



Hoch soll er leben!

GEORGE J. BEICHL, President Emeritus of the German Society celebrated his 90th birthday on August 16, 2008. He has dedicated a good portion of his life to caring for the wellbeing of the German Society. He was a "Fisher of Men and Women". He cast his nets far out, to find persons who shared his vision for the ideals and goals of the German Society, such as **Otto Haas** who often came with his wife to our Board meetings and lent his philanthropic support to the Society.

George also brought **Dr. and Mrs. Albert Barthelmes** and **Mr. and Mrs. John Muller** to the Society and inspired their enthusiasm for our work and wonderful library. Without their most generous support, the building and the work of the German Society, as we experience it today, would not exist.

Not only did George catch material values with his nets, he was also the heart and soul of the 300TH anniversary celebration commemorating the arrival of 13 families from Krefeld, who under the leadership of Pastorius, settled Germantown. He also looked perfectly at home sitting at the head table with the then German Federal President, Karl Carstensen and Vice-President George H.W. Bush whose participation he successfully sought.

Of course, George Beichl also caught smaller fish in his nets, such as me: I had visited several events at the Society where I was warmly greeted by him.

—*Cont'd on page 2*

Progress Report on Elevator Project

What a beautiful, gorgeous summer it was! I hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did. No matter to where you traveled, you have by now no doubt returned, fully invigorated, to your job, school or other place of endeavor.

My own travels this summer were restricted to the short cross-town commute—from our center city home to the GSP building complex—where every day new and exciting challenges had to be met regarding our elevator project. These I would like to share with you:



When our construction crew brought the heavy earth-moving equipment onto our premises, the ground in the fenced-in garden gave way, and a gaping hole surfaced, affording a view into a huge vaulted area which extended well beyond our property line. Too bad it wasn't located at the other side of our building because it would have made a beautiful extension of the Ratskeller! On the other hand, we were fortunate that no human remains were found at said location. That would have certainly stopped any work on our project. Instead we had to block off

the adjacent sidewalk and curbside of Spring Garden Street until the City's Water and Street Departments gave us permission to fill in this underground coal storage area from the late Nineteenth Century—abandoned more than seventy years ago when the brownstone buildings along Spring Garden Street were torn down.

The excavation work, and the drilling of a forty-foot-deep hole for the piston of the hydraulic hoist, went without a hitch. No rocks impeded the work. However, it became apparent that the western wall of our building, at the site of excavation, needed to be underpinned because it is merely resting on a few layers of sandstone - with no solid footing! When all the concrete work, including the underpinning, was finished we experienced a few rainy days with heavy downpours. These tested the impermeability of the new concrete slab because every gallon of water that accumulated over night needed to be pumped out.

—*Cont'd on page 3*

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Neuer Pennsylvanischer Staatsbote

—*Hoch soll er leben cont'd*

One day I got a call from George: "I would like you to come more often to the Society. We do have an opening on the Board, but the position of Secretary of the Society is also yours for the asking. You will have no particular duties, except for attending our monthly meetings." Well, I just couldn't refuse him.

For a few years, my only official duty was to carry the original minute book of the Society, dating back to 1764, and impeccably written in the old German script, in a ceremonial procession into the Auditorium for our annual *Stiftungsfest*. However, as time went on, many additional tasks came my way, and I spent countless hours at the Society – as so many people have done before, and are now doing again.

For George Beichl, the German Society was not an advocate for sentimental glorification of things GERMAN. He is first and foremost a humanist, who appreciates the knowledge of ideas and ideals of the German culture as ONE stone in the rich mosaic of the American culture.

George Beichl writes beautifully and can make a speech at the drop of a hat. Small or large audiences are spell-bound when he talks, often using a quote from Goethe or Wilhelm Busch as a point of departure.

His most memorable Goethe quotation: "Was Du ererbt von Deinen Vätern hast, erwirb es, um es zu besitzen," inspired me to rephrase one from his *Faust*: "Das ewig Beichlsche zieht uns hinan" ..., and this forms a symbolic foundation for our elevator – appropriately named BEICHL TOWER.

Let the spirit of George Beichl elevate us forever. **Happy Birthday, George!**
—Otto Reichert-Facilides

Im Memoriam Hans J. Trustorff



On July 21, 2008, Hans J. Trustorff, 76, of Huntingdon Valley, a retired company owner who was active in the German-American community, died of lung cancer at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia.

Born in East Prussia, he was uprooted from his homeland by the events of WWII. He learned the tool-and-die trade in Hamburg. At age 19 he came to the United States, and worked for a tool-and-die maker in Philadelphia.

