

Calendar of Events

July 21 - Aug 7

German Society Office Closed

Sat. Aug. 18	Buchclub: Günter Grass's " <i>Die Blechtrommel/The Tin Drum</i> ", 1.30pm
Sat. Aug. 29	Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10.00am
Wed. Sep. 9	Konversationsabend: Actualities, 6.00pm
Sat. Sep. 12	Buchclub: Jana Hensel's " <i>Zonenkinder/After the Wall</i> ", 1.30pm
Sun. Sep. 13	Franklinville-Schwarzwald Männerchor Concert, 3.00pm
Sat. Sep. 19	Book Sale
Sat. Sep. 19	Brown Bag Lecture: Dr. Charles Birnstiel/Donald Meyer CFRE - "The German Roots of Wartburg College in Iowa", 12.00pm
Sun. Sept. 20	"Wister and More!" presents Trio Montage, 3.00pm
Sat. Oct. 3	German Heritage Festival
Sat. Oct. 3	Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10.00am
Wed. Oct. 14	Konversationsabend: Hans Kueng's " <i>Die Frau im Christentum</i> ", 6.00pm
Fri. Oct. 23	Friday FilmFest presents " <i>Deutschlandspiel</i> ", 6.30pm
Sun. Oct. 25	"Wister and More!" presents the Hamburg-Flottbek Church Choir, 3pm

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The German Society of Pennsylvania

Neuer Pennsylvanischer
Staatsbote

CELEBRATING
250
1764-2014
YEARS OF
**GERMAN
HERITAGE**

Summer 2015

Building News and Beyond

Over the past six years as your Executive Vice President, I have focused largely on the conditions of our (not always graciously) aging building - even more so, because all of the other areas that I am responsible for such as day to day business, language school, rental program, many events, etc. are dependent on a functioning, safe and well maintained building. I believe that the German Society would not be what it is and what we want it to become in the future without this physical structure - a meeting place for all kinds of activities: concerts, events, festivities; home of the Library; source of substantial income for our organization and a major factor in our public outreach. In an ever-changing world, standards for buildings also change, not only because of building codes but also due to the expectations of our members, visitors and partners.

We are in the process of re-polishing this marvelous gemstone that we have inherited, adapting it to the requirements of modern technology and building standards and preparing it for generations to come. Many of our recent achievements can be seen not only in more appealing and user-friendly building features but also in greater visibility and outreach to the community. Our commitment to our building demonstrates that we are planning and investing in the German Society's future and are deserving of continued support in the form of volunteer efforts, donations, grants and media attention.

It will be necessary to develop creative solutions to address all of the projects that still remain in the upcoming years. We will need dedicated volunteers to organize these projects and

open-minded professional partners who understand our needs and support our wish for sustainable building practices at a reasonable cost.

By the end of this summer, two ongoing major projects, Waterproofing/BigDig and the Garden/ Leidy Terrace will be completed but the next huge project is already in the planning phase. There is an urgent need to replace nearly every heating, cooling and ventilation system in our building. The steam heating system in the Auditorium is beyond repair and the Library suffers under a more and more unreliable and failing AC system.

At the present time, we are consulting with an engineering company to establish a Master Plan for the entire building addressing its current and future needs. It is clear that we cannot tackle every HVAC problem simultaneously but we must establish a plan and acquire the necessary funding to execute this project over the next several years.

Our capital projects list is a long one and there will be no opportunity for boredom in this area during the next several years. As your newly elected president, I will still be in the trenches and hands-on with building projects but will extend my involvement into the many other "trenches" that need attention: financial viability (including the development of new sources of revenue), extended community outreach, membership growth and helping to ensure that the institution remains a vigorous and relevant source of enrichment for its members. I look forward to the challenges to come.

-Tony Michels

GERMAN FOOD



LIVE MUSIC

THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA'S

**GERMAN HERITAGE
FESTIVAL**

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SAT OCTOBER 3 3PM

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VP of Development Report

After six years it feels a bit strange to write a contribution to the Staatsbote as the Vice-President of Development. This title is commonly used by not-for-profit organizations as well as various educational institutions. The development function most often includes activities that focus on the financial viability of an organization rather than new programs or the expansion of activities. We will follow this model and limit the activities to growing our fledgling endowment fund and seeking grants from foundations for capital projects.

In the past six years we have learned that foundations may fund capital projects, but that they will not support operational needs. Hence, as we discussed many times in the past, our endowment is designed to provide both operational funds and most importantly to contribute to a capital reserve fund in a predictable manner. At this point we have collected \$675,000 in contributions to the endowment, but have decided not to take our yearly 4% (\$27,000) distribution to give the fund an opportunity to grow towards our interim goal of \$ 2.00 MM.

In the past few months we again learned why this capital reserve fund is so important to us. Our very dated steam heating system is finally beyond the point of repair and needs to be replaced before the fall and winter season starts. We are scrambling to obtain cost estimates and trying to figure out how to align this with other planned work and how to best fit this project into the schedule for upgrading the library heating and air-conditioning systems. The latter projects are funded by four grants, with the major portion coming from The William Penn Foundation. We believe that we will have to tap into our investment reserves to pay for the heating system, which will include a new boiler as well as a series of new hot water radiators. Final cost estimates should be available in the next few months and they are likely to be significant.

-Ernie Weiler

George Beichl Memorial Fund

In the prior issue of the Staatsbote, we announced the establishment of The George J. Beichl Memorial Fund as a part of the Society's Endowment at The Philadelphia Foundation. With the Beichl family's agreement, we believe this to be a fitting recognition of Dr. Beichl's many contributions to the Society and the wider German-American community.

Thanks to a very generous contribution from the Albert and Hete Barthelmes Foundation and donations from our members and friends, the Memorial Fund has reached the President's Circle level (donations of at least \$50,000). These giving levels in the Linden Society were established to recognize individual or group donations to the Endowment Fund. We believe that Dr. Beichl's service over the decades to various German-American causes deserves this special recognition at the higher giving level. The Barthelmes Foundation donated \$33500, and our members and friends of Dr. Beichl donated \$16,688. Since the last issue of the Staatsbote the following contributions have been received:

Names removed from online version

-Ernie Weiler

Annual Fund

The Annual Fund Drive is an important activity each year since this fund is used to help us balance our yearly budget. We set ourselves a reasonable goal of \$60,000 since we reached \$57,000 and \$58,000 in 2013 and 2014, respectively. As of this writing we are just short of \$50,000 and are hopeful that additional donations might still be forthcoming. The following contributions have been received since March 11, 2015. We are grateful for all donations.

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Konversationsabend Report

In soccer language, we might say it is nearly *Halbzeit*, and I am happy to report that the first half of the year went precisely as planned.

In February, we had a discussion on special aspects of WWI (led by H. Halbfass); in March there was a lot of fun with German dialects (Rosemarie Gaeffke even supplied some culinary specialties of East Prussia); in April Prof. H. Pfefferkorn (UPenn) provided a great presentation on pre-historical forests in China which turned into the coal deposits exploited today. We also learned that there is a research institute in Berlin (directed by Prof. Pfefferkorn) for German-Chinese geological excavation projects.

In May, Dr. Yvonne Shafer told us about her experiences with theater life in Berlin during the fall of 2014. It turned out that she is not only the author of a great number of books and publications on American and European theater (including a volume on American women playwrights), but she has herself performed on stage in various one-woman shows. Would she give us a little example? Of course! She got up, and in no time she turned into the famously infamous Mae West some of us still remember. Wonderful!

After the summer break, we will start again in September with an evening on "*Actualités*" (find out what that means). In October the discussion will be about the role/voice of women in the Christian tradition (based on Hans Kueng's book); in November, the rainy month, we plan on fun only (*Gesellschaftsspiele*), and the December meeting will be dedicated to poetry selected by members. Should any news happen in the meantime, we will report it in the fall!

-Helga Halbfass

GHI-GSP Research Fellows in 2015

Now in its ninth year, the joint fellowship program of the German Society and the German Historical Institute in Washington will bring four fellows to the Horner Library between June and August 2015. While one fellow, Elisabeth Piller, will make use of the twentieth-century collection for her project on Weimar Culture, the other three fellows will pursue research in topics of the “older” German-American history, reaching back to the sixteenth century.

Elisabeth Piller, whose dissertation is jointly supervised at the University of Heidelberg and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim, tackles the much neglected chapter of German cultural diplomacy after World War I in its links to German Americans. She is especially interested in the extensive relief work involving German Americans.

Andreas Obersdorf writes his dissertation at the University of Münster, Germany, with Professor Jürgen Overhoff who last year gave an inspiring talk at the German Society about William Penn’s travels in Germany. Obersdorf also pursues a much neglected topic: the catholic element among Pennsylvania Germans in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, particularly the efforts of German Catholics in educational reforms in the western part of the state. His interest has been sparked by a close connection between Münster and Pennsylvania in the figure of Demetrius Augustinus von Gallitzin (1770-1840) who left his noble family behind and devoted his life to educational reforms in Loretto, PA.

Protestants and their charity efforts from the 16th-19th centuries are the topic of Duane Corpis’s comprehensive study, “Overseas Charity and German Protestantism: Global Networks, Local Norms, 16th-19th Centuries.” Duane Corpis, Associate Professor at Cornell University, submits the existing perception of – mostly local – Protestant charity to a revision in light of the building of global networks. As the German Society’s primary mission was charity work for

German immigrants, its archival holdings promise to provide much material for his innovative work.

Tristan Coignard, Associate Professor in the Department of German Studies at the University of Bordeaux 3, focuses on the concept of the “rooted cosmopolitanism” by illuminating the life and work of Ludwig August Wollenweber, a political author and publisher in the nineteenth century. Coignard sees Wollenweber’s mediation between the Palatinate and Pennsylvania as exemplary not just for the expansive worldview of an educated immigrant between two countries but also for a particular form of cosmopolitanism that maintains its roots in a particular area and a particular regionalism.

-Frank Trommler

Meet Our New Librarian

Hello, I am the “new” librarian here at the German Society. New is actually not quite accurate: I have actually worked in the Horner Library on and off for over 20 years! I was first hired in 1994 to work on the cataloging project, which aimed to catalog the historical library into a shared database and make our library holdings easily accessible to users. That goal was largely accomplished and I left to work at the Library Company of Philadelphia and the Rare Books Department of the Free Library of Philadelphia, not to mention raising my children in the interim.

I returned to the German Society in 2007 and joined the newly-formed Library Committee. Our goal was to reopen the library, which had been closed for some time. Since then, thanks to grant funding, I have continued to catalog portions of the Main Library and German American Collection. We have made great strides in the last few years in completing the cataloging. I look forward to moving into the new role of Librarian to continue improving access to our collections for German Society members as well as outside researchers.

-Bettina Hess

Departure of Our Librarian

It is with a mixture of sadness and excitement that I am writing my final Staatsbote column as the German Society’s Librarian. These past two and a half years have afforded me opportunities that few librarians receive this early in their careers, and I feel very fortunate to have been not only permitted but encouraged to cultivate a broad array of experiences here. I have relished my tenure in this building, working with these amazing library collections and the myriad patrons who have contacted and visited the library during this time. After all, where else could I have contributed to a history museum exhibit and hosted a sauerkraut-making workshop within the span of a single year? While I am moving on in terms of my career, I’m not actually moving away from the area, so I hope to continue to see all of you at future German Society events!

-Chrissy Bellizzi

The German Society at the Philadelphia History Museum

The evening of May 6th, 2015 saw the opening of the German Society’s exhibit in the Community Voices Gallery of the Philadelphia History Museum. More than one hundred visitors (German Society as well as Museum members) enjoyed the reception. There were delicious sandwiches from Rieker’s, German beer and wine (well, not the red wine – other countries still do that better than Germany!), and a little concert by the Franklinville-Schwarzwald Männerchor under the direction of Jackie Smith.



The exhibit serves as a wonderful way to extend the Society’s 250th Anniversary into another year and another location, and has pro-

vided us with the first opportunity ever to showcase our holdings in a professional manner – many thanks to Jordan Klein, the exhibit designer, for letting the Society quite literally shine in a different light! I hope you will find the time over the summer (and into the fall) to visit the museum and see for yourself.

