



The German Society of Pennsylvania

611 Spring Garden Street

Philadelphia, PA 19123-3505

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

The **Neuer Pennsylvanische Staatsbote** is published by the German Society of Pennsylvania. The German Society reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Web: www.germansociety.org
Email: info@germansociety.org

Phone (215) 627-2332
Fax (215) 627-5297
Philadelphia, PA 19123-3505
611 Spring Garden Street
Pennsylvania

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

A Commemorative Gift from a Great Friend, Arleen L. Pogue

Two years ago, the world lost a great woman with a giving spirit, and the German Society, one of its long-time and faithful members.

At 53, Arleen had been a customer-service representative, a teacher and a volunteer. Her charity extended to an array of worthy organizations: the Girl Scouts of which she was a 45-year honoree, the US Transplant Games where she competed every two years, the Red Cross as a CPR instructor, the Christian Children's Program supporting kids from developing countries, and the German Society as a regular attendee. She even taught German for 13 years in Philadelphia-area high schools (arguably her greatest accomplishment).

As a person of faith, she survived three transplants, an amputation and 45 years with diabetes. She took pride in those who "didn't do things the way everyone else did", and looking back on such a memorable person, she was definitely one of those people whom she, herself, admired.

At the German Society, Arleen has certainly not been forgotten – not just for the wonderful person she was, but because of her willingness to carry on the mission of the Society even after she was called home. Thanks to Arleen's bequest, the Society is now able to take on new capital projects.

By making a provision for the German Society in her will, a portion of Arleen's spirit is living on through our organization – one of the things she loved dearly.

If you are interested in remembering the German Society through bequests or the Memorial Gift Fund, please call the office for more information.



Neuer Pennsylvanischer

Staatsbote

Internet: www.germansociety.org

Fall 2006

Reopening—Joseph P. Horner Memorial Library

The German Society is proud to announce the reopening of the Joseph Horner Memorial Library to its members and the public this fall. A committee of dedicated, experienced people has carefully studied how we can preserve this premier cultural treasure. We possess collections considered unique and rare by scholars here and in Europe, and valued by our members.



Nothing can happen unless committed people get together—sharing a dream, then offering their time and talents to develop ideas and turn them into reality. **Dr. Frank Trommler**, Professor of German at the University of Pennsylvania, has long been involved in the supervision of our Library. He was a leader of the "Library Project 2000" to restore and conserve our collections in the 1990s. He has guided the research work of students and scholars using the Library over the years. **Bettina Hess** participated in the Project as a professional cataloger, and wrote the Library Operations Manual. She has contributed much, to various aspects of the coming reopening. **Dr. Karl Krueger**, a professor at the Lutheran

Theological Seminary at Phila. and head of its library, previously worked in the library of the Balch Institute. The Library Residential Scholar Program which we hope to start in summer 2007, was his suggestion. He and Bettina, with the support of other committee members and **Christiane Schmidt**, our Personnel chair, have developed recruitment plans for a part-time Librarian. **Kile Smith**, Curator of The Fleisher Collection of Orchestral Music at The Philadelphia Free Library, regularly contributes to the planning process. He is currently involved in organizing a celebration for the reopening of the Library on November 5. The Society's president, **Hardy von Auenmueller**, and I guide the process through the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. **Cont'd on pg. 3—**

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Apart from prudent fiscal management, this encouraging development of the Society was only possible due to the generous financial support by a great number of our members, plus the extraordinary, broad based volunteer endeavors by the Women's Auxiliary. A few very dedicated men, most of whom are members of the Executive Committee, also did much volunteering.

Many of our most successful GSP programs, such as *Hamburger Abend*, Friday Film Fest and the *Kaffee & Kuchen* following the Wister Concert Series would not be feasible without the unstinting support of the women. Undoubtedly, this is the result of the superb leadership of **Doris MacPherson**.

Cont'd on pg. 2—

Her long tenure at the helm of the Women's Auxiliary included the most difficult period in the Society's recent history. As a bystander, I observed her dignity and bearing. My admiration for her has continued to grow. May she and Jim enjoy their well deserved retirement at Cozy Cottage!

We welcome her successor, **Christel Tillmann**, who is, among other things, an experienced business manager. I observed her management skills during the Christmas Bazaar last December. More than 300 people gathered in our auditorium to dine on festive fare and purchase Christmas items. What impressed me most was the realization that here is an organization whose membership is but a fraction of ours—yet Christel was able to garner the support of close to 50 volunteers. Wow! May this set an example for the rest of us.