From 1953 to 1955, Mr. Trustorff served in the US Army. He was stationed in Korea for more than a year. After his discharge, he worked for various local companies before co-founding Turbo Machine Shop in Olney in 1962. Six years later, he established ARC Manufacturing Company with two partners. The Feasterville company manufactures parts for aircraft and utility companies. He was president of ARC for 20 years before retiring in 2000.

Mr. Trustorff served on the Board of Directors of the German American Heritage Foundation and, as its finance committee chairman, he was actively involved in the plans for a museum in

Washington, DC. honoring the German American community.

He and his wife, Lisel Egeler Trustorff, met at one of the local German social clubs and were married in 1957. They often returned to Germany to visit family. He also enjoyed fishing and boating at the New Jersey seashore.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a daughter, Karin Hazzard; a son, Heinz; one brother; three sisters; and a granddaughter.

We all have lost in Hans a good friend, who had been a life-time member of the German Society and one of the two principal benefactors for our Beichl Tower. He will certainly be missed by us all.

When I first met Hans, I quickly realized that he is a man of strong conviction. Throughout our negotiations with the architect, contractor, and elevator company he took a firm approach. Since all my siblings live in Europe, he soon became like a stand-in brother on whom I could lean for advice when needed.



His participation in our Groundbreaking Ceremony is shown on the photo above - with him, myself, Dr. Beichl, and Ulrich Both (from left to right).

—Hardy von Auenmueller

—*Elevator Progress cont'd*

The block work for the elevator shaft proceeded well until one morning in early August, when our site was picketed by the local bricklayers union. They took issue with the fact that our subcontractor from Lancaster County did not employ any union workers. Fortunately, their main spokesman, a German-American whose grandfather had been a member of our Society, turned out to be a reasonable person with whom we were able to negotiate a mutually acceptable compromise.

In the meantime, our Beichl Tower has been visibly growing—from the skinny shaft (as pictured below) to the full, ripe handsomeness of its namesake whose 90th birthday was celebrated just a few weeks ago.

While our likable general contractor is running this construction project by the seat of his pants (which requires a constant prodding from our end) we hoped to celebrate our *Richtfest* (topping out ceremony) with his crew by Labor Day. That hope has now been realized, as the cover photo bears out. Despite these setbacks, we are only a few days behind schedule. We should be able to dedicate the Beichl Tower as part of our next *Stiftungsfest* celebration in early November.

As reported in the previous two issues of the *Staatsbote*, our long-hedged dream of building said elevator was aided by the most generous pledges of two personal friends of Dr. Beichl who made their commitments to this project to honor him. While these **two benefactors** had wanted to stay anonymous, I feel that their identity should now be revealed, particularly since one of them, **Hans J. Trustorff**, unfortunately will not be able to see the structure

completed. After a long battle with cancer, Hans died on July 21st (see obituary on page 2).

The other generous friend is **Ulrich Both**. His health is also not the best. I am glad though that both gentlemen were able to participate in our groundbreaking ceremony, of which Ms. Knoell was able to take a photo (see page 2). With these two pledges in hand, it became, indeed, a worthy challenge for me to solicit funds for this “monumental” project. Each and every person contacted gave most liberally. As of this writing, the total received—in contributions or personal pledges—exceeds the \$70,000 level recorded for our last two annual fund drives.

A listing of all the donor names to date is shown on page 4. And the names of those who give \$600 or more will be shown on a plaque to be mounted on the wall of the Beichl Tower vestibule. Please note it is not too late for anyone wishing to participate in this endeavor, since this special fund drive will continue until December 31!

—Hardy von Auenmueller



President's Message

I am pleased to report that our most recent fiscal year, which ended on June 30, 2008, produced encouraging results thanks to the strong support rendered by many Board members and volunteers.

As you may glean from the comparative financial data printed on the insert of this newsletter, substantial growth in revenue was recorded - when compared with the prior year - while our operating expenses - in spite of increased energy costs - were held down to single digit growth.

Unfortunately, the surplus thus attained was reduced by substantial investment losses resulting from the worldwide credit crunch which also affected Wall Street and our portfolio.

The installation of a sprinkler system, discussed at great length in prior issues of this publication, and the subsequent renovation of our Auditorium and *Rat-skeller*, which was completed by early spring, allowed us to book more events at higher fees now that our premises look more presentable.

Our next major capital project, i.e. the much needed window replacements in our Auditorium was deferred since the funding support by the PA Historical & Museum Commission was once again denied. We were, however, encouraged to reapply..., and hope to receive these funds before the end of 2008 so that we may start this project in late spring/early summer of next year.

Finally, I wish to take this opportunity to thank those of you who generously participated in our Annual Fund Drive.

