President’s Message

As reported in the preceding issue of the Staatbote, and explained in more detail at the annual membership meeting in June, I am pleased to state that the financial statements for fiscal year 2005/06, ending June 30, will show a surplus—reversing the loss situation of prior years.

Upon conferring with our auditors, we will set aside a capital reserve for two essential building improvement projects: replacement of the auditorium windows and installation of a sprinkler system. Both are needed for safety and other reasons. Our ability to fund part of each capital project is crucial for successful grant support applications. By the end of this year, we anticipate knowing where we stand with regard to the financing of these two projects, and we will so inform you.

Apart from prudent financial 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.

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 Europe, and valued by our members.

Theodore Seminary at 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.

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.

By making a provision for the German Society in her will, a portion of Arleen’s Memorial Gift Fund, please call the office for more information.

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

At 53, Arleen had been a customer volunteer. Her charity extended to an array of worthy organizations: the Girl Scouts of which she was a 45-year honoree, the William Penn Youth Camp as a volunteer, and looking back on such a memorable person, she was definitely one of those people whom she, herself, admired.

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

-- Hela/2006 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 reserve your seats by September 30th and October 30th, respectively. For this fall’s special events, as listed on page 9 and posted on our website, as well as on our website, auction items may be previewed on our website a few days before.

Tickets for the memorable event are $50 per person. We ask you to please reserve your seats by September 30th and October 30th, respectively. For this fall’s special events, as listed on page 9 and posted on our website, auction items may be previewed on our website a few days before.

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 Bartholmes 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 Almrauch, another Bavarian tradition.

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

Saturday, October 14th, 6:00 p.m.
Gala Dinner, Silent Action and Dance (Albert and Hete Bartholmes 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 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!
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 Ochs- man, Membership Committee Chair, at 267-872-0568, for details.

Oktobefest 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 Oktobefest, 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 Oktobefest. 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 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 by the 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 balroom 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 Pfieger, 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 incompati- ble 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 Kriehbel 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 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 to the Museum as part of the project to move the archives. This undertaking, using the form included.

...
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 German history. Stroll on the Minsterplatz, surrounded by the most beautiful tower of Christendom, have your coffee or a glass of local wine; walk through the old narrow alleyways 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 Schwanhaeuser 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 Swannbooks.de.

For a long time the store only imported American books. Now it offers American customers the entire selection of German books at extraordinarily low prices. 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.

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

One Immigrant’s Story

Heinz Stark, a historian from Bavaria instrumental in the exhibition, “Good Bye Bavaria – Grüß Gott Amerika,” 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 Pech, 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.

In 1856 Schurz moved to 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.

Fortunately, the Society possesses many treasures and parts of the story that can be shared with those who express interest.

Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Seminar on Wills and Trusts — R. Philip Steinberg, Esq. at 3:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. Sept.</td>
<td>German Language Program — Twelve-week Fall Session Begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. Sept.</td>
<td>Oktoberfest — In Bavarian Tradition, 12:00 noon to 4:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>“Wister and More!” Concert Series — The Wister Quartet, 3:00pm — Mozart, Barber, Schubert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri. Oct.</td>
<td>Konversationsabend — Review of Post-War German History, East and West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. Nov.</td>
<td>Individual presentations by four doctoral candidates from Berlin, Leipzig and Rostock, 7:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun. Dec.</td>
<td>242nd Annual Stiftungsfest — Reception and Gala Dinner with Silent Auction, 6:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri. Dec.</td>
<td>Friday Film Fest, 6:30pm, “Sophie