

## Calendar of Events

The German Society's administrative office will be closed from Saturday, July 20 through Sunday, August 11. The Library will be closed from Tuesday, July 30 through Thursday, August 8. Use of the Library will be by appointment only on the following dates: June 18 and 20; July 18, 23, and 25. To make an appointment with the Librarian, please email [librarian@germansociety.org](mailto:librarian@germansociety.org).

- Wed. Sept. 11 Konversationsabend: Actualities, 6:00pm
- Sat. Sept. 14 Photo at Humboldt Monument in Fairmount Park, 2:00pm
- Sat. Sept. 14 Dogadelphia, time TBA (Rain Date: Sept. 28)
- Sat. Sept. 21 Humboldt Fiesta, 4:00pm
- Sun. Sept. 22 "Wister and More!" presents Amici Music Trio, 3:00pm
- Sat. Oct. 5 Lecture by Andrea Wulf: The Invention of Nature, 7:00pm
- Wed. Oct. 9 Konversationsabend: The "Other" Humboldt, 6:00pm
- Fri. Oct. 11 Friday Film Fest, 6:30pm
- Sat. Oct. 12 Buchclub: *Der Stechlin* by Theodor Fontane, 1:30pm
- 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

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# Dogadelphia

Saturday, September 14, 2019

Bring your pups for an afternoon of fun!

Featuring:

- Pet-friendly vendors
- Adoptable dogs
- Presentations from the Philadelphia Police K9 Unit, the NPS B.A.R.K. Rangers, and Penn Vet Working Dogs Program
- Food and beverages for purchase
- A chance to meet with other dog lovers!

Hosted by the German Society of PA and the National Park Service

## The German Society of Pennsylvania 255TH STIFTUNGSFEST

Saturday, November 2, 2019  
6:00pm

\$135/person

Please make your reservation by October 18.

611 Spring Garden Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19123

Formal Attire Suggested

50% of the price of each ticket is a tax-deductible contribution.

# The German Society of Pennsylvania

Neuer Pennsylvanischer  
**Staatsbote**

CELEBRATING  
**250**  
YEARS OF  
**GERMAN  
HERITAGE**

Summer 2019

## Abbreviated President's Remarks from the 2019 Annual Meeting

I would like to begin this meeting by asking you to join me in a moment of silence for our members who passed away during the past year.

Thanks to all of you for participating in our annual meeting. The activities of the German Society are growing as we prepare the organization for a successful existence in the third decade of the 21st century.

We already have ideas that reach beyond 2019 and 2020. We currently offer a broad spectrum of programs that go beyond the typical Beethoven, Bier, Bratwurst, and Lederhosen expectations. But our program does not only profit from people's assumed stereotypes - we attempt to show the diversity of German culture while continuing to serve all populations.

It is inspiring to see that so many volunteer hours are donated to the Society making it possible to maintain programs and events. But not every part of our business can be organized effectively by using volunteers. The number of volunteers is limited, and the workload on their shoulders is increasing.

I would like to recognize the members of the former Women's Auxiliary who have supported the German Society for many years. Unfortunately they decided last year to dissolve their organization. Their financial assets will be distributed according to their bylaws and the German Society is thankful to be the recipient. We were lucky to have been the beneficiary of many of their generous contributions over the years. I am glad that so many WAUX members

continue their activities as part of the German Society.

Looking at the achievements of our Board of Directors members, I am glad to report everyone participated enthusiastically. The meetings were packed with important topics about the future of the German Society. Our board became more diverse in the past years, including more individuals with different backgrounds, perspectives and ideas for our future. Many thanks to the active members working on our committees and the Board for their advice and support. Special thanks, too, to the candidates who are up for election today and to those who served on our board in previous years.

I am eternally grateful to all who donate their energy and services, and we are honored to have you as members, volunteers and friends.

Another very important factor in our success is our staff. My special thank you goes to Liesl Jandrey, our office manager, and our administrative assistant Colleen Hayes, who are keeping all the balls in the air. Our part time staff of teachers, event chaperones and maintenance personnel is dedicated and accommodating and are the reason for our success in language programs and rentals.