—Hardy von Auenmueller

Contributions and Pledges Received for our Elevator Project

*Indicates a Pledge
List as of September 1, 2008

Oktoberfest at the German Society

In recent years, we have celebrated this well-known, and by far largest, German *Volksfest* on the very day when the *Münchner Wies'nfest* was getting started. By tradition, this has been around September 20. However, this year we are rolling our festival into the six-day **German-American Day celebration** in early October—commemorating the arrival of the thirteen Mennonite families who came from Krefeld, Germany, 325 years ago, to settle in nearby Germantown, now a part of Philadelphia proper.

The **Oktoberfest** event began with a wedding almost 200 years ago. **Crown Prince Ludwig** (later King Ludwig I of Bavaria) married **Therese**, a Saxon princess, on October 12, 1810. They held a big party, which included horse races. It was so popular that the party was repeated the following year, prompting the start of this German *Volksfest* tradition which has become world famous. Except for a few interruptions caused by war or epidemics, the Oktoberfest has been celebrated every year since that time.

Back in the early 1800s when Munich was a far smaller town than today, the Oktoberfest participants had to journey out to the **Theresienwiese** which now lies within the city. Because of its increasing popularity, the festival was lengthened and the date pushed forward, to take advantage of the warm, early fall weather which is known to stimulate the thirst of visitors.

However, the Oktoberfest in Munich is much more than a beer party these

days. It offers a large array of amusement rides, such as *Achterbahn*, *Riesenrad*, *Schiessbuden* and other attractions found at many other fairs.

This festival—now extending over a full two-week period—has become the world's largest fair, attracting over six million visitors. It has become an important part of Bavarian culture. Other cities across the world also hold Oktoberfest celebrations, modeled after the Munich event.

Thus, it stands to reason that we at the **German Society** should also hold an ***Oktoberfest*** on our premises. This year it has been scheduled for **October 4**.

For entertainment, we will bring to our *Biergarten* a six-piece brass band, playing traditional German *oom-pah* music to which you may do your own thing, including swaying or dancing.

If St. Peter will cooperate and provide us again with warm weather, there will be a great variety of thirst-quenching beverages, such as various brands of imported and domestic beers, sodas, and ice cold spring water to cool you off.

Of course, you need not worry that you will go hungry since our academic journeyman from Nürnberg, Thomas Bauer, assisted by Katrin and two fellows, will provide plenty of grilled sausages, pretzels, and the like. In addition, Canape Catering will be offering a pork dinner with all the trimmings to those who stick around for the evening hours.

Last but not least, our Women's Auxiliary will be spoiling us again with *Kaffee und Kuchen*.

Please come and join us!

Accommodations Needed for Young German Musicians

In commemoration of the **325th German-American Day anniversary celebration** in early October, the German Society will be offering two concerts by the ***Landesjugendorchester Rheinland-Pfalz***, a full ensemble of 100 musicians.

These musicians will be coming to Philadelphia first as part of a US tour, which will take them among others to Harrisburg, Gettysburg, Baltimore, Washington and New York.

They are scheduled to arrive at Philadelphia Airport **on Friday, October 3** in the late afternoon coming in on a Lufthansa flight from Frankfurt, and **will be transported by bus to the German Society**, from where we ask the host parents to **pick them up**.

The young musicians will be **staying for an extended weekend, i.e. from Friday night to Tuesday morning**.

If you are kind enough to open your home to two or more of these kids, who range in age from 15-18 years, we would appreciate your calling us at our office (215-627-2332). At that time, please indicate whether you prefer to house boys **or** girls.

Over the past 40 years, Gudrun and I have been offering our home to hundreds of youngsters from all over the world, and we found these experiences most rewarding. Since our own kids have moved out many years ago, we have the space and the desire to accommodate five musicians.

Should you have any specific questions on how to deal with your guests, please feel free to talk to me.

—Hardy von Auenmueller

2008 German-American Celebration at the German Society

Wednesday, October 1

“Ben and the Germans”, 1:00pm

An historic play developed and performed by area high school students about the printing competition between Ben Franklin and Christopher Saur

Early German-American History Symposium, 3:00pm-6:00pm

Lectures include: The First Germans in America by Historian Gary Carl Grassl, Pennsylvania's Immigrant Recruitment in Germany by Dr. Bethany Wiggin, The Life of German-Americans in the late 18th Century by Björn Oberhössel, MA, and The Contributions of the Mühlenberg Family by Dr. Friederike Baer

Thursday, October 2

Film Presentation, "Germans in America", Part 1, "Into the Promised Land", 7:00pm

Part 2, "The Price of Freedom", 9:00pm

Friday, October 3

Dedication of German Immigration Mural, 10:00am

Mayor's Reception at City Hall, 12:00 noon

Concert—Songs of the Minnesingers and Instrumental Dances, 3:00pm

Film Presentation, "Germans in America", Part 3, "Little Germanies", 7:00pm

Part 4, "A People Disappears", 9:00pm

Saturday, October 4

5K and 10K Walk with the Liberty Bell Wanderers in support of the German Heritage Center in Washington, DC, 9:00am

Oktoberfest Celebration in our *Biergarten*, beginning at 11:00am

"Group Motion" Modern Dance Performance, Directed by Manfred Fischbeck, 7:00pm

Sunday, October 5

Ökumenischer Gottesdienst at Immanuel Lutheran Church (14100 Worthington Road, Philadelphia), 11:00am

Landesjugendorchester Rheinland-Pfalz performance of Elgar, Beethoven, and Mendelssohn, 3:00pm

Monday, October 6

Dedication of German Society Historical Marker, 10:00am

German-American Memorial Luncheon honoring John Haas of Rohm & Haas at the Union League, 12:00 noon

AMERIKA, GIBT ES ODER GIBT ES NICHT, play performed by the KRESCHtheater Company from Krefeld, 2:30pm

Sing-along of German *Volkslieder*, 4:00pm

Landesjugendorchester Rheinland-Pfalz performance of Barber, Elgar, and Mendelssohn, 7:00pm

Ongoing Weekend Events

Book Sale (Oct. 1—Oct. 4)

Open House *Gartenfest* with food, drink, and merriment (Oct. 3—Oct. 6)

All events are at the German Society unless otherwise noted.

Calendar of Events

September

Sat. Sept. 6	Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10:00am
Mon. Sept. 15	German Society Board Meeting, 7:00pm
Mon. Sept. 15	12-Week Fall Session of German Classes for Adults Begins

October

Wed. Oct. 1-Oct. 6	Expanded German-American Weekend Celebration (see page 6 for details)
Sun. Oct. 5	"Wister and More!" Concert Series, <i>Landesjugendorchester Rheinland-Pfalz</i> , 3:00pm Selections by: Elgar, Beethoven, and Mendelssohn
Fri. Oct. 10	<i>Konversationsabend</i> , "Fleeing the Swastika" with book author Faye Cukier, 7:00pm
Sat. Oct. 11	Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10:00am
Tues. Oct. 14	Women's Auxiliary Bus Trip to Hyde Park, NY
Sun. Oct. 26	"Wister and More!" Concert Series, The Wister Quartet, 3:00pm Selections by: Haydn, Staneck, Verdi

November

Sat. Nov. 8	Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10:00am
Sat. Nov. 8	244th Annual <i>Stiftungsfest</i> —Reception, Dinner, Dance, and Silent Auction, 6:00pm
Mon. Nov. 10	<i>Konversationsabend</i> , "Bio, Burger oder Genfood—Streit ums Essen", Viewing of Talk Show, "Menschen bei Maischberger", 7:00pm
Fri. Nov. 14	St. Martin's Day Parade for Families, 6:00pm
Fri. Nov. 21	Friday Film Fest, "Die Fälscher" ("The Counterfeiters"), 6:30pm
Sun. Nov. 23	"Wister and More!" Concert Series, The Wister Quartet, 3:00pm Selections by: Glasunov, Beethoven, Dvorak
Nov. 27—30	Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

December

Sat. Dec. 6	<i>Christkindlmarkt</i> of the Women's Auxiliary, 12:00 noon
Wed. Dec. 10	<i>Konversationsabend</i> —Traditional Advent Celebration at the Auenmueller's, 7:00pm
Fri. Dec. 12	Friday Film Fest, "Die Flucht" ("The Flight"), 6:30pm
Sun. Dec. 14	"Wister and More!" Concert Series, Ephrata Cloister Chorus, 3:00pm
Mon. Dec. 15	German Society Board Meeting, 7:00pm
Dec. 25—Jan. 1	Closed for Christmas Holidays

**The German Society of
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The official registration information of the German Society of Pennsylvania may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Administrative Assistant Needed

The German Society is in need of a part-time Administrative Assistant for 20 hours per week, beginning in mid-October.

Duties include answering phones, filing, typing, and data entry. Experience with Microsoft Office programs and the internet is required, as well as excellent interpersonal communication and writing skills. Ideal candidate will have experience (or be interested) in working in a multi-cultural environment. Knowledge of the German language and culture is desirable, but not required, and so is exposure to a nonprofit environment.

This position may be ideal for a person who has children—at home or in school—but can break away for a mid-day shift from 10am-2pm.

The Administrative Assistant works closely with and reports to the Office Manager. Compensation is commensurate with skills.

Please mail your resume and two business references to the address of the German Society, Attn: Personnel Committee.



The German Society of Pennsylvania

611 Spring Garden Street

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED