

Calendar of Events*

* Events are subject to cancellation based on recommendations from global health authorities due to concerns of the spread of COVID-19. We thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

- Wed. Apr. 8 Konversationsabend: City Planning in the 21st Century, 6:00pm
- Sat. Apr. 11 Buchclub, 1:30pm
- Fri. Apr. 17 Friday Film Fest: *Trautmann*, 6:30pm
- Sun. Apr. 19 "Wister and More!" presents Duo Parisienne, 3:00pm
- Sat. May 2 Spring Luncheon, 12:00pm
- Wed. May 6 Meissen Porcelain Lecture, 3:00pm
- Sat. May 9 Buchclub, 1:30pm
- Sun. May 10 "Wister and More!" presents the Academy of Vocal Arts, 3:00pm
- Wed. May 13 Konversationsabend: The Healing Power of Music, 6:00pm
- Fri. May 15 Friday Film Fest: *Steig. Nicht. Aus!*, 6:30pm
- Sat. May 16 Frankfurt in May, 3:00pm
- Sat. June 6 Konversationsabend: Wandertag, Time TBA
- Sun. June 7 Annual Members Meeting and Elections, 3:00pm

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The German Society of Pennsylvania

Neuer Pennsylvanischer
Staatsbote

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

Spring 2020

You'll Never Walk Alone

I think it is fair to say that, at this moment in our lives, many things are very different than they have ever been before. Although many of us have encountered difficult situations in our lives, the impact that this pandemic has on our daily lives with its accompanying isolation from family and friends is significantly different than previous disasters. Our social network is being tested and we are compelled to develop new solutions to confront the consequences of this global challenge. We could choose to wait until this passes, our economy stabilizes and everything returns to a pre-virus way of life, but that will likely take quite some time. To conduct "business as usual" is not an option at this time; we must make adjustments to our current operation and, at the same time, prepare for future eventualities. I believe that we, as the German Society of Pennsylvania, need to be part of a larger discussion in our community. As much as I would like to focus attention on our great turnout at the 2020 Bierfest, other topics now take precedent. We were fortunate to see this development coming and, in preparation for this health crisis situation, we put together and have instituted a plan to safely continue operations in as much as possible. Our building is being closely monitored and we are able to maintain all necessary conditions to preserve our building, our library and our archival collections. To ensure the safety of staff and members, our office employees, library personnel and language instructors are working from home. We continue to receive mail, phone calls and electronic communication and are using online platforms to continue some programs. For example, language classes are being held using the video conferencing sys-

tem, ZOOM, and we are evaluating the possibility of using this or other platforms to conduct other programs. Unfortunately, many of our larger events have, by necessity, had to be cancelled. However, we intend to walk through this crisis with you and are offering our help to you as members. You will learn about some of our ideas in upcoming days.

As part of our responsibility to this city and its inhabitants, we have offered the use of our building to the Office of Emergency Management as a possible site for hosting meetings or training sessions. We will decide, on a case-by-case basis which requests we are able to accommodate.

We have a suggestion for an activity you may wish to do while you might be stuck at home with time on your hands. There are currently a number of projects underway that aim to record and preserve the history of German American immigration. The German Society is cooperating with the German American Committee (the umbrella organization which represents all German American Clubs in Philadelphia and Vicinity) and the German Historical Institute in Washington in a project entitled "German Heritage in Letters." This project collects letters sent from German speaking countries to immigrants in the US between 1800 and 1930 to be digitalized and preserved for research purposes. At the German Society, we are looking not only for letters, but also for photos that your parents or grandparents might have left to you and that you would be willing to share. We will organize times when you can bring your items to the German Society (or we can come to you). Jakob Lorenz, a Ger-

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man student from Saarbrücken who is interning at the GSP, will scan and organize this information. Jakob will be with us until the end of August working on this project. With this material, we are also hoping to publish a book about German immigration to Philadelphia and the Tri-state area.

If you are interested in learning more about this project, please contact Jakob using the email address: info@germansociety.org.

This virus and its accompanying challenges will tax us all. However, I am personally confident that we, as a society, along with the institutions that represent us, will ultimately overcome this test, learn from it and be better prepared to meet future challenges.

Solidarity and generosity to those in need are key to our future.

