

Calendar of Events

- Sat. Apr. 6 Hamburger Abend, 7:00pm
- Wed. Apr. 10 Konversationsabend: GSP Update with President Tony Michels, 6:00pm
- Sat. Apr. 13 Buchclub: *Ein fliehendes Pferd* by Martin Walser, 1:30pm
- Sun. Apr. 14 "Wister and More!" presents the Casimir Trio, 3:00pm
- Fri. Apr. 26 Friday Film Fest: *Honig im Kopf*, 6:30pm
- Sat. Apr. 27 Spring Clean-Up Day, 10:00am
- Sat. Apr. 27 "German Heritage in Letters" Digitization Day, 3:00pm
- Sat. May 4 Spring Luncheon, 12:00pm
- Wed. May 8 Konversationsabend: *Mal was Lustiges* with Karl Moehlmann, 6:00pm
- Sat. May 11 Buchclub: *Die Aufzeichnungen des Malte Laurids Brigge* by Rainer Maria Rilke, 1:30pm
- Sun. May 12 "Wister and More!" presents EStrella Piano Duo, 3:00pm
- Fri. May 17 Friday Film Fest: *3 Tage in Quiberon*, 6:30pm
- Sat. May 18 500 Years of Lager Brewing: The German Tradition and the American Dream, 2:00pm
- Sat. May 18 Frankfurt in May, 3:00pm
- Sun. June 2 Annual Members Meeting and Elections, 3:00pm
- Sat. June 8 Konversationsabend: Wandertag, 10:30am
- Sat. June 8 Buchclub: *Holzfällen* by Thomas Bernhard, 1:30pm

In this issue...

President's Report	1	New Volunteer at PhillyKinder	4
German-American Relations and Geopolitics	2	Annual Fund Donors	5
Reminder: Order a Personalized Brick	2	Annual Members Meeting and Elections	6
Digitization Initiatives in the Library	3	Humboldt Through Our Eyes	11
Spring Luncheon Invitation	3	Development Report	12
Go Green: Opt Out of Paper Mailings	3		

**500 YEARS**  
OF LAGER BREWING  
THE GERMAN TRADITION  
AND THE AMERICAN DREAM

MAY 18, 2019 - 2:00 PM



Please Join Us

**FRANKFURT IN MAY**

*Celebrating Philadelphia's new Sister City*

MAY 18, 3PM | REGIONAL FOOD, WINE, MUSIC & FUN

Hosted by the  
*German Society of Pennsylvania*

**\$10 ADMISSION, INCLUDES FOOD & WINE TASTINGS**  
Weather permitting, the event will take place  
on the German Society Leidy Terrace or indoors

Tickets available through ticketleap or call (715) 627-2222

The German Society  
of Pennsylvania

Neuer Pennsylvanischer  
**Staatsbote**

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

Spring 2019

President's Report

The year 2019 has begun and we are making an effort to live up to our resolutions. As usual, I will begin with a review of our building projects. During the winter months we continued the replacement of major parts of the HVAC equipment for the library and the archival storage areas. For the first time in German Society history, we will now be able to maintain reproducible temperature and humidity conditions throughout the entire year for more than 80% of our collection. Along the way, we are also replacing the patchwork of baseboard heaters, window units and various HVAC equipment in other areas such as the offices, Director's Room, hallways, etc. and are connecting new fan coil units to the heating and cooling system operated by heat pumps fed by the geothermal well field under our parking lot. The last puzzle piece of the HVAC project (addressing the areas in the townhouse west wing and the hot water supply for the restrooms) will very likely be started this summer. I believe in the mission of preparing the German Society and its building for the needs of future generations and am happy to report that we will very likely complete the entire HVAC project for approximately 50% of the initial estimate made by a professional consulting company. This would not have been possible without the help and input of volunteer activities on every level of the venture. Thank you to everyone who helped us to achieve this goal.

But before you think that construction activities in and around the building are now coming to an end, I have to tell you that there are a few more projects in the pipeline. For example, the first floor kitchen renovation is planned for 2020 and a major overhaul of our façade needs to take place in 2021/2022.

Another major consideration for the future will be to make improvements to our administrative structure as well as to our programming. As part of exploring what we can do to get more people interested in our organization and German culture, we are working to establish two new events, which highlight topics that don't sound particularly "German." PhillyBikes on June 8 and Dogadelphia on September 14 are designed to create greater exposure for the German Society to the general public. Events that one might consider "typically German" such as Oktoberfest are now held by numerous groups during September and October and our unique selling point has declined. Our very successful Bierfest (held this year on February 23) has shown for the past 8 years that we can promote more traditional expectations of German-American culture while still introducing unexpected aspects of our culture and heritage with new and interesting events. If you are interested in creating activities to increase our visibility to the greater Philadelphia population, I would be happy to hear from you.

