The German Society of Pennsylvania
611 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123-3505

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Interim President Farewell

When Hardy and I discussed last spring the possibility of my coming in as Interim President to give him a much deserved breather, I had many reasons not to take this on, believe me! I have a full-time job, a part-time job, three children at home, a music group, and my composing, which includes a large commission deadline hanging over my head. Besides, there are any number of good GSP folks more qualified! Well, all of those reasons were good, and none have changed, but sometime I just have to do what you feel needs to be done...so I took a deep breath and went ahead anyway. It’s been a fun trip! But now that summer is over, it is time for me to give the reins back.

It’s been quite an education for me, having been a member of the Society for a number of years but now seeing these events during our special German-American Day celebration in early October...and you will become a part and witness to our success of “Making Philadelphia a German Town” —Hardy von Auenmüller

A New Face in the Office

Mark Henne

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The German-American Day Celebration

October 5-7

The valiant efforts of various friends in recent months towards “Making Philadelphia a German Town”, as described in the previous issue of this newsletter, appear to be bearing fruit!

The first concert scheduled for Friday morning, October 5, by the well-known Liedermacher and entertainer Uwe Kind has long been sold out (mostly to area high school students). That prompted us to persuade the artist to present a second concert in the early afternoon, right after lunch.

And speaking of food, Thomas Bauer, an enterprising young man from Germany—also currently a Ph.D candidate at the University of Nuremberg—is taking a break from his studies to offer, throughout the weekend, a variety of delectable items, such as bratwurst, pretzels, sauerkraut etc. which he will prepare and serve from a booth in our fenced-in garden.

Another booth, staffed by members of the Women’s Auxiliary, will offer Kaffee & Kuchen (Bienenstich/Appelförtte), to those with a sweet tooth. While bottled water, sodas and the like, will also be available in the garden; all other beverages are served in our Ratskeller. There you may choose from a vast selection of imported German beers from the Beck’s, Franziskaner, Paulaner and Spaten breweries.

All in all, there are ten different events presented over the three-day weekend, many of them for the first time here in Philadelphia. For further details, please be referred to our earlier write-up in the Staatsbote, website www.germansociety.org or the Calendar of Events presented in this issue on page 7.

We hope to see you all at many of these events during our special German-American Day celebration in early October...and you will become a part and witness to our success of “Making Philadelphia a German Town” —Hardy von Auenmüller
Friends of the Library

We wish to acknowledge the following donors who have contributed to the Friends of the Joseph Horner Memorial Library Fund.

The donations will be used to support the operating costs of the library, archives and our librarian.

We are grateful for your contributions to keep our wonderful collection and related cultural activities open to members, the public, scholars, and students.

Names removed for Online Version

2007/08 Concert Series

The upcoming “Wister and More” Concert Series, this year comprising ten concerts, is about to begin, with the first concert on Sunday, September 30 at 3:00pm, featuring Petronel Malan, a young South African pianist who is rapidly achieving “star” status in the world of piano soloists. We will also present four concerts by the Wister Quartet, and a performance by a violin and harp duet, the Duo Parisienne.

Additionally, we will present another Liederabend by Jacqueline Smith (soprano) and Larry Indik (baritone), accompanied by Marvin Keenze (piano), which is still favorably remembered by all those who attended the Reopening Ceremony of our Library last fall. We will also enjoy the Frankfurter Kammertrio—whose principal appeared last year with Lloyd Smith, cellist of the Wister Quartet—the Tokito-Oka-Uhlig Trio, and the Philadelphia Trio, who are both well known to last year’s audiences.

With musicians of such high quality, we are confident that those attending the series will find each presentation delightful and inspiring. Additional information, including dates, ticket prices, programs, and biographies of the performers is available by calling the Society or visiting our website. You may select from a variety of subscription choices, as well as tickets for individual concerts—all moderately priced.

For additional concert offerings, including a cabaret-style performance by Karen Kohler and a concert by the Philadelphia Beck Band in memory of many 19th Century German contributions, see the Calendar of Events on page 7.

—Karl Spaeth

Calendar of Upcoming Events

October

Fri. Oct. 5  Uwe Kind Concert, 12:30 pm, $5
  World-renowned Liedermacher who teaches German by setting it to familiar tunes
  “German for Sale” Lecture by Dr. Sandro Moraldo, 5:30pm, Free
  Friday Film Fest, “Das Leben der Anderen”, 7:00pm (German with English subtitles)
  $10 students, $12 members, $15 nonmembers

Sat. Oct. 6  5K Walk Departing from German Society, 8:00am-2:00pm, $3 or $20 contribution to benefit the German-American Heritage Center in Washington, DC
  Singalong of Volkslieder led by Siri Sücktling and Isabella Beichl, 3:00pm, Free
  Susanne Linke Lecture and Modern Dance Demonstration, 5:00pm, $20
  Champagne reception with Choreographer Susanne Linke and other artists, 6:00pm, $30
  Karen Kohler Cabaret Performance, 8:00pm, $20
  Songs include a tribute Marlene Dietrich, Kurt Weill, Cole Porter and Edith Piaf

Sun. Oct. 7  Ecumenical Service at Old Zion Lutheran Church, 10:00am, Free Will Offering
  German-American Beer Tasting with Marnie Old, 12:00 noon, $30 members, $35 nonmembers
  A comparison and contrast of German and American beer styles and types
  Beck Brass Band Concert, 4:00pm, $20
    Concert in memory of Germans—the largest ethnic group in the Union Army during the Civil War

Fri. Oct. 12  Introduction to Ballroom Dancing with Prof. Peter Kadel, 7:00pm, Free
  243rd Annual Stiftungsfest and Silent Auction, 6:00pm, $120 ($70 of which is tax-deductible)

Sat. Oct. 21  “Wister and More!” Concert Series, The Wister Quartet, Haydn, Beethoven, Debussy, 3:00pm

November

Sat. Nov. 3  Women’s Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10:00am
  Friday Film Fest, “Der Name der Rose”, 6:30pm (German with English subtitles)

Sun. Nov. 11  St. Martin’s Day Parade, 4:00pm
  Konversationsabend, Artists’ Colony Worpswede, by Prof. Sigrid Weltge, 7:00pm

Mon. Nov. 12  “Wister and More!” Concert Series, Liederabend, with Jackie Smith, Larry Indik, and Marvin Keenze, 3:00pm

Sun. Nov. 18  Konversationsabend—Traditional Advent Celebration at the Aurennuellers, 7:00pm

December

Sat. Dec. 1  Christmas Bazaar of the Women’s Auxiliary, 12:00 noon

Fri. Dec. 7  Friday Film Fest, “Joyeux Noel”, 6:30pm (German with English subtitles)

Sun. Dec. 9  “Wister and More!” Concert Series, The Wister Quartet, Rachmaninoff, Borodin, etc., 3:00pm

Wed. Dec. 12  —Cont’d from page 1

the Board from the inside for the first time. You should be very proud of the entire Board, as I am, and of the tremendous dedication and work that goes into making the Society run. Not only that, but we are expanding, with more activity than ever before, new construction, new programs, great staff, many new members, and of course, our invaluable volunteers.

The Board and Executive Committee have been discussing the leadership succession, and perhaps a special membership meeting will even be called for, so keep your eyes open for that. We don’t know what solutions may eventually come out of this, but I want you to know one thing: this is a good kind of “problem” to have! I say that because, make no mistake, the German Society is expanding. It’s important that we manage our growth responsibly.

While the timetable for my stepping down is now, really there is no perfect time for transition. The German-American Weekend on October 5-7, the Stiftungsfest on October 13, and a raft of programs are all underway.

I’ve enjoyed my time doing this, although my input has been necessarily limited, as we knew it would be when we discussed my possible participation. I’ll continue my work on the Library Committee and will see many of you at the Stiftungsfest on October 13, and a American Weekend on October 5.

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We are glad to keep our wonderful collection and related cultural activities open to members, the public, scholars, and students.

—Kile Smith
Thanks to Our Volunteers

Over the summer months, we have had a number of dedicated individuals who have pruned trees, stuffed envelopes, mailed invitations, rewired our office technology and boxed books for sale. We are ever-so-grateful to these people who donated their time to prepare for our fall event season.

We acknowledge the work of Hans Fremuth in preparing the office computers and phones for the new face in our office (see page 1).

Thank you to Ray Dietrich for his many hours of removing unwanted trees, roots, and branches outside the building.

The Society was pleased to have Martin Alexion, a senior German student at Abington High School, volunteer his time to do some heavy lifting and gather old books around the building for a spring book sale.

Great thanks to those of you who helped with the mailings sent out this summer: Paul Coyne, Don Detwiler, Bill Felker, Frank and Ellie Klare, Robert Koelsch, Lou Ochsman, Inge Niebisch, Bobbie and Henry Shaffier, Helen Schutz, and Richard Wilking.

And a tremendous thank you to the Women’s Auxiliary for supplying cooks, servers and cleaner-uppers for the Oktoberfest and our other events. I assure you your presence and willing spirit do not go unnoticed!

Also, our gratitude is extended to our bartenders Laurie Colborn, David Fingerle and Werner Carrieri.

If you have a few hours a month free in your schedule and would like to join our volunteer team, please call the Society’s office.

We’ll be happy to put you to work! —Sharan Knoell

Oktoberfest

As “Eins, Zwei, G’suffa!” and other accordion favorites played in the background, 133 people dined on scrumptious slow roasted pork, sauerkraut, potato salad, wiener and wursts in our Ratskeller during this year’s Oktoberfest.