As a German soccer fan, I offer these words of encouragement: "You'll Never Walk Alone" and share with you this performance by André Rieu: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x3aG1KYLEiY> (although I, as a fan, personally prefer this version by Gerry and the Pacemakers: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OV5_LQArLa0)

YNWA,

Tony Michels



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Was PhillyKinder Für Uns Bedeutet!!!

Hallo an alle Fans der deutschen Sprache!



Meine Schwester Natalie Agostini und ich, Vincent Agostini, sind 17 Jahre alt und Junior Studenten in der Harriton High School. Unsere Eltern kommen von zwei verschiedenen Kontinenten. Unser Vater ist von Philadelphia, USA und unsere Mutter ist aus Wien, Österreich. Als wir Kinder waren, hat unsere Mutter immer nur Deutsch mit uns gesprochen und unser Papa natürlich nur Englisch. Als wir dann in der Schule nur immer Englisch gesprochen und gehört haben, wurde Deutsch eher ein bisschen zur Seite geschoben. Deutsch wurde immer schwieriger und unser Wortschatz immer kleiner. Aber meine Mutter hat nicht aufgegeben und wollte, dass wir die Deutsche Sprache und Bräuche nicht ganz vergessen. Jeden Sommer flogen wir für ein bis zwei Monate nach Wien, damit wir direkt im Land die Sprache, Leute und Bräuche besser kennenlernen und erfahren konnten. Aber als wir dann wieder nach Philadelphia kamen, haben alle Versuche weiter untereinander Deutsch zu sprechen fehlgeschlagen.

Doch dann durch Zufall hat meine Mutter jemanden Deutsch sprechen gehört in einem YMCA und erfahren, dass es eine deutsche Spielgruppe ganz in der Nähe gibt. Das war der Beginn des Entstehens unseres deutsch/

österreichischen Freundeskreises hier in den Suburbs von Philadelphia. Als erstes hat meine Mutter Maria Sturm kennengelernt und wie ihr Name schon sagt war sie stets interessiert, involviert und immer aktiv dabei eine bedeutsamere Sprach- und Kultur fördernde Umgebung für alle deutschsprachigen Kinder und Eltern zu finden. PhillyKinder ist gegründet worden und wir waren gleich als eine der Ersten dabei!

Für uns waren die Jahre, die wir mit den PhillyKindern verbracht haben, immer lustig und wir haben auch viel gelernt. Ich konnte nicht glauben wie viele Kinder und Erwachsene in meiner Umgebung Deutsch sprechen konnten! Die PhillyKinder-Gruppen sind immer mehr und mehr geworden. Über die Jahre waren unsere Zusammenkünfte wie ein Ritual, welches zu unserem Leben dazu gehörte. Wir haben deutsche Bücher gelesen und diskutiert, und viele Veranstaltungen und Bräuche nachvollzogen, als wären wir noch immer in Österreich/Deutschland. Alle Feiertage, die wir als Kinder gemeinsam mit den PhillyKindern feierten, und das Theaterstück, welches wir in der German Society in Philadelphia aufgeführt haben, sind unsere schönsten Erinnerungen, neben dem Weihnachtschor wo wir deutsche Weihnachtslieder beim Rathaus in Philadelphia gesungen haben und vieles mehr.



Die PhillyKinder haben in mir das "Deutsche" weiterleben lassen, ich bin stolz auf meine

österreichische Herkunft, und dass ich sie auch hier in Amerika weiter pflegen kann. Ich bedanke mich bei den PhillyKindern, den Lehrern und allen anderen, die mitgewirkt haben, diese Schule in Stand zu setzen. Für mich war es der beste Weg meine Deutschkenntnisse beizubehalten und zu verbessern. Ich und meine Schwester helfen jetzt jeden Donnerstag in einem Klassenzimmer einem Lehrer von den jungen PhillyKindern, denn was ist besser als den Kindern das zu lehren, was ich als Kind dort gelernt habe. Danke für alle die schönen Erinnerungen Philly Kinder!!

Über die Autoren:

Hallo! ich bin die Natalie. Ihr habt schon ein bisschen von meinem Leben gelesen. Aber ich möchte auch was dazu sagen. Meine Entscheidung zwischen Harriton High School und Lower Merion High School war nicht schwer. Harriton bot das IB Programm an und das hat mir gut gefallen, weil ich Deutsch als eine Sprache nehmen konnte. Seit den ersten paar Monaten meines Junior Jahres kann ich bestimmt sagen, dass ich meine Sprache weiter verbessert habe. Aber dass hätte ich nicht ohne die Hilfe und Begleitung der PhillyKinder geschafft. Ich bedanke mich noch einmal für die Erfahrung, die Lernmöglichkeiten und für die Erweiterung meiner deutschen Sprache und Freundschaften.