- Anton Michels



## German-American Relationships and Geopolitics

As part of our KA Extra series, we welcomed **Thomas Kleine-Brockhoff** on February 7 to the German Society. He had been at the Society before. In 2015 he accompanied Bundespräsident Gauck whom he had served as adviser and speechwriter. He spent 12 years in Washington, including six years as director for policy programs of the German Marshall Fund (GMF). Since 2017 he has been Vice President and executive director of the GMF's Berlin Office.

Thomas Kleine-Brockhoff characterized Germany as a stable liberal democracy. Domestically, the country had been able - with the support of the U.S. and the GMF - to build solid democratic structures after 1945. It joined important international institutions and trade agreements based on a strategy of "never going it alone", while keeping a relatively low political profile on the international stage. But it plays, in Kleine-Brockhoff's view, a decisive, yet not dominating role within the EU.

The pursuit of multilateralism and integration requires trust in treaties and institutions. At the present, however, a dangerous "crisis of trust" in institutions and the media seems to be gaining momentum, leaving room for a wave of "revisionism" that threatens to undermine the very checks and balances that protect our democracies.

Zooming in on President Trump, Kleine-Brockhoff observes what he calls a "leadership transformation". Tendencies towards a more autocratic style of governing, nourished by populist right wing ideologies and working against the liberal order in the U.S. are spreading to other democracies, including some within the EU. But it appears still undecided, whether this development in the U.S. will stay or will be overturned by the next election.

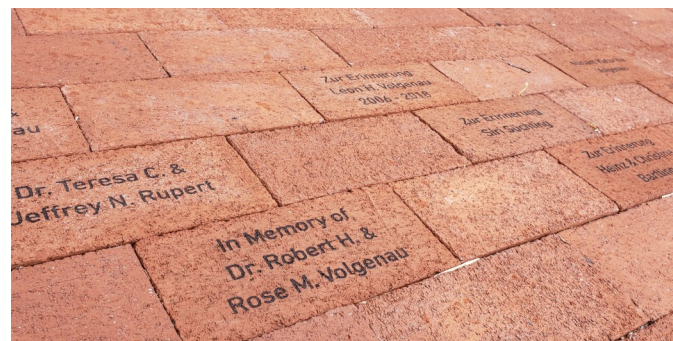
Kleine-Brockhoff warns specifically against some new coercive strategies of U.S. foreign politics, which in his opinion will only estrange even America's most reliable partners, who might decide to "go it" without the U.S., as in situations like the European refusal to get out

of the Iran nuclear treaty, or Germany and France planning a mutual defense clause sidelining NATO, or Germany's determination to build a major pipeline to transport natural gas from Russia against Trump's (this time also Kleine-Brockhoff's) objections.

Should these tendencies continue, Kleine-Brockhoff envisions a new revisionist era. Such a "rueckwärts gewandte Zeit" would cause existing alliances to split up and regroup. China, Russia and the U.S. could be on the revisionist side, possibly joined by Italy, but not by some EU countries like Poland and Hungary who despise Russia and might form a third block. Germany, together with France, would most likely continue to play a larger role on the liberal side. This picture would resemble the "balance of power" strategies of the 19<sup>th</sup> century which lead to the alliances that enabled an isolated incidence in Sarajevo to turn into a fully blown World War.

- Helga Halbfass

## Bricks Still Available!



This is a friendly reminder to support the newly established German Society Recognition Fund by purchasing a personalized brick to be displayed on the entrance to the Leidy Terrace (pictured above). The fund will be used to honor long-time members and volunteers.

The cost is \$150.00 for a standard 4"x8" brick paver. For more information about specifications or to place an order, please contact the office. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

## Digitization Initiatives in the Library

Last year, the German Society's Horner Library was one of 11 libraries included in a large grant awarded by the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) to the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries (PACSCSL) of which we are a member. The project, titled: *In Her Own Right: Women Asserting their Civil Rights, 1820-1920*, will complete the digitization and online presentation of a significant body of letters, diaries, photographs, organization records and other documents, totaling over 100,000 pages. These documents illuminate women's efforts to assert their rights and work for the rights of others in a variety of spheres in the century leading up to the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote, in 1920.

We were delighted that portions of the Women's Auxiliary's archives were selected for inclusion in the project. Annual reports, minute books and correspondence of the WAUX documenting its charitable activities from its founding in 1900 up to 1920, were recently scanned at Temple University's digitization lab. In a few months, they will be available on the *In Her Own Right* website and also on the PA Power Library, a portal to Pennsylvania libraries' electronic resources.

