest to a nice dinner, I was also given the opportunity to present an overview of our Endowment efforts.

Our elections for six officers and five directors will take place at the Society on May 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM. This newsletter lists all the candidates and a brief summary of their vision statements. Our Nominating Committee has come up with a strong slate of candidates who will bring their personal experiences and drive to the Board. Ms. Monica Kulaski has elected not to run for a second term. We thank her for her services. She will remain active

with Library activities as a volunteer.

I am hopeful that many of you will come to this important event. It is an opportunity to talk about anticipated activities and programs at the Society, and most importantly, to hear from our members.

Our 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary is just around the corner. Our Planning Committee is getting excited about possibilities to celebrate this historic milestone with members and friends and also to engage interested parties and develop new cooperative programs or partnerships. We plan to start the celebratory year on December 29, 2013 and close the year on December 28, 2014. Moreover, we hope to feature special events at the Society almost every month. There likely will be several new social activities and musical presentations. We will share specific details as soon as our plans are a bit more firm. To support these celebrations we will have to seek some supplemental donations or grants. Beyond funding, we will also need a strong and talented group of volunteers to help us get ready for various functions and to help spruce up the building and the exterior. I already heard from Christel Tillmann that the Women's Auxiliary will support our 250<sup>th</sup> activities as best as they can. I sincerely hope that many of you would like to be engaged in this exciting celebration as well.

— Ernest D. Weiler

## Building News

(More than) *Building News* Cont'd easier to realize. The idea of using the garden in 2014 for video viewing during the World Soccer Championship would become possible.

In my last contribution to the *Staatsbote*, I expressed the opinion that we need to expand our program offerings in order to attract new and younger members to the GSP and that too few of our events deal with German/American contemporary culture. Happily, I have been successful in organizing a concert with a group of music theater students from Germany. These young artists from the Folkwang Universität in Essen are in the final stage of preparing for careers as professional singer/actors. They will perform in our Auditorium on May 5, 2013 at 3pm. The title of their concert is "Stay With Me" and will present a mixture of familiar and contemporary theater songs in both German and English.

This is an opportune time (just a year before we celebrate our 250th anniversary) to reach out to younger people by showing that we also have a modern side. I hope that our program in the upcoming year will offer more opportunities to present ourselves as an organization that has a solid and relevant place in the 21st century.

— Tony Michels

## Remembering Ray Dietrich

Two months ago—on February 1, 2013—we were all stunned by the sudden death of **Ray Alvin Dietrich**, caused by cardiac arrest. He has been a long-time, very supportive member our our Society – serving on our Board before and during critical years of transition, and always lending a helping hand when there was a need. By his gentle and caring manner, he made many friends and was admired by all.

Ray was born 86 years ago in Fleetwood, PA – a borough in Berks County, settled by Pennsylvania Germans more than 250 years ago. He was a sixth-generation German-American, spoke his forebears' dialect and was an avid student of the German language and culture in his retirement years.

After graduating from Milton Hershey High School, he studied Chemistry at Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA. He subsequently joined the Atlas Powder Company\*, a manufacturer of explosives, working there for 35 years. He so identified with that long professional association that he adopted the name "**Ritter Spreng**" – as an active, forty year member of the *Schlaraffia Philadelphia* organization.

Ray was also a lifelong member of the American Chemical Society

(his daughter recently found a certificate and a pen attesting to a fifty year membership) and supported the Chemical Heritage Foundation in Philadelphia for more than ten years.

His love for singing is underscored by his active participation in the *Franklinville-Schwarzwald Männerchor* who, like his *Schlaraffia* brethren, will be joining us in a **Memorial Gathering at the**

**German Society on Saturday, April 20, 2013 at 3:00 PM.**

Please call our office to let us know if you are planning to attend this celebration honoring Ray's Life. Coffee/Tea and homemade cakes will be served by mem-

bers of the Women's Auxiliary. His daughter, **Gretchen Mulligan** let it be known that memorial contributions – in Ray's name – may be made to the German Society.

