



The German Society of Pennsylvania

Neuer Pennsylvanischer
Staatsbote

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

Summer 2016

Calendar of Events

July 23-August 14: German Society Office Closed

Thu. July 14	GHI Fellows Brown Bag Presentation, 12.00pm
Sat. Sept. 10	Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10.00am
Sat. Sept. 10	Buchclub: <i>Der Schwarm/The Swarm</i> , 1.00pm
Wed. Sept. 14	Konversationsabend: <i>Actualities</i> , 6.00pm
Sun. Sept. 18	"Wister and More!" presents the Pyxis Piano Quartet, 3.00pm
Sat. Sept. 24	German Heritage Festival
Sat. Oct. 1	Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10.00am
Sat. Oct. 1	Lobsterfest
Sun. Oct. 9	"Wister and More!" presents the Wister Quartet, 3.00pm
Wed. Oct. 12	Konversationsabend: Favorite Quotes, 6.00pm
Wed. Oct. 19	Notgeld Presentation, 2:30pm

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President's Message

Now that the summer has officially started and many of you are enjoying a well-deserved vacation, the German Society will be completing some projects that are difficult to work on during the rest of the year, when our calendar is filled with events, concerts, the language program, and rentals. There are some critical repairs and replacements scheduled between mid-June and mid-September. A main focus this summer will be to resolve some serious roof-related water intrusion problems (caused by poor workmanship almost twenty years ago) that have been plaguing us for some time.

The replacement of our entire heating system is in full swing, and the fan coil units that will heat and cool the building are currently being installed. Planning for the next step, the replacement of the failing air conditioning and humidity control equipment for our Library and the Archives, has been completed, and the work will be executed this winter.

The "Big Dig" waterproofing project is nearly done; the sidewalk is just two workdays away from completion, and the steps for the new Ratskeller entrance have been precast and should be installed by mid-September. Work on the townhouse entrance steps will be finished this summer between July 23rd and August 14th while the GSP is officially closed.

Although missing some finishing touches, the opening of the newly built Leidy Terrace was celebrated with its first public event on June 11. The Frankfurt in June Event, celebrating Philadelphia's new German Sister City, Frankfurt am Main, was a great success thanks to the tireless work of the Frankfurt in June committee. The formerly uninviting garden has

been transformed into a welcoming gathering place. The entire layout was designed around maintaining our beautiful Linden trees, and the new basement garden access makes exiting and entering quick and convenient.



The opening of the Leidy Terrace and the Frankfurt in June event are important milestones in attracting more people to join us in celebrating our German culture and heritage. This fest, which featured food and beverages



associated with the Frankfurt region, attracted almost 160 attendees and was sold out in advance. The committee has committed to repeating the event next year on June 10, 2017. Reservations can be placed starting April 1st, 2017.

The weather was definitely working in our favor that day – a brisk breeze kept things from getting uncomfortably warm. Hopefully meteorological conditions will continue to be positive over the summer so that we can accomplish the remaining building projects.

Have a great summer, and I hope to see you in the late summer/fall.

-Tony Michels

Financial Planning

On March 2nd, we were fortunate to arrange a financial seminar on planning and charitable giving. Twenty members and friends of the Society attended and two experienced financial planners presented the overview. Mr. Guido Gaeffke of 1847 Financial and Mr. Tom Mesko of the Philadelphia Foundation tag-teamed during the seminar and provided a lot of very useful information. We decided to share a summary to our membership (Guido provided the key observations which follow). Copies of the slides may be obtained by contacting the GSP office.

Guido demonstrated a program that he uses for retirees, or those who are about to retire, to establish whether they have saved enough to last their lifetime. If they have not, then charitable planning techniques are more of a challenge, but if there is a surplus, then there are ample opportunities to not only fulfill a philanthropic goal, but also to potentially save income taxes, Federal and State inheritance taxes, gift taxes and the generation-skipping transfer tax.

Tom and Guido highlighted the major potential tax issue which can impact highly appreciated investments, retirement assets, or even stock in a closely held business. If one has such wealth, then one should be interested in and

motivated to explore ways to recapture tax dollars well before selling the investment/asset that will not only benefit the owner but also the Society.

Leaving an IRA or your 401K retirement account to your children can present a significant challenge. More than any other asset comprising an estate, retirement assets are likely to experience the most erosion due to the combination of taxes. Consequently, a charitable bequest of an IRA, or interest in a qualified retirement plan, can be a tax efficient way to fulfill a charitable objective. The IRA owner simply designates the Society as the beneficiary of the IRA. Income tax will be eliminated on the IRA, since the Society is an income tax exempt beneficiary. The Society can then liquidate and reinvest the IRA proceeds for charitable purposes. The donor's estate will also receive a charitable estate tax deduction, eliminating any estate tax on the IRA. Using the proceeds from the tax deduction, a life insurance policy can be purchased to replace the value of the IRA for the donor's heirs, ensuring that their inheritance is preserved. A life insurance policy owned by the Society, or proceeds payable to the charity, can also increase the legacy which the Society ultimately receives.

Tom outlined several trust options, such as a Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT). A CRT is an income tax exempt "split interest" trust, which serves both charitable and non-charitable purposes. It is designed to benefit the donor for a period of time, followed by a charity or charities of choice. During the trust term (typically the donor's lifetime or joint lifetimes of the donor and spouse), the term beneficiary receives an annual payout from the trust equal to a fixed percentage of the value of the trust property. At the end of the trust term (typically following the death of the donor or surviving spouse), the trust property (or remainder interest) passes to charity. The appeal of a CRT is that it permits the donors to receive the income from property, including investments, transferred to the trust, while providing for a deferred gift or bequest to the charity of their choice, and afford-

ing them many other tax and non-tax benefits. The Philadelphia Foundation has a specific software application which can illustrate the mechanics in simple terms, should anyone be interested in seeing sample calculations.

In summary, both Guido and Tom stressed that good planning is essential and noted that unfortunately, some wealth advisors discourage this type of planning, since they get paid for the amount of assets they manage, and this type of planning would result in less assets under their management. However, ultimately this type of planning results in a win-win-win for the donor, the family and the Society, as it should be!

Guido and Tom have offered to discuss personal situations with GSP members, so please call the office if you would like to take advantage of this opportunity.

- Ernie Weiler

In Memoriam

Peter Hoehne, a long term member of the German Society, died after a short illness on July 6th 2013. He and his wife of forty-two years had a very long and special relationship to the Society. In March of 2016, Gertrude Hoehne decided to honor Peter's memory by means of a generous donation to the German Society Endowment Fund. This Fund was established to help ensure that the Society will continue to offer social, cultural and educational programs and activities of interest to future generations of German-Americans. We thank Gertrude for her gift, which is very much appreciated. She, like others, has used the Endowment Fund to commemorate a loved one - it is a perfect financial vehicle.

The following paragraphs were written by Gertrude.

- Ernie Weiler

Peter Hoehne was born in Stettin, Germany on June 6th 1936 during volatile times in Europe. His mother and father were teachers who man-

aged a school. His brother Michael was born in 1945.



In 1952, the family of four escaped East Berlin and in May of 1953, a group of kind Quakers sponsored their entry into the United States. Peter attended Germantown Friends School, where he learned English and French. The Hoehne family soon

joined the German Society of Pennsylvania. Peter earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering at Drexel University. He worked as a project manager setting up and establishing business facilities throughout Philadelphia and other East Coast areas. He also spent ten years in Ohio as a project manager.

We met at the Christmas Bazaar of the German Society in 1970, and we married in August of 1971 – I was a school teacher of German. We both loved to travel, visiting families in Austria and Germany. We became lifetime members of the German Society and over a number of decades very much enjoyed our association.

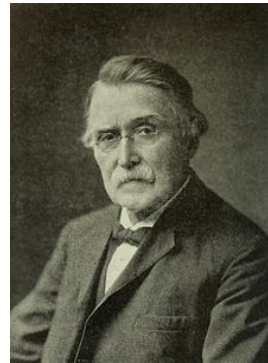
Peter was well rounded, participating in track and field throughout his high school years. He had a great interest in fine art and music and also appreciated and loved architecture. Peter's caring nature for family and friends and his teasing sense of humor endeared him to all. Throughout his life he demonstrated such qualities of solicitude and protectiveness for his family and was always a source of cheerfulness and encouragement to his friends.

Because of Peter's long association and interest in the German Society I have decided to make a special gift in Peter's memory to the Endowment Fund.

- Gertrude Hoehne

German-American Photographer Frederick Gutekunst

We learned at the excellent program co-sponsored by the German Society and the Library Company that many nineteenth century German-American photographers flocked to Berlin to study the chemistry and technique of photography at the Technische Hochschule Berlin. Harvard Professor John Stauffer's lecture, *Sight Expansion: the German Influence on Photography in America* also highlighted the donation by the Greer family of photographs by Frederick Gutekunst (1831-1917). Dr. Stauffer remarked that Gutekunst, who did not have the means to go to Germany to study, had also achieved an extremely high level of clarity in his prints without using any artifice of coloring to enhance the detail.



Frederick Gutekunst opened his first photography studio at 706 Arch Street in 1856, three years after graduating from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. He built up a clientele and was almost overwhelmed at the onset of the Civil War, when

crowds of soldiers and their loved ones lined up at his door for prints of daguerreotypes. They all wanted photographic mementos of themselves with the families they were leaving behind as they went into battle.

Mr. Gutekunst travelled to the battlefield of Gettysburg ten days before Matthew Brady. He arrived with all of his photographic equipment but had to put it aside as he rolled up his sleeves and joined the nursing staff. The nurses were desperate for help in taking care of the seriously injured. When he was no longer needed, he set up his camera and developed his prints in a covered wagon (in those days, wet prints had to be developed right away, so he had to set up the best darkroom available on the spot).

It was Gutekunst who made the marvelous panoramic prints of the famous Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition of 1876. This exhibit was

seen by millions of visitors and used to record the massive installation of buildings in Fairmount Park (the Please Touch Museum is in one of those buildings). His work was much lauded by dignitaries, including King Victor Emmanuel of Italy, the Mikado of Japan and Kaiser Franz-Joseph of Austria-Hungary.

His portraits of celebrities will seem familiar to you, as they are used so often, including General Ulysses S. Grant, Lucretia Mott, William McKinley, Grover Cleveland, Carl Schurz, William Cullen Bryant and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, to name a few. He took photographs for the Pennsylvania Railroad (including pictures of engines, tracks, bridges, and topography) and also took pictures of the US Corps of Engineers removing islands in the Delaware River.

When he died in 1917, his family asked some young people to clear out the studio so they could show the building for sale. That they did, throwing away almost every slide and print in the house, thus destroying much of the work of this photographer who had mastered his craft so well, yet never achieved fame as an artist.

When you walk by the site where he had his very successful studio, there is no sign of the elegance of the previous centuries. Two large buildings, the Federal Detention Center and the African American Museum opposite, reveal absolutely no softness or personality in their unyielding stone structures. The only building which was there when Gutekunst was operating his studio is the Cast Iron Building at 718 Arch Street. You can see an excellent photograph of it from 1899 mounted on the bus stop at Arch and 8th. And if you have a vivid imagination, you can close your eyes and hear the ghosts of shoppers and their horses and carriages as they come to have their portraits made at 712 Arch Street.

- Margaret Durst

Konversationsabend Report

Let's begin with a few numbers. As we all know, these are important when we apply for grants and other public and private support. The *Konversationsabend* is by definition a small forum, but it contributes in its own way to the general statistics. Thanks to the sign-up sheets, we have the numbers for the six years from 2011 to 2016 (and can project the fall numbers for 2016). The total attendance for the *Konversationsabend* including the *Wandertage* ("hiking days") is 1070 participants. We can add another 150 for the *Konversationsabend-Special* series. So we may say that quite a few people attended and enjoyed good presentations, good conversation and good food. Not too bad.

We started the spring session in February with Herta von der Gruen's popular *Feuerzangenbowle*, and also had a first *Konversationsabend-Special*: "Xenophobia, Islamophobia and the Challenge of Immigration from a German Perspective" with Martin Kaiser, Director of the Gustav Stresemann Institute in Bevensen, Germany. The theme for March was "Women in Christianity", mainly, but not exclusively based on Hans Kueng's controversial, but eye-opening book of the same title dealing with the interaction of pagan traditions, St. Paul's letters, Augustine's doctrine of original sin, general church theology and plain superstitions in suppressing the once quite audible voice of women in the formation of Christianity (Dr. Helga Halbfass). In April, we welcomed Dr. John Hoffmeyer from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, who provided a fascinating presentation on "The Relationship between Language and Thinking", in particular about the special character of the German language and its impact on German philosophical thinking. Finally, in May, we had a wonderful and exceptionally well-attended evening with "Dichterliebe - Heine's Poems and Schumann's Music" (Dr. Helga Halbfass).

Our special thanks go to Herta von der Gruen, Renate Ruthberg, and all the others who contributed to the refreshment buffet, as well as to

Hardy von Auenmueller and Hans Mueller, who took care of the cash bar.

Now, only the *Wandertag* on June 4th is left to complete the spring program.



Helga Halbfass and Hans Mueller waded during the KA Wandertag on June 4, 2016.

In the fall, we plan to do *Actualities* in September with Karl Moehlmann. In October, we will discuss famous quotations that changed us and our view of the world (everybody will bring a favorite). November's theme will be *Migranten sprechen*. A panel of three or more people will talk about the experiences of foreigners living or having lived in Germany, and finally we will meet in December for an evening with music and poems.

See you then,

- Helga Halbfass

Collaboration with the GHI Washington Ten Years of Successful Fellowship Program

Ten years ago, we celebrated the reopening of the Joseph Horner Memorial Library with an impressive array of speakers and well-wishers. After a slowdown of activities of several years that followed the extremely busy period of the Library Renovation and Cataloging Project (1994-99) and the renovation of the building, a new beginning needed to be advertised to both the members and the world outside. The occasion came with a festive event on November 5, 2006, at which Hans-Jürgen Heimsoeth, Consul General of Germany in New York, and Christoph Mauch, Director of the German Historical Institute in Washington, gave talks on the German cultural heritage in the U.S. Birte Pflieger presented her new history of the German Society (*Ethnicity Matters*); Kevin Ostoyich did the same with his new Reference Guide to the book and manuscript collection of the Library.

The presence of GHI Director Mauch was most opportune as the GHI sponsored both the extensive research that went into the two publications and their printing. His announcement of a joint fellowship program with the German Society consolidated the lasting cooperation of the two institutions. Thanks to the generosity of the GHI, the "GHI-GSP Fellowship at the Horner Library" has become the premier fellowship program in the U. S. for the study of German-American history and culture, opening our great collection to students and scholars around the world. Inaugurated in 2007, each summer we have hosted three or four scholars for a period of two to four weeks who used the opportunity to present their projects to interested GSP members at brown bag seminars.

Our special collection librarians, Violet Lutz, Chrissy Bellizzi, and Bettina Hess deserve particular recognition for their invaluable service in providing materials and research tools to the fellows. Recently, Bettina Hess, long-time cataloger of the Library Project in the 1990s and our current librarian, has completed an extensive overhaul of the reference guide, an im-

pressive accomplishment that also was sponsored by the GHI. Ten years after the first guide appeared, the new reference guide, accessible on the Society's and GHI's web sites, represents with its 300 pages a virtual cultural history of Germans in America, especially in Pennsylvania and Philadelphia.