In other digital news, a large personal scrapbook belonging to John F. Ballier, prominent German Society member and Civil War General, has been scanned by Villanova University and is available to view on their Digital Library. The scrapbook contains correspondence, memorabilia, ephemera, and clippings related to his Civil War service as well as to other events relating to German life in Philadelphia. Digitization of the scrapbook will improve access to its contents while also helping to preserve it by minimizing its handling by researchers.

We are very excited about the opportunity to increase the visibility of our unique collections through cooperation with other institutions in Philadelphia and look forward to future digital collaborations.

- Bettina Hess

## Save the Date: Spring Luncheon

The women of the German Society would like to cordially invite you and your family and friends to our annual Spring Luncheon! Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 4 at 12 noon.



We will welcome the *Wonnemonat Mai* with a delicious meal, delectable dessert, strawberry punch, and a *Frühlings-Lieder* sing-along. Buy some tickets and take a chance on one (or more) of our enticing raffle prizes!

The cost to attend is \$25 per person. Please make checks payable to "German Society of PA" and mail to Carol Olenschlager, 3032 N. Constitution Road, Camden, NJ 08104-3609 by Friday, April 26. Registration forms have been emailed to members and are also available for download on our website. We look forward to welcoming you on May 4!

## Go Green: Opt Out of Paper Mailings!

The German Society has recently begun using a new membership software that allows us to distribute our newsletter electronically. Beginning with this edition of the *Staatsbote*, we will distribute our newsletter via post AND email. If you would like to stop receiving a paper copy of the newsletter, please contact the office to opt out of paper mailings. You can also choose to opt out of email communications—just give us a call or email [info@germansociety.org](mailto:info@germansociety.org).





## Neuankömmling, Volunteer und werdende Mutter bei den PhillyKindern

Mein Name ist Kathrin, ich bin 29 Jahre alt und komme aus dem schönen Stade (Nähe Hamburg). Vor einigen Jahren lebte und arbeitete ich als professionelles Au Pair für 2 Jahre bei einer Gastfamilie außerhalb von Philadelphia. In dieser Zeit war der einzige Kontakt zu meiner Muttersprache, der Kontakt zu anderen Au Pairs. Als es feststand, das ich in 2018 hier zu meinem Mann in die USA ziehen würde, haben wir nach einer Möglichkeit gesucht, mit meiner Kultur und Muttersprache in Verbindung zu bleiben. Daraufhin haben wir die German Society und die angegliederten PhillyKinder gefunden, denen ich direkt auf Social Media gefolgt bin.



Kurz nach meiner Ankunft hier habe ich mich mit ihnen in Verbindung gesetzt und konnte den darauffolgenden Donnerstag an einer Schnupperstunde teilnehmen. Das hat mir so gut gefallen, das ich mich seitdem jede Woche als Helferin integriere.

Ich war wirklich überrascht, wie viele Deutsche es hier in der Gegend gibt - es ist wie eine kleine Community.

Ich freue mich jeden Donnerstag auf die "deutsche Zeit" und genieße das Spielen und Singen von traditionellen Kinderliedern, was mich immer sehr an meine Heimat erinnert. Außerdem ist es schön von meiner Muttersprache und Kultur umgeben zu sein und mich mit anderen Deutschsprachigen austauschen zu können. Dabei finde ich es total spannend zu erfahren wie andere Auswanderer ihren Weg nach Philadelphia gefunden haben. Es fühlt sich wie eine tolle Gemeinschaft an, in der man schnell ins Gespräch kommt und so habe ich schon viele Freundschaften schließen können.

Mir ist zudem während meiner Zeit bei den PhillyKindern besonders aufgefallen, das jeder hier sehr offen ist, Fragen gestellt werden und

ich das Gefühl habe, dass man an mir, Kathrin, interessiert ist und das gibt mir das Gefühl, willkommen zu sein.

Zu Beginn ging es mir erst darum Anschluss zu anderen Deutschen zu finden und jetzt, als werdende Mutter, sehe ich bereits die vielen positiven Komponenten mein Kind bei den PhillyKindern zu integrieren.

Als Helferin konnte ich schon in vielen verschiedenen Klassen aushelfen und es gefällt mir sehr. Die Lehrerinnen gehen sehr umsichtig, warm und herzlich mit den Kleinen um und motivieren dabei zum deutsch sprechen. Außerdem wird mit einer angepassten Arbeitsatmosphäre für die Kinder gearbeitet, nach dem Motto "Spaß am Lernen". Das gibt mir Zuversicht, das sich auch mein Kind hier sehr wohlfühlen wird und auch hier seine eigenen Freundschaften schließen kann.

Mein persönliches Anliegen ist hier auch, das mein Kind ein Stück Tradition erfahren kann, die auch ich zu meinen am Herzen liegenden Kindheitserinnerungen zähle. Feste wie Fasching, Laternenumzug, Nikolaus sind dabei ein fester Bestandteil.