— Hardy von Auenmueller

\*That company was an offshoot of DuPont, following the latter's divestiture ordered by the Federal Government under the Sherman Antitrust Act, in 1912. During Ray's time, the company was acquired by ICI, and is now part of Akzo Nobel.



## Annual Fund Donors \*

For privacy reasons, these names  
have been removed.

\*) The above listing of names  
reflects all the donors whose contri-  
butions were received at our office  
by Friday, March 22, 2013.

We greatly appreciate the sum total  
of their giving in the amount of  
\$42,248.

— Beate Brockmann

## GSP Book Sale

At the sale planned for June 8 and 9, the Library hopes to tackle its 3D problem – the shelves crammed with donated, duplicate, or de-accessioned books. Let me give you a brief background why we feel the necessity to part with these holdings: First of all, people do leave books literally on our doorstep simply because they're in German, without considering that we might already have them or whether they are appropriate for a general audience.

Secondly, while incorporating the holdings of the Carl Schurz Memorial Association into our Main Collection, we have discovered many duplicates for which we would like to find new homes.

Finally, made possible by a grant from the Max Kade Foundation, we have been cataloging the non-fiction part of the old Lending Library, using the occasion for what is called “weeding” among librarians: identifying titles no longer relevant within the current scope of the Library. A major deciding factor has been regional availability: if Penn or Temple or the Free Library already have the book, it does not make sense to devote our limited resources to store yet another copy.

I hope this description will give you an idea what to expect in the Auditorium: pretty much everything will be in German, many will have a stamp marking them as withdrawn, and most of them will be rather cheap! The proceeds of the sale will

be used for urgently needed preservation efforts and for additions to the new and improved Lending Library. — Maria Sturm

## Our 2013 GHI-GSP Summer Fellows: A Preview

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of the German Historical Institute in Washington we will again have three or four GHI-GSP fellows in the Horner Library in the coming summer months June and July. In an international competition with applicants from the United States, Britain and Germany, four scholars have been selected, and we hope that all will use the opportunity and do their research in our unique collection of books, manuscripts, pamphlets, and newspapers. German-American history and culture is the main focus; their projects reach from the seventeenth to the twentieth century.

The earliest project takes a new look at the transatlantic Quaker community and its enormous impact on Atlantic trade in the 17th and 18th centuries. As we know, Quakers were instrumental in the settling of Germantown after its founding by Francis Pastorius.

Among other things the study will pursue the question to what extent German Quakers participated in the economic ascent of this group. Immigration is the focus of another project, also by a doctoral student, in this case focusing on the image of

Germany by the descendants of immigrants, mostly the second generation. What makes this projects especially exciting is the fact that the fellow will also pursue the experiences of immigrants after 1945 – clearly a focus that reverberates among members of the German Society.

Our literary holdings will be the material for a comprehensive study of the genre of the literary anthology, with emphasis on the anthology for German-American readers. This entails school- and textbooks as well as anthologies of poems, short stories, and other literary forms that were popular between 1880 and 1945. Horner contains, of course, a plethora of these books. The fourth project turns to a topic that has not received much interest but shows a strong influence of German expertise on American agricultural practices, especially in forestry. It pursues the German-American dialogue about sustainable land use and natural resource conservation. With its holdings of newspapers and pamphlets, Horner might provide new insights into this dialogue since the 1870s that was carried by the American appreciation of Germany's unique contribution to nature preservation and land management.

At a later date we will be able to announce another of the successful brown bag luncheons in the Ratskeller at which the fellows will present their findings. — Frank Trommler

### **Annual Members' Meeting and Election**

On Sunday, May 19, 2013 at 3:00 pm, the German Society of Pennsylvania will hold its Annual Meeting of Members/Election for Directors at 611 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123.

Members must be in good standing to be eligible to vote, i.e. current on dues no later than the end of business, Friday, May 17, 2013. Members wishing to vote must be present at the meeting. There is no provision for absentee ballots or proxy voting under the Society's By-laws.