I think it is time to review the administrative structure in our organization. Most of our activities are too dependent on volunteer work. Our office staff structure is not sufficient to meet current and future demands. Our building projects and maintenance also rely too strongly



on a declining and aging volunteer workforce. Therefore we will begin discussing necessary adjustments to our operational capacities and the need for additional paid staff later this year.

During the past four years as the GSP's President, I had to focus too much on the building related needs of the organization. There are many necessary maintenance and improvement projects to be done in and around the building – and a necessary substantial overhaul is still ongoing.

We are now using a proven but innovative geothermal system to provide the heating and cooling load for this entire building. Now that the system is fully operational, I can report to you that we spent only 50% of the \$2.6 Million amount anticipated for the scope of the project. A strong long-term vision helped keep costs down, as well as strict project supervision and a significant amount of hands-on volunteer work. Although this is another milestone in the process, it will still take us a few more years to remodel this building to modern standards and make it a home base for generations to come.

Now I have to address a topic that many GSP members have not heard about for decades: our membership dues. The board decided last month to increase the amount for an individual membership from \$50 to \$60 annually and the family membership from \$75 to \$100 effective January 1, 2020. I think that this a very reasonable adjustment considering the increased cost of living during the past 20+ years and the improvements that have been made related to building condition and programs. Later this year, we plan to discuss the possibility of combining this increase with other incentives to encourage participation in events.

- Tony Michels

## Annual Meeting Report

On Sunday, June 2 at 3:00pm, forty-four German Society members gathered in the Ratskeller for our Annual Members Meeting and Elections of the Board of Directors. After the approval of last year's minutes and remarks from President Tony Michels, candidates for the Board introduced themselves and presented briefly on their goals and visions for the future of the Society. This year, six candidates ran for five open Board positions in the class of 2022. The officer positions of President, Secretary, VP of Development, VP of Capital Projects, and VP of Strategic Planning/Assistant Secretary were also up for election.

The members cast their votes, after which the discussion portion of the afternoon began. Tony Michels outlined some recent building upgrades, and Ernie Weiler updated the group on the progress of our endowment funds. The group also discussed some upcoming events and membership trends within the organization. Meanwhile, six volunteers counted up the ballots.

The votes yielded the following results: Tony Michels was reelected as President of the Society, and Ernie Weiler, Hans Mueller, and Bill Hardham were also reelected to their positions (VP of Development, VP of Capital Projects, and VP of Strategic Planning/Assistant Secretary, respectively). Mark McGuigan was elected to the position of Secretary.

Three of our current Directors were reelected to serve in the Class of 2022: Marwan Kreidie, Harold Glass, and Marnie Old. These three will be joined by Karin Volkwein-Caplan, as well as Jean Godsall-Myers, who served faithfully as the German Society's Secretary for the past few years.

Congratulations to our new board members, and thank you to all of our candidates and the outgoing members of the Class of 2019 for your service to the German Society!

- Liesl Jandrey

## Das Brandenburgische Koch-Buch

From time to time the Horner Library receives offers of book donations. An interesting recent addition to our library came to us this way. It is an almost 300 year old cookbook that had been handed down in a family, titled: *Das Brandenburgische Koch-Buch, oder, Die wohl-unterswiesene Köchinn*, by Maria Sophia Schellhammer, which was one of the most widely read cookbooks of its time and one of the first written by a woman. Our fifth edition of the original work was printed in Berlin by Johann Andreas Rüdiger in 1723. This is an exciting edition to our library as only three other U.S. libraries have copies, in addition to a few libraries in Europe.