Please take a few moments to look into the many volunteering opportunities posted on our website. We are ready and able to create a job that matches your personal skills and availability! Feel free to give us a call. Speak with **Sharan Knoell**, our office manager, and she'll put you to work in a fun-filled environment. There are many opportunities starting this fall, when our new season begins.

Yes, based on the formula for success applied over the past twelve months, our growth in revenue largely depends on our ability to offer expanded programs. This we have done with our German language classes, where enrollment this summer is up appreciably over

last year. Tutoring on a private or semi-private basis has likewise seen substantial growth. Our facility rentals for weddings, birthday parties, dance events, business conferences and receptions are on the rise. Next, as you have seen from our recently mailed "Wister and More" brochure, we are offering a rather diverse classical music program: ten concerts in all during the 2006/07 season. These are priced quite competitively on a flexible, staggered subscription basis. In response to popular demand, we will be offering more frequent Friday Film Fest showings starting this fall. Please check our calendar of events, as listed on page 9 and posted on our website.

This fall, the two-day format of our anniversary celebration will give way to two different events—four weeks apart, to alleviate the stress on attendees and workers alike. We will start with an *Oktoberfest*, in Bavarian tradition, on Saturday, **September 16th**, the opening day of the *Münchner Wies'nfest*. (See Sonia Churchman's article on p. 10.)

And then on Saturday, **October 14th**, our 242nd *Stiftungsfest* will again be a gala event, with a reception in the library and a dinner dance in the auditorium, including a silent auction, offering a great variety of goods and services in which you may participate to your heart's delight—as a donor, a bidder or both! To whet your appetite or hone your bidding skills, these auction items may be previewed on our website a few days before.

The greatest challenge facing us at present is the resumption of our Library operations. As you may recall, with the resignation of our entire office staff 2½ years ago, we were forced to close our Library to the public. Over the past 12 months, Frank Genieser and a group of dedicated professionals have developed a plan to

reopen this precious jewel located in the upper floors of our two historic buildings.

Knowing that many of our members have a personal bond to this valuable collection of books and artifacts which was started in 1817, we are calling upon you to support a special fund drive which we are launching herewith by asking for your generous donation. For further details regarding this project, please read Frank's article beginning on page 1.

We are also planning to hold a Special Event celebrating the resumption of Library operations on **Sunday, November 5 at 4:00 PM**. It will begin with a champagne reception in our Library, followed by two brief presentations by eminent historians. Then, the introduction of Birte Pfleger's 240-year history of the Society and Kevin Ostoyich's compendium on the German-American collection, jointly published by the German Historical Institute in Washington. (Each attendee will receive a complimentary copy.) The celebration will end with a *Liederabend* in our Auditorium that is sure to leave a lasting impression upon you.

Tickets for this memorable event are \$50 per person. We ask you to please "Remember, Remember the 5th of November." (No doubt, this date rings well in the ears of our British friends.) In other words, this is an event that you don't want to miss. Please mark your calendar!

In closing, please permit me one observation which relates to the magnificent World Cup 2006 held in Germany just a few weeks ago. From all the new accounts, writings and television reporting, it appears that our compatriots have at last rediscovered their self-esteem, confidence and good humor. This, I believe, to a certain extent also applies to us at the German Society.

—Hardy von Auenmueller

To make reservations for the events listed below, complete the registration form at the bottom of the page and mail it to the German Society of Pennsylvania, or make reservations via phone by calling our office at 215-627-2332. It is strongly suggested that reservations for these events be made by August 31 and September 30, respectively. (However, tickets for the *Oktoberfest* may also be purchased at the door.)

Saturday, September 16th, 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.

Oktoberfest — In Bavarian Tradition (Albert and Hete Barthelmes Auditorium)

Enjoy the beginning of the *Münchner Wies'nfest* by tasting a variety of German beers and wursts. Also, back by popular demand, a *Spanferkel* will be served! While savoring our delicious food, listen to Don Bitterlich's accordion music and experience *Schuhplattler* dances, performed by GTV Almrausch, another Bavarian tradition.

Cost: \$25 per person, \$8 for children (under 12 years of age)

Saturday, October 14th, 6:00 p.m.

Reception (Joseph Horner Memorial Library)

Gala Dinner, Silent Action and Dance (Albert and Hete Barthelmes Auditorium)

As a fundraiser for the German Society, this event enables us to continue the programs you so much enjoy. Please be prepared to participate in our Silent Auction where you may acquire valuable items or services donated for the benefit of the Society. The Kauriga Orchestra will again be playing all sorts of wonderful melodies, including traditional ballroom dances (waltzing lessons will be offered the night before as part of a *Konversationsabend* lecture by Prof. Peter Kadel).

Cost: \$200 per couple or \$100 for a single reservation (of which 50% is tax-deductible)

Attire: Formal wear suggested

Formal invitations for the *Stiftungsfest* will be mailed shortly, so please mark this date on your calendar!

***Oktoberfest* Reservation Form**

Qty. Amt.
_____ \$ _____ Saturday, September 16th, 12:00 noon till 4:00 p.m.

_____ I am not able to attend, but would like to support the events with a tax-deductible donation in the amount of \$ _____.
_____ Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____. Please make checks payable to "The German Society of PA"
_____ Please charge my VISA/MasterCard Acct _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____

New Members

Willkommen! We hope to see you at many of our events and that you will take advantage of the activities and programs the Society has to offer.

Names removed from WEB version to preserve privacy-

The Gift of Membership

The German Society would like you to consider giving a membership to that hard-to-please relative or friend for any occasion. Call the office or Lou Oschmann, Membership Committee Chair, at 267-872-0568, for details.

Oktoberfest and 242nd Stiftungsfest at the Society

This fall promises to be like no other! Instead of crowding our anniversary and other seasonal celebrations into one long, exhausting weekend, the *Stiftungsfest* Committee has decided to separate them by several weeks, thereby allowing our members, families and friends to attend both—an *Oktoberfest*, a Bavarian tradition on September 16th, and our 242nd *Stiftungsfest* on October 14th. All members are encouraged to attend, and the public is invited. On Saturday, September 16th, festivities will begin at noon with a traditional *Oktoberfest*. Included will be various German wursts and side dishes, as well as delicious German beers. As a special treat—and back by popular demand—we will also serve a *Spanferkel*! Come, see and enjoy our roasted pig that has been cooked for 12 hours.

While satisfying your appetite, you will have the pleasure of listening to the accordion music of Don Bitterlich, playing traditional German folk songs. Don, whose grandfather founded the *Vereinigung Erzgebirge*, played professional football for the Seattle Seahawks in his younger years—scoring the first points ever for that team! He also has exceptional musical talents. His specialty is playing German music on his beautiful accordion, with its famous “Hohner Sound.”

You will be able to see the *Almrausch* dancers who will be performing from 2:00 to 3:00 PM. The GTV *Almrausch*, founded in 1925, is based at the *Cannstatter Volksfest-Verein* and currently has 50 active members. Don’t miss these traditional Bavarian dancers performing *Schuhplattler*, which is

unique with men wearing *Lederhosen* and women dressed in *Dirndls*. The women spin in a circle while the men dance and slap their knees, shoes and then some. So put on your *Lederhosen* and dancing shoes, and be prepared to eat and be merry! The cost for this Saturday afternoon event is \$25 per person, \$8.00 for children under 12 years of age.

The annual *Stiftungsfest* will take place this year on Saturday, October 14th in our Library and Auditorium, following the pattern of last year. Come and help us celebrate our 242nd anniversary with an elegant black-tie gala dinner and ball, as well as a fabulous silent auction with its many exquisite items.

Last year, the hottest items were several vacation rentals on the beach or elsewhere, as well as tickets for theater, concert and sporting events. Also, dinners in private homes and restaurants are usually highly sought after, as are unique artifacts and other useful items for the home. So, please review your personal collection and see if there is anything that you might wish to part with for the benefit of a new owner, and the Society.

This event will again be a fundraiser, enabling the Society to carry on its cultural and educational outreach programs. As in the prior year, the well-known Paul Kauriga Orchestra will be playing all sorts of wonderful melodies, many of them composed for ballroom dancing. The cost is \$100 per person (of which 50% is tax deductible).

For more information or to make reservations, please call 215-627-2332.

—Sonia Churchman

In this *Staatsbote*, you will hear from Frank Trommler, as well as Birte Pfleger, Kevin Ostoyich, and Abigail Bruhlmann who have been involved with the library and the Society recently.

What are our vision, mission, and goals?

- The German Society seeks to further understanding of German and German-American culture and its contributions to the growth of America—past, present and yet to come.
- We want to make our Library—the largest private German library in the U.S. with over 70,000 volumes and documents, some on microfilm, most on electronic database—accessible to the public, to students, to scholars and to other libraries. Our collection spans the past 250 years, with a concentration on the 18th century to the first quarter of the 20th century.
- Our goals are: to resume regular operation of the Library and Archives; to develop programs promoting their use; to establish a Residential Scholar Program; to continue cataloging the German American and Carl Schurz collections; to retrieve those books from temporary storage that are compatible with our collections; to deaccession certain incompatible items where appropriate; and—last but not least—develop a financial plan for sustaining the operation for the future.

These are no small tasks. They will depend upon the commitment, not only of the visionaries, the committee,

the Board of the German Society, and its members, but also the academic institutions here and abroad, such as the German Historical Institute—Washington, the Max Kade Foundation, cultural foundations, corporate sponsors including local, state, and Federal organizations, and, most of all, the Friends of the Joseph Horner Memorial Library.

A decade ago, the Society started the successful “Library Project 2000,” a five-year program to which many of you contributed significantly. It was generously underwritten by such benefactors as the Fritz Thyssen and Robert Bosch Foundations, the German Foreign Ministry, the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation, and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Barthelmes. Although much money was raised to restore and conserve the collection, to renovate the Library and to install a climate control system, the funds were not sufficient for staffing and operating the Library. It had to shut down in 2004.

The part-time librarian called for in our current plan will serve the public, support students and scholars in their work, and assist in preparing material for seminars. We intend to host regular lectures and discussions and provide tours of the artifacts we cherish, thereby enhancing public understanding of our culture. We hope this will facilitate passing on to our children the treasures inherited from our forebears. Also, we are working to obtain grants for the scholar program as well as the continued cataloging of our collections and conservation of our books.

Through the years, many of you have told us of your admiration for the

treasures of our library. In order to preserve our library for future generations, we are launching a fundraising program now, to underwrite hiring the part-time Librarian, contribute to operational costs such as utilities for the climate control systems, and provide internet data links to our catalogs. Our goal is to raise \$50,000. To this end, we are asking you to consider joining the *Friends of the Joseph Horner Memorial Library* program and, with a generous annual contribution, to support this worthwhile undertaking, using the form included.

—Frank H. Genieser

Library Artifacts Return

Recently, nearly a dozen artifacts on loan from our Archives to the Museum of Bavarian History were returned after the close of the exhibition, “Good Bye Bavaria – *Griß Gott America*.” That exhibition ran for two years. Our items were used to help tell the story of Bavarians who crossed the Atlantic to come to America, the favorite destination of German immigrants over the past 250 years and, particularly, in the Nineteenth Century.

The exhibition was seen by hundreds of visitors in a number of cities. Items from our collection included a pamphlet written by Francis Daniel Pastorius in 1710, the German Bible printed by Christoph Saur in 1743, a German Society banner from 1887 proclaiming the work of the Society in providing newly arrived immigrants with charitable aid, job referrals, use of the Library, and night courses to assist them in learning English. We are fortunate, indeed, to have treasures that help people on

both sides of the Atlantic relive the history of our ancestors who came to these shores. The story of the exhibition traces the paths of people from the motivation to leave their homeland, dealing with authorities, travails of their journey, arrival in a strange land, search for a home—either on the east coast or continuing westward—finding work or starting businesses, putting down roots, preserving their culture, and finding ways to stay in touch with those left behind. It is the story of all of us who came to this country; however, each one is unique and of interest to future generations. Fortunately, the Society possesses many treasures and parts of the story that can be shared with those who express interest.

One Immigrant’s Story

Heinz Stark, a historian from Bavaria instrumental in the exhibition, “Good Bye Bavaria – *Griß Gott* America,” came to this area to present a lecture in Lancaster and at our Library on May 2, entitled “The George Schramm Story.” Schramm emigrated from the village of Plech, Franconia, in 1837. He arrived in New York with his family, and eventually settled in Farmington, Iowa. Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the death of Carl Schurz, we learned how both Schurz and Schramm simultaneously achieved success in this country and contributed significantly as leaders in American politics. We thank our member, Charles Birnstiel, for handling arrangements to bring Heinz Stark to the Society.

—Frank Genieser

Greetings from Freiburg—Our Book Partner’s Home



If you have ever been to Freiburg, you will have fallen in love with this small city. Situated in the southwest corner of Germany, on the edge of the Black Forest, this city is steeped in a Mediterranean atmosphere. Stroll on the *Münsterplatz* surrounding the most beautiful tower of Christendom, have your coffee or a glass of local wine; walk through the old narrow alleys and enjoy the displays in the small shops. A walk up to the castle will reward you with a panoramic view of this old city, and you will immediately succumb to its charm. Freiburg’s neighbors are France and Switzerland. The city was founded in 1120 and was for a long time part of Austria. Already in 1457 it had a university and to this day, Freiburg remains a students’ city. Cultural offerings include an excellent theater, a concert hall and music festivals that are famous far beyond Germany’s borders. The university, the cultural life, the students need book stores. The city has many, but the *Buchhandlung Schwannhaeuser* deserves special mention. Next to the university, this independent, owner-operated book store has

an excellent staff, and a wide assortment of books.

This book store has now expanded its great service across the ocean to America with the name **Swanbooks.de**.

For a long time the store only imported American books. Now it offers American customers the entire selection of German books at extraordinarily good conditions. Without the value added tax, and depending on the mode of shipping, American customers will often be able to obtain books at lower prices than customers in Germany. In addition, discounts for libraries and schools are available.

Our Swan Books partner can send any book currently available on the German market. And if you want to know more about Freiburg, check its website at www.freiburg.de.

It’s certainly worth a visit!

—Gudrun von Auenmueller

Heimat Away from Home

This is the title of the Anthropology thesis I wrote for the B.A. degree, which I received in May 2006 from Bryn Mawr College. The “*Heimat*” I refer to is the different ways of expressing Germanness through organizations outside of Germany. Performing ethnographic fieldwork for 7 months, I studied the German Society as well as Netzwerk Philadelphia, an organization that creates a network of German speakers in Philadelphia so that they may find and interact with each other. (Netzwerk was the co-host of the *Karnevalsparty* held in the *Ratskeller* in February.) I performed my research to better

Calendar of Events

September

Thu. Sept. 7

Seminar on Wills and Trusts — R. Philip Steinberg, Esq. at 3:00pm

Mon. Sept. 11

German Language Program — Twelve-week Fall Session Begins

Sat. Sept. 16

Oktoberfest — In Bavarian Tradition, 12:00 noon to 4:00pm

October

Sun. Oct. 1

“Wister and More!” Concert Series — The Wister Quartet, 3:00pm — Mozart, Barber, Schubert

Fri. Oct. 6

Konversationsabend — Review of Post-War German History, East and West

Individual presentations by four doctoral candidates from Berlin, Leipzig and Rostock, 7:00pm

Lecture and Introduction to Viennese Waltz — Prof. Peter Kadel, 7:00pm

242nd Annual *Stiftungsfest* — Reception and Gala Dinner with Silent Auction, 6:00pm

Friday Film Fest, 6:30pm, “Sophie Scholl — *Die letzten Tage*” with Julia Jentsch

“Wister and More!” Concert Series — Roberto Prosseda, 3:00pm — “Mendelssohn Discoveries”

Beer Tasting with Marnie Old, 3:00pm

November

Fri. Nov. 3

Skatabend with Frank, John and Hardy, 6:30pm

Sat. Nov. 4

St. Martin’s Day Parade, 5:00pm

Sun. Nov. 5

Reopening of Library — Reception with Presentations by Historians and *Liederabend*, 4:00pm

Fri. Nov. 10

Friday Film Fest, 6:30pm, “Mephisto” with Klaus Maria Brandauer

Mon. Nov. 13

Konversationsabend — Discussion on Dr. Angela Merkel and Her First Year in Office, 7:00pm

Sun. Nov. 19

“Wister and More!” Concert Series — The Wister Quartet with Christoph Eschenbach, 3:00pm

Haydn, Schubert, Schumann

December

Fri. Dec. 1

Skatabend with Frank, John and Hardy, 6:30pm

Sat. Dec. 2

Christmas Bazaar hosted by the Women’s Auxiliary, 12:00 noon

Fri. Dec. 8

Friday Film Fest, 6:30pm, “*Der Tanz auf dem Vulkan*” with Gustaf Gründgens

Sun. Dec. 10

“Wister and More!” Concert Series — Birgit Gruetzner and Andreas Greger, 3:00pm

Brahms, Beethoven and others

Konversationsabend — Traditional Advent Celebration at the Auenmuellers, 7:00pm

Wine and Food Tasting with Marnie Old, 3:00pm

Sylvesterabend — International Buffet with Open Bar — Managed by Christel Tillman

January 2007

Mon. Jan. 8

German Language Program — Twelve-Week Winter Session Begins

Fri. Jan. 12

“Wister and More!” Concert Series — Night and Day: The Best of Cole Porter, 7:00pm

Fri. Jan. 19

Friday Film Fest, 6:30pm, Film TBA

Sun. Jan. 21

“Wister and More!” Concert Series — Philadelphia Trio, 3:00pm — Mozart, Danielpour, Brahms

Lidy Pohl — A Library Treasure

July 1 marked the 100th birthday of a dear lady and our beloved, long-time Society librarian. **Elisabeth Schwarck**, affectionately known as **Lidy**, was born in Kiel, Germany in 1906. She was one of four children in a family employed in the city’s predominant industry—shipbuilding. By the time the Schwarck children were ready to begin their working lives, WWI’s aftermath had crippled that industry. When Mr. Schwark found himself out of work, he left Germany for the U.S.—specifically the Philadelphia area where shipbuilding was flourishing. By 1925, he was fully employed and confident in the future. He sent for his wife and family to join him. The reunited family moved to northeast Philadelphia.