If you have any questions about your current membership status, please contact the Society's office at (215) 627-2332 and speak with *Beate Brockmann*, or e-mail her at *info@germansociety.org*.

A slate of eleven (11) candidates was presented and approved by the Board of Directors at the March 18, 2013 meeting. The vision statements and photos of the various candidates follow below.

— Christiane Schmidt, Secretary

For the privacy of our candidates, their mission statements and photos have been removed.







**Board of Director's Meeting:**

Immediately following the above Members' Meeting, the newly elected Board of Directors will convene in the Ratskeller.

— Christiane Schmidt, Secretary

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## Greetings from Sharan Knoell – our former Business Manager

Three months ago, on the sixth day of Christmas, two former GSP Board colleagues and I were invited to attend a Sunday service in Germantown. At the two-hundred-year-old Church, built by German craftsman, we were enchanted to hear Sharan's first sermon, as a Princeton seminarian in ministerial training, to the Presbyterian community of that borough – on the challenging subject, "**living together in unity**"!

She started out by noting that there is a difference between "living together" and "living together in unity." She illustrated this by referring to her own family, where she and her brother, only two years apart, shared the same home (and parents), yet with many arguments between them. Her brother, Geoff, throughout his high school and college years, would not start his home work until the day before the assignments were due. Then he insisted upon his brotherly privilege to ask her to write or proofread his assignments. This resulted in lively, and sometimes ferocious, arguments.

In return, she would take advantage of his gullibility, and con him into doing anything that would benefit her. He regularly bought her Christmas and birthday presents that he might also enjoy, so that he could borrow them – and vice versa. While this is actually a

win-win situation, it does not work when one decides to keep the item rather than returning it. No wonder, their mother, more often than once, said all she wanted for her birthday or Christmas was "a day without fighting."

In biblical times, the idea of "living together" did not necessarily mean under the same roof. It meant dwelling in close proximity. That was important to maintain a sense of community, and to keep hereditary possession undivided upon someone's death. When a man died, his brother would take the widow and children as his own, who would then carry on the name of the surviving brother. Although times are different from when these laws were created, we can see how such customs became necessary to pass on family names and inheritances.

Just think about your own home, or the one in which you grew up. Would it have been easier to live together in unity, if you were not living under the same roof? Think of any reality TV show. It is successful because it focuses on people who live together and fight. Even the twelve disciples were not immune. They began arguing which one of them was the greatest immediately after the Last Supper. Quarreling and fighting are natural consequences of living together. But how do we achieve unity, and

how do we find harmony if we cannot get along with our neighbors, friends or family members?

Here, the Bible tells us – as Sharan pointed out – "to bear with one another, to forgive". While there is no obligation to live without quarrel, there is an obligation to endure it with one another. And if we were to admit that the quarrel started because we were jealous of someone or something, would we then be able to forgive and be forgiven? The same holds true if we were insensitive to what the other person was saying or feeling, or if we admit that we were angry about something else entirely and are just taking it out on the other person.

In closing, she stated that the church she is serving has been going through some difficult times – due to financial concerns – which is affecting the unity within the parish, and the effectiveness of its outreach towards the Germantown community. We, at the German Society, are also facing many challenges these days, and probably would do much better if we were to admit our own shortcomings.

Both, my friends and I, believed that Sharan has truly found her calling!

— Hardy von Auenmueller

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**A Hearty Welcome to  
our New Society Members!**

For privacy reasons, these names  
have been removed.



**Endowment Fund  
Charles Birnstiel**

Since 1948, I have been continuously employed in civil engineering – first in industry, then in academia, and later as a consultant. Having been raised in the East Harlem section of New York City by immigrant parents from Bavaria, I had learned about frugality. Since the 50s, I saved a few *Groschen* and purchased several utility stocks. But that didn't turn out too well. I then put my money into savings accounts. However, now local banks pay interest of max. 0.5% on savings.