Ebenfalls kann ich mir Ratschläge bei anderen Eltern holen, wie ich mein Kind zweisprachig erziehen kann. Ich konnte beim Arbeiten mit den Kindern oftmals beobachten, welche Schwierigkeiten zwischen der deutschen und englischen Sprache auftauchen und wie ich künftig bei meinem Kind einlenken kann. Ich bin total froh, das ich bei den PhillyKindern gelandet bin und freue mich weiterhin auf jeden Donnerstag und auf die kommenden Jahre.

\*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.



Fasching bei den ABC-Schützen 1

## Annual Fund Donors

Donors' names have been removed for their privacy.



Phone: 215-627-2332  
Fax: 215-627-5297  
Email: info@germansociety.org  
www.germansociety.org



## Annual Members Meeting and Board Elections

On **Sunday, June 2, 2019 at 3:00pm**, the German Society will hold its **2019 Annual Meeting and Elections for Directors** at 611 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123. Members must be in good standing to be eligible to vote, i.e. current on dues no later than end of business on **Friday, May 31, 2019**. Members wishing to vote must be present at the meeting; there is no provision for absentee ballots or proxy voting under the Society's By-laws. **Please be reminded that members at the Associate level (\$30/year) are not eligible to vote in our elections**; if you an Associate member and would like to vote, please contact the Society's office to upgrade your membership to a higher level.

If you have any questions about your current membership status, please contact the office. Vision statements of the slate of approved candidates can be found on the following pages.

There are five Officer positions up for election. There are also five openings for Directors on the Board in the class of 2022. There are six candidates competing for these positions.

### Candidates for Officers

#### Tony Michels: President



For those who have known me during the past 11 years, it is certainly no surprise that I have a clear vision for my work here at the German Society of Pennsylvania. In the German Society, I found a home away from home and many people with whom I share common goals for the future of the organization. I was fortunate to be able to spend significant time becoming involved in the day to day business as the Executive Vice President between 2009 and 2015, focusing on the development of the organization including outreach and preparing our building for the

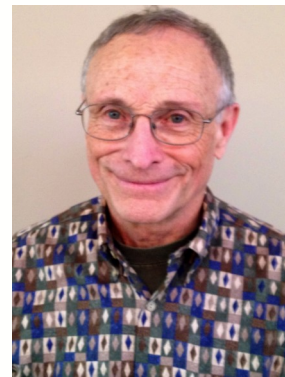
years to come by upgrading it to modern standards.

I am honored that you have given me the opportunity to continue this work during the last four years as President of the GSP. I am proud of what we have accomplished together and I am asking for your support in allowing me to continue to serve in this position for the next two years.

I still have many ideas for continued development in the GSP that need to be initiated and nurtured. Improving the visibility of the GSP in Philadelphia and beyond should continue to be one of our top priorities. In addition, I wish to continue to focus on the development of more events that appeal to a wide range of people interested in German culture – building on new relationships that have been established. Much progress has been made in improving our building, but there are still many things that need our attention.

Many thanks to the Board, to the active members and to my wife for their continued support.

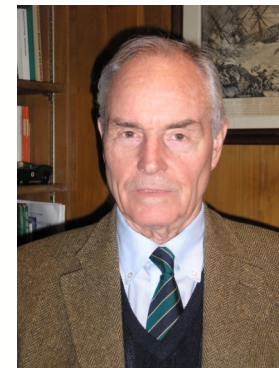
#### Bill Hardham: VP of Strategic Planning and Assistant Secretary



Although my surname is English, my genealogical research shows that I am 13% German, so part of my interest in things German has a genetic basis. Also, as a newly minted PhD chemist in 1961, I spent a year doing research in a Max Planck Institute in Germany and developed an appreciation for German science and culture (and beer and wine too!). Since joining GSP about 25 years ago, I have volunteered by serving food at Christmas bazaars, painting the interior and exterior of our treasured building, and chaperoning events. As a Board member, I have served on the Nominating and Children's Programs committees, helped to lead efforts to

create our endowment and annual strategic plans for each committee, and a 5-year Capital Spending Plan. Most recently, I have carried on the planning tasks as a VP, and filled in as Board and Executive Committee secretary as needed. Because I believe that for organizations like the GSP to prosper, members must give their work, wealth and wisdom, I accept the invitation to stand for VP of Strategic Planning and Assistant Secretary. In addition to the planning experience mentioned above, I have taken and published minutes for most of the committees I have served; it is something that comes naturally! As a GSP officer, I will do my best to further the understanding of German and German American contributions to the growth of American history and culture.