Lidy quickly adapted to her new home and went to evening school to improve her English. It was there that she met **Max Pohl**, who had been in the U.S. since 1923. They married a year later and began life together with active involvement in the vibrant German American community in Philadelphia. They joined the Zion Lutheran Church and the *Deutscher Klub und Technischer Verein* that was headquartered on Spring Garden Street near the Society. In 1928, they became members of the German Society. About that same time, Max joined the *Schlaraffia Fildelfia* where he remained active for the rest of his life. Membership rolls of the Women’s Auxiliary for 1927 show that Lidy was a member. The couple became U.S. citizens as soon as they were eligible.

While their three children were growing up, the family spent much time at the Society. Both Lidy and Max, after

many years of involvement at the Society, received Bronze Founder’s Medals and Honorary Life Memberships.

When Mrs. Müller, Society librarian, needed help in the busy library in the early 1940s, she and the Board approached Lidy to become assistant librarian. Lidy was reluctant to accept the position, thinking she was not sufficiently qualified to assist a professional. In spite of personal reservations, she took the job. When Mrs. Müller retired in 1952, Lidy became librarian and provided the same professional level of service and stewardship for the following 25 years.



A generation of library regulars came to know Lidy. She and the Board shared an abiding interest in the collection, its maintenance, and value for scholars and the public. Recent immigrants among the patrons sought Lidy’s wise advice on matters regarding life in their new home. She loved her work. That was apparent to all. After retirement, Lidy came back to volunteer whenever interim help was needed to maintain library service.

May she enjoy many more happy years!
—Your Friends at the Society

German Language

For the past 240 years, the Society has sought to preserve our German cultural heritage by offering a variety of programs and activities which afford opportunities to learn and practice German.

Our German Language Center offers a choice of classes, geared to your previous language experience. We also offer courses in conversational German, meeting once a week, and a full language immersion at our *Konversationssabend* gatherings once a month, at which members have the opportunity to converse in German.

We also extend scholarship assistance to German majors in area colleges and offer prizes to high school students for proficiency in German.

Last but not least, there is also an occasional symposium at which lectures in German are presented.

Here is our tentative class schedule for the 2006 Fall Session, starting the week after Labor Day:

Beginner Level

- German 1A Monday, 6:15-9:15pm
- German 1B Tuesday, 6:15-9:15pm
- German 1C Thursday, 6:15-9:15pm

Intermediate Level

- German 2A Monday, 6:15-9:15pm
- German 2B/C Tuesday, 6:15-9:15pm

Advanced Level

- German 3A Thursday, 6:15-9:15pm

- German 4 Wednesday, 1:15-4:15pm
- And Wednesday, 6:15-9:15pm

Tuition is \$400 for 12 weeks (36 hrs.).
Please register early by phone or email!

understand how the concept of an ethnic association fits into the lives of Germans and German-Americans living in present day Philadelphia.

These are the highlights of my findings:

The main difference between the German Society and Netzwerk Philadelphia is their respective formats, which give rise to different activities and membership patterns. The German Society is closely centered around its building to the Northeast of Center City. In it, events that revolve around the German culture are to be found. There, Germany seems to be “re-created.” The membership of GSP is generally older, much of it around retirement age.

Netzwerk Philadelphia holds its meetings in non-German pubs and cafes around Center City Philadelphia and in the suburbs. This group has no physical headquarters; the only permanent “location” is their website.

Though they speak German and are participating in German culture, their surroundings would not suggest this in the least. The membership of this group ranges generally from people in their mid 20’s-mid 60’s.

One possible reason that different demographics are attracted to different groups is the version of Germany that is portrayed in each of these groups. Those who grew up in, or were exposed to, a more traditional Germany seem to be more attracted to the German Society. It can almost be seen as a time capsule, preserving Germany the way it once was. Those who are younger and grew up in a less traditional society with more foreign influ-

ences do not feel as comfortable in a setting where the German culture dominates. As younger Germans grew up in a more multi-cultural Germany than did older Germans, it follows that they are more attracted to places where there is interplay between many cultures in a dynamic environment rather than a static environment.

These are of course generalizations. There is overlap between the membership of the German Society and Netzwerk, and of course not all Netzwerk members are alike just as not all German Society members are alike.