At the tenth anniversary of the GHI-GSP Fellowship program in June/July 2016, we will welcome three new fellows:

Joshua Brown, an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin will follow in the steps of his colleague and former teacher, Mark London, who gave an excellent talk about Pennsylvania German at the Society in April, and study the much neglected topic, "Pennsylvania High German in Nineteenth Century America."

Hans Leaman, a Yale post-doc, is engaged in the study of the so-called great awakening in the mid-eighteenth century with his project, "Whitefield among the Pennsylvania Pietists." Leaman pursues the thesis that the religious awakening was not just an American or British affair, but also had close ties to German Pietism.

Lisa Minardi, an assistant curator at the Winterthur Museum and Ph.D candidate at the University of Delaware, was instrumental in bringing about the great *Fraktur* exhibition at the Free Library, the Philadelphia Art Museum, and Winterthur in 2015. Mostly interested in the material culture of German Americans, her dissertation project features a broad survey for which she will make use of the Horner collection. The title is "Germans in the Quaker City: Ethnicity, Religion, and Material Life in Early Philadelphia."

We plan this year's brown bag seminar with the fellows on July 14, 2016, in the Ratskeller from 12 noon to 2 pm. All members are welcome.

- Dr. Frank Trommler

A Milestone for the Wister Quartet

The upcoming season of our *Wister & More* concert series will mark the 25th anniversary of chamber music by the Wister Quartet at the German Society, featuring some of the greatest quartet literature ever written, alongside unusual and rarely played works. The unique richness and depth of their sound has won the praise of critics far and wide.



The Wister Quartet

In 1991, at the initiative of Dr. William Sunderman, an ardent music lover and venerable Board member of the Society, the Wister Quartet was invited to give a concert in the Albert & Hete Barthelmes Auditorium which – with its fine acoustics – lends itself well to the exquisite sound of a string ensemble.

Within two years, a five-concert series, called "Chamber Music Concert Series," was instituted, and soon it was expanded to seven concerts – with solo harp and piano recitals. At that time we were the only venue in Philadelphia offering classical concerts on Sunday afternoon.

In subsequent years, we occasionally had the great pleasure of enjoying the pianistic skills of Maestros Wolfgang Sawallisch or Christoph Eschenbach, Music Directors of The Philadelphia Orchestra, augmenting our Wister Quartet renditions. These special performances attracted many people to our venue, often filling our auditorium to the rafters.

On those occasions, we had to rent a concert grand which was rather costly – until we successfully acquired our own *Bösendorfer Konzertflügel* with the support of a challenge grant by the Barthelmes Foundation. For better or worse, over the past ten years, other music

groups have arisen, offering Sunday afternoon classical concerts in competition with us, and these have cut into the attendance at our venue.

This fall, on October 9, 2016, the Wister Quartet will celebrate their 25th Anniversary Concert with us – offering three delightful string quartets by Boccherini, Brahms and Haydn. At the same time, we wish to honor the Senior Board Member of our Society, Karl H. Spaeth, who gallantly served as Chair of our Music Committee for almost twenty years.

He and his wife Anne recently sold their beautiful home and moved into Cathedral Village, a retirement community, located on the northwesterly outskirts of Philadelphia, (thankfully served by SEPTA bus line 9). His successor as Chair of the Music Committee will be Ed Cohen. Long a part of our *Wister & More* community, he has recorded many of our concerts over the years.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish to express our appreciation for the dedicated efforts expended by Karl in the furthering of our music program. Without his steadfast support, we would not be where we are today. On a personal note, I would like to add that it has been a real pleasure to work with him. Many a time it seemed that Karl could read my mind. That is rare these days when electronic gadgets seem to rule the world.

Thank you, my friend! You have been an invaluable asset to the German Society.

- Hardy von Auenmueller

PhillyKinder Parent Spotlight

From previous PhillyKinder contributions, you might assume that all of our families have at least one parent born in Germany, but some actually do not fall within that pattern. In this edition of the Staatsbote, we wanted to share one of these more unusual stories with you. Hans-Peter Schlecht has been so kind to answer a few questions about his family's background and how they ended up with PhillyKinder, and we hope you will enjoy his story!

Can you tell us a little bit about your family - what is your German connection?

My father's parents emigrated from Germany in the early 1930's (Opa from Bietigheim, Oma from Pöcking am Starnberger See) and my father was born in Brooklyn in 1933. My mother was the only one of nine siblings who emigrated in 1965 from Eschenau (in Baden-Württemberg) to Long Island to work as a governess. She raised me with German in the house, and we returned to Germany every other summer, typically for 6 weeks at a time. As an only child in America with few nearby relatives, the experience of being surrounded by relatives in Germany was very memorable and formative.

After my daughter was born in 2011, I applied for recognition of my German citizenship and received a German passport.

What prompted your decision to try to have your children speak German? Did you have good memories of your mother speaking German with you, or was it something else?

Being German has been integral to my identity as a person. Being bilingual growing up made me feel special and also fostered a sense of the world and my ability to navigate it. I want my children to have the same experience in life, so for me as a parent, this means having them learn the German language and German history, as well as learning the culture by visiting Germany and their relatives as much as possible. Thankfully, the growing mind of a child is

very plastic in language acquisition and my daughter has been eager to learn. It is clear to me that her various German-speaking experiences (home, visiting Germany, and PhillyKinder) are working.

Could you describe your summer routine, especially your experiences sending your daughter to a German *Kindergarten*?

With our daughter Anneka, we have made four trips to Germany since her birth in 2011. In May 2013, she was baptized in the small church where her Oma (my mother) and I were baptized.

In September 2014, I took her and my Mother for a two-week visit.

Then after Erich was born in March of 2015, we spent my paternity leave in Germany from June through August, during which time Erich was also baptized at the Wendelinskirche. During this visit, Anneka attended the *Kindergarten* in Langenbrettach for six weeks.

Now we are back again (two months for my wife and children; one for me) from the end of May to the end of July. Anneka is going back to the same *Kindergarten* for eight weeks.

These last two visits we have stayed with a second cousin of mine in Rappach (a small municipality in Bretzfeld) where she has a two family home (two beds one bath downstairs; same upstairs). Our routine revolves around the kids: a breakfast of fresh bread, rolls, and fruit, then taking Anneka to the *Kindergarten* from 8:30-noon; a warm lunch at home then back to the *Kindergarten* from 1:30-4. Then we come home to pick cherries from the tree in front or berries



Wendelinskirche



Bretzfeld

or vegetables from the garden in back and hopefully eat dinner outside with family after their workdays (my first cousin, mother to the second cousin that we stay with, lives next door). Friday afternoons there is no *Kindergarten*, so we go the *Freibad* (public pool) in Obersulm.

On weekends we get together with other relatives in the area and take trips, such as to the Fairytale Garden at Schloss Ludwigsburg or Playmobilland or the Bodensee.



Fairytale Garden

The experience at the *Kindergarten* has been great - Anneka has enjoyed the freedom of a German kindergarten where she can go from the gym to the various play areas to the reading nook to the kitchen at her own volition. I usually attend for the first day and a half to make the transition go well.

And how did you learn about PhillyKinder, and how do your children experience this program: do they see it as an extension of what they're doing in the summer, or what's their take on it?

Our pediatrician, Trude Haecker, also raised her children with outside-the-home German language activities, and when we discussed my plans to only speak German with my kids, she recommended I look into the options around Philadelphia. A short Google search later, I found PhillyKinder, and Anneka joined in September 2014. Erich will start in September 2016.

I think Anneka sees it purely as a playgroup. She does not refer to it as "school" the way she does to her pre-school, and does not put up a fuss when it is time to go the way she does about "school." I think it helped that she started in the earliest group when parents attend with the children. This made it more fun than being sent off to "school."

How do you see PhillyKinder from the perspec-

tive of a parent? Is there anything we could do even more of or anything we could get rid of or improve?

It's a tremendous help to me in my mission of giving my children a German-American identity. My German language skills are more colloquial so it's important to have native speakers contributing to Anneka's language instruction. There are also traditions that PhillyKinder teaches that I did not learn from my Mother such as the story of St. Martin and the beggar. So when Anneka brings home a new tradition, I can learn it (and the song) and we can practice it together.

The only thing I can say to PhillyKinder is: *dream big and expand!* There are K-12 German schools in the US (Boston, NYC, Washington for example), and I would love to send my kids to such a school where they graduate with the Abitur and also a US high school diploma. Even if it is a 10- to 15-year plan that involves lengthy fundraising missions, grants from the German government, input from the other German schools in the US, etc., it would be an amazing resource for the German-speaking community of the greater Philadelphia area.

Finally, do you have any advice for other parents raising their children in an English-speaking environment while trying to keep or grow their German language skills?

The main thing is start early and be dedicated to it. The language center of the brain becomes less plastic with time, and this makes language acquisition more difficult with aging. So, make the most of the early years with books, YouTube videos of Zoe's Zauberschrank, PhillyKinder, and if possible, immersion in a German *Kindergarten*.

- Maria Sturm

New Partnership with the Steuben-Schurz Gesellschaft

Over the extended Memorial Day weekend, we hosted a delegation of twelve very distinguished people from Frankfurt. It was a cultural exchange in accordance with Philadelphia's new sister-city partnership.

The visiting group was headed by Dr. Ingrid Gräfin zu Solms-Wildenfels, President of the Steuben Schurz Gesellschaft (SSG), Mr. Eduard Hechler, Manager of International Affairs at the Lord Mayor's Office, and Dr. Jürgen Richter, President of the Frankfurt-Philadelphia Friendship Circle. Their diversity of interests led to wide-ranging discussions and contacts which will surely lead to a closer relationship between our two cities.

This was our itinerary: on Friday, May 27, we met with City officials at Philadelphia's Sister City Park, located just across the street from the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul near Logan Circle. There, a fountain with ten water sprouts symbolizes Philadelphia's present sister city connections across the globe. Frankfurt's spout will be added as soon as the necessary funds (\$30,000) have been raised by the Center City District Association.

During a subsequent gathering at the office of Citizen Diplomacy International (CDI), we met with Siobhan Lyons, Director of CDI, and her colleague, Susan Kohler Reed, as well as Sheila Hess who welcomed the group as representative of Mayor Jim Kenney. We witnessed the exchange of gifts with Eduard Hechler on behalf of Lord Mayor Peter Feldmann.

On our stroll through Center City, we stopped at Macy's to "Meet me at the Eagle"—the bronze sculpture made by August Gaul, a Frankfurt artist, which John Wanamaker acquired for his department store from the German Pavilion of the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis. We also admired the stupendous Wanamaker organ before sitting down for a scrumptious meal at an Italian restaurant near Washington Square.

After lunch we visited Independence Hall, where a guide – with a Swiss-German name and a thundering voice – gave us a concise his-

tory lesson. The dedication of four Kousa Dogwood Trees, planted in William Penn's Welcome Park as symbols of the new SSG-GSP partnership, followed with City Councilman Al Taubenberger and Cindy MacLeod, Superintendent of the National Park Service in attendance. A bronze plaque will be placed at the site.

At 6 PM, following a tour of our premises, a welcome dinner was held in our Library, where



Tony Michels addressed our visitors expressing his confidence in our new partnership. The formal agreement covering our future cooperation was signed two days later at a reception sponsored by the SSG delegation at the Marriott Courtyard Hotel.

On Saturday, May 28, we drove in three cars into Amish country and visited the Ephrata Cloister, which had been founded in 1732 by Conrad Beissel, a native of Eberbach in the Odenwald region near Frankfurt. As celibacy was a primary requirement of his religious community, it did not last much beyond his lifetime. We were received by Cathy Oliphant of the Ephrata Cloister Chorus, and her husband Jack gave us a very informative tour of the premises which are still kept in pristine condition.

On the way back, we visited the Valley Forge National Historic Park and paid our respects to the monument of **General Friedrich von Steuben** overlooking the fields where he trained Washington's ragtag army in the winter of 1778 – using Prussian drill techniques more advanced than those of other European armies. After successful engagements of his troops at Barren Hill, PA and Monmouth, NJ, Washington appointed him Inspector General of the Continental Army.

On Sunday, May 29, we attended church service at the First Presbyterian Church in German-

town, and listened to a powerful sermon by Dr. Randall Bremer, their interim minister, on the biblical story of the prodigal son, and its relevance to today's social challenges. Over lunch, which was hosted by GSP member Bill Young, Sam Whyte, an FPC church elder and close friend of Bill, gave us a detailed report on the history of Germantown and its Historical Society, which we might wish to visit before too long.

On our way to Germantown, we passed by the monument of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, the patriarch of the Lutheran Church in North America on the grounds of the Lutheran Seminary. He might be considered the godfather of the German Society, as he provided the use of his schoolhouse as meeting place to our founders in the initial years. Later, we also encountered the statue of Major General Peter Muhlenberg, his oldest son and an early President of our Society, at the rear of the Philadelphia Art Museum.

Regrettably, we had only two hours for our visit to the Art Museum before heading back to the Marriott and the SSG reception mentioned earlier. In an evening session lasting until midnight, we assessed where we could cooperate in a tangible way. The well-established internship exchange program of SSG is certainly one in which we can participate, particularly with some of our scholarship awardees, and vice versa. In fact, we are ready to accept Li Chen, a Ph. D candidate from the University of Frankfurt, who will spend three months in our library early next year.

Also, Josh Helfand, a new GSP Board member, initiated a dialog with Heribert Becker, a member of the SSG delegation, for an exchange of youth soccer teams between the Philadelphia Union and Eintracht Frankfurt. Hilmar Heier, a new GSP member from Frankfurt, has expressed an interest in relocating his human resources and management consulting firm to Philadelphia, now that he is in possession of a green card. A first contact has been established for him with Peter Gonzales of the Welcome Center for New Pennsylvanians.

We have known all along that Philadelphia and Frankfurt, historically, have a lot in common, as both are recognized as beacons of freedom – with Independence Hall and the *Paulskirche* – following the revolutions of 1776 and 1848. Many German freedom fighters came to this country after their initial efforts failed.

Among those was **Carl Schurz** who lived in Philadelphia as a journalist for a while, before becoming a valuable asset to Abraham Lincoln's presidential campaign in the Midwest. His subsequent public service included: Minister to Spain, Brigadier General in the Union Army, US Senator from Missouri, and Secretary of the Interior in the Rutherford B. Hayes Administration.

Please bear in mind, Steuben and Schurz are the most prominent German-Americans of the 18th and 19th century, respectively. Their names are reflected in the corporate identity of SSG, the oldest German-American cultural institution in Germany. We are delighted to have become their partner here in Philadelphia!

– Hardy von Auenmueller

Welcome New Members!

Members' names have been removed for their privacy.

German Scholarship Awards

It is a pleasure to report that the German Society and its Women's Auxiliary have once again awarded various scholarships to Delaware Valley college students and high school graduates whose focus has been on the German language.

The quality of students applying for financial support has increased in recent years, particularly at the high school level. This is undoubtedly the result of the dedicated effort exerted by their teachers, most of whom are AATG members, who attended the award ceremony at the *Cannstatter Volksfest Verein* on Saturday, April 23, 2016.

This year's recipients were three high school graduates, two of whom acquired their German language skills on their own personal initiative, as their high schools did not offer any German language classes, i.e. **Matthias Hausman** who attended the Immanuel German School program on Saturdays, and **Lucas Kreuzer** who volunteered as a teaching assistant at PhillyKinder on Thursdays. Both are shown on the photo below, as are **Margaret Meiman**, a graduate of Hunterdon Central Regional High School in New Jersey, and **Sidney Dickson** who attends Ursinus College.



The other two award recipients are **Bridget Bulkley**, who is presently in her junior year at the University of Heidelberg, and **Jillian Ruhl**, a student working full-time who attends selected classes with emphasis on German at West Chester University.

As you may know, the scholarships of the German Society have been awarded since the 1970's. They are supported by individual bequests and donations. The Women's Auxiliary offers scholarships which are funded by that group's membership, and include awards made in honor of individuals active within, and respected by, the Auxiliary. The awarded funds go directly to the college or university and are applied to the student's tuition.

Finally, I wish to express my appreciation to the members of the Scholarship Committee for their diligent work. You are a tightly-knit group that knows the importance of teamwork. Hence, it is a pleasure to work with you.

– Hardy von Auenmueller

2016 Annual Meeting Report

On Sunday, June 5, our Annual Members Meeting and Elections of the Board of Directors was held in the German Society's Ratskeller. After a moment of silence and remarks from President Tony Michels (which can be found on the next page), the candidates introduced themselves and presented briefly on what contributions they could bring to the Society. This year, eight candidates competed for seven open Board positions: two vacancies in the Class of 2014-17 and five in the Class of 2016-19. A quorum of 43 German Society members were present and submitted their ballots.

Two groups of volunteers counted the ballots, and judge Edmund Cohen announced the winners. However, in an exciting turn of events, an extra ballot was subsequently discovered, and a recount had to be conducted. Finally, it was determined that Daniel Lippard and Anthony Waskie would fill the vacancies in the Class of 2014-17, and the Class of 2016-19 would consist of Marnie Old, Mark McGuigan, Harold Glass, Marwan Kreidie, and Josh Helfand. Congratulations to our new Board members, and thank you to the outgoing Class of 2016 for your many years of service to the German Society!

– Liesl Jandrey

President's Address - 2016 Annual Meeting (abbrev.)

Having served the last year as the GSP's President, I was recently reflecting how things have developed since last summer when I started my term in this position. I focused primarily on the building related needs of the organization and I continue to do so. There were and still are many necessary maintenance and improvement projects to be done in and around the building. So a substantial overhaul is in full swing. We developed a master plan for this overhaul which includes both short-term and long-term needs.

I have continued to look into the reasons for the underrepresentation of younger people in this organization. The first reason is obvious: there are fewer immigrants coming to this country in recent years, and they don't need an organization like the GSP to get started in this country. We need them much more than they need us, and therefore, the GSP has started looking for ways in which to interact with younger folks.

We have developed cooperation with a growing number of very diverse organizations, and I believe that we are on the right track to extend our outreach without losing our identity. Maintaining the identity of the GSP in any relationship is very important, and we should strive to respect the needs of cooperative partners as much as we ask them to respect our needs. Naturally, the needs of the German Society are and will continue to be of primary importance in any collaborative ventures we undertake. In my opinion, outreach has been a vital aspect of my work in the eight years I have been involved in the GSP and something that I will continue to pursue.

We received in 2015/16 more recognition by the German government than ever before. The visit of Bundespräsident Gauck on October 5th, 2015 was a great success and highlights our place on the map for visitors from Germany. We are looking forward to extending our ability to host more similar events and would like to become the cultural hub for the events evolving from the new partnership between Philadelphia and Frankfurt.

What the GSP represents now is important, but we should also consider what our purpose could be in the future. My goal is to investigate how to be viable and relevant in terms of our mission in thirty years. The most important aspect in sustaining our institution is of course a solid finan-

cial foundation.

Demand for German language instruction is dwindling, rental income is limited, willingness and ability to donate is declining, and membership dues are not increasing. There are many options to explore, but we also need to discuss raising our membership dues or come up with other ways to finance our cause. So I am intent on exploring some of these options, but I am grateful for the work that my predecessor Ernie Weiler has done in the past years to make the idea of an Endowment Fund a reality.

One important source of income, events, depends very much on our most valuable resource: volunteers. Most of our events wouldn't create any income without a volunteer workforce. We should properly value the contributions that these members make to keep our building in shape, our organization running, and our mission intact. At this point of my speech, I would like you to recognize the two members that put in the most hours this past year: Hella and Lew Volgenau.

I have learned a lot during the last seven years by working with Ernie and Hardy as a triumvirate. I am grateful for much of the advice they gave me. In some cases, I found my own way to do things as I felt necessary. I believe relationships work best in an open atmosphere of mutual trust and respect. I respect things that others have done for this organization in good faith, and I ask respect in return for what I do in good faith. I hope that I will have your continued support, maybe not in all instances and not without some differences of opinion about how to do things. But I am, as you all are, a volunteer, and I bring the full range of my abilities and my personality to the table. I am who I am, and I do my best possible work for the GSP realizing that I will not please all the people all the time. But I am ready to fight for the common mission with my energy and the continued support of the members and especially my wife. Without her, I wouldn't be here and couldn't do what I do.

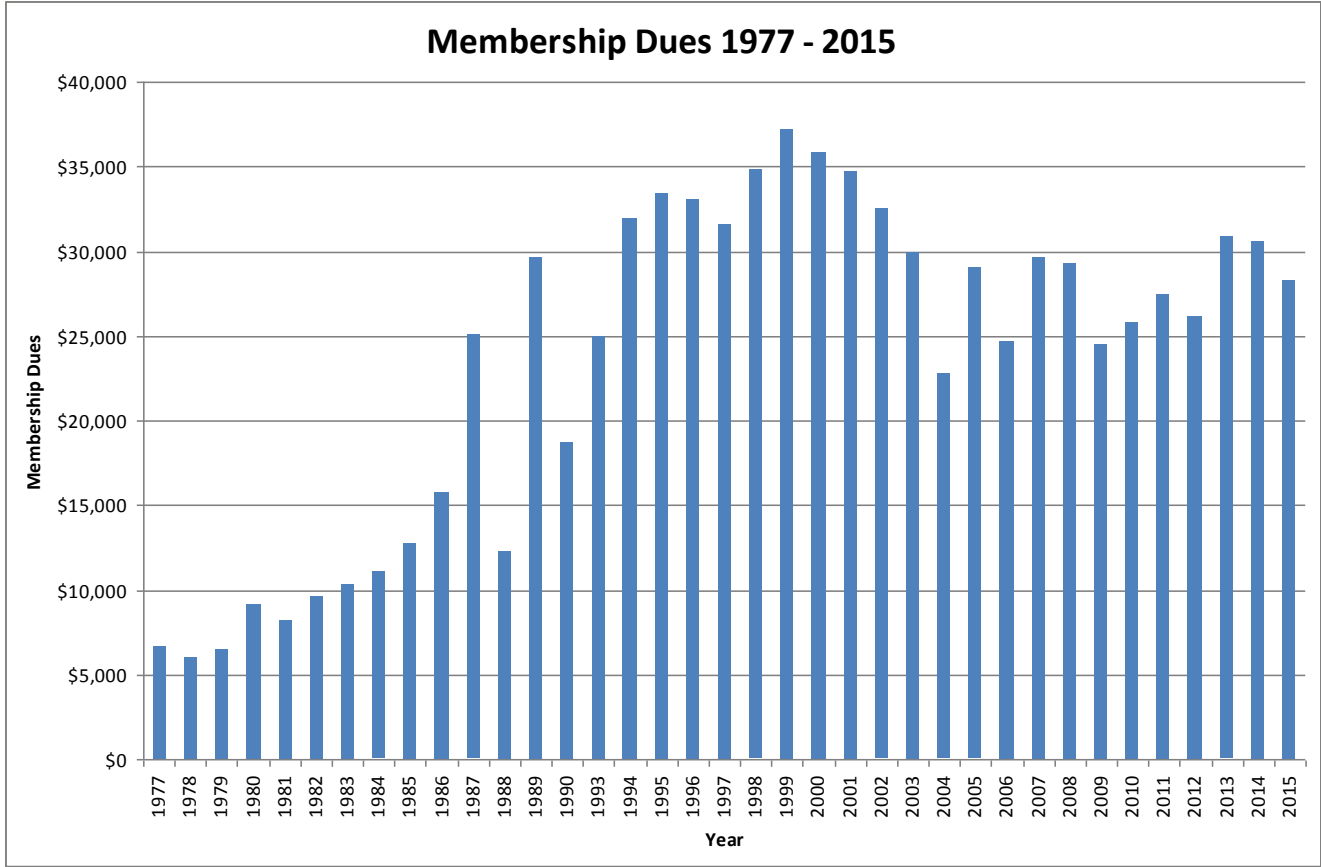
– Tony Michels

Back to the Future

“Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.” - Winston Churchill

The Finance Committee thought it would be worthwhile to look back at our recent financial history to see what lessons could be learned which might guide our future direction.

Our financial data program, Quickbooks (QB), was initiated in 1993, and since then we have had good detailed financial information. Prior to 1993, we had to search through the archives for the more limited information in the reports presented at Board Meetings. These reports were on a calendar year basis, rather than the fiscal year we now use in our budgeting. For 1991-1992, nothing could be found; and in some prior years, there were only ten or eleven monthly reports. Before 1977, financial information was even sketchier and more problematic. Enough exposition, let’s look at some data. Here’s a graph of income from membership dues from 1977 to 2015.



Annual Fund Donors

Donors’ names have been removed for their privacy.

Until the 2000s, membership dues provided about 20% of the income needed to run the Society. Since then, the \$25-30,000 in membership funds we receive are about 10% of our total income. In 2004, the Executive Director and entire office staff left the Society. Before we could re-staff our office, we lost over 100 family memberships. Some of these were due to lack of follow-up on membership renewal notices, as twenty-one people renewed their memberships the following year. Let’s not do that again!

Going forward, we need to recruit more members, especially the younger generation. If each of us recruited one new member, we would ensure the continued existence of the Society. Please consider giving a membership as a birthday present to a son, daughter, or grandchild. Our members are the lifeblood of the organization.

- Lew Volgenau