#### Hans Mueller: VP of Capital Projects



Four years ago, I accepted the opportunity to serve on the Executive Committee of the GSP as VP of Capital Projects hoping that I could help improve our planning and implementation of capital projects. I shared the frustrations of our membership with seemingly endless delays, cost overruns and unmet deadlines. After four years in this capacity and many ups and downs I see light at the end of this tunnel. The HVAC project is close to completion at a total cost to date of approximately 42% of the \$2.4 million "order of magnitude estimate" we received from Bruce E. Brooks & Associates in 2015. There will be set backs and adjustments as we go through a full annual season of operating a new system and new projects will have their challenges, but it is also a time to not look at the glass as only being half empty. Let's acknowledge what has been accomplished in the last ten years, take some pride, derive some joy, and tackle new projects cooperatively and with confidence. A historic building like ours always presents challenges to maintain and upgrade, not to mention surprises. High on our current project

list are the repair of the water intrusion from the interior downspouts, the reactivation of the old Library ventilation system, the new and enlarged storage room for the German American Collection, the 1st floor kitchen, and Ratskeller/Media Room. We also need to prepare for a restoration of the building façade and cornice. Not all of this can possibly be accomplished in the next two years. I wish to help accomplish as much as possible of this and lay a foundation for what needs to be done beyond.

I do not have a magic formula to solve all the challenges encountered with the implementation of our capital projects. I ask for your support and help to improve our processes to plan, initiate, and implement these projects. I believe that a well maintained and inviting building is essential to accomplish our vision and to attract new members, programs, and visitors.

I grew up in Dresden and came to the USA for Graduate School. I am an engineer by training and spent my whole working career with the DuPont Company in Wilmington, Delaware. My wife Harriett and I have been members of the Society for more than 25 years.

#### Ernest Weiler: VP of Development



As Vice President of Development, I plan to continue with our efforts to fund meaningful endowments for the Society to help secure our long-term financial stability. We started our first endowment fund in 2012 to support our cultural and educational programs and to establish a capital reserve fund. At this point, our account balance stands at \$1.35MM and our interim remains \$2.00MM. During the 4th quarter of 2016, we started a second endowment fund to support the Horner Memorial Library, with a short-term goal of \$600,000. Thanks to generous donations from members and friends of the Library as well as the Max Kade Foundation, the Women's Auxiliary of the German Society and the Arcadia Foundation we should ex-



ceed our interim goal early in July of 2019. I will stay in touch with and refresh our requests to five foundations that provided most of the funds to undertake the various building enhancement projects during the past eight to ten years. A pending capital project for the 2020-2023 timeframe is the renovation of the building façade, which will likely cost \$300,000 to \$500,000. It will be necessary to pursue grants from several additional foundations to fund a project of that magnitude. And as a member of our Executive Committee I will support the various initiatives to grow the Society and to help assure that we remain financially strong and stay true to our mission and vision to be recognized as the premier German ethnic Society in the United States.

**Mark McGuigan: Secretary**



For the last 11 years, my working life has been dedicated to building enduring relationships between Germans and Americans. My personal ties to Germany go back 34 years to my year abroad in Berlin, and my family ties to Philadelphia reach back to the 1850s. Connecting these two things is a great passion of mine. In addition to serving as Executive Director of the German Society in 2005, I launched a network of German-speakers (Netzwerk Philadelphia) and have been for 8 years the US Program Director for a Berlin-based German non-profit organization Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste. In that capacity I oversee the placement and educational program for approximately 25 young German volunteers doing gap-year service with marginalized populations, human rights organizations, survivors of the Holocaust and with Jewish community groups in the US. Known in the United States as Action Reconciliation Service for Peace, my office also organizes events and summer camps centered

on building understanding and promoting social justice.

I believe for Philadelphia to be a truly international city, it is necessary for us to support the institutions that build bridges to other nations. One of those is the German Society of Pennsylvania. After many years of working in this field, I believe I bring a unique perspective and useful knowledge to my role on the board. Beginning this year, I hope to have the change to increase my contribution to the Society as Secretary.

**Candidates for Directors**

**Karin Volkwein-Caplan**



As a member of the German Society since 1992, I have witnessed major changes and improvements not only with our beautiful building inside and out, but also with the addition of new programs, increased membership, and generally a more dynamic place to visit. "Wunderbar Together" indeed, just like the German-American slogan for this year where we celebrate the relationship between our two countries. With dual citizenship and my academic career as professor of Cultural Studies at West Chester University of Pennsylvania (WCU), I have lived a life in both countries, which provides ample access to the social, political, cultural and educational issues of our times.

My vision for the GSP includes the continuation of making the Society a recognized social and cultural hub, especially in the areas of the arts, lectures, research and scholarships. As a university professor I have led several student trips from Pennsylvania to Germany, and I have realized exchange programs between WCU with German universities, such as the University of Kassel, the German Sport University in Cologne, the Humboldt as well as the Free Uni-

versity in Berlin, as well as the universities in Heidelberg and Freiburg. I have collaborated with colleagues at these German institutions in research and publications, and educating each other's students. My vision includes fostering more cultural exchange programs between our beloved countries and supporting a better understanding, while preserving our German-American culture and heritage.

