

Calendar of Events

- Sat. Oct. 5 Lecture by Andrea Wulf at PAFA: The Invention of Nature, 7:00pm
- Wed. Oct. 9 Konversationsabend: The "Other" Humboldt, 6:00pm
- Fri. Oct. 11 Friday Film Fest: *Das schweigende Klassenzimmer*, 6:30pm
- Sat. Oct. 12 Buchclub: *Der Stechlin* by Theodor Fontane, 1:30pm
- Tue. Oct. 22 Lecture by Ruth Scott Blackson: Inside the Book Restorer's Workshop, 6:00pm
- Sun. Oct. 27 "Wister and More!" presents the Karlsruhe Konzertduo, 3:00pm
- Sat. Nov. 2 255th Stiftungsfest, 6:00pm
- Sat. Nov. 9 Buchclub: *Stellenweise Glatteis* by Max von der Grün
- Sun. Nov. 10 Martinszug, 5:00pm
- Wed. Nov. 13 Konversationsabend: 30th Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall, 6:00pm
- Sun. Nov. 17 Journey into Winter: A German Folk Music Concert, 3:00pm
- Fri. Nov. 22 Friday Film Fest: *Ballon*, 6:30pm
- Sun. Nov. 24 "Wister and More!" presents the Wister Quartet, 3:00pm
- Sat. Dec. 7 Christkindlmarkt, 12:00pm
- Wed. Dec. 11 Konversationsabend: Christmas Celebration, 6:00pm
- Fri. Dec. 13 Winter Spirits, 7:00pm
- Sun. Dec. 15 "Wister and More!" presents the Ephrata Cloister Chorus, 3:00pm

In this issue...

President's Report	1	255th Stiftungsfest	10
Happy Birthday, Mr. Humboldt	2	Stock Donations	11
Library Endowment Fund	3	In Memoriam: William Farnon	11
25 Years Ago: Library Renovation Project	4	GSP-GHI Fellows' Reports	12
In Memoriam: Robert Lembke	7	PhillyKinder Sommerlager	14
2019-20 Friday Film Fest Season	8		



The German Society of Pennsylvania

Neuer Pennsylvanischer Staatsbote

CELEBRATING

1764 **250** 2014

YEARS OF
**GERMAN
HERITAGE**

Fall 2019

President's Report

I hope you all experienced a wonderful summer despite the heat waves that pummeled Philadelphia. Now that global warming and its consequences are becoming more a part of our daily lives, countries like Germany are planning for action instead of denying the problem and laying the consequences in the laps of future generations. As we look at how we ourselves can become part of productive and necessary change in our lives, we can look to the improvements to our building, which will significantly reduce our carbon footprint. Our work demonstrates that investment in the future of this planet can begin at our own doorstep - our current use of fossil fuels is a fraction of what we used in the past. We were able to complete improvements to our building's state-of-the-art utility systems at an even lower price than those proposed by consultants offering outdated, "off the shelf" solutions. Earlier this month, the Board of Directors approved allocating the funds necessary to complete the remaining 10% of our HVAC Upgrade project within the next 12 months. After that the German Society will no longer (with the exception of cooking appliances) be dependent on natural gas. Thank you for your encouragement and support in getting this done.

As part of our efforts to generate interest in both German culture and in our organization, we held an event called "Dogadelphia" on September 14. Designed to create greater exposure for the German Society to the general public, we attracted approximately 300 people along with 130 dogs, cooperated with four other non-profit organizations, established a relationship with several very happy vendors,

and experienced an afternoon full of fun and information (with no unpleasant canine incidents). City Councilman At-Large Al Taubenberg (seen in the photo below) volunteered to open the event with the help of our dog, Bonny, who was the "driving force" behind the event. Thanks to Councilman Taubenberg's presence, a camera crew (ABC News) was also present, creating exposure to more potential visitors for an even bigger Dogadelphia in 2020. The icing on the cake was certainly the fact that



Experience the magic of the holiday season at our annual

Christkindlmarkt

Saturday, December 7, 12:00 PM

- Come and enjoy:
- Holiday Shopping
- Delicious Meals
- Kaffee & Kuchen
- Carol Sing-Along
- Crafts for Kids
- and a Visit from Santa!



we were able to sign up 10 new members during the event (thanks to the “closer” efforts of long-time member Lou Oschmann). Thank you to everyone who devoted substantial time to make this happen.



Although the summer event “Philly Bikes” could not be realized this year, we are already planning it now for the summer of 2020 under the leadership of GSP officer Mark McGuigan.

If you are interested in helping to create additional activities to increase our visibility to the greater Philadelphia population, I would be happy to hear from you.

- Anton Michels



Happy Birthday, Mr. Humboldt

Hans Mueller organized a delightful reception on the Schuylkill River Bank at the foot of the statue of Alexander von Humboldt, celebrating the 250th anniversary of his birth with pomp, circumstance, elegance, and even music.

Maria Sturm, whose energetic educational efforts inspired the GSP book club to read about the famous naturalist whose daring adventures helped map most of Latin America, lobbied to have the statue cleaned and waxed to restore it for the occasion. As she explained in a brief speech, this is the only full-length statue of Alexander von Humboldt in the world. The statue was given to the city of Philadelphia by the Philadelphia German community and was unveiled at the Philadelphia’s Centennial Exposition of 1876 commemorating the birth of the United States.



Some 38 members of the German Society were on hand to listen to Councilman-at-Large Al Taubenberger. A photographer took official Humboldt birthday photographs of the crowd in front of the statue. Chuck Holdeman, bassoonist, arranged some of the Jubel Overture by Peter Josef von Lindpaintner which he and Antonello di Matteo, clarinetist, played as well as a clarinet and bassoon duo by Ludwig van Beethoven. The Lindpaintner was part of the recital program for the Philadelphia Humboldt Centennial of 1876.

- Margaret Darby

Horner Memorial Library Endowment Fund

In the fall of 2011 we established our first endowment fund to support ongoing operations at the German Society. We set ourselves an interim goal of \$2.00MM and the current balance at the Philadelphia Foundation stands at \$1.30MM. In recent years our progress toward the goal has slowed considerably, but we remain hopeful that we will reach our goal soon.

Emboldened by our early success, we decided to launch, in the fall of 2015, a second endowment fund to support the needs of the Horner Memorial Library, with its unique collection of books and manuscripts. The Library dates back to 1817 and these holdings differentiate us from any other German-American historic or cultural societies in the U.S. We set a more modest interim goal of \$600,000. I am delighted to report that we have surpassed the goal! Thanks to generous donations from two foundations, the Women’s Auxiliary, and the Friends of the Library, listed below. The Hete and Albert Barthelmes Foundation promised to provide a \$30,000 gift in June of 2020, which will bring the total donations received to \$813,000.

The largest gift of \$300,000 comes from the Max Kade Foundation Inc. specified to support the general operations of the Library and to assure that we maintain a part-time librarian. The Women’s Auxiliary dissolved earlier this summer and generously donated \$268,844 from their residual funds to the Library Endowment. The Arcadia Foundation Inc. provided a \$75,000 grant to support much needed book and manuscript restoration activities. The balance was donated by the Friends of the Library.

It might be of interest to mention how the funds will be used. By contract with the Philadelphia Foundation, we have the option each year to withdraw up to 4% of the account balance. The Library Committee will develop a financial plan based on the expected amount available each year which will include monies dedicated to uses specified by some of our donors, such as book preservation or other needs. The described process will be used during the current

fiscal year, since we have reached our interim goal.

We extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who has donated to the Horner Memorial Library Endowment Fund. Your support will help to ensure that this unique asset and resource will be available not only to members but also to the general public (and interested parties throughout the world) because of the online catalog.

Members’ names have been removed from online newsletter for their privacy.

Over a period of time, we hope to build our endowments to a point where they will provide 20 to 25% of the yearly operating costs and will also support capital projects. We are hopeful that members will provide for a gift, small or large, through their estate plans. Should this be your intention, please contact us and we will add your name to the Legacy portion of our Linden Society; the latter was designed to recognize all gifts of \$1,000 or more to an endowment.

- Ernie Weiler

25 Years Ago: Start of the Library Renovation Project

Floating in anniversaries, the German Society of Pennsylvania might add another such commemoration in 2019 as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the inauguration of the Library Cataloging and Renovation Project. The festive event in the Horner Library on November 21, 1994, was most memorable with a keynote by the famous historian Fritz Stern of Columbia University who spoke about "Talent and Genius: German Ideals" with an ironic nod to the white marble busts of Kant, Lessing and Humboldt above the massive bookcases. While the celebration marked the start of a five-year undertaking that would alter the Society irreversibly—we spoke of moving it into the twenty-first century—it also concluded a laborious struggle to secure the necessary funds, a struggle that consumed members, librarians, and scholars as well as politicians and foundation administrators on both sides of the Atlantic. Now might be the right time to recall some of the peculiarities and benchmarks of this endeavor before and after 1994.

Scope and Achievements

First the overall the accomplishment: the Library Project transformed a book collection of about 70,000 volumes that since 1817 had provided knowledge, *Bildung*, and entertainment to the German community, into a research collection that after the loss of this function in the age of the internet became a center for the study of German-American history and culture. Crucial for this transformation of the arguably most abundant collection of German Americana in the country was the decision to maintain the character of the *Volksbibliothek* in its original location as a premier document of this culture. The successful million-dollar fund drive allowed the cataloging of 24,000 titles of the general collection into the RLIN (Research Libraries Information Network) database and the restoration of about 9,000 volumes of the most precious part, the German American Collection, by the Northeast Document Conservation Center in Andover, MA, aside from addressing many needs of a much neglected library.

The momentum of the Library Project was crucial for the launching of a parallel fund drive for the renovation of the building that drew another million dollars mostly from American sources. The support from the German side targeted the books, from the American side mostly bricks and mortar.

At the conclusion of the project in 1999, an international conference was organized in the renovated—though not quite restored—building under the title, "The Future of German-American History." Having saved this cultural treasure and made it accessible for research, we invited prominent scholars, journalists and politicians from the two countries to discuss the prospects of the German-American legacy in light of American-German political relations. The conference, sponsored by the Thyssen and the Max Kade foundations and concluded by Philadelphia mayor Edward Rendell, generated two volumes—in English and German—under the title *The German-American Encounter: Conflict and Cooperation between Two Cultures, 1800-2000*.