I conclude that an ethnic association might not play as large a role in society as it once did. Migration patterns and life styles have changed so much.

—Abigail Bruhlmann

An Invitation
to Join
The Women’s Auxiliary

The Women’s Auxiliary of the German Society of Pennsylvania, founded as an independent organization on May 2, 1900, is committed to welfare, encouraging German language study, cultural heritage and assisting the German Society in its mission. We are taking this opportunity to invite you to become a member of a dynamic group, which has mastered the art of balancing work and fun. We only meet once a month at the German Society, but throughout the year we participate in events, sponsored by the German Society and other

German organizations in the Greater Philadelphia area.

There is a place for every one of you in the Auxiliary, a place for the young and not so young, German speaking or not, as long as you share our love for our German culture.

Auxiliary members come from all walks of life: The arts as well as the field of crafts, businesswomen, housewives, professionals, scientists, and students. If you cannot participate yourself, perhaps you know of someone who wants to enrich her life or could support our group with her talents. Remember: volunteering is fun and, I assure you personally, very rewarding.

If you want to give our group a try, mark your calendar and join us at our **September meeting, on Saturday the 9th at 10:00 AM** in the *Ratskeller* of the German Society. But it is only fair to warn you: Once involved, you become addicted and cannot let go. In fact, our oldest member, Lidy Pohl, former GSP Librarian, who just celebrated her 100th birthday still takes an active interest in our organization. So, get in touch and join.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

Christel Tillmann, President
Women’s Auxiliary of the German Society of Pennsylvania

WE NEED YOU!

For more information please, call Ingrid Greim, our 1st Vice President (215-343-0542). She will be happy to answer your questions.

Writing the History of the German Society

“Jacob Uleckinger’s journey from Rotterdam to Philadelphia in the fall of 1773 with his wife, five children and at least one other relative was devastating. After a stopover in Portsmouth, England, the *Charming Molly* took ten weeks to cross the Atlantic with about 190 passengers on board. Jacob and three of his children died on route before reaching the New World. His wife succumbed just as the ship arrived in Philadelphia. Jacob’s brother-in-law, George Seess, survived but he had to be brought to the sick house where he reported that money his late sister had given to Christoph Bilger, a fellow passenger, to exchange for local currency, had disappeared. In addition, Jacob’s belongings - a chest - were still on board the ship. It was not clear whether Jacob and his family had paid their fare or if they had planned to sell their labor to the highest bidder upon arrival to pay for the voyage. Regardless, the two surviving children, Peter, age 13 and handicapped by four fingers that were grown together and Andrew, age 9 and healthy, would have to enter some kind of servitude to earn their keep now that both of their parents were gone. An unnamed weaver offered to pay twelve pounds for Andrew, and Nathaniel Witmore was reportedly “willing to take the eldest lame Boy without paying any thing for him.” Negotiating the boys’ indentures as well as recovering the missing money and chest required inquiry and supervision. Leaders of the German Society of Pennsylvania looked into the matter....”

With this short but dramatic story the history of the GSP begins in my forth-

coming book: *Ethnicity Matters: The History of the German Society of Pennsylvania Since 1764*.

After ten months in Philadelphia spent mostly at the German Society pouring over the Society’s Minutes, boxes of letters, receipts and other documents, as well as many hours writing in my West Philadelphia apartment, I packed my belongings and began the long journey back to sunny California together with our German shepherd, Schatzi. The revisions for the book have now been completed and I am currently waiting for the final proofs of the manuscript to compile an index. The German Historical Institute in Washington DC, which financed the project expects that the book will be out sometime this fall. I hope to be in Philadelphia at that time to introduce the final product to all of you. I am grateful to all GSP members for the warm welcome, your support and kindness. Although it is wonderful to be back home in Long Beach and finally to spend time with my new husband, I miss being at the GSP library, talking with the dedicated volunteers and all the charms Philadelphia offers. Even tough I am far away from Philadelphia I am always delighted to receive emails from the Society, announcing its activities and events.

Although my teaching duties do not begin until late September, I have not been idle. Two weeks ago I had the opportunity to participate in a radio show on the American Revolution, which aired on four local channels on July 2. In addition to working with three graduate students to prepare them for their upcoming Masters de-

gree examinations, I conducted a workshop on slavery for fifth grade teachers. I am also on the admissions committee for the Early Entry Program at my university, which allows exceptionally gifted children to pursue college degrees. Reading dozens of applications of these incredibly bright children is fascinating and I look forward to teaching this group in the fall.