The most successful in recent years, a good time was had by all—adults and children alike—as the beer flowed and we swayed to and fro with the music.

Thank you to all who participated and all who helped to make the event a success. We already look forward to next year’s celebration!

Building Improvements

The next few months will be an exciting time at the Society, as our building improvement activities continue. The addition of a sprinkler system throughout most of the building is an important project we now have the funds to implement. The ceiling in the Ratskeller will be replaced. After the sprinkler system has been installed in the basement area, we will install a high efficiency ceiling tile system produced by Armstrong. The Schlaraffia Room will be renovated and expanded to become part of the Ratskeller. Movable doors, a new floor and ceiling, and reconditioned, operable windows for much needed air circulation are planned.

The sprinkler system will also be installed in the Auditorium and this will lead to a need to repaint the auditorium. We are still awaiting the results of grant applications to see if we can proceed with this painting project, the replacement of the Auditorium windows and the renovation/repainting of the upper exterior story of the building. We also expect to replace the badly worn windows in the Directors Room.

Last but not least, the Mural Project on the building adjacent to the Society has been delayed until early spring. Our artist, Michael Webb, is presently occupied with another project. Board members and a few friends of the Society have contributed $5,000 for this project.

With this many projects going on, we expect some construction impacts. Rooms may not be available for routine functions; however, every effort will be made to minimize impacts on our normal activities and the rental program. We ask for your understanding as we strive to enhance the functionality of our facilities. —Ernest Weiler

It’s Never Too Early...

Some of our women were already thinking of Christkindlmarkt in the middle of August. Herta Toneatto organized a repair and painting party to freshen up the appearance of our Knusperhäuschen (market stands).

Ingrid Greim, Desiree Heigl, Jutta Lendvay, Maria Neitzel with Theresa (an Au-Pair), Kathryn Olson, Hannelore Schill, Margot Sawicki, and Hella Volgenau scraped, sanded, masked and painted for several days in the heat of summer.

I think everybody knows how hot the Auditorium of the Society gets during those dog days of August, but as you can see in the photo, this did not dampen their enthusiasm. In fact, they made this task a fun event, even singing while working.

Martin Knappe and Lew Volgenau sawed new icicles and attached them to the roof line.

A heartfelt thank you to all of you.

Come and admire our work on December 1st! This is the date of our Christkindlmarkt, which will start as usual at 12:00 noon. It will include our handmade goodies: homemade cakes and cookies, hand-sewn, crocheted and knitted items, fresh evergreen arrangements, tree ornaments, attic treasures, a silent auction, chocolates, marzipan, and much more. A delicious lunch will be served in addition to Kaffee und Kuchen. Proceeds of the Bazaar go toward welfare and scholarship opportunities.

Please mark your calendar! It would be nice to see all of you.

—Christel Tillmann, President of the Women’s Auxiliary

Enjoying some good conversation...

...and time with family.

Heike Richardson and Hanna Winter, two Saturday morning German students, vie for Don Bitterlich’s job

Knusperhäuschen—It’s Never Too Early...
Welcome to our Newest Members

We are pleased to extend a warm greeting to all of our newest members.

Membership

Membership is a key element in any successful nonprofit organization. Without loyal and new members, the German Society cannot continue to exist. Much gratitude is due to all those loyal members who have stayed with us for many years.

New members help us to revitalize. And an excellent way to acquire new members is to have loyal members recruit them.

This can be done very easily by simply telling anyone you know about the German Society, and then asking them to join. Or, you could give a gift membership and surprise a close friend or relative on a special occasion. Either way, the German Society benefits.

For questions about membership, please call Lou Oschmann, Membership Chair, at 267-872-0568.

A Well Established Tradition of the German Society

—Erfinder, Freigeist, Staatenlenker. Even Ralph Archbold, a founder who so often portrayed Franklin, was there.

This year, before our summer break, we covered the following three diverse topics which have been summarized by Inge Niebsch, a long-time Society member and regular participant in our KA-Runden:

Beim Häuten der Zwiebel — Buchbesprechung mit Dr. Helga Hafijuss


Gern haetten wir noch andere An- sichten zu diesem Thema gehort; denn sie haetten den Abend noch interessanter gemacht.

Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste—Dr. Matthias Hass


Beim Häuten der Zwiebel — Buchbesprechung mit Dr. Helga Hafijuss

Wir hatten die Gelegenheit, fuer sol- che tapferen jungen Leute an diesem Abend kennenzulernen. Sie sprachen uber ihren Einsatz in einer judischen Gemeinde von Philadelphia bzw. Camden, NJ.

Diese tapfaren, jungen Leute haetten mehr Anerkennung verdient als die Anwesenheden von nur 20 Mitgliedern der Gesellschaft bekundete. Luthers Spiritualitaet von Drs. Peter und Philip Krey


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