In 2011, when my utility stocks were paying a very low dividend, I decided to investigate the possibility of purchasing a gift annuity through The Philadelphia Foundation to benefit the German Society. I had learned about the charitable annuity program from the *Staatsbote* and Ernie Weiler. I paid for the annuity by donating my low-performing utility stock. The Philadelphia Foundation annuity has paid me 7.8% since I purchased it, which is 16 times the bank interest rate, and well above the current real rate of inflation here in the US.

Last year, I bought yet another gift annuity which also pays 7.8% interest. I will never become rich, of course, but at least some of my money will earn me a regular, care-free income..., and the remainder will benefit the German Society.

— Charles Birnstiel

**In Memoriam of  
Wolfgang Sawallisch**

At the February 23 concert of the *Duo Parisienne* ensemble, Nancy Been who has led our Wister Quartet series for many years, announced that *Wolfgang Sawallisch* had died two days earlier.

Maestro Sawallisch had an extraordinary, close relationship with the Philadelphia Orchestra, which he led for almost ten years.

He was also an accomplished pianist, and volunteered his services to the German Society each year, joining the Wister Quartet for many memorable appearances – always returning his artist's fee with a gracious "thank you." In those days, ours were among the few Sunday afternoon chamber music concerts offered. We enjoyed full houses due to his widespread popularity.

Maestro Sawallisch embodied the German type of *Kapellmeister* in the best sense: a man steeped in the music, who knew every note of every score he conducted – often from memory. He was a supportive accompanist as well as an informed interpreter who understood how to train, develop and lead an orchestra. His specialties were the "classics," from Haydn and Mozart through Schumann to Wagner, Bruckner and Strauss.

The world of music has lost a great man!

— Hardy von Auenmueller

## German "Trachten" Exhibit

For three weeks this Spring – from **April 15 through May 5, 2013** – we will present the German *Trachten* Exhibit in our Library. It consists of about twenty mannequins dressed with a great variety of traditional regional costumes from various German provinces and former enclaves in Eastern Europe. These showpieces have been collected over many years by **Ms. Karin Gottier**. She is also well known as a teacher and organizer of folk dance camps and weekend workshops across the United States, and abroad. Hence, she is the recipient of many awards, including the *Bundesverdienstkreuz*.

The German word *Trachten*, she explains, is derived from the verb *tragen*, which means “to wear.” From illustrations as far back as the Middle Ages, we know that clothing styles varied from region to region.

With the beginning of the Romantic Era, artists and scholars became aware of the regional diversity, and beauty of native dress. Far from remaining static through the centuries, *Trachten* did, and still do change. However, not every new fashion trend is incorporated. The adaptations are rather selec-

tive, such as the shape of a sleeve, the length of a skirt or the use of stylized trim and ribbons.

Within a village society, a *Tracht* was assigned to the individual, representing his or her place in the community – according to age, marital status, religious affiliation, and life situation. Everyone knew who you were and what conduct was expected of you. There was a catalogue of occasions that prescribed which clothing, and accessories, to wear. Usually, the most showy and costly clothing was for the high holidays. One step down was a set of clothing for secular festivals. And going out of town, shopping and visiting required yet another set. Finally, there was clothing for work – usually made of sturdy material, supplemented by worn-out items of the better wardrobe.

Towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, there was a tremendous upsurge of national consciousness all over Europe. Young people especially were looking for symbols of ethnic

identity, turning to their native dress to show their affiliation with their respective country. German women expressed their search for new values by adopting the style of clothing of the rural population. By wearing these garments, they rejected the excesses of con-

temporary fashion which they viewed as manifestations of a decadent society. Thus, the *Dirndl* dress was born. With its growing popularity, the clothing and sportswear manufacturers began to promote the *Dirndl* fashion. It became subject to fashion – with ever changing styles.

Today, most *Trachten* are not readily available to be purchased from the rack. They are custom made by artisans who are experts in embroidery, quilting, leather and other hand work. They are not inexpensive. In fact, a complete ensemble could easily cost \$5,000, or more. The materials used are wool, linen, silk, hand made lace, embroidered leather, and the buttons are of silver, pewter, mother-of-pearl or spun yarn. If your appetite has been whetted by now, please come and see this exhibit. Please check the opening hours with our office.

– Hardy von Auenmueller



## From the Office

Time flies - I've been with the German Society for 1½ years now - and it seems like yesterday that I have started. Thank you for your support and for making me feel welcome. It's the privilege of a newcomer to notice all the things that could be improved, or be done differently. When I started, I noticed many. :-) But the longer I stayed, the more I also noticed how far the German Society had come already: seven years ago, when Sharan started, there was no elevator, no modern bathrooms, no Endowment Fund and the rental program was in its very beginnings. Today, I can benefit from many improvements - but I have to face also new challenges: our beautiful building attracts more and more potential users and hence the amount of time necessary to steer the rental program has significantly risen. New projects like PhillyKinder, the Endowment Fund, our special events like the Bierfest: all develop beautifully. But each new project needs specific attention and care from the Office. Fortunately, since January, our new part time administrative assistant Zdenka takes some of these tasks off my shoulders. But there are more challenges ahead: replacing the phone system, creating a modern website and installing a new Membership administration software that can fulfill today's requirements, to name but the most urgent. I am looking forward to tackle them together with you! — Beate Brockmann

## New Administrative Assistant

For me, coming to Philadelphia actually meant rediscovering my roots: I was born here, after my parents had left Croatia to work at the Hahnemann University Hospital. However, they returned, and thus I grew up in Croatia and Germany. I have studied German and Hungarian languages and literature at the University of Zagreb, and later on Arts Management at the Franz Liszt Music School in Weimar, Germany. I have worked as a German teacher, and also for various art and cultural organizations. After gaining experience in museums project management and in the publishing business in Croatia, I decided to return to Philadelphia. Since my arrival last October, things have moved very fast. I started an internship at the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks, where I am now employed as a Communications and Development Officer. While still in Croatia, I had discovered the German Society on the web, and was hoping for a job opportunity there. Well, here I am. I love Philadelphia, the people, and its rich cultural and art scene, and look forward to new adventurous discoveries. — Zdenka Roša



## Lecture Series & Discussion Forums

Ever since I first came in contact with with the German Society, I have been involved with the *Konversationsabend*. I led it for the first decade of this century. Its leadership is now in the good hands of *Helga Halbfass*. It is evident, however, that there is room for an added discussion forum or lecture circle which can be held in English – rather than German – affording all members of our Society to participate, if the subject matter is of interest to them.

There are many notables – with academic backgrounds – whom we can recruit for lectures or colloquies on different subjects that will be of interest to the German-American community here in Philadelphia.

Last month, we had two of them: First, a dialogue on “Intercultural Experiences in German American Encounters” led by Martin Kaiser of the *Gustav Stresemann Institut* of Bad Bevensen attended by ten Society members. We passed on invitations to both, St. Joseph University and Muhlenberg College, for interested students wishing to participate in an international conference in Germany, the cost of which is heavily subsidized by the German Government.

*Cont'd on page 15*

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### Lecture Series Cont'd

And then, we hosted eleven **German Pastors** from North Rhine Westphalia who came to Philadelphia for a week to learn about the integration and assimilation of the many different ethnic and immigrants groups in our city. Since Germany has been receiving ever increasing numbers of immigrants coming from Eastern Europe since the end of the Cold War and from other parts of the world as well, most centers of major cities experience population surges of people with different cultural backgrounds. Hence, the discussions here with various interfaith and social outreach groups proved to be of great value.

Several other worthy lecturers have let it been known that they are prepared to cover as diverse subjects, such as the "Arab Spring", the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, persecution of the Bahai in Iran, "Insights into the Saxon Government," and a discussion on the life of the eminent Swiss Protestant Theologian Karl Barth.