Much like the GSP building, the home Robert and I live in also needs some improvements. We’ve laid tile on our balcony, a project that we thought could be accomplished in an afternoon. But five visits to the hardware store and six Saturday afternoons later, half of the tiles still need to be grouted. So we decided to hire someone to install hardwood floors in our office and the bedroom. I know that merely packing and unpacking the contents of both rooms will be plenty of work.

I hope you are enjoying your summer in Philadelphia and I look forward to seeing you all in the fall for the introduction of the book telling the history of the GSP. Jacob Uleckinger’s story is merely the beginning to a fascinating history that I had the privilege to explore.

Herzlichst,
—Birte Pflieger

Information about the ship based on Marianne Wokeck, *Trade in Strangers; The Beginnings of Mass Migration to North America* (University Park, PA: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 1999), Appendix “German Immigrant Voyages, 1683-1775”, 248.

Brief Overview of
the Six GSP Collections

Our Library consists of six collections: Main, German American, Manuscripts, Newspapers, Carl Schurz Pamphlets and Periodicals. The Main Collection, housed in the library hall, is shelved according to the Library’s own cataloging system. Through the cataloging project of 1994-99, all books from before 1918 were assigned Library of Congress Call Numbers and entered into the Research Libraries Information Network (RLIN). The German American Collection (GAC), consisting of over 9000 items, is divided into Books, Pamphlets and Manuscripts (flats and oversized). All GAC items have been processed at the Northeast Document Conservation Center in Andover, MA. The Manuscripts Collection, including materials pertaining to the Society, consists largely of items received from the Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation (CSMF). These remain uncataloged. The Newspaper Collection contains 1) a microfilm collection housed in the main library, and 2) newspapers which were sent to be restored and microfilmed at the American Antiquarian Society. The Society possesses newspaper holdings besides those in the Newspaper Collection. In the reference guide to be published by the German Historical Institute this fall, newspapers in all six collections are listed with their locations.

The Society received the materials in the Carl Schurz Pamphlet and Periodicals Collections upon the demise of the CSMF. That Collection includes biographies of many famous German Americans. It augments the Society’s overall newspaper holdings.

—Kevin Ostoyich

A Precious Moment for a Precious Library

Daily involvement restoring our Library in the 1990s included instructive encounters with architects and contractors. As a professor of German literature, I had no idea how much the wrong treatment of wood beams for the ceiling more than a century ago would bear upon our ability to bring the project to a successful conclusion without bankrupting the Society. Having learned that the building roof leaked just twelve years after its erection in 1888—not exactly German-American *Wertarbeit*—the project committee spent considerable time discussing with architect Richard Thom how to mend cost-cutting blunders of our forefathers.

This vignette may help us take a realistic view of the history of the Society and its remarkable Library. Having worked for the rescue of the Library for almost two decades, I have learned to take the legacy of generations of German Americans both as *Freude und Last*. Birte Pflieger’s refreshingly realistic history of the German Society, to be published this fall, gives telling examples of great and not so great moments in its long history since 1764. As she points out, this history reflects the highs and lows of German immigration and ethnic life in this country up to the present day. It also reflects the remarkable commitment of small networks of dedicated people that guaranteed continuity in every new generation.

The fall of 2006 is again one of those moments when both *Freude und Last* become visible in the Society’s most precious possession, the Library. Its reopening – with a librarian in place – coincides with the publication not only of Birte Pflieger’s history but also a reference guide to its holdings, especi-

ally to the German American Collection or “Archive” as it was called by its founder in 1867, Oswald Seidensticker. Kevin Ostoyich has brought impressive knowledge of 19th-century German immigration to writing this guide which should allow scholars all over the world to ascertain the holdings and prepare for work in the Library. It is a moment of celebration in which members, friends, and the larger Philadelphia community should join. But it is also a moment to realize that the preservation and use of this *Volksbibliothek* requires substantial financial means that the Society alone cannot shoulder without help from sponsors and benefactors.

I might summarize the special value of this unique collection in three points: First, it is a treasure trove of information for historians of the German Americans in general, and their activities in the Delaware Valley in particular. Second, it contains one of the most comprehensive collections of German fiction and non-fiction literature of the 19th Century; the literary historian finds in this true *Volksbibliothek* more popular literature than in any other US library. Third, to the interested reader of German, it offers access to great and popular titles in German since WW II.

Without the expertise and support of the German Historical Institute in Washington, its director Christof Mauch and his deputy Dirk Schumann, this moment would not have been possible. The GHI has generously sponsored the yearlong work of the two scholars. Now it is on us and the Friends of the Horner Memorial Library to resume the endeavor of putting the Library on solid financial ground.

—Dr. Frank Trommler