Hey, Vincent hier. Ich wollte mich nochmals bei den PhillyKindern für die schönen Erinnerungen bedanken. Sie bleiben bei mir für mein ganzes Leben. Die Schule hat mir nicht nur die Grammatik der deutschen Sprache beigebracht, sondern mir auch gezeigt, dass meine österreichische Herkunft ein sehr wichtiger Teil von mir ist und immer bleiben wird!

DANKE 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.

Music Notes

This year the traditional early January piano solo concert was played by Xiaopei Xu. Although Ms. Xu is still officially a student pursuing her Doctorate in Musical Arts at Boston University, she already has made her debut with the Boston Symphony. She gave a passionate rendering of two Beethoven piano sonatas, Opus 2, No. 2 in A major and Opus 13 in C minor (the Pathétique).



Xiaopei Xu

She also played several Chopin pieces and some of the lovely Franz Liszt transcriptions of Schubert songs, including the very difficult *Er-lkönig*. Ms. Xu is also a visual artist and her work was displayed in Barthelmes Auditorium, and one raffle winner got to take one of the pieces home.

The Ephrata Cloister concert in December sold 45 tickets. That is a surprisingly small audience for a choir, but it is very hard to get people to come. As a reviewer, I realize that somehow even my colleagues are not aware of the high quality concerts which are given at the German Society, so I feel that if there was a way for people to come once, they would return. Providing music schools and local organizations with free tickets for students and their parents has brought in a few more attendees and this could possibly grow.

In this vein, the Music Committee has decided to sponsor the 2020 Youth Chamber Music Showcase, a concert where advanced music students can have a chance to perform their polished pieces for an audience. Chuck Holde-man has been contacting teachers and teenagers to make this happen, and, since I live with him, I am aware of the amount of time and patience it takes to organize such an event. At this writing, he has six groups signed up to play. With that many performers and free admission, there should be a larger audience for this event on March 15.

On Sunday, March 8, we will have our first performance of the New World Recorders. Gwyn Roberts, Priscilla Herreid, Héloïse Degrugillier, and Rainer Beckmann are all excellent recording artists and they will present an all-Bach concert which should be quite exciting. (You can hear their recording of the Contrapunctus I and XI from *The Art of the Fugue* on their YouTube channel.)



New World Recorders

The last two concerts of the year will be the Duo Parisienne with Nancy Bean (violin) and Anne Sullivan (harp), playing Debussy, Piazzolla, Marais, Massenet, and Corelli on April 19 and the Academy of Vocal Arts students and alumni will come sing both Broadway musicals and German operettas on May 10.

- Margaret Darby

Development Report

Giving Opportunities

In the 2018 summer issue of the Staatsbote, we presented some giving opportunities which are still appropriate and we thought it might be helpful to list them again.

In light of the tax law changes enacted in December of 2017, many of us might want to reconsider the various giving options currently available to us. The significantly higher standard tax deduction means that some of us will no longer itemize our gifts to charities. Alternatively, you make wish 'bundle' your charitable gifts' for several years and then make your donation, which presumably is large enough as to warrant itemizing your contributions as deductions. Regardless of these tax law changes, we certainly urge you to continue to support the financial needs of the Society as best as you can!

An alternative strategy might be to start a donor advised fund with large investment institutions such as Schwab or Fidelity and make your donations directly to a charity from your donor advised fund. Donor advised funds can't be funded from IRA accounts, but appreciated assets such as stocks, bonds or mutual funds are typically the preferred investments that can be directly transferred into a donor advised fund. This might be an attractive option, especially since the markets have significantly appreciated in recent years. In fact you can use your donor advised fund just like a check book and make a contribution to any registered charity such as the German Society. It is very simple – just a few clicks on the computer to make a donation and you also have a record of your gifts. Best of all you avoid any tax obligation on the funds transferred into the account.