The dates for the latter two presentations have already been confirmed: May 7 and June 6 with Dr. Sebastian Lindner and Prof. Darrel Guder, respectively. Since both lecturers are fluent in English and German, the discussion can be held in either language.

— Hardy von Auenmueller

### April

- Sat. April 6 10:00am Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting in the Ratskeller
- Sat. April 6 7:00pm Hamburger Abend - Ratskeller
- Sun. April 7 3:00pm "Wister and More" Concert Series - The Delius Society featuring British baritone Mark Stone
- Sat. April 13 1:30pm *Buchclub* - with W. G. Sebald's "Die Ausgewanderten" (English title: *The Emigrants*), Haas Room, 1:30pm
- Mon. April 15 10:00am Executive Committee Meeting
- Mon. April 15 Begin of Spring Term 12-Weeks Language classes for Adults
- Fri. April 19 6:30pm Friday FilmFest presents "Deutschland von Oben" (German with German subtitles)
- Wed. April 24 7:00pm *Konversationsabend, Topic: Das Wistar-Institut, mit Prof. Bernhard Dietzschold*
- Sat. April 27 Begin of Spring Term 10-Weeks Language classes for Kids
- Sun. April 28 3:00pm **"Wister and More!" Concert Series** - The Wister Quartet

### May

- Sat. May 4 Women's Auxiliary Luncheon
- Sun. May 5 3:00pm Concert of *Folkwang Universitaet der Kuenste*
- Tues. May 7 7:00pm *Konversationsabend EXTRA, Topic: Einblicke in die saechsische Regierungsarbeit*, presented by Dr. Sebastian Lindner, Saechsische Staatskanzlei, Dresden - Ratskeller
- Sat. May 11 1:30pm *Buchclub*, Haas Room
- Fri. May 17 6:30pm Friday FilmFest presents "Gruppenbild mit Dame" (German with German subtitles)
- Sun. May 19 3:00pm Annual Members Meeting
- Sun. May 19 Board of Directors Meeting - Ratskeller, 5pm
- Wed. May 29 7:00pm *Konversationsabend, Topic: Panorama-Museum in Bad Frankenhausen*

### June

- Thur. June 6 *Konversationsabend EXTRA, Topic: Karl Barth, the eminent Swiss Protestant Theologian* - lecture by Dr. Darrel Guder, Princeton Theological Seminary - Ratskeller, 7pm
- Mon. Jun 17 Executive Committee Meeting, 10am - 12pm

## Support for our Annual Fund

Dear Members and Friends:

A month ago, we sent out an e-mail requesting that you be as generous as possible in your support of this year's Annual Fund Drive – especially in view of the additional water intrusion issues we are facing of late, with our building.

Whenever it rains, our premises are literally drenched from various sides. The leak in the broken downspout hidden in the walls of our Library, has been temporarily fixed. But since that wall – all the way down to the stage floor of our auditorium – and the bookcases in that area were soaked, the overall damage has been considerable.

The ceilings of our cataloger's office and the adjacent Carl-Schurz-Room are threatened as a result of continued water intrusion over the past decade, which can also be traced to the flawed roof construction of the 1990's. Beyond that, the repeated sewage back-ups in our basement need to be corrected before our new bathroom facilities are ruined.

Since the US stock market has reached historic highs in recent weeks, but cannot be expected to continue that way, it might be advisable for you to "take profit". I am sure you will feel much better if part of that money is gifted to your favorite causes. By doing so, you can reduce your Federal tax liability to zero – as I have practiced over the past four years. Any questions? Please call me. — Hardy von Auenmueller

### The German Society of Pennsylvania

611 Spring Garden Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19123-3505

Phone (215) 627-2332

Fax (215) 627-5297

Email: [info@germansociety.org](mailto:info@germansociety.org)

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

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*The official registration information of the German Society of Pennsylvania may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999.*

*Registration does not imply endorsement.*



Save the date:  
Women's Luncheon  
Saturday, May 4th, 2013

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The German Society of Pennsylvania  
611 Spring Garden Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19123-3505