Highlights include two pistols used by General Peter Muhlenberg in the Revolutionary War (on loan from the Museum of the American Revolution), a beer stein having belonged to Robert Blum (the famous martyr of the failed German Revolution of 1848), a sword commemorating General Ballier’s role in the American Civil War, rare books from the Library’s collection, as well as more recent memorabilia like the German national team jersey of the 2014 World Cup!



Looking ahead, there will be additional programming to complement the exhibit, for example an afternoon with the Franklinville-Schwarzwald Männerchor on September 13, a guided tour to coincide with German-American Day on October 2, and a cooking-related event. Whatever it is that might pique your interest, be sure to go see the exhibit before it closes on October 17th – and if you have never been to the Philadelphia History Museum, please also take the time to explore its other offerings – it’s not free like the neighboring Liberty Bell and Independence Hall, but it is nonetheless well worth the modest price of admission, and you’re guaranteed to appreciate aspects of Philadelphia you did not know about before!

-Maria Sturm

College Scholarship Awards for German Language Students

In the late 1990's, a long-time Society member made a generous bequest. Our German scholarship program has since been greatly enhanced by this gift. Who was he?

J. Conrad Linke was a well-known landscape and portrait painter who in his younger years became the full-time illustrator for the first Atlantic City Beauty Contest – now known as the Miss America Contest. Later he became the owner and operator of a successful studio with a staff of 14 artists. The studio worked for industrial clients such as the Pennsylvania Railroad, Campbell Soup and Stetson Hats. He also developed a patented device for automatic time exposure in cameras which he sold to Eastman Kodak.

Mr. Linke successfully ran this business until World War II, when his staff was called up into service. He, along with his wife, Marian, and Nancy Babb of the Society of Friends (Quakers) gave their time and attention towards the peaceful solution of world problems. They were successful in working with congressional committees to reinstate the flow of mail to Germany during the post-war years, especially packages for the needy and hungry. In the basement of their home, they assembled many such "care" packages.

For this valiant effort Mr. Linke was presented with the German Cross for Civilian Meritorious Achievement. He was also the Chairman of the Steuben Society and in that capacity helped bring the General William von Steuben Parade to Philadelphia. Twenty years ago he died at the venerable age of 102. We became the recipients of a sizable bequest dedicated in its entirety to our scholarship program. We also inherited two oil paintings and a chalk drawing by him.

For the past ten years, as a member of our Scholarship Committee I have had the privilege of participating in the well established selection process of applicants. For reasons unknown to us, only five students applied for fi-

nancial support this year, although their German language skills were indeed impressive. Hence, we were hard pressed to decide as to how to distribute the available funds amounting to \$15,000, to which the Women's Auxiliary, as in the past, contributed \$7,000, including the prestigious George Beichl Award.

After extensive deliberations, the top prize was awarded to Juliane Scholtz, a local high school graduate who plans to study physics at Cornell University. Jillian Ruhl, a part-time student at West Chester University, was the other recipient of an award funded by the Women's Auxiliary. The remaining scholarships went to Bridget Bulkley and Jeremy Varner of Franklin & Marshall University and Millersville University, respectively. Both were repeat winners from the prior two years. The fifth award was given to George Mason Thomson, who is attending Lafayette University.

Congratulations to each and every one. And many thanks to the members of our Scholarship Committee (Angela Bacher, Jeannette Brugger, Thomas Buckley, Jean Godsall-Myers, Bill Heintzelman, Donald Rainey and Helen Schutz) for their diligent work. You are a great team to work with!

– Hardy von Auenmueller

Language Program Report

For those of you who have not met me, I am the new Administrative Assistant at the German Society of Pennsylvania. My desire to continue with my German language education was sparked after I began my duties here at the GSP, so I enrolled in the spring term of the German Society's evening courses. I hoped to be able to build upon my high school experiences with the German Language. When I enrolled in the 1B class, I did not really know what to expect in regards to the lecture-style or with whom I would be taking classes. I was pleasantly surprised by both, having found the classes to be engaging and lively. The other

students comprised six very intelligent women from all walks of life.

My classmates include Kelly, who is studying German so she may speak more confidently when she travels; Christina, who is married to a German man and wishes to speak with her in-laws in their native tongue; and Caitlyn, who like me studied German before, and was looking for a new social group after moving across the country. Perhaps the most exciting aspect of the language program is that it is drawing a younger crowd of fresh faces to the German Society. It is wonderful to be a part of this group of teachers and students who are filling the building with the German language almost every night.

-Jessica Kwasniak

Welcome New Members!

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Names removed from online version

Tony Michels, Hardy von Auenmueller and others that may not have used the sign-up book should also be thanked for their volunteer time.

We wish to mention again that we always have a number of opportunities for new volunteers. If you have some free hours that you can donate to the Society, please give us call at the Society.

-Ernie Weiler

25 Jahre deutsche Einheit - Was bedeutet das für unsere PhillyKinder?

Im März haben die Schlaun Fühse 2 ein neues Projekt zur deutschen Geschichte begonnen, ausgerichtet auf den 3. Oktober 2015, den 25. Jahrestag der Wiedervereinigung. Zu Anfang hab ich mir nicht viele Gedanken gemacht, wie ich die Jahrzehnte, in denen es zwei deutsche Staaten gab, Kindern zwischen 10 und 14 Jahren nahe bringen könnte. Die meisten unserer Jugendlichen kennen sogenannte deutsche Inseln, bestimmte Familien, die sie regelmäßig in Deutschland, Österreich und in der Schweiz besuchen gehen. Sie kennen eine persönliche Version der deutschen Wiedervereinigung. Jedoch stammen laut unserer PhillyKinder-Umfrage vom letzten Jahr viele Familien aus den alten Bundesländern, nur vereinzelte aus den neuen. Woher also kann die heutige Jugend viel von der ostdeutschen Kultur wissen?

So haben wir uns auf eine Reise in die deutsch/deutsche Vergangenheit begeben, von der Nachkriegszeit und der Teilung Deutschland durch die vier Siegermächte hin zu General Clay's Berliner Luftbrücke 1948/49, dem blutigen Aufstand am 17. Juni 1953, weiter zum Bau der Mauer im August 1961, bis hin zu den Montagsdemonstrationen in Leipzig und der Öffnung der Mauer am 9. November 1989. Fakten, die aus meiner Kindheit Selbstverständlichkeit waren, bedeuteten für unsere Schüler pure trockene Geschichte, die jeden Donnerstag Nachmittag im Unterricht lebendig gemacht werden musste. Für mich als gebürtige Westberlinerin, die die Kindheit umzingelt von einer Mauer erlebt hatte, wo man sich zu Ferienbeginn morgens zwischen zwei und drei Uhr in die Warteschlange am Dreilinden-Grenzkontrollpunkt reihte, um dann mit exakt 100 km/Stunde und nicht mehr die Transitstrecke durchs grau aussehende "Niemandland" zu fahren mit dem Spiel, wer als erste die entlang der Autobahn versteckten Radarkontrollen erkannte, die den "Wessis" Geld ablocken sollten, war die Teilung Deutschlands das normalste auf der Welt. Ich fühlte mich der amerikanischen, französischen

und anderen westlichen Kulturen näher als meinen eigenen deutschen Nachbarn - 10 Minuten zu Fuß von mir entfernt. Was war das für eine Überraschung, als ich plötzlich einfach über die Glienicker Brücke nach Potsdam radeln durfte, dass ich früher nur versteckt hinter der Mauer als fernes Land betrachtet hatte. Was war das für eine Entdeckungsreise, als ich als Studentin mit S-Bahn und Fahrrad zum Prenzlauer Berg fahren konnte, um das andere Berlin kennenzulernen! Der Ku'damm wirkte dagegen so winzig! Für mich bot Berlin so viele spannende Möglichkeiten, dass ich diese Stadt in vollsten Zügen genoss. Dann ein Studium in Potsdam, Seminare inmitten der Räumlichkeiten des Schlosses am Neuen Palais, mit dem Fahrrad und einem Rucksack voll von Studienbüchern durch den Schlosspark Sanssouci, ein kurzer Stop am Heiligen See zum Erfrischen und Abschalten - das Unileben war eine ganz besondere Zeit. Dann die ersten Annäherungsversuche zwischen den "Ossis" und den "Wessis". Was gab es für kulturelle Unterschiede zwischen diesen Studenten- und Professorengruppen! Harte, zum Teil emotionale Debatten wurden geführt. Ein Ossi gestand, mich als Wessi immer noch als Feindbild zu sehen. Trotz Mauerfall existierte noch eine dicke Wand in den Köpfen der Studenten. Aber langsam entstanden erste deutsch-deutsche Freundschaften - ein schwieriger Prozess bei all den Vorurteilen, die auf beiden Seiten vorhanden waren.

25 Jahre später. "DDR"? Was ist das? "Trabi"? "Stasi"? Habe ich noch nie gehört. Wow! Ein Staat ist verschwunden, eine Kultur existiert nicht mehr. Einer ganzen Generation von ostdeutschen Jugendlichen wurde einfach die Welt ihrer Kindheit weggenommen, alle verantwortlichen Aufgaben, für die sie bei den Jungen Pionieren gelebt hatten, waren plötzlich nicht mehr da. Nun hieß es schnelles Anpassen an das neue System, an das ehemals feindliche Westregime. Das Buch "Zonenkinder" von Jana Hensel beschreibt diese Zeit hautnah und ist daher sehr

empfehlenswert zu lesen.

Diese Umbruchphase wollte ich im Unterricht eingehender durchleuchten, und dafür bot sich das Buch "Fritzi war dabei" von Hanna Schott als Grundlage an. Es beschreibt die Wende aus der Perspektive einer 4. Klässlerin, die im Jahr 1989 in Leipzig zur Schule ging. Die Tagebücher, die jeder Schüler als Notizsammlung zu dem Buch anfertigte, geben einen Eindruck, was sie aus dieser Beschreibung der Zustände in der DDR mitgenommen haben.

- Reisebeschränkungen (Vincent A.)
- Einschränkung der Redefreiheit (Joanna S.)
- keine Bananen und Coca-Cola (Noah I.)
- es gab nur ein Telefon für das ganze Haus (Mia H.)
- Angst vor der Stasi / Geheimpolizei (Isabel B.)
- Schulunterricht auch am Samstag und Fahnenappell (Monica D.)
- viele Menschen hatten keine Autos/Trabis (Bruno B.)
- Gefühle aus der DDR: ängstlich, mutig, verwundert (Bruno B.)



"Fall der Berliner Mauer", inszeniert von Ben und Joanna S

Wir haben dann Zeitzeugen eingeladen, die von den Schülern interviewt wurden. Zusätzlich haben viele Schüler ihre deutschsprachigen Verwandten zum Thema Berliner Mauerfall interviewt. Auszüge aus diesen spannenden persönlichen Erfahrungen werden am 3. Oktober in der German Society vorgestellt.

All das war der Hintergrund der Entscheidung,

den 25. Jahrestag der Wiedervereinigung mit einem Theaterstück zu feiern, das auf "Fritzi war dabei" basiert, um so an die Zeit der deutschen Teilung zu erinnern, bevor sie völlig aus dem persönlichen Erinnern verschwindet. Bei der PhillyKinder-Abschlussveranstaltung am 21. Mai haben die Schlaun Fühse bereits eine kurze Vorschau auf das Theaterstück geboten, das dann am 3. Oktober 2015 im Rahmen des German Heritage Festival bei der German Society uraufgeführt wird ... hoffentlich eine gute Gelegenheit zum Austausch von Erinnerungen zwischen den Generationen, und eine zeit- und kontinentübergreifende Art, ein historisches Ereignis zu feiern, dessen Auswirkungen sich auf die ganze Welt erstreckt haben und dies immer noch tun.

-Sonja Srama-Souder

25 Jahre Deutsche Einheit

Ein Fest für die ganze Familie



Am 3. Oktober 2015

In der German Society of Pennsylvania

Beginn: 16 Uhr

Programm:

PhillyKinder-Theaterstück:

"Ein Land ohne Mauer - Da ist keiner sauer"

Ausstellung aus dem Unterricht der Schlaun Fühse

Kinderdisco

Kinder-Kinofilm

Deutsche Spezialitäten

Live-Band