**Harold Glass**



I am currently a board member and would like to stand for re-election. My focus during this term has been on financial issues and I would like to retain this area of concentration if re-elected. I have started and sold two companies to NY stock exchange companies and certainly learned to appreciate the importance of good financial management. I am also Dean's Professor at the University of the Sciences. A recent additional area of concentration of mine at the German Society, and one which I would like to continue if re-elected, is in the area of increasing our contacts with organizations having a science focus. For example we have begun a program to expand contacts with secondary school programs which have an interest in both science and Germany.

**Jean Godsall-Myers**



I have been a member of the German Society since 1976, when I began my career as a credentialed German educator in the Philadelphia region. I have taught in high school, university, and adult education settings. I continue to participate in oral proficiency assessment for the AATG, MCATFL, and the GSP Scholarship Committee. I

attend the local *Stammtisch* in Souderton and do volunteer transcribing and translating of 19th century letters at the Mennonite Heritage Center in Harleysville.

From 2006-2010, I lived and worked with my husband in Lutherstadt Wittenberg, and shortly after moving back to the States, I became a member of the German Society's Board of Directors. I have served as secretary of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, and that term (limit) is drawing to a close. I would like to continue serving on the Board, and perhaps continue serving on the Library Committee, Personnel Committee, and Scholarship Committee.

The Society is well positioned to offer diverse cultural programs of interest to German Americans and the broader public, and the financial basis of the Society is on a positive growth path. In my role as secretary, I was aware of some details of this organization's work, and I hope to be able to continue supporting that work, to the benefit of the German Society, its members, and people in the Philadelphia region.

**Marnie Old**



I am a wine and beer author and Philadelphia's leading expert in my field. I serve as director of Vinlightenment for Boisset Collection, France's largest family-owned wine company. I also write, teach and consult independently on drinks, hospitality, service and marketing, as well as organizing events locally and acting as an expert speaker on wine and beer topics around the country. German Society members know me best as the mind behind our annual Bierfest, one of the largest and most successful events on our calendar. I may not be of German heritage or speak the language, but German wines and beers have long been my personal favorites



and causes I champion within the wine and beer trades for decades. I have partnered with the GSP to promote them in a number of ways over the years. With the growing enthusiasm of Americans for cultural exploration through gastronomy, I see great potential within my field for the German Society to leverage Pennsylvania's uniquely German heritage in order to meet its future goals. I believe that further diversifying programming centered on German brewing, German winemaking and German cuisine can increase our organization's visibility, expand our outreach and hopefully also increase membership, especially among younger audiences.

**Marwan Kreidie**



I am glad to have served on the board of the German Society. Although my name would indicate otherwise, I am a proud German-American. My mother was born in Neu-Oderberg in what was then Czechoslovakia prior to the Second World War. As an minority ethnic German she experienced discrimination; was a refugee and lived through the dreadful bombing of Dresden during the Second World War, She emigrated to the US, married my father, a Lebanese citizen, and moved to Lebanon in the early 1960s, when I was 4. In 1976 the Lebanese Civil War forced us to flee to Philadelphia. These experiences are the reasons for my life long support of immigrants, ethnic communities and refugees. I am involved in numerous immigrant and ethnic organizations including being a co-founder of the Philadelphia Immigrant and Citizenship Coalition, (PICC) and United Voices of Philadelphia, an organization dedicated to giving a voice in the electoral process to voiceless immigrants. United Voices held a mayoral forum at the German Society during the Spring of 2015. We later have hosted two other forums for new Americans.

I also founded the Arab-American Development Corps, which among other things is very in-

involved with advocating and resettling Iraqi and Syrian Refugees. In the past few years I have organized a few KA events on various subjects including Syrian refugees in Germany, the rise of the populist right in Germany and German American relations in the Trump Era at the German Society. Additionally I have organized and coordinated summer study programs for students at Villanova University and West Chester University with the PfalzAkademie — in Lambrecht and Berlin and am currently organizing a summer study program at the Gustav Stresemann Institute in Bad Bevesen on Xenophobia and Islamophobia in Germany and the United States.

**Brigitte Masci**



My name is Brigitte Masci. I immigrated 52 years ago to Philadelphia and reside in Delaware County. I am married and have two daughters and two granddaughters.

In my professional life in 1965 graduated in Germany as a Expanded Functions Dental Assistant. After immigrating to the US I have worked in this field exclusively. For the last 16 years I have been managing a dental practice in Newtown Square/Delaware County.

More than 20 years ago I joined the Women's Auxiliary, and for 15 years I served as their 2nd Vice President. At the same time I also was a member of the German Society. I served on the Board two different times as the Women's Auxiliary representative.

My mission I feel is to bring open communication in a transparent, clear manner to both the Women's Auxiliary and the German Society in order to bring about balance and unity and to combine efforts.

**Humboldt Through Our Eyes**

On the 250th anniversary of his birth in 1769, Alexander von Humboldt, the great German explorer and naturalist, is being celebrated in many countries. The German Society of Pennsylvania, five years older, is as dignified a place for his celebration as any in the world. As a matter of fact, having held many festive events under his white bust in the Horner Library, the Society might present even a privileged place for the commemoration of his contributions to the understanding of the Americas.

On March 20, 2019, about sixty of its members and friends convened in a celebratory event in the Horner Library and listened to an array of short, personalized reports that six members had prepared from publications of the Berlin scientist which the Horner Library collected over the years. Introduced by Frank Trommler, under the evening's motto, "Humboldt Through Our Eyes," the speakers assessed Humboldt's many qualities as a person, an explorer, a scientist and —nowadays most appreciated—an ecologist. They featured his travels to Latin America (Margaret Darby); his relationship with Goethe (Jean Godsall-Myers); his stance against slavery (Hans Müller); his climb of the Chimborazo (Nick Cvetkovic); his visit to Philadelphia in 1804 (Friederike Baer); and the Humboldt celebration in Philadelphia in 1869 (Maria Sturm).

the world's leading experts on Humboldt and other world explorers, commented on the presentations and gave a summary of today's research on the scientist. With the expert's comments and a lively Q and A session, the evening turned into a great tribute to Alexander von Humboldt as it re-enlivened his spirit of scientific enthusiasm.



Prof. Harry Liebersohn addresses "Humboldt Through Our Eyes" attendees.

The Humboldt celebrations will resume on October 5 with an academic symposium at the Academy of the Natural Sciences, culminating in a keynote lecture by the author of the best selling Humboldt biography, *The Invention of Nature*, Andrea Wolf.

- Frank Trommler



After a break, Harry Liebersohn, a professor of history at the University of Illinois and one of



## Development Report

For this issue of the *Staatsbote* I would like to limit my contribution and share a letter recently mailed to members of the Linden Society and our Board of Directors, including several former members that rotated off in the past few years:

'The purpose of the letter is to provide a brief update on our efforts to establish several endowment funds to help secure the necessary funding to support our mission of the German Society for generations to come. The Linden Society was established to recognize individuals as well as organizations that have contributed at least \$1,000 to any of our endowments, individual that have become a lifetime member since December of 2016, and most importantly members that have informed us that the Society is included in their estate plans. An updated listing of the Linden Society follows on the next page. We are very grateful to all donors and most importantly to future benefactors.

The balance of the General Endowment Funds stands at \$1.38MM and our interim goal still remains \$2.00MM. Unfortunately, contributions have slowed considerably over the past three years — \$218,000 in 2016, \$156,000 in 2017 and \$51,600 in 2018, respectively; maybe in part because we also started the Horner Memorial Library Endowment Fund in 2016.

The Library Endowment Fund, with an interim goal of \$600,000, has and will benefit from significant donations from three foundations — from the Max Kade Foundation, the Arcadia Foundation, and the Barthelmes Foundation — with cumulative gifts of \$405,000! However, these three foundations are unlikely to support our General Endowment with additional gifts. Fortunately members and friends of the Society have contributed \$156,000 to the Library Endowment.

In summary, we need to rely on members and friends of the Society to reach our interim goal of \$2.00MM and we are hopeful that our current legacy group of thirty-one members will grow significantly! In addition to donations of cash, appreciated stock or mutual funds, life insurance products are a very important resource to look at when considering a future donation to the Society. Please consider making

the Society a partial or the only beneficiary of your current policy, or apply for a new policy. Your existing estate plans or wills do not need to be altered. Most importantly, the proceeds of the policy pass directly to the beneficiary without it being taxed and without it going through probate — a real benefit — it saves time and money! Life insurances are not well understood but are a most cost effective tool to increase our Endowment. It can even give you a tax break if you make the Society the owner of a policy.

If you are currently not a Legacy member, we encourage you to consider this special commitment to the Society. We would be delighted to include your name in the Linden Society. It is easy to join, make a donation or a commitment using the enclosed pledge form (see page 15). We would be happy to discuss any of your specific plans — just call office and we will arrange a discussion. We will require a number of legacy gifts to reach the interim goal and we remain hopeful for a more ambitious goal, maybe \$3.00MM, where 25% of the annual operating funds of the Society will come from the General Endowment.'

Thank you all for your support to keep the Society vibrant and strong for generations to come.

By way of donations, we have now received three HD-TVs from Sam's Club: a 40-inch to monitor our security cameras, a 50-inch unit to mounted in the vestibule, and another 50-inch TV to be used in the F. Otto Haas Language Center.

We have been a member of AARP for a number of years and an article in the January/February 2019 issue caught my attention. The title is: 'Ways to Add Healthy Years to Your Life' — a topic most of us are interested in. Ninety-nine tips are given on how to lead a longer, healthier and happier life. Item 91 interestingly says — 'Raise Your Hand. Folks over 50 who volunteered at least 200 hours in the past 12 months experienced mental benefits but also were less likely to develop hypertension, a Carnegie Mellon University study reveals. Number 92 says — half-hearted volunteer work isn't healthy'.

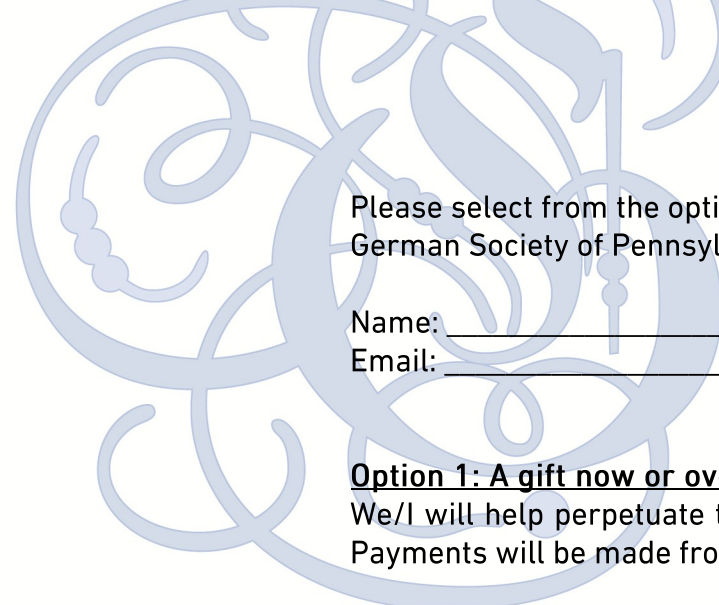
- E. D. Weiler

## Linden Society Recognition Giving Levels

*The Linden Society recognizes all individuals and families who have made donations or notified the German Society of Pennsylvania (GSP) of plans for gifts. This includes remembering the Society in their estate plans (bequests, charitable gift annuities, life insurance and retirement plan proceeds, charitable remainder trusts, real estate or other assets).*

Donors' names have been removed for their privacy.





# GSP Endowment Pledge

Donors' names have been removed for their privacy.

Please select from the options listed below, and return the signed pledge to Mr. Lew Volgenau, at the German Society of Pennsylvania.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Option 1: A gift now or over a period of several years**

We/I will help perpetuate the Society by committing to give \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the GSP Endowment Fund. Payments will be made from \_\_\_\_\_ through December 30, \_\_\_\_\_ in the following manner.

\$ \_\_\_\_ Monthly      \$ \_\_\_\_ Quarterly      \$ \_\_\_\_ Annually, to be paid in \_\_\_\_ (month)  
Lump sum: \$ \_\_\_\_ (indicate month/year)      Using appreciated securities? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

**Option 2: Legacy Gift**

We/I will help perpetuate the Society by committing to include the GSP Endowment Fund in our/my estate plans and/or retirement accounts.

Estate:  
A lump sum payment: \$ \_\_\_\_\_      A percentage of the estate: % \_\_\_\_  
Amount to be determined: TBD \_\_\_\_\_

IRA or 401K retirement accounts:  
A percentage of the account: % \_\_\_\_      Amount to be determined: \_\_\_\_\_

**Option 3:**

We/I will help perpetuate the Society by committing to list the GSP Endowment Fund as the beneficiary of existing or new insurance policies.

Present value of life insurance policy: \$ \_\_\_\_; unknown \_\_\_\_      Amount TBD (new policy): \_\_\_\_\_

**Option 4:**

We/I will help perpetuate the Society by committing to work with the Philadelphia Foundation to establish a planned gift to benefit the GSP Endowment Fund. The Philadelphia Foundation offers the following options and I am most interest in:

Charitable Gift Annuity: \_\_\_\_      Pooled Income Funds: \_\_\_\_      Charitable Remainder Trusts: \_\_\_\_  
Charitable Lead Trusts: \_\_\_\_      Real Estate and Life Estate: \_\_\_\_      Real Property: \_\_\_\_\_

We/I would like to discuss specific options with the Philadelphia Foundation: \_\_\_\_\_

**Option 5:**

We/I cannot participate at the present time: \_\_\_\_      We/I may participate at a later date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)      \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)      (date)

*This commitment reflects a statement of intention that remains valid unless modified.*