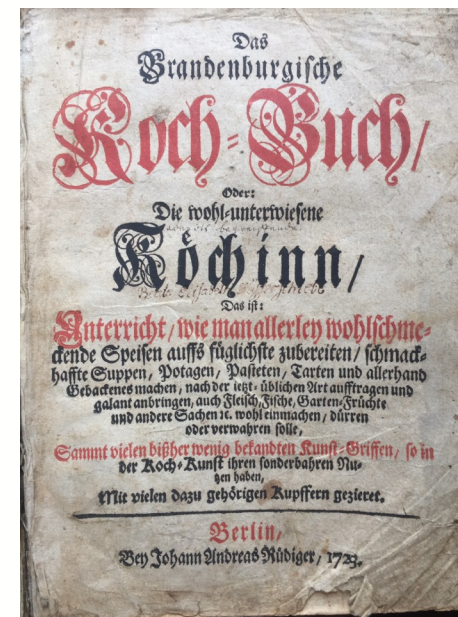
*Das Brandenburgische Koch-Buch* was written in 1692 and was expanded to 1,750 recipes for the 5th edition, which added a separate section on desserts and drinks of all kinds, including wine, beer, liqueurs and juices. The cookbook is very comprehensive, covering everything from slaughtering and butchering animals to medicinal remedies to complicated confections. What makes this book even more unique was that it was written for the "bürgerliche Hausfrau"

rather than for the head of an aristocratic household - so it was to be used by (upper) middle-class women who had servants, but not on the level of the nobility. A difference from modern cookbooks is that no exact measurements are given in the recipes, so the amounts were left up to the cook and could be decided according to how many people were to be fed.

The book is in need of conservation treatment due to its age and probable heavy usage. Thanks to a generous member contribution, we plan to have some work done on it, including repairs to the leather binding, reattaching loose pages and having an enclosure made to protect it for the future.

A unique feature of our copy is 125 blank pages bound in at the end, which contain handwritten recipes. It is not clear whether the recipes were added around the time of publication or later, but they are certainly quite old judging by the handwriting style and orthography. It would be great to be able to decipher these recipes, so if anyone would like to help transcribe and translate them, please let me know!

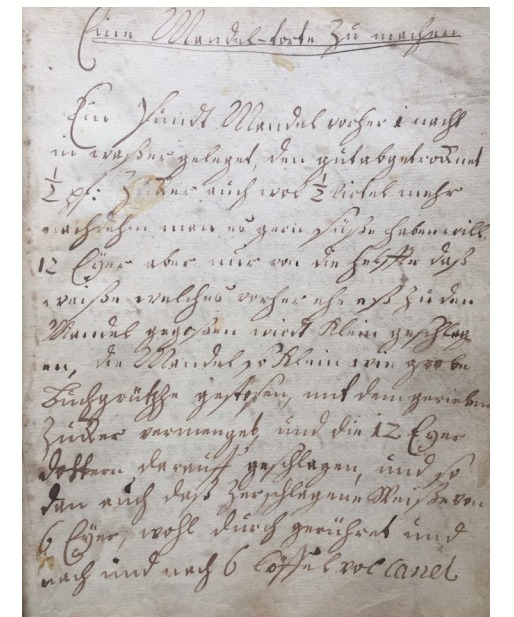
- Bettina Hess, Librarian



Title Page



Frontispiece



Handwritten Recipe



## Music Notes

In the Winter Staatsbote, I reported on the fall season of music in the Wister Series. The winter/spring concerts started this past January 13, with Claire Huangci playing two Beethoven sonatas, a Chopin Ballade, and several Rachmaninov Preludes at vertiginous speed using stunning finger agility. Her fabulous technique has garnered her the first prize in the 2018 Géza Anda competition in Zurich, a very prestigious contest, which means that her concertizing career has taken off, so she will not be free to play for us in January 2020. Nevertheless, it is wonderful to know that a young musician you heard at the German Society is now embarked on an international career.

The February 10 concert with Elissa Lee Koljonen and Natalie Zhu included a beautiful Brahms violin sonata in D minor (Opus 108). Ms. Zhu plays with grace and delicacy, especially Brahms. Their rendition of Igor Stravinsky's *Suite Italienne* was a perfect balance between the classical lines Stravinsky drew for the piece and the surprising harmonies he added to the form. Another highlight of the program was the three Henryk Wieniawski pieces for violin and piano, unusual repertoire performed with aplomb.

In March, the Pyxis Piano Quartet brought guest baritone Grant Youngblood to sing and recite poems by Jeffrey Harrison set to music by Chuck Holdeman. (Full disclosure: Chuck is my partner, so I shall refrain from praising his composition here.) Mr. Youngblood was amazingly lively in his recitations and singing and wowed the audience with his encore: a Russian version of Heinrich Heine's poem *Warum?* set to music by Tchaikovsky. The concert ended with Astor Piazzolla's jazzy *L'Histoire du tango*, arranged for piano quartet by Pyxis violinist Luigi Mazzochi.

In April, for the Casimir Trio concert, Nancy Bean and Marcantonio Barone created the most beautiful weaving of melodies in a Mozart violin sonata in B-flat (K 378). There were a fair number of people in the room and the sound was delicately nuanced and resonant. The trio by

David Finko, a modern piece reminiscent of both Bartók and Martinů, was commissioned by the Casimir Trio. The impressive Bedrich Smetana trio made this a stellar concert, with an encore of Ralph Vaughan-Williams *Greensleeves* arranged by Lloyd Smith to top it off.

The Estrella Piano Duo played on May 12. The two Chicago-based piano professors, Dr. Elena Doubovitskaya and Dr. Svetlana Belsky, have such impressive technique and work together extremely well, switching primo and secondo parts, crossing hands, and trading page turns. The most striking pieces from the concert were the arrangements of three movements from Stravinsky's *Petrushka* and the Polovetsian Dances from Alexander Borodin's *Prince Igor*.

The one thing that our Wister Series is lacking is a larger audience. I have vowed to try to bring at least one friend to each concert next year. I know I won't be able to do this for all of the concerts as there are always weekends when I have too much scheduled, but one or two new friends for the Wister might help. Would you consider doing the same?

- Margaret Darby

## Annual Spring Clean-Up

Several weeks ago, Liesl Jandrey, our Office Manager – at the behest of our President, Tony Michels – sent out an e-mail to all our members asking for volunteers in the Spring Clean-Up of our premises. It was gratifying to note that eight (8) venerable colleagues showed up on a splendid, sunny Saturday – the majority of whom were veterans of our very first volunteer clean-up in 2005, when the idea of volunteer service was first introduced to the German Society.

Many of you will remember that we had, at that time, a staff of five (5) employees, and the Society was losing upward of \$100,000 per year due to the excess of paid personnel. In my brief mission statement, as a candidate for the

Presidency of the German Society, which was then limited to 100 words by the edict of the very bureaucratic Board of the early 2000s, I let it be known that a financial turn-around of our organization could only be realized, by eliminating all "variable costs".

And when I announced at the first Board meeting, which I chaired as the newly elected President, that we will lay off all our employees, there was an uproar, particularly among the older, established Board members. "How do you think you will run the organization without any paid staff?", I was asked, to which I replied: "We will do it with volunteers..., and I am prepared to put in 50 to 60 hours per week." Four other colleagues immediately chimed in that they were willing to participate in this all-out volunteer effort, i.e. Doris Simon, Hella & Lew Volgenau, and Ernie Weiler.

It was gratifying to see that all of these friends, except Doris who was traveling in the South at that time, showed up for our Spring Cleaning this year. And four other veterans, namely Bill Hardham, Frank & Ellie Klare, and Hans Mueller joined in this volunteer effort, and so did my wife, Gudrun. Altogether, we were a group of nine (9) octogenarians who – under Tony's direction – trimmed bushes and cleaned up our Leidy Terrace and the parking lot area. I feel that we are still in fairly good condition, considering our advanced age.

This, of course, begs the question: "Where are the Baby-Boomers, who by now are also retired?" Irrespective thereof, as a city dweller, who has no longer a garden, I really enjoyed getting my hands dirty. To dig in the soil with bare hands is a great sensation that I still cherish from my childhood. And the discarded syringe, which got stuck in my hand, thankfully, did not yet turn me into a drug addict!