At the concluding conference, in the middle Barthold Witte, director of the Kulturabteilung, Foreign Ministry, Bonn.

The Long Road to Financial Feasibility

It took a decade to arrive at the inspiring inauguration in 1994. At this time the overall budget, the *Gesamtfinanzierung*, had been finalized, the cooperation of the University of

Pennsylvania settled, the approval of the Society's board secured, and a Research Advisory Board created which brought area scholars on board. The Tricentennial celebration of the founding of Germantown in 1983 had featured the German Society for a short moment on the national stage and raised hopes for the revitalization of the Society and its unique library. Yet it became clear that the needed changes would rattle the spirit of this ethnic society that had endured the upheavals of the twentieth century and the two wars against Germany by grudgingly learning to keep a low profile, maintain its mission as the guardian of the German heritage within the confines of its proud tradition while the Women's Auxiliary performed most of the charity work. Expert help would have to come from outside. It was sought and accepted as long as it did not clash with the spirit of a self-satisfied ethnic society.

It was to his credit that President George Beichl in 1986 hired a dynamic young woman, Barbara Lang, as the program officer who, on the basis of the 1985 expert survey of the Philadelphia Conservation Center for Arts and Historic Artifacts, drafted a first application to the Pennsylvania Department of Education. She laid out the need to catalog the Library in machine readable form and engage in a major conservation effort. While unsuccessful in its initial form, the project of cataloging and renovating the Library began to be discussed by librarians and historians of the area. Sponsored by the Max Kade Foundation in New York, which remains one of the most generous benefactors of the Society, the preparations for a major fund drive for renovation and cataloging the Library took a decisive shape in 1988 when the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton came on board through its social science librarian, Elliott Shore.

In his planning document Shore integrated in the suggested cataloging and renovation procedures the establishment of a German-American research institute, proposing a bridge between conservation and research efforts. This idea, though not fully realized, re-

mained an important component of the efforts to "rescue" what basically was an ethnic heritage center as a repository for academic scholarship. A few years later the academic component became the crucial condition for the commitment of German foundations and the Foreign Office in Bonn to contribute funds that were primarily designed for research, not for ethnic preservation.

It took indeed a few years until this commitment was secured thanks to the services of the University of Pennsylvania, its research administration and its German Department under Frank Trommler. In the meantime the fund drive received helpful endorsements from Werner Weidenfeld, Bonn's coordinator of German-American collaboration, Hartmut Lehmann, the director of the newly founded German Historical Institute in Washington and Jürgen Ohlau, the director of the New York Goethe Institute. The Society was to receive the sum of \$300,000 from the Stiftung Nordrhein Westfalen. Yet almost a year passed until the verdict came down: the envisaged moneys would go towards rebuilding East Germany's cultural heritage. A German paper concluded that the donation to the German Society of Pennsylvania had become a victim of German unity.

In 1993, the Thyssen Stiftung, the main sponsor of the Tricentennial Conference in 1983, again came through with a commitment of about \$235,000 over five years for the cataloging project as did the Robert Bosch Stiftung with the same amount. Thanks to the earlier connection with Krefeld, the home town of the first thirteen families that founded Germantown under Francis Pastorius in 1683, its former mayor and then member of the German parliament, Dieter Pützshofen, the Foreign Office confirmed its promise of donating \$330,000 towards the restoration of the 9,000 titles of the German American Collection. The German foundations committed the funds under the condition that the German Society would partly match them with the amount of \$300,000 over five years. It was a testimony to the vitality of the Society and its friends in the area that it was able to

raise \$60,000 each year between 1994 and 1999 whereby Penn facilitated the somewhat complicated bookkeeping. In addition to administering the project funds, the University contributed \$15,000, as did the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation. The overall project budget was \$1,101,000.

The Five-Year Project and Its Many Collaborators

The anticipation at the November event of 1994 was fully justified. While the transition of the presidency from George Beichl to Bernard Freitag did not go as smoothly as hoped since it brought the long-simmering debate about the Society's mission to a head, the work on the collection proceeded according to the schedule that Elliott Shore, the project coordinator, had laid out, and the Research Advisory Committee, chaired by Frank Trommler, ratified. A painful but necessary step was the selection of more than 10,000 books and journals, partly in English, that seemed outside the library scope for storage. 940 boxes were first stored in John Muller's warehouse in Northeast Philadelphia, later in a warehouse in New Jersey. In another transport the most precious and delicate part of the Library, the German American Collection, inaugurated in 1867 by the Penn Professor Oswald Seidensticker, was taken over by Sherelyn Ogden, the director of book conservation at the Northeast Document Conservation Center in Andover. The Center completed the restoration within the planned three years, stored the collection temporarily and micro-filmed a substantial portion of the newspapers until the moneys of the Foreign Office ran out. Other parts of the collection were restored by the Philadelphia Conservation Center.

Thanks to the regular reporting of the project's progress in the *Staatsbote*, the catalogers' work found a lively resonance among the Society's members. The articles by the catalogers Scott Denlinger and Bettina Hess as well as Elliott Shore were more than reports, they conveyed the enthusiasm of finding so many unknown treasures and formulate a first impression of the discoveries, from exotic travelogues

in the 18th century and weird titles of popular science to valuable editions of the German classics, rare printings of seemingly lost novels (the first chapters of *Die Geheimnisse von Philadelphia* of 1850), and the papers of Konrad Nies, the most accomplished German-American writer around 1900.