And finally, contributions from IRA accounts to a charity are especially attractive if you are 70 ½ or older. You can transfer any amount up to \$100,000 directly to the qualified charity, such as the Society. This applies only to IRA accounts and not to other types of retirement plans. And best of all your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year is reduced by the amount of the donation, which will in fact reduce your overall tax liability for the IRA distribution. Fortunately we have several donors that routinely take advantage of this tax saving strategy; it can be used to support our endowment funds or to make a donation to the Annual Fund. We are hoping that others will look at this giving option as well.

As always we suggest you review your plans with your tax preparer or financial advisor.

Gifts-in-Kind

As reported in prior issues of the Staatsbote, we started a letter campaign in 2017 to secure a number of high-definition TVs for the Society. We are pleased to report that since then the Sam's Club organization has come through for us with a total of four high-definition TVs. Late in January we received our fourth set – a 40 inch Samsung unit. We found the store at

Franklin Mill Circle in Philadelphia to be most helpful. These TVs are used in our class rooms, in the office area to monitor the townhouse entrance door and one of the larger units is prominently featured in the entrance area to highlight our events to visitors to the building. It also gives us an opportunity to acknowledge generous donors for special gift to the Society.

Gifts-in-kind allow us to stretch our annual budget just a bit further. We have some members that prefer to purchase an item or two that the Society might need rather than to make a cash donation. Should you fall into this category of potential donors, we urge you to call the office and ask about gift-in-kind opportunities and we will be happy to return your call.

Shopping that benefits the Society

Do you shop at Amazon and did you know that you can help the Society every time you shop at Amazon? It's simple! Visit smile.amazon.com, select the German Society of Pennsylvania as your favorite charity, and the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the Society. Why not sign up today – *even small donations make difference!*

Membership

As we look at our challenges over the coming 5 to 8 years, building our membership has to be on the top of the list! You can help us by encouraging family members or friends to come to the Society and join this wonderful organization. A yearly membership to the Society for almost any occasion is a great gift.

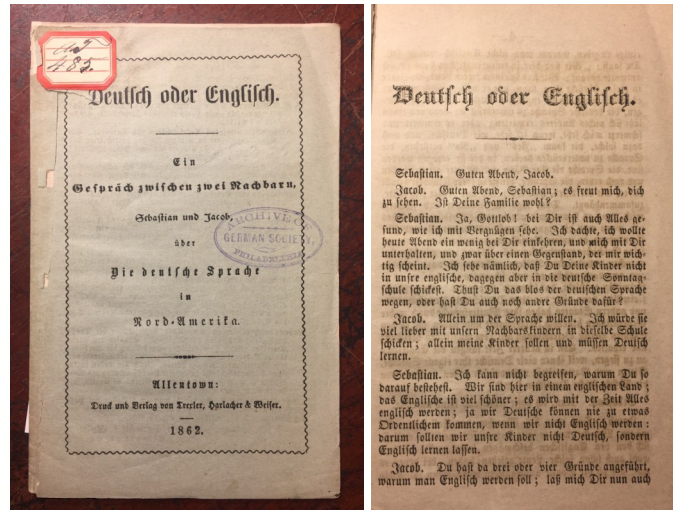
You might also wish to upgrade your membership and sign up for a lifetime membership. The \$1,000 fee for a single member or \$ 1,500 for two will be added to our General Endowment Fund. Moreover, your name or names will be added to the Linden Society – designed recognize all donations of \$1,000 or more to any of our endowment funds.

Thank you very much for helping us grow the Society.

- E. D. Weiler

German or English – A Conversation from 1862

Five years ago, in the course of my research on the history of German in Pennsylvania, I came across a reference to a fascinating pamphlet titled *Deutsch oder Englisch* (German or English). It was published in Allentown, PA, in 1862 and bore the subtitle (translated), “A conversation between two neighbors, Sebastian and Jacob, about the German language in North America.”



According to WorldCat, only one library has *Deutsch oder Englisch* in its collection, and that is the Horner Library. I got in touch Chrissy Bellizzi, who consulted with her senior colleague, Bettina Hess, a lead cataloger for the German American Collection, of which *Deutsch oder Englisch* is a part. Chrissy generously took digital photographs of each page and emailed them to me. *Deutsch oder Englisch* is featured prominently in my 2016 book on the history of Pennsylvania Dutch, and this semester here at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, in an undergraduate seminar on the German language in America, I assigned the pamphlet to my students. It is a rare gem!