I am looking forward to my next physical workout at a GSP Clean-Up Day – be it in the Fall or Spring. Please, make your reservation early. Liesl is anxious to hear from you!

- Hardy von Auenmueller

## In Memoriam

Werner Albert Duerr, 85, of Downingtown, passed away on Tuesday, May 7, 2019. Mr. Duerr was born in Stuttgart, Germany. He received his B.S. Degree in Education from Temple University and his M.A. Degree in German Literature from West Chester University. Werner was a Vocational Educator with the Chester County Intermediate Unit for over 30 years, teaching carpentry and cabinet making. He was a travel consultant for 45 years, introducing many travelers to Germany. He was well known and respected in several German organizations and was a member of the German Society for more than 50 years. He was an active volunteer at the Society, and his obituary specified that in lieu of flowers contributions should be made to the German Society of Pennsylvania.

On a personal note, my sincere sympathy to Ann and the entire Duerr family. I enjoyed a visit to their home a few years ago as part of ongoing outreach activities to members and to solicit support for our endowments through donations or gifts through estate plans.

**A Request:** At our Annual Membership Meeting on June 2, it was suggested that we ask friends and relatives to notify the office when a member of the Society has passed. We really have no way of knowing! We would like to include their names and maybe a brief history or comment or two in future issues of the Staatsbote.

- E. D. Weiler







## PhillyKinder Update: Abschlussfeier 2018/19

Another PhillyKinder year is coming to a close. It marks the end of eight successful years of our program, and our first year as an independent non-profit organization. In the fall - in addition to our Overbrook location - a new PhillyKinder location will open in Center City, and with enough interest a German beginners class for children is going to start in Overbrook.



The end of the school year concludes with the annual *Abschlussfeier*. Each class prepares a presentation and this year's line-up included dances, songs, and jokes, as well as sketches written and performed by our oldest students...in German of course. Everybody had fun! Performing in front of their parents and friends is always a big moment for all our students, and they were the stars of the show.

We wish all of our PhillyKinder families and friends a wonderful, fun-filled summer and safe travels. For some of our families their time at PhillyKinder is coming to an end as they are moving away. Among them is the family of our longtime Program Director of Administration, Susanne Hebbeler, who will be relocating to beautiful Freiburg in southwestern Germany. We sincerely thank her for the time and dedication she invested in nurturing our program. PhillyKinder would not be what it is today without Suse's hard work. We wish her and everybody else who is saying their farewell to PhillyKinder all the best in their future endeavors! „Ciao es war schön, euch hier zu sehen, doch einmal kommt die Zeit zum Auseinandergehen“ – lyrics from the PhillyKinder end-of-the-year farewell song by Frederik Vahle.

stration, Susanne Hebbeler, who will be relocating to beautiful Freiburg in southwestern Germany. We sincerely thank her for the time and dedication she invested in nurturing our program. PhillyKinder would not be what it is today without Suse's hard work. We wish her and everybody else who is saying their farewell to PhillyKinder all the best in their future endeavors! „Ciao es war schön, euch hier zu sehen, doch einmal kommt die Zeit zum Auseinandergehen“ – lyrics from the PhillyKinder end-of-the-year farewell song by Frederik Vahle.

Die Schlaun Fühse 2 (Lehrerin: Kirsten S.) präsentieren:

### Quizrunde

Quizmaster: Willkommen bei der Quizrunde mit Monika! Heute darf ich hier in Overbrook die Kandidatinnen der Schlaun Fühse begrüßen. Dann kommen wir auch gleich zur ersten Frage. Sie lautet: "Wie bekommt man eine Giraffe in einen Kühlschrank?"

Mary: Sie passt doch gar nicht hinein.

Paulina: Man schneidet sie in Stücke?

Kim: Man faltet sie zusammen?

Quizmaster: Leider falsch. Weiß jemand die richtige Antwort?

Maya: Okay... man öffnet die Tür vom Kühlschrank, tut die Giraffe hinein und macht die Tür zu.

Quizmaster: Richtig! Nächste Frage: "Wie bekommt man einen Elefanten in einen Kühlschrank?"

Alle melden sich und wollen die Antwort sagen. Der QM nimmt Kim dran:

Kim: Man öffnet die Tür vom Kühlschrank, tut den Elefanten hinein und macht die Tür zu.

Quizmaster: Leider falsch. Die Antwort lautet: "Man öffnet die Tür vom Kühlschrank, nimmt die Giraffe heraus, tut den Elefanten hinein und macht die Tür zu."

Wir wünschen allen Mitgliedern der German Society und unseren Familien eine sonnige Sommerzeit, Erholung, viel Vergnügen und allen Reisenden eine gute Reise!

For more info about PhillyKinder, check out [www.phillykinder.org](http://www.phillykinder.org) and like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/phillykinder/>

\*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.

## Notes from the Konversationsabend and KA EXTRA Series

Spring was exciting, both for the **Konversationsabend (KA) and the KA Extra Series**. In February, the KA had fun with Puns and Punch and celebrated the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of longstanding member Inge Niebisch. In March, Executive Board member Hans Mueller introduced us to a famous Austrian, Graf Josef von Radetzky, Field Marshal and Viceroy of Lombardy-Venetia, the eponymous figure behind the Radetzky March by Johann Strauss, as well as Josef Roth's novel *The Radetzky March*. In April, GSP president Tony Michels presented a summary of the architectural improvements of the GSP building in recent years which he had overseen, including the successful installation of a state of the art heating and air conditioning system based on geothermal technology. The system will allow a significant increase in the number of events all year round which will make the GSP even more interesting to members, and will also contribute to the standing of the Society within the City of Philadelphia. Finally, in May, Karl Moehlmann made us all laugh with his presentation "Mal was Lustiges", i.e. something funny for a change. What's left is the traditional Wandertag, or hiking day, with an excursion to The Willows, a beautiful park in Radnor on June 15.

The fall season will begin in September with "Actualities", discussing the EU elections and the latest political and cultural trends in Europe and Germany. In October, we will have a presentation on the "other" Humboldt, Wilhelm, the older brother of Alexander, who played an important role in Berlin politics around 1800. He is the founder of the Berlin

University, the "Humboldt Universität". In November Karl Moehlmann will show a film on the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. The season will end with a Christmas party in December.

The KA Extra Series was particularly lively. In January, **Thomas Kleine-Brockhoff**, Berlin, CEO of the German Marshall Fund, talked about geo-political trends in world-wide politics. **Metin Hakverdi**, a member of the German Parliament and supported by the prestigious Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, talked in February about the future of work in an environment changed by technology. In March, **Martin Kaiser** from the Gustav Stresemann Institut talked about right-wing populism and the crisis of democracy in Germany. Again under the tutelage of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, **Markus Meckel**, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and member of the German Parliament, came in May for a talk on freedom and democracy in Germany and Europe after the unification of West and East Germany. His visit attracted the largest audience, 41 people, including people working within the Philadelphia City government. On Wednesday, June 12, we expect yet another and final presentation. **John Otto Magee**, an independent consultant focused on cross-border collaboration between Germans and Americans, will talk about intercultural differences between Germans and Americans and how this plays out in the business world. And then – enjoy your summer!

- Helga Halbfass



## Celebrating Alexander von Humboldt's 250th Birthday - Save the Dates

A group of German Society members (Barbara Afanassiev, Gardner Cadwalader, Hans Mueller, Hajo Oltmanns, Maria Sturm, and Eric Zillmer) has been planning a series of events to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the birth of Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859), considered the most famous scientist of his day. His life was packed with adventure and discovery, much of it in South America. His writings inspired poets, painters, scientists, and even politicians such as Thomas Jefferson. On March 20, the event "Humboldt Through Our Eyes" was the first result of these efforts, and Frank Trommler has reported on it in a previous issue of the Staatsbote. Now, we would like to give you an update of the 'coming attractions' so that you can mark your calendars!



pose with our hero at eye level – or even have your face replace his. The toast planned for the occasion might help put you in the right mood for that approach. The statue was created by the famous German sculptor Friedrich Drake (1805-1882). His most well-known work is the Victoria on top of the Siegessäule in Berlin's Tiergarten. He received the Humboldt commission in 1869, when the Society celebrated Humboldt's 100th birthday, and it was unveiled in 1876 as part of the Centennial Exposition. Originally located at the entrance to the Centennial grounds near the Girard Street Bridge, it was moved to its current spot at some point during the 1960s. We think that the lasting impact and enduring relevance of Humboldt's work in our age of increasing environmental challenges justifies a more accessible location – we know that moving it would be a lengthy and expensive process, but we don't want to give up on this idea just yet. Come and see for yourself on September 14. You may have some ideas for another location.

**On Saturday, September 14th, at 2:00pm**, the actual 250th birthday, everyone is invited to gather in Fairmount Park, for a group photograph at the grandly magnificent bronze statue of Humboldt. Its current location on Martin Luther King Drive is probably better known for the nearby storage area for Dragon Boats. MLK Drive will be closed for car traffic, so we will have to make it there on foot or by bike. It is roughly a 15 minute walk from the nearest parking lot, more detailed instructions will follow. In addition to the official photo op, you will also hear music by GSP member and bassoonist Chuck Holdeman and clarinetist Antonello di Matteo, including a selection from the program performed at the centennial celebration of Humboldt's birth in 1869. There will also be a chance for a more playful take – we'll have a cardboard cut-out of the statue, where you can

**On Saturday, September 21st, from 4:00-7:00pm**, we will have a Fiesta on the German Society's Leidy Terrace, to emphasize the strong connection with the South American countries where Humboldt made his brilliant naturalist observations of flora and fauna. All



of which seems obvious to us today because of first Humboldt's and then Darwin's work, and all the studies of others following in their paths, but in the first half of the 19th century, Humboldt's insights wove novel connections throughout the nature he observed. The Fiesta will feature a Latin music group to create the appropriate ambience for the gathering, and a menu representing South American cuisines. The Library plans to exhibit some Humboldt materials from its collections.

Apropos the Library, in honor of the Anniversary, **the next round of the Adopt-A-Rare-Book program will be devoted to Humboldt.** You can find paper copies of the catalogue in the Library, or you can check out the offerings on the Library web page.

**Saturday, October 5th**, will be the high point of our 250th birthday celebration. **A keynote lecture, "The Invention of Nature. Alexander von Humboldt's Adventures in the New World", by best-selling author Andrea Wulf, is scheduled for 7:00pm.** The German Society is joining many other institutions around the world celebrating Alexander von Humboldt's achievements. Mark your calendars and think of "The Invention of Nature" when you pick your summer reading. It is truly a captivating and thoroughly intriguing book, and you will have a hard time putting it down!

- Hans Mueller



Phone: 215-627-2332  
Fax: 215-627-5297  
Email: [info@germansociety.org](mailto:info@germansociety.org)  
[www.germansociety.org](http://www.germansociety.org)

## Development Report

In prior issues of the Staatsbote, our President Tony Michels has reported on the installation of a new heating and air-conditioning system. The project has been on our strategic plan for many years and we are in the final phases of completion. This is the first time that the Horner Memorial Library and all other areas of the German Society building open to the public are serviced by the same geothermal-based HVAC system – thanks to our sponsors.

The project costs are slightly more than \$1,000,000; which is 45% of cost projected in a feasibility study and order-of-magnitude study prepared by Bruce E. Brooks & Associates, a well-respected engineering and consulting firm in Philadelphia. Under Tony Michels' leadership we were able to segment the project into major phases and identify our own contractors, and were thus able to provide hands-on management and oversight instead of relying on one general contractor.

We gratefully acknowledge the following foundations and organizations for their grants and donations. Clearly without their support this project would not have been possible. The approximate percentages contributed are noted.

The Cannstatter Foundation Inc.	11%
The German Society of the City of New York*	17%
The Max Kade Foundation Inc.	24%
The William Penn Foundation	29%
The German Society of Pennsylvania	19%

\*gifts in memory of Mr. Wolfgang Hamel, past president of the organization.

A brief slide presentation of some of the key HVAC installations and a list of donors now welcome visitors on a newly installed TV, donated by the Sam's Club organization, in the entrance area of the Society.

- E. D. Weiler



## Scholarships at the GSP

For more than two decades, the German Society has awarded scholarships to graduating high-school students who plan to study German as a major or minor. These awards are also available to undergraduates who are currently studying German. This longstanding endeavor has been made possible by the generosity of the Society, the dedicated work of the Women's Auxiliary and the Dr. Beichl endowment. The announcement for the scholarship program as well as the criteria and application process are all posted annually in January on our website and distributed to area high schools and universities. Selected students are invited for an interview with the seven-member Scholarship Committee in late March. The interviews are typically conducted primarily in German, but the diversity in age and experience of various candidates is kept in mind. The members of the Committee have continually been delighted when meeting with the students, and have consistently been impressed by their talent and dedication. With this experience in mind, we thought that the readers of the *Staatstbote* would appreciate an example of a current awardee's writing sample. Thus it is submitted here for consideration for publication.

- Donald Rainey, Scholarship Committee Chair

Ich kann mich an dem Tag immer noch gut erinnern. Ich werde wahrscheinlich nie vergessen. Mein Vater war gerade von der Arbeit nach Hause gekommen. Er kam mit meiner Mutter in die Küche und sagte, „Wir ziehen nach Deutschland um.“ Ich war zwölf Jahre alt und hatte bis dahin kaum ein Wort Deutsch gehört. Ich hatte auch bis dahin mein ganzes Leben in nur diesem Haus gewohnt, und kannte nur diese eine Stadt.

Während den ersten Monaten in Deutschland sehnte ich mich nur danach, einfach wieder nach Hause zu können. Wir blieben aber drei Jahre. Endlich war die Zeit gekommen wieder

nach Amerika zu ziehen, den Tag worauf ich drei Jahre lang gewartet hatte. Die Erleichterung, die ich erwartet hatte, kam aber nicht. Statt Freude fühlte ich Verwirrung und Verzweiflung. Ich wollte doch nicht nach Hause zurückkehren. Ich hatte gelernt, Deutschland zu lieben. Ich hatte in vielen Hinsichten jetzt zwei Heimatländer. Und in vielen Hinsichten doch keinen.

Seit der Zeit in Deutschland habe ich immer noch viele Fragen zur Identität und zum Gehören, aber auch eine Klarheit. Ich weiß, dass Deutsch und Deutschland immer ein Teil von meinem Leben sein werden. Ob ich irgendwann wieder in Deutschland leben werde oder nicht ist eine offene Frage. Ich bin mir aber sicher, dass ich in meinem Beruf unbedingt Deutsch gebrauchen werde. Ich plane nämlich, eng mit deutschen Firmen zu arbeiten. Es ist schwierig zu sagen, wo ich in zehn oder sogar in fünf Jahren sein werde, aber nach dem Universitätsabschluss könnte ich mir ein paar Möglichkeiten vorstellen. Obwohl ich gerne in Deutschland weiter studieren würde, würde ich auch gerne sofort anfangen zu arbeiten.

Im Herbst werde ich meine Ausbildung erweitern bei der University of Pennsylvania. Dort werde ich Deutsch und International Relations studieren. Ich freue mich sehr auf die Möglichkeit mindestens ein Semester in Deutschland zu studieren. Ich werde es aber auch genießen, meine Familie und alte Freunde in Philadelphia nah zu haben. Egal wo ich mich in den kommenden Jahren finde, ich weiß, dass Deutschland etwas damit zu tun haben wird. Ich hoffe, dass der German Society mir dabei helfen kann.

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