The catalogers, later joined by Henna Heringer, began with the oldest materials. They entered their original cataloging in Library of Congress format into RLIN, the database of the leading research libraries in the country, yet retained the original classification system as a guide to location and the original organization. They found that fully 57% of the books cataloged were new to the database, and close to 20% represented unique titles in U.S. libraries.

Based on this cataloging effort the collection of the Horner Library has been accessible to the international scholarly community, an ongoing undertaking that, thanks to Bettina Hess, our Special Collections Librarian, is being updated on the web-based *Research Guide*: <https://www.germansociety.org/wpcontent/uploads/2019/05/Research-Guide.pdf>.

Its first version, sponsored by the German Historical Institute, was created by Kevin Ostoyich in 2006. Soon afterwards, RLIN was merged with *Worldcat*, where the Horner records are available. The *Research Guide* provides an overview of the collections as well as lists of uncataloged pamphlets, periodicals, and manuscript collections. Separately, the Society's *Catalog* lists the titles as well (gsp.library.net). As in the later work with the Historical Institute that in 2007 led to the long anticipated launching of a research program ("GHI-GSP Fellowship at the Horner Library"), collaboration made the Library Project successful both in its restoration of the core of the Society and in establishing it as a viable center of German-American research. Penn's Research Administration delivered excellent service, its Library provided technical know-how, and the German Department helped direct the interest of scholars and sponsors. Project co-chairs Shore and Trommler complemented each other: Shore

who in the meantime became the director of the Bryn Mawr College Library, provided the librarian's expertise, Trommler administered the project and kept the fundraising effort on schedule. Both served on the Society's board and had in President Bernard Freitag an indefatigable supporter in the at times rough waters of ethnic politics. The Library, whose lending services to the members had dramatically decreased in demand with the advent of internet and digitization, was closed between February 1998 and September 1999 for the extensive restoration of the building. On the basis of the one-million dollar master plan that architect Otto Reichert-Facilides, chair of the Master Planning Committee, presented in 1996, the roof was replaced, the old ceiling of the library hall restored, the director's room renovated. New wiring was installed and a new heating, ventilation and air conditioning system established. Fund raising for this work started in 1993 and took off under the direction of Hans Hartleben, who secured major contributions by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Stiftung (Berthold Beitz), and CoreStates Bank. Matching and doubling these contributions required hard work and a special commitment of many members; the generosity of Albert and Hete Barthelmes, John Muller, Peter Kohler and Morgan Churchman deserves to be particularly mentioned.



Bernard Freitag, President (left), Frank Trommler and Elliott Shore, Co-Chairs of the Library Project

It goes without saying that the ceremony of the rededication of the Library at the 235th anniversary *Stiftungsfest* on October 9, 1999, meant neither the completion of the building restoration nor the end of the cataloging effort. Though unfinished at the end of the twentieth century, both endeavors gave lively assurance that the German Society of Pennsylvania was (almost) ready to prevail in the twenty-first century.

- Frank Trommler

In Memoriam: Robert Lembke



Robert Lembke, 77, of Philadelphia, passed away on August 29, 2017. Robert was a graduate of Cornell University and obtained his master's in city planning from the Wharton School. He worked for the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Association and Conrail. He invested in residential real estate and was very much a hands-on manager.

He was proud of his German heritage, his parents having moved to the US in 1926. He often spoke about his father, whom he very much admired. He was working on a book about the experiences of his father and grandfather during World War I. Unfortunately he was not able to finish it. Bob was an active volunteer at the Society. He was a candidate twice for Director of the Society. Robert and his wife, Megan Eileen, were early participants in our efforts to establish the General Endowment Fund to benefit the Society's programs and activities, and they are listed as members of the Linden Society, established to recognize donations of \$1,000 or more to any of our endowments.

Our sympathy goes out to Megan Eileen as well as Robert's friends and family.

- Ernie Weiler

2019-20 Friday Film Fest Season

Das schweigende Klassenzimmer (2018)

October 11, 2019

German with German subtitles



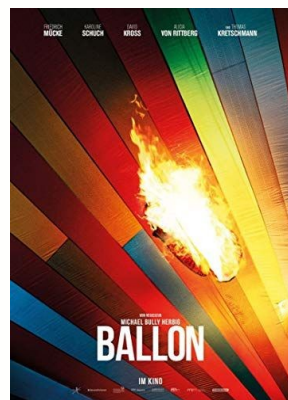
This movie tells the true story of a group of 12th grade students in 1956 in Storkow (Brandenburg/GDR) who observe a moment of silence in honor of the victims of the Hungarian uprising of the same year. What seems like a small innocent gesture mushrooms into a serious state affair with far reaching consequences for the students.

When teachers who are also members of the Communist party hear about the incident, they solicit the involvement of the secretary of education of the young republic. Their attempts to expose the instigators of this "counter-revolutionary act" only strengthen the resolve of these remarkable students.