During the first half of the 19th century, thousands of Pennsylvanians who were descended from colonial-era German-speaking immigrants spoke a vernacular language related to Palatine German dialects, Pennsylvania Dutch, and could read and understand a form of standard German that was used in schools, churches, and the press. Around the time of the

Civil War and afterward, as Americans generally became more mobile, Pennsylvania Dutch people came into closer contact with English monolinguals and many gave up their heritage language.

The attrition away from German in rural Pennsylvania concerned some, including the unnamed author of *Deutsch oder Englisch*, who sought to alert his fellow German speakers to what they risked losing. The conversation between Sebastian and Jacob begins as follows.

Sebastian: Good evening, Jacob.

Jacob: Good evening, Sebastian; it's nice to see you. Is your family well?

S: Yes, thank goodness! You're quite healthy, I'm glad to see. I thought I would stop by this evening for a little while to chat with you about a topic that is important to me. I see that you don't send your children to our English Sunday School, but to the German one. Are you doing that because of the German language or are there other reasons?

J: Only because of the language. I would much prefer to send them to the same school as the other children in our neighborhood, but my children should – really, must – learn German.

S: I can't understand why you are so adamant about this. We live in an English-speaking country English is a more beautiful language, eventually everyone will become English speakers, and we Germans will never amount to anything if we don't speak English. That's why we should have our children learn English instead of German.

J: You mentioned three or four reasons why we should speak English only. Let me give you a few why we shouldn't switch to English. You say, "We live in an English-speaking country." I say, we're in a free country where everyone may speak what he wants. It doesn't surprise me when our English-speaking neighbors aim to suppress the German language since that's to be expected of them. But it amazes and pains me very much when I see how Germans,

even those who barely understand yes and no, try to put down the language they grew up with, the language their fathers and mothers spoke and still speak, the language that they babbled in as small children and is associated with everything dear to them. As I say, this amazes and pains me; it's a kind of suicide when someone rejects his own language and with it every memory of our ancestors and our fatherland and its history. It would be bad enough if we were forced to do this, as some oppressed peoples are, but it is doubly bad when this kind of thing happens voluntarily. Over generations many Germans in Pennsylvania and other states succeeded in establishing schools that were on an equal footing with their English counterparts. Only recently have English speakers now started to dominate because many Germans have helped them to stamp out German traditions and ethnic identity. What are the Germans thinking?

The author of *Deutsch oder Englisch* goes on to argue that German as a language is in fact superior to English because it has fewer words borrowed from other languages. To support his argument he quotes an unnamed American scholar (*Gelehrter*) who supposedly had this to say about English: “Our language is a piratical one. Pirates appropriate other men’s property to themselves. So it is with our language. It has taken in and appropriated to itself words from almost every language.” The author follows up with a short poem by the eminent German lyricist Friedrich Gottlieb Klopstock (1724–1803) titled “Germany’s Language” (*Deutschland’s Sprache*).

*No living language may dare
Compete boldly with Germany’s language;
It is, I may succinctly and with its force say,
Fundamentally predisposed in so many ways
To a richness of novel yet clear expression;
It is, as we ourselves were, so many years ago,
When Tacitus encountered us:
Distinct, unadulterated, and unique.*

In their conversation, Jacob keeps trying to convince the skeptical Sebastian that it is worth the effort to keep up German, a language

that even English people are keen to learn. Sebastian points out that it is important to know English if Germans want to succeed in public life, as in politics or business. Jacob concedes the utility of knowing both German and English, yet he notes that the maintenance of the German language goes hand in hand with the preservation of the German virtues of industry (*Fleiß*), perseverance (*Ausdauer*), simplicity (*Einfachheit*), thrift (*Sparsamkeit*), and modesty (*Bescheidenheit*).

Eventually, Jacob succeeds in convincing Sebastian of the value in maintaining German and shares a dramatic anecdote of what can happen when it is lost.

I visited a home familiar to both you and me that I do not wish to name. On the bench in the corner sat the old Dutch mother of the house, who perhaps helped to carry on her head the boards to build that house in her younger years; whose lot it had probably been to carry on her head to and from the mill the grain and flour for her children’s bread; and who in any case helped to lay the groundwork for and bring about her family’s success through her hard work, thrift, and quiet modesty, content with her lot in life. As I mentioned, there she sat on the bench in the corner, mending with her usual diligence the torn work clothes of her now adult sons. And there, in the middle of the room, on an adorned rocking chair, all decked out and fixed up, made up from head to toe, in a large, broad hoop skirt, sat her English daughter-in-law, rocking such that her legs came up into the air. And ... and ... do you know what? She was making lace! Take care, Sebastian, that this doesn’t happen to you! Take care that your children don’t learn to say to you, “I don’t like to go to Dutch meetings!” Take care that in your old age you don’t have to hear in your own house, “I don’t care for that old Dutchman! I don’t care for that old Dutch woman!”

