

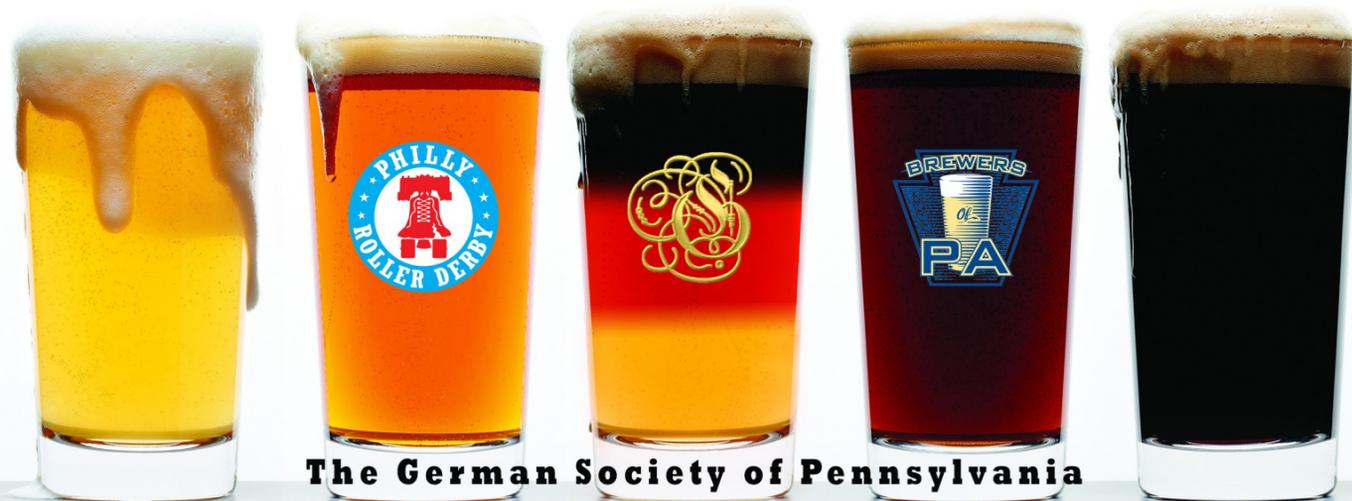
Calendar of Events

- Sat. Jan. 6 Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10:00am
- Sat. Jan. 6 "Wister and More!" presents Claire Huangci, 3:00pm
- Sat. Jan. 13 Buchclub: Arno Surminski's *Vaterland ohne Väter*, 1:30pm
- Fri. Jan. 19 Friday Film Fest: *Der Besuch*, 6:30pm
- Sun. Jan. 28 "Wister and More!" presents EStrella Piano Duo, 3:00pm
- Sat. Feb. 3 Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10:00am
- Sat. Feb. 10 Buchclub, 1:30pm
- Wed. Feb. 13 Konversationsabend: Feuerzangenbowle. 6:00pm
- Fri. Feb. 16 Friday Film Fest: *Kundschafter des Friedens*, 6:30pm
- Sun. Feb. 18 "Wister and More!" presents Leslie Johnson with Chuck Holdeman & Michael Djupstrom, 3:00pm
- Sat. Feb. 24 7th Annual Bierfest, 2:00pm
- Sat. Mar. 3 Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10:00am
- Sat. Mar. 10 Buchclub, 1:30pm
- Wed. Mar. 14 Konversationsabend: Reconstruction of the Imperial Castle, 6:00pm
- Fri. Mar. 16 Friday Film Fest: *Wilkommen bei den Hartmanns*, 6:30pm
- Sun. Mar. 18 "Wister and More!" presents the Casimir Trio, 3:00pm
- Sat. Apr. 7 Hamburger Abend, 7:00pm
- Wed. Apr. 11 Konversationsabend: Historiography, 6:00pm

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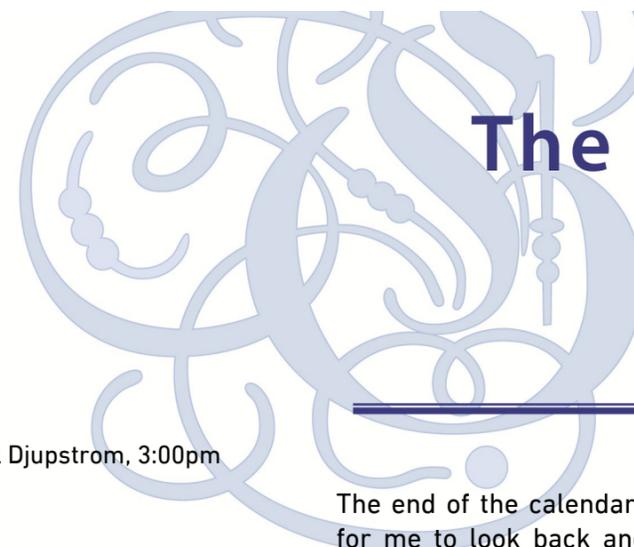
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SEVENTH ANNUAL  
**Bierfest**  
SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 24 | 2PM - 5:30PM



The German Society of Pennsylvania

For tickets or more information, visit [PhillyBierfest.com](http://PhillyBierfest.com) or call 215.627.2332



The German Society  
of Pennsylvania

Neuer Pennsylvanischer  
**Staatsbote**

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

Winter 2018

President's Message

The end of the calendar year is always a time for me to look back and reflect on what was accomplished during the past year and look forward to what we should focus on in the coming one. Over the past ten years, I have very much enjoyed helping to bring our building up to 21st century standards. I will continue to implement the necessary upgrades to create a

state of the art structure for our building operation, which will benefit both the members and the needs of the larger community.

I see now a need to focus on some other topics in my second term as president. Upgrades to the building, greater outreach activities, the establishment of endowment funds along with considerably more programming have generated increased interest and trust in the German Society by you, our members, as well as within the group of foundations and organizations that support us financially. General challenges arising from our growing operation will need to be addressed in discussions about our staffing needs.

We have also begun a discussion about restructuring our operation relative to risk management for our children-related programs. We must consider possible sources of revenue needed to sustain our future existence by looking deeper into business opportunities that align with our mission and vision. Such opportunities can help us establish a professional staff structure as well as subsidize those parts of our program that need financial support. I am glad that so many of you support the German Society as volunteers and/or donors and I hope that you will continue to do so in years to come.

But for now, frohe Weihnachten und ein gutes neues Jahr.

- Tony Michels



Guests raise a glass to the 253rd anniversary of the German Society at our annual Stiftungsfest, November 4, 2017



Guest of Honor David Gill, General Consul of Germany in New York, addresses Stiftungsfest attendees, November 4, 2017

## My Luther in Worms Experience - A Rave Review

We were asked to host two German choristers singing in the Luther in Worms oratorio and said yes, thinking that if they were asking us, they must be desperate! We emptied the little room we use for an office and made it look like a hotel room with two single beds and a big night table and two lamps, put out clean towels and hoped for the best.

Our guests could not have been nicer people. Hans Gerd and Manfred – both in their seventies – were very energetic and adventurous tourists. They were fascinated by everything, especially architecture and engineering, and were captivated by the Ben Franklin Bridge, City Hall, and the Water Works on the Schuylkill River. Their enthusiasm and curiosity made them ideal guests – they enjoyed everything – even Chuck’s homemade Sauerkraut.

Reports from the first rehearsals were very positive because Maestro Christian Möbius was both at ease in a new environment and quite adept at efficient rehearsals. Chuck was delighted to find that the tempi were much more lively than he had thought which meant the performance would not drag at all. Manfred and Hans Gerd feared that with only 50 voices, they would not be heard in the very large First Presbyterian Church, but the performance received glowing reports.

I was in the balcony for the second performance at the GSP. Steven Ng, Tenor, was quite strong as Justus Jonas, from his first aria, where he punctuated the air with his “Du, aber Herr, lass blitzen” (Lord, let lightning strike) to his finale as Emperor Charles V, when he decides to ban rather than burn Luther for his attacks on Catholic doctrine and practices. Teresa Suschke, Soprano from Berlin, has a strong voice which could easily hit the high notes of her part as Katarina, and the resonance in her voice gave a strong character to the role. Ashley Colabella, alto, was excellent as Marta, and especially in the lower range her voice was sonorous and penetrating.

Egbert Junghanns, from Erzbegirge in Saxony,

is a marvelous bass and it was great to have his booming voice as the nefarious Glapio. “Feindschaft sei fortan zwischen uns und euch! So sieht nun hin, auf ewig verflucht!” (“We are now enemies, you are cursed forever!”) came out with thunderous sonority – assisted by the basses, violas, and violins playing a loud and percussive line.

Then Brian Ming Chu as Luther brought a calming resolution with the lines “Ihr habt euch dieses Tages selbst gerichtet...” (You brought judgment upon yourselves...) and starts the finale “Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott” (A mighty fortress is our God) joined by the other soloists and the supporters of Luther. The dotted rhythms of the hymn composed by Martin Luther can sound shocking and dance-like and not staid and stately, but here Maestro Möbius kept the hymn at a moderate pace so you could hear the dotted rhythms but without exaggeration. Laced throughout the finale, the oboes sounded great as they soared upwards.

Christian Möbius conducted with precision and energy and the choir was excellent. The Maestro even had the last row of men stand on their chairs when they sang – quite a challenge on the crowded stage, but they managed to nimbly climb up and down quickly and quietly.

By the time the singers gathered in the Ratskeller after the performance, you could tell strong bonds had developed between the guests and their hosts and people were introducing each other as if they were a family – “These are my choristers!” one host proudly exclaimed to me. Not only was the music a success, but having a real cultural exchange and discussing our two different countries was a lovely experience – punctuated by a lot of laughter and smiles. The very ambitious project was a huge success in many ways.

- Margaret Darby

program could be established with the American Turners Inc. College students pursuing a major in kinesiology or physical education programs who are seeking funding support, should contact the American Turners Inc., but please call the office first and we will provide the appropriate contact information.

Mr. Joseph DeMaria, Esq., a member of our Board, along with his now deceased good friend Richard Hart, Esq., worked on this case for five years on a pro-bona basis. We thank them for all their hard work and positive outcome.

Earlier this year we approached the Barthelmes Foundation concerning a possible contribution to the Horner Memorial Library Endowment Fund. We recently learned that monies earmarked for grants are committed through 2019, but they expect to be able to make a \$20,000 to \$30,000 donation early in 2020. It will be a challenge grant. We indicated in our response that we would advertise this opportunity immediately and hopefully receive \$30,000 in donations from members and friends by mid 2019. Your donations to meet this challenge grant will be appreciated. You will also become a Friend of Horner Memorial Library. We thank you for giving the request your personal attention.

The balance of the Horner Memorial Library account is slightly over \$100,000, and we obviously have a way to go to reach our interim goal of \$600,000.

### Foundation Support for Capital Projects

It is important to recognize how generous four foundations or organizations have been to support various capital projects. We started to receive yearly grants or donations in December of 2012 from the German Society of New York City, the Cannstatter Foundation Inc., and the Max Kade Foundation to support the Library specifically or provide funds for the HVAC systems. If we include this year’s donations, which are expected in December, these donations amount to \$330,000 or even a bit more. Additionally, the William Penn Foundation has pro-

vided two grants, one specific to the Library and HVAC efforts and one best classified as an ongoing support grant, which we have again designated for HVAC/capital improvements. These two grants amount to \$489,000, if we include a third installment to be paid in September of 2018. In summary, the four foundations have donated \$820,000 since December of 2012 and have allowed us to undertake the very important capital improvements during that past few years.

### Gifts-in-Kind

After our recent success with obtaining a new washer, dryer, and kitchen stove from the Whirlpool Corporation, we are pursuing several addition gift-in-kind donations and hope to secure two 50-inch and one 75- or 80- inch high definition TVs. At this point, letters have been written to 13 companies, which includes all major companies that manufacture TVs or sell them such as Best Buy, HD, Lowe’s, Target etc. We still have a few companies on our short list, but decided to include a request in this issue of the Staatsbote just in case a member or friend of the Society would like to make for a gift-in-kind donation.

### Events

On October 15th, new members – anyone that joined us in the past 48 months, including language students from the Society as well as PhillyKinder, were invited to join representatives of the Women’s Auxiliary and members of the Board of the German Society for our second potluck dinner. It was a good opportunity to meet interesting people and establish new contacts which will form the basis for continued friendships. The food was wonderful and the group agreed that we should repeat this event again in 2018. We had fewer attendees than in the prior year and need to look at when to hold the event and how to advertise it. Our special thanks Petra Goedde and Maria Sturm for making this a nice event.

- E.D. Weiler

## Development Report

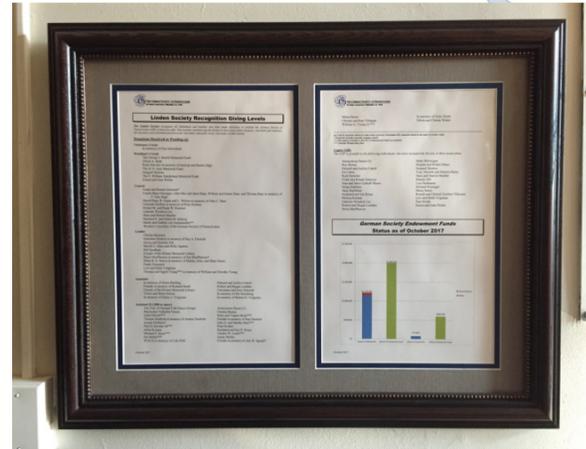
We have been writing about the importance of a vibrant giving program for the past six years. The Annual Fund drive needs to be at the center of our efforts as we very much need these funds to balance our operating budget. Solicitation letters will be mailed to all members by President Tony Michels, and we ask you to be as generous as possible.

We wish to highlight again that the U.S. Congress late in 2015 made permanent a change in our tax laws that should be of special interest to all who are 70½ years old and who need to take yearly IRA required minimum distributions (RMD's), which can have unpleasant tax consequences. The last revision allows portions or all of the yearly required minimum distributions to be directed to a charity of your choice without triggering any tax consequences; of course you may not claim a tax deduction for this donation. Most importantly, these donations count toward the required annual distribution. There is an upper limit of \$100,000 in any given year. But there is no lower limit, and as such, this is a nice vehicle by which to make a meaningful gift to our Annual Fund or to donate to our two endowment funds. And I am happy to report that several members of the Society took advantage of this giving feature during 2017 with very nice contributions to the Annual Fund and a very significant gift to the General Endowment and Horner Memorial Library Endowment, respectively. It is still not too late to take advantage of this opportunity, and we are hopeful that this giving feature will not change in 2018.

We are making reasonable progress with our efforts to grow the General Endowment and the Horner Memorial Library Endowment accounts. The Scholarship Fund is our third endowment with the Philadelphia Foundation, and our yearly awards to college students are funded from this account.

We established the Linden Society a number of years ago to recognize all donations of \$1,000 or more to any of the endowment funds and to also acknowledge individuals or families that

have indicated that the Society is in their respective wills. If it is your intention to remember the Society, please let us know and we will be delighted to add your name to the Legacy list. Member of the Linden Society are found on a very attractive plaque in the entrance area of the Society – this plaque was just recently updated.



In 2017, \$150,000 was added to the General Endowment Fund. The significant growth in the account is attributed to the referenced donation from an IRA account by a generous member, the proceeds from the H.D. Justi Fund and several donations in memory of a family member. The account now stands at about \$1.15MM; \$2.00MM remains our interim goal.

The H.D. Justi Fund, the Philadelphia Turngemeinde, and the Pauline A. Kuenzel Memorial Fund have been in litigation for nearly five years and in the court system for 25 years. The H.D. Justi Fund was finally awarded to the Society, since we were listed as a contingent beneficiary, while the Kuenzel Fund, the larger of the two, was given to the American Turners Inc. The judge specified that the Kuenzel Funds should benefit the Philadelphia area and promote and benefit gymnastics and physical education programs. Scholarship programs might be an obvious opportunity. We have worked with West Chester University, which has one of the largest kinesiology and physical education programs in the country, to see if a cooperative

## Konversationsabend 2017 and 2018

2017 has been a good year for the KA. All of our events have been outstanding, all deserve being highlighted:

*Feuerzangenbowle* (Herta von der Gruen, Feb.), *Brahms, Wieck, Schumann – a fateful encounter* (Steve Schatz, March), *The Maze of German Grammar – Bastian Sick* (Karl Moehlmann, April), *Talentshow* (KA members, May), Actualities (Karl Moehlmann, Sept.), *A Restless Age – the other Revolutions around 1500* (Helga Halbfass, Oct.), *In the Footsteps of Luther – the Catholic Perspective* (Daniel Doyle, Augustinian monk and Prof. of Catholic Theology, Nov.).

In addition there were three KA Extra events: *Xenophobia and Islamophobia in Germany* (Martin Kaiser, March), *Frankfurter Abend* (guests from Frankfurt, May), *Migranten in Germany* (Oliver Bilger, Journalist, Sept.).



Oliver Larmi and Lisa Franks before their dance on the ball room stage, KA Talent Show, May 2017

No meeting was attended by fewer than 21 people, many attracted more. The “winner” was the Brahms, Wieck, Schumann event with 32 attendees. The Music Committee had endorsed this event (thanks go to Ed Cohen and Hardy von Auenmueller). And - the refreshments were as popular as ever. Everybody's thanks go to all who contributed to the buffet, especially to Renate Ruthberg, our star baker.

On December 13, we will meet for our annual *Christmas Celebration*. Everybody is invited to bring a small present and receive one in exchange for quoting a short poem or famous line or a brief account of some favorite Christmas memories.

We are looking forward to 2018 starting with a *Feuerzangenbowle* in February, an evening on

the controversial **reconstruction of the imperial castle** in Berlin in March, a discussion of the principles of **historiography** in April, finally an **evening of music**, singing, and possibly some folk dancing in May.

We also expect **Martin Kaiser** from the Gustav Stresemann Institute to speak to us early next year and **Prof. Juergen Overhoff** from the University of Münster on April 23, 2018. Both have been most popular speakers of the KA Extra series before, and we are very pleased to welcome them again. Details will be announced in due time.

After all the good news, we sadly report the sudden death of **Dr. Guenter Finke** last October. Dr. Finke joined the KA in 1988. He attended most sessions through all those years, stimulated discussions, and occasionally led the evening. We will never forget that memorable night in 2011 when, with much humor and patience, he attempted to explain to us the difference between electricity and magnetism. Like few others he knew how to combine intellect and heart. Someone called him “such a pleasant person”. I would like to add: he was a true gentleman; he had no enemies but time. Even time liked him and allowed him to reach the wonderful age of 87 years, but then took him as it will take us all. We will not forget him.



Last but not least, I wish to mention that Hardy von Auenmueller who led this forum for ten years, before I took over in 2011, has, in Günter's honor, challenged all current and past attendants of the KA with a \$500 donation for our Library Endowment fund. If you want to participate, you may send a check to the office of the Society.

- Helga Halbfass

## How German Shaped My Life

Die deutsche Sprache war immer Teil meines Lebens, aber ihre Entwicklung folgte einem interessanten Pfad. Mein Vater ist Schweizer und meine Mutter ist Amerikanerin. Ich wurde in Brooklyn geboren, aber ein paar Monate danach ging mein Vater zu dem Schweizer Konsulat in Manhattan und registrierte mich als Schweizer Bürger. Seit ich jung war, hatte ich eine zweisprachige Erziehung: mit meiner Mutter sprach ich Englisch und war Amerikaner; und mit meinem Vater sprach ich Hochdeutsch und war Schweizer. Diese zweifache Identität beeinflusste, was ich las und was ich im Fernseher sah. Mit meinem Vater lasen wir *Max und Moritz* und schauten *Biene Maja* an, und mit meiner Mutter lasen wir *Good Night Moon* und schauten *Arthur* an. Diese Erziehung war in mancher Hinsicht anders als die von vielen meiner Freunde; ich hatte keine Ahnung von den Phillies aber kannte die Fußball WM; und noch verblüffender: ich dachte, dass alle Jungen einen deutschsprechenden Vater und englischsprechende Mutter hatten. Während dieser ersten paar Jahre existierte Deutsch nur als Teil der Beziehung zu meinem Vater - dass es etwas Größeres bedeuten könnte, schien mir unwahrscheinlich.

Mit fünf Jahren ging ich zum ersten Mal in die Schweiz und nach Österreich, und mit dieser Erfahrung erweiterte sich mein Deutschverständnis. Deutsch war nicht mehr nur eine Kommunikationsmethode, sondern wurde mit einem Ort und seinen Bewohnern verbunden. Ritter, Schlösser, alte Städte, und lustige Großeltern gaben Deutsch eine neue Bedeutung. Und jeden Sommer ging es so weiter, meine Schwester und ich besuchten unsere Großeltern und reisten in Europa herum. Unser Deutsch verbesserte sich jeden Sommer und dann verschlechterte sich wieder während des Schuljahrs in Amerika. Europa mit seiner Geschichte, den Bergen, der Natur, und den schnellen und pünktlichen Zügen beeindruckte mich; ich wurde eine stolzer Schweizer und Deutsch-Sprechender. Obwohl

ich Deutsch zu Hause sprach, offerierte meine High-School es leider nicht. Ich konnte recht gut sprechen, aber kaum lesen oder schreiben. Bei einem Straßenfest traf ich meine Nachbarin, Frau Pop, und sie erzählte mir von PhillyKinder. Sie fragte mich, ob ich mithelfen wollte, und schlug vor, dass es meine Deutsch-Kenntnisse verbessern könnte. Für die nächsten zwei Jahre half ich jeden Donnerstag im Herbst und Winter bei PhillyKinder mit. Ich war immer positiv überrascht, dass so viele Kinder und Eltern Energie und Zeit nach der Schule investieren, um Deutsch zu lernen. Viele Kinder und Lehrer waren verblüfft über einige meiner Schwyzerdütsch-Wörter, zum Beispiel nannte ich einen Mülleimer 'der Güsel' und ein Fahrrad 'das Velo'. Aber alle zusammen verbesserten wir unser Deutsch, als wir neue Nomen, Verben, und Faelle lernten. Mit Zeit erfuhr ich auch mehr über die German Society und ihre Geschichte, und nie haette ich vermutet, dass Deutsch so eine Anwesenheit in Philadelphia hatte.

In der zwölften Klasse war meine Universitätsrecherche in vollem Schwung. Ich suchte nach *Liberal Arts* Schulen im Osten der USA, die starke Programme in Politikwissenschaft und Wirtschaft hatten. Gleichzeitig erfuhr ich von dem *Scholarship Program* der German Society und meldete mich an. Im Frühling war ich bei Kenyon College in Ohio angenommen, und ich gewann ein sehr großzügiges Stipendium von der German Society. Dieses Stipendium kam mit dem Anstoß, dass ich Deutsch studieren würde, und so fing ich bei Kenyon an, wirklich konkret Deutsch zu lernen. Kenyons Deutsch-Abteilung hat zwei super Professoren, Leo Riegert und Paul Gebhart, und mit ihrer Hilfe habe ich meine Grammatik wahnsinnig verbessert und angefangen, deutsche Literatur zu lesen. Seitdem öffnete Deutsch viele Türen bei Kenyon: Ich gehe jeden Mittwochabend zu dem Deutschen Tisch, wo Studenten essen und mit den Professoren Deutsch sprechen. Ich arbeite auch als Deutsch-Lehrassistent, wo ich