Ballon (2018)

November 22, 2019

German with German subtitles

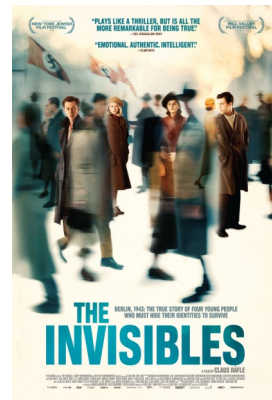


This film recounts one of the most spectacular escape attempts from East Germany. In the summer of 1979, two families (Strelzyk and Wetzel) try to cross over from Thuringia to Bavaria in a homemade hot air balloon. They crash land on their first attempt only meters from the border on the East side, but manage to evade the police. When the wreckage is found, a frantic search for the *Landesverräter* is launched by the Stasi. Undaunted, the families launch a second attempt with a better balloon. All the while, an intense manhunt is underway, aided by an omnipresent authoritarian surveillance system.

Die Unsichtbaren (2017)

January 17, 2020

German with English subtitles



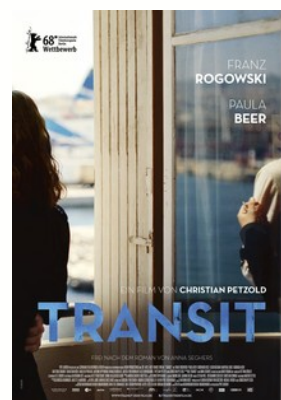
This docudrama tells the story of four Jews who survived the Nazi persecution during World War II by becoming invisible and hiding in plain sight in Berlin with the help of other Germans. Of 7,000 Jews who stayed in Berlin, only 1,500 survived. The movie

mixes enacted scenes with interviews of *Zeitzeugen* and inspiring survivors who tell of their harrowing experiences. Archival footage is added to make this film an unforgettable commemoration of the *stille Helden*, the Germans who defied the threat to their own lives by helping those who were persecuted by the Nazi regime.

Transit (2018)

February 21, 2020

German with English subtitles



This movie is loosely based on the book by Anna Seghers (1900-1983) with the same title. Seghers' book is set in 1942 France after the German invasion and was first published in 1944. The protagonist, Georg, is a German political refugee who escaped a

German internment camp and fled to Paris. When German troops invade France, he is forced to move on to the still unoccupied city of Marseille in the South of France. In Paris he had unintentionally acquired a transcript, two letters, and a visa to Mexico of the German writer Weidel who had committed suicide. Arriving in Marseille, he assumes the identity of Weidel when he visits the Mexican embassy and applies for a

transit visa in the American consulate. Waiting for his papers he meets Marie, the wife of the deceased writer who is desperately looking for her husband. She had left him in Paris and is unaware of what happened to him. When Georg falls in love with her, he is faced with some difficult questions - should he tell her the truth about her husband? Will he be able to convince her to leave with him when she is still committed to her husband? Will he board the ship by himself if she is unwilling to do so after she has been told that her "husband" has been visiting the Mexican and American consulate and seems to be in town? The ending of the movie may subvert your expectations with its haunting ambiguity.

Der Vorname (2018)

March 20, 2020

German with English subtitles



Thomas and his partner Anna have decided on a very time-honored and traditional name for their impending baby. Unfortunately, at a dinner party given in honor of the occasion, Thomas' impish sense of humor inspires him to

suggest that the baby will be receiving another name with considerable resonance in German history. He insists that the others guess that name. He gives them a hint: it begins with A... So begins an intense, thought provoking, and often utterly hilarious *Streitgespräch* that brings the psychology and politics lurking deep within the practice of naming a baby to the surface.

Trautmann (2018)

April 17, 2020

German with English subtitles

This movie is a British-German biopic about Bert Trautmann, who was captured by the British troops in 1944 and imprisoned under harsh conditions in a POW camp in Lancashire, Eng-



land. After the war he became a soccer goalkeeper for a local team and eventually a celebrated keeper for Manchester City in 1949. His heroics during the FA Cup Final in 1956, when he finished the last 20 minutes of the match after breaking a vertebra

in his neck in a collision with an opposing player, earned him the admiration of the English and German public. His love affair and subsequent marriage with an English woman parallels the soccer story, a relationship that is not without trials and tragedy.

Steig. Nicht. Aus! (2018)

May 15, 2020

German with German subtitles



This film is a thriller-action movie starring Wotan Wilke Möhring, who plays Karl Brendt, a successful fixer for a large building company in Berlin. He receives an anonymous phone call while he is driving his two kids to school. The caller informs

him that there are bombs mounted under the car seats which can be remotely activated or will explode if he tries to get out of the car. The caller demands a high ransom. In the meantime, Brendt's wife thinks he wants to kidnap the kids. She gets the police involved, who respond with a large number of officers. Among the officers is a bomb, and the terror expert played by Hanna Herzsprung tries to figure out what is really going on. Brendt is caught between fleeing the police and trying to save his children from the blackmailer whose identity is revealed in the dramatic ending.

- Al Krumm and Karl Moehlmann

Journey into Winter

a German folk music concert

Sunday, November 17, 2019
3:00 PM

Featuring performances by:
Franklinville-Schwarzwald Männerchor
Damenchor Wald-Echo
Reading Liederkranz Singers



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

Ticket Information

\$20/Adults

\$10/Students

FREE for children age 12 and under

Phone: 215-627-2332

Email: info@germansociety.org

Visit: www.germansociety.org

Time to Celebrate - The Annual Stiftungsfest

When the German Society of Pennsylvania was founded on December 26th, 1764 in the Old Schoolhouse on Fourth and Cherry Streets in Philadelphia, few of those pioneers could have envisioned, although many perhaps hoped, that the organization would still be alive and thriving in the year 2019. We will celebrate the fact that the GSP is indeed still alive and thriving 255 years later with our annual Stiftungsfest on Saturday, November 2, 2019.

The evening will begin with a champagne reception in the Joseph Horner Memorial Library, which contains the largest private collection of German language publications outside universities in the United States. This research library, with its more than 50,000 volumes is used by the public and scholars worldwide. The library is housed in an original 1888 reading room, restored by the Society in the 1990s.



In the wonderful ambience of the Library you will have the chance to greet friends, mingle, and listen to live classical music. Dinner will be served in the historic Barthelmes Auditorium which will be transformed into an elegant dining room. Dinner, candles, flowers, a dance performance by Carol and Andreas Kadel, live music provided by the Kauriga Orchestra to dance by – all of this will make the evening a memorable occasion. A favorite part of the evening is the silent auction, offering many outstanding prizes such as weekend getaways and tickets for sporting events.

For more information please call the German Society's office at 215-627-2332.

- Frank Klare

Stock Donations

Each year we typically receive one or two donations of appreciated stock as a charitable donation to the Society. Usually these gifts have been a part of our Annual Fund drive. With the markets at record levels, Society members and friends might wish to review their giving strategies with their financial advisors, as appreciated stock donations given to charities offer tax savings to donors. With the recently increased standard deductions, the available tax savings to most of us have been reduced significantly.

Our individual stock portfolio, significantly smaller than our Vanguard accounts or our Endowment Funds, has been managed by the investment firm of Brick & Kyle Associates, Inc. since 2010. Our portfolio of around 25 to 30 stocks is managed for growth, and is focused on premium U.S. based firms paying reasonable dividends. Their track record has been excellent. In fact, the portfolio is up by 18% since the beginning of the year.

We are anxious to add additional funds to this portion of our holdings. Any donated stock will be transferred to our Brick & Kyle account and will follow our well established fiscal management guidelines. The firm has over 300 accounts and manages around \$350MM in assets. Topper Brick and Liz Kyle are lifetime members of the German Society. They have donated to our Endowment Fund and have been generous to us over the years.

We are hopeful that additional appreciated stock donations will be forthcoming. This will help us grow this important segment of the Society's portfolio.

Should you require additional information, please contact our office and I will return your call promptly.

- Ernie Weiler

In Memoriam: William Farnon



William (Bill) J. Farnon of Penn Wynne, PA, passed away peacefully at home with his family on November 4, 2018 at the age of 88. Bill and his wife, Christa, joined the German Society in 1971. He attended

St. Joseph's University, where he majored in English. After college, he taught at Roman Catholic High School and St. Joe's Prep. He received a Master's degree in Philosophy at Villanova University and taught Philosophy at La Salle University. He subsequently worked for the Philadelphia School District where he taught Latin, Ancient Greek and Spanish. He also earned a Doctorate in Education from Temple University.

Christa came to America for a medical residency program and married Bill in 1969. They lived in Penn Wynne for many years. They have two daughters, Maria and Eileen, and we were pleased to learn that Eileen has recently become a member of the Society. Bill and Christa had a special interest in our library, having donated to the renovation project in the 1990s, participated in the Adopt A Book program, and helped us with the Library Endowment Fund. They are also members of the Linden Society.

We extend our sympathy to Christa, Maria, and Eileen as well as their friends and family.

- Ernie Weiler



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Reports of the GSP-GHI Fellows 2019

Religion and immigration are two recurring topics in the broad thematic agenda that our fellows of the “GHI-GSP Fellowship at the Horner Library” tackle during their summer stay at the Society. An early example of the importance of religion for immigrants to Pennsylvania are the practices of withdrawal from the world and ritualizing a more ascetic life that Timothy Wright brings up in his study of Conrad Beissel’s Ephrata community and that of Johannes Kelpius, the Mystic of the Wissahickon. Wright found some important documents both at Horner and the Library Company in Philadelphia that will be useful for his upcoming book.

In his dissertation at the University of Wisconsin Michael Kaelin pursues a rarely debated factor in the field of immigration studies: the behavioral acculturation of the individuals that was strongly regulated by the established ethnic groups. Focusing on the second half of the nineteenth century, Kaelin analyses the interplay of the control mechanisms of the German Americans and an increasingly nationally conceptualized code of regulations that led to a national immigration policy.

The planned brown bag seminar where the fellows present their findings to members of the Society had to be cancelled this year due to scheduling problems.

- Frank Trommler

Ascetic Protestantism and Alternative Christianities in the Atlantic World, 1680-1780

In June of 2019, I conducted research on my project “Rituals of the Reborn: Ascetic Protestantism and Alternative Christianities in the Atlantic World, 1680-1780” at the Joseph Horner Memorial Library. My research focuses on the dissemination of ascetic practices and theology among radical Protestants around the Atlantic World in the years around 1700. This period saw a revival of interest among Protestants of all stripes in practices such as celibacy, soli-

tary withdrawal, poverty, and contemplative prayer, as a means to achieve greater holiness in living and communion with God. I argue that the widespread nature of the phenomenon requires us to examine how we understand Protestant settlement and civilization in the Atlantic as such ascetic impulses influenced the shape settlements took, their relations with others, as well as the role of women and authority.

Of particular interest in my research so far have been the sources in relation to the practices of two groups, that of the ‘Ephrata Cloister’ which flourished in the 1730s and 40s in frontier Pennsylvania, and a reclusive circle of mystical hermits led by Johannes Kelpius in the 1690s near Philadelphia. The Horner Library possesses a number of important documents from Ephrata, including treatises by its founder, Conrad Beissel. At Ephrata, the group’s creation of a Protestant neo-monastic devotion replete with monastic robes, tonsuring, and communal orders is a fascinating example of how ascetic theology—adopted for its inward, spiritual promise—could also spawn outward practices borrowed from Catholicism. In numerous sources depictions of Ephrata’s monastic robes can be seen and analyzed. In the chronicle kept by the order of sisters, *The Rose of Saron*, and an aid for grammar, pen and ink sketches show women clad in long flowing, white robes with hoods and veils. The chronicle describes their purpose as “muffling the mortal body” and “instruments of spiritual martyrdom.” Another source contains images of the men’s orders clothing which are in turn described as imitating the Catholic Capuchin order clothing. I look forward to analyzing how such monastic practices at Ephrata shaped the role of women in worship, economic activities, and their relations with the generally anti-papal nature of colonial ecclesiastical authority.

With the hermits in Philadelphia led by Kelpius, contemporary sources are more difficult to come by. With assistance from the expert and helpful Horner staff, I have found a number of fascinating sources that will hopefully shed

light on the esoteric and alchemical practices of this sect. The Library Company possesses a number of works written by Kelpius on contemplative prayer (*A Short, Easy and Comprehensive Method of Prayer*), but also a number of books owned by Kelpius and his circle. One of these books, *Cherubinischer Wandersmann* was written by Angelus Silesius, a German mystic and Catholic convert who believed that mystical theology’s greatest truth was self-denial and the illumination and union it brought the believer with God. Kelpius’s circle strove to put such ideals into practice, holding society at a distance while they awaited the millennium.

While finishing my archival research, I am preparing a number of articles for publication. One of these includes a reflection on the early modern category of ‘inward’ devotion and how it should be revised based on the presence of such outward, ascetic practices among Protestants. The article will draw upon the many examples from my research trip made possible by the generous research grant facilitated by the Horner Library.

- Timothy Wright,
University of California, Berkeley

Not My Brother’s Keeper: Immigrant Communities, Nativism, and the Limits of Inclusion

This past summer, I had the good fortune of spending four weeks in the beautiful Horner Library at the German Society of Pennsylvania. The Society’s rare book and manuscript collections offered invaluable materials for my dissertation, which explores the interpersonal, communal, and statutory restrictions that German-American immigrants imposed upon newer German-speaking migrants’ mobility and behavior in the nineteenth century. To this end, I directed my attention toward materials in which German Americans articulated a set of ideal characteristics which subsequent arrivals were encouraged to exhibit, as well as sources that suggested proscriptions against certain types of behavior. Ultimately, the records of

German-American social and benevolent associations highlight a remarkable degree of consistency in the model that German immigrants crafted. My further examination of immigrant guidebooks shows that German Americans sought to disseminate information about the United States and promote these standards of behavior in a way that would shape later migration streams.

That immigrants would distinguish between the “worthy” and “unworthy” among subsequent arrivals should not be surprising. This dynamic has been lost, however, in the bulk of existing scholarship on American immigration, which sees immigration policies as guided solely by nineteenth century Anglo-Saxon priorities. In looking at the internal controls among German immigrants, I hope to recapture a fuller picture of the practical restrictions and regulations that shaped immigration. When the federal government eventually did adopt a national immigration policy in 1882, German Americans’ internal control mechanisms, already reflected in state level policies, were encoded in federal law. Legal immigration restriction, then, has its roots in the community-level restrictions that German Americans articulated.

The bylaws of the *Deutsche Wohlthätigen Unterstützungs-Gesellschaft in Manayunk im Staate Pennsylvanien* offer a typical example of German Americans pressuring members of their community to conform to a particular ideal and setting limits on the society’s beneficence. Applications for membership were restricted to “men of a good lifestyle,” who were also able to speak German, were “citizens of the United States and of the state of Pennsylvania, free from physical disabilities that could impose upon the society,” and were between the ages of twenty-one and forty-five. The members first and foremost bound together for the purpose of providing financial relief in the event of sickness or death. For practical reasons, however, the society could not afford to pay to support every member who came asking for money, particularly if their emergency was either fictitious or self-inflicted. In conse-

quence, the group stipulated that support would be withheld if their illness was caused by "drunkenness, venereal disease, fights, brawls, horse racing, or any other immoral or illegal act." As this clause clarified, the society held that men needed to conform to their model of appropriate male behavior to remain in good standing.

These punitive measures could act to enforce proper behavior within groups, but they could also resonate in the wider community. In one case, the *Deutscher Orden der Harugari* denied benefits to a widow upon her spouse's death because she "lived apart from her husband, and did not fulfill the obligations that a wife owes to her husband." The Harugari had nearly identical moral requirements for their members as the *Deutsche Wohlthätige Unterstützungsgesellschaft*, but as the example above demonstrates, they could use financial support as a way to reward or punish even non-members who deviated from their standards.

These standards of proper behavior, generated and reinforced on the community level, were transmitted to potential new migrants in Europe. Immigrant guide books, such as *Nach Amerika! Handbuch für Auswanderer nach eignen Erfahrungen geschrieben* (1871) included as its first chapter fifty-three pages answering the question "Wer soll auswandern?" This book, as so many others, exhorted only those whom they considered morally upright and diligent workers to go to the United States. On a practical level, then, the demands and expectations of the existing German immigrant community were conveyed back to Europe in an effort to influence who could or could not come to the United States. Our focus on the role of the federal government and the rhetoric of nativists has obscured this important element in immigration history, but the resources at the Horner Library offer important tools to recapture this story.

- Michael Kaelin,
University of Wisconsin, Madison



Meine Erfahrung als Helferin im PhillyKinder Sommerlager 2019

Im August 2019 hat PhillyKinder zum siebten Mal sein Sommerlager in Overbrook erfolgreich durchgeführt. Es war aber das erste Mal, dass ich am Sommerlager teilgenommen habe, und es hat mich sehr gefreut, dass ich zufällig auf so ein tolles Programm gestoßen bin!

Ich studiere an der Penn-State-Universität Germanistik und werde die nächsten zwei Semester als Austauschstudentin an der Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg verbringen. Am Sommerlager der PhillyKinder teilzunehmen war die ideale Gelegenheit für mich, mein mündliches Deutsch in einer entspannten Umgebung zu üben, bevor ich fast zehn Monate in Deutschland verbringen werde.



Wir haben jeden Tag mit einem Lied angefangen.

Die Kinder im Sommerlager wurden in vier Gruppen aufgeteilt: *Kleine Freunde* (3-4 Jahre alt), *Junge Entdecker* (5-6 Jahre alt), die *„Spunks“* (7-8 Jahre alt) und *Junge Athleten* (8-10 Jahre alt). Während der zwei Wochen war ich bei der Gruppe der Jungen Entdecker als Helferin eingesetzt. Jede Woche hatte ein Thema: die erste Woche war es „Bauen“, und die zweite „Fliegen“.

Um die Kreativität unserer Kinder anzuregen, gaben wir ihnen einfach eine Menge Kunstmaterialien und ließen sie damit spielen. Das Ergebnis war eine tolle „Stadt“ in unserem Klassenzimmer, die mit Häusern aus schön angemalten Kartons und mit Straßen aus buntem

Klebeband aufgebaut wurde. Natürlich haben wir die ganz tollen Ideen die ganze Zeit auf Deutsch besprochen!



Die Jungen Entdecker bauen ihre Kleinstadt auf.

Außer dieser Freispielzeit gab es während der zwei Wochen verschiedene Aktivitäten. An sonntagen Tagen konnten die Kinder draußen auf dem Spielplatz mit Wasser aus dem Schlauch und dem Rasensprenger planschen. Sie sind Seil gesprungen, haben Fußball gespielt und Sandschlösser im Sandkasten gebaut. Während der Mittagspause haben sie gebastelt, gemalt, Brettspiele gespielt und deutsche Bücher gelesen.



Wasserspiele an einem heißen Tag.

In der ersten Woche hatten die drei älteren Gruppen die Gelegenheit, mithilfe einer Expertin vom Galli Theater New York ihre Schauspielkünste zu üben. Am letzten Tag der Woche wurden Familienmitglieder und Freunde eingeladen, die tollen Aufführungen vom „Hässlichen Entlein“, „Schneewittchen“ und von der „Kleinen Meerjungfrau“ zu sehen. In der zwei-

ten Woche gab es anstatt Theater verschiedene Motto-Tage, wie z.B. einen Olympiade-Tag, einen taktilen Lernstationen-Tag, einen Fußball-Tag und einen Natur-Tag.



Die Schauspieler von „Der kleinen Meerjungfrau“

Deutsch zu lernen oder zu üben soll keine langweilige Aufgabe sein, sondern ein ganz interessantes und unterhaltsames Erlebnis. Das Sommerlager bietet die Gelegenheit dafür, die Sprachfähigkeit von Kindern sowie Erwachsenen durch kreative Aktivitäten und gemeinsames Spielen zu fördern. Auf diese Art hat jeder Teilnehmer – Kinder, Lehrerinnen und Helfer/innen – richtig viel Spaß gehabt. Wir hoffen, dass wir alle bald wiedersehen werden – entweder bei unseren Programmen während des Schuljahres oder während des nächsten Sommerlagers!

- Abigail Slate



Teilnehmer des Sommerlagers 2019. Vielen Dank und bis zum nächsten Jahr!

*This article is an example of the activities of a German Society affiliate. PhillyKinder is a separate PA 501(c)(3) corporation and not a component of the German Society of Pennsylvania.