– Mark L. Loudon;
Alfred L. Shoemaker, J. William Frey, and Don Yoder Professor of Germanic Linguistics;
Director, Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies

Annual Members Meeting and Board Elections

On **Sunday, June 7, 2020 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, June 5, 2020**. 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 openings for Directors on the Board in the class of 2023. There are six candidates competing for these positions. There are also three Officer positions up for election: Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and VP of Finance.

Candidates for Officers

Treasurer: Lew Volgenau



For the past nine years, I have been your Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer and have also served as the Vice President of Finance.

It is our vision to be recognized as the premier German ethnic Society in the United States. In these uncertain times, it is vital that we manage our finances. I will continue to work with the Executive and Finance Committees to provide balanced budgets and prudent investments. We also need to continue our capital improvement projects to maintain our library and building. We are grateful for the support of our members for their donations and continued membership. I look for-

ward to serving the financial needs of the Society for another 2 year term.

Assistant Treasurer: Tim Rausch



Tim is an attorney and Certified Public Accountant who has previously served as the German Society's Treasurer for two years. Tim is presently employed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Human Resources as an auditor and he also has a private accounting, tax and legal practice. He is a life-long resident of Philadelphia.

Tim has served as waiter for the Women's Auxiliary Annual Luncheon for several years, volunteers at various functions and promotes the Society's reputation and unique historical circumstances whenever and to whomever he believes may have an interest. Tim is a candidate for the office of Assistant Treasurer so as to lend his legal, business and accounting expertise in support of the Treasurer in guiding the Society's future operational and financial success.

VP of Finance: Brian Norton



I would like to present myself to the Membership and ask that you support me in my desire to serve you, the Members and the Society as I have for the past two years in my role as VP of Finance.

During the four years that I have served the Society and its Members as a member of the Finance Committee, Board Member and most recently, officer, I continue to unravel the mysteries and mystique of the German Society as I serve it and the Philadelphia Community.

In fact, that is my desire; to serve both masters, if you will. As someone who came to the Society looking for a hobby and finding a community, I feel committed to serving as an officer representing Philadelphia and the very long relation-

ship that the community has had with the Society. I feel that as an organization founded to serve an immigrant community, we offer a path and an example to America and that this represents a unique opportunity for us to continue to forge a path of diversity and the proverbial melting pot that has made Philadelphia and the German community so strong.

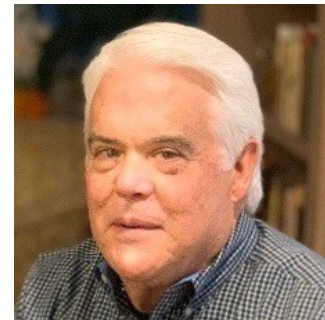
Professionally, as many of you now know, my experience as a finance professional for a number of years in the non-profit sector for a variety of organizations of both mission and resources and I can offer the back office skills as needed to continue to support the German Society.

While I had expected to have to miss the Annual Meeting for an intensive German language course in Schwäbisch Hall, recent developments mean that I will be in attendance.

Should anyone have any questions for me, I would be happy to address them at the Annual Meeting.

Candidates for Directors

Del Hausman



I am currently the principal of the Immanuel German School/Deutsche Sprachschule Philadelphia. I have taught German, Russian, and English in a suburban high school, English in a German

Gymnasium, German at Villanova University, and graduate courses in educational administration at Penn State. For 15 summers I accompanied AATG prize winners on their 4-week study/homestay trips to Nürnberg and Berlin. Additionally, I started a school exchange with a Gymnasium in Hamburg.

I have served as a national Vice President of the American Association of Teachers of German and as a member of the Accreditation Committee of the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET). For over two decades, I was a Consultant to the College Board for AP German.

Following my teaching career, I became the Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the Lower Moreland Township School District. I am presently a member of the Board of Trustees of the German Language School Conference (GLSC).

I believe that the German Society is uniquely positioned to serve as a hub for all things German throughout the greater Philadelphia area. The Delaware Valley remains home to a rich, but dwindling array of German clubs and organizations, and it is my firm belief that we would all benefit from much closer cooperation. The German Society should strive to promote its programs to members of all the other organizations, schools, churches, clubs, etc., and at the same time should endeavor to share information regarding programs of other institutions. I'd like to help infuse new meaning into the slogan *Wunderbar* together!

Maria Sturm



In all likelihood, the members of the German Society will be receiving these candidate statements while the effects of COVID-19 are still ongoing, and amidst widespread uncertainty about the long-term repercussions of the pandemic. As a historian, I am well aware of the fact that the German

Society has weathered many difficult situations in its long history, and I would like to run for the Board again this year hoping to be able to contribute in whatever meaningful way towards the goal of seeing the German Society deal successfully with the current crisis as well. Right now, nobody can predict the exact form of what will be necessary, so I will refrain from mentioning too many concrete plans – aside from the obvious task of re-organizing as many as possible of the events that had to be cancelled, finding space for new initiatives, and continuing to help the Horner Library flourish – as I have done for so many years – as well as the German Society as a whole. After the influenza pandemic of 1918, many good changes came to the city of Philadelphia, and I hope going forward, we will all work together to make the same happen again once

COVID-19 is behind us.

Jim Niessen



It was my privilege to serve already two terms on the GSP board. My parents were born in Philly of German and Lithuanian immigrants. In researching their roots I stumbled upon the GSP and have treasured its library and archives, fun and informative programs, and many new acquaintances. I've traced my German roots in the Rhineland and Baden, and organized two GSP programs on German genealogy. My home neighborhood in Woodside, Queens in NYC was one of the oldest German settlements on Long Island before Irish immigrants made St. Patrick a rival to St. Boniface. Professionally I'm an historian of Eastern Europe and a humanities librarian at Rutgers, where I am collections coordinator for the New Brunswick Libraries and liaison to six academic programs including the German Department. In the GSP, I'm a member of the Library Committee. God willing, we will all survive the coronavirus until the elections in June when I would welcome your vote for another year on the GSP board.

Daniel Lippard



This is being written March 18th, and I sense that the epidemic upon us now will not have resolved itself by the time of the Annual Meeting and Board Elections. That, I feel, requires rearrangement of our priorities.

Some Society members are going to be in diminished health and resources. Our focus right now, and for the foreseeable future, should be on helping them as we can.

The next task should be restoration of normal functions by the Society. It's certainly not quite that simple, since the students that are taught here, the guests who attend our functions, and the groups we contract with will also probably be

struggling to achieve normalcy. This, though, constitutes an opportunity to a stalwart to those people, and let them see what sort of neighbors our members are.

After those phases, hopefully we are able to enthusiastically pursue new activities which enrich our lives and those of our neighbors.

Allen Krumm



I would like to continue to support the German Society in its various programs aimed at preserving German heritage and culture. The progress made over the past few years in terms of building improvements and establishing a sound financial basis should serve as both an encouragement and a source of motivation for all the members of the Society.

Helga Halbfass



The eleven years of my first and second Board membership have reinforced my wish to further contribute to the future direction of the German Society. In the past years, I have seen numerous positive developments.

The Society has become much more visible to the general public. The partnership of Philadelphia with Frankfurt has allowed the Society to extend its own international outreach, and the list of its program accomplishments is impressive. This would not be possible without the untiring volunteer engagement of the Executive Board and the Board of Directors. I am proud of having been a member of this team. I participated in various volunteer activities, and for more than nine years I have organized the Konversationsabend or KA as my special contribution. We extended the KA program by adding the KA Extra Series which allows us flexibility and diversity in welcoming speakers and presenters at short notice, including guests from the Gustav Stresemann Institute, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, the Friedrich

Ebert Foundation, and others. The support of fellow Board members and Committees has been productive, and I hope to be able to work for even more co-operation and transparency between committees and projects. If re-elected, I would continue the KA program and engage actively in the ongoing process of defining and re-defining the objectives of the Society (membership questions, publicity, hospitality, outreach activities) as my part in making the German Society significant for friends and members, and for the life of the City.

Annual Fund Donors

Donors' names have been removed from online version for their privacy.