Anfänger drei Mal die Woche unterrichte. Nächstes Semester belege ich einen Deutschkurs über Wien um 1900. Ich plane auch, im nächsten Frühling in Berlin zu studieren.

Ich möchte mich bei der German Society und den PhillyKindern bedanken. Sie haben meine Deutschreise stark beeinflusst, und mit ihrer Hilfe hat sich Deutsch von einer Sprache mit meinem Vater zu einer Kultur und einem College-Major entwickelt.

- Lucas Kreuzer

## Meine Erfahrungen als Volunteer bei der German Society of Pennsylvania

Das habe ich nicht erwartet: nach Amerika zu kommen und dort mit der deutschen Geschichte in Kontakt zu kommen. Schon beim ersten Besuch der Bibliothek in der German Society war ich begeistert.

Als ich dann gefragt wurde, ob ich ein bisschen ehrenamtlich mithelfen könnte, sagte ich gerne zu. So kam es, dass ich mich mit den Büchern beschäftigte, die Geschichten vom 2. Weltkrieg und davor erzählten. Ich hielt Bücher in der Hand von 1921, 1945 und Bücher in Sütterlinschrift geschrieben, die Schrift, die meine Mutter in der Schule lernte und noch schreiben und lesen kann. Bücher in Mundart, wie pfälzisch und schwäbisch. Manche hatten einen kunstvollen Einband, wie zum Beispiel „Das Töchteralbum“ oder das Buch „Wenn Du noch eine Mutter hast“.

Immer wieder musste ich mich losreißen von interessanten Geschichten, und sei es eine Beschreibung von der Landschaft in Rügen. Das war ein Buch, geschrieben im späten 18. Jahrhundert. Besonders betroffen gemacht hat mich ein Buch mit letzten Briefen von Soldaten aus dem 2. Weltkrieg. Auch mein Vater war in Russland, aber durfte heimkehren und wurde sogar 86 Jahre alt.

Immer wieder treffe ich hier in der Bibliothek Menschen, die mit weissen Handschuhen vorsichtig in alten Unterlagen nach niedergeschriebenen Begebenheiten suchen und fündig werden. Je mehr es in unserer Zeit um die Digitalisierung von Büchern geht, desto notwendiger ist es, Bibliotheken wie die der German Society zu erhalten. Zwar kann man viele Informationen im Internet abrufen und verarbeiten. Doch Eintauchen und den historischen Flair erleben, kann man nur in einer Bibliothek wie der auf Spring Garden Street. Bücher in die Hand zu nehmen und über Menschen und Ereignisse nachzuschlagen, lässt Geschichte wieder lebendig werden.

Für mich sind die anderthalb Jahre, in denen ich bei der Bibliothek ausgeholfen habe, eine prägende Erfahrung gewesen, die mein Leben bereichert hat. Vielen Dank, German Society! Ich hoffe, ich kann bald einmal zu einem Besuch wiederkommen...

- Lydia Schmalzhaf

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Lydia Schmalzhaf came to the Philadelphia area from Eppingen, near Stuttgart, in the summer of 2014. She first encountered the Society during that year's Christkindlmarkt, and luckily made it up the stairs to the Library. Over the following two-and-a-half years, she helped us with our children's book collection, and with weeding the fiction titles between 1960 and the present. She was a wonderful presence in the library, and we miss her very much.

-Maria Sturm

## ONE NEW MEMBER PER MEMBER!

Help your Society to grow and remain  
vibrant.

We ask each member this year to make a goal of bringing one new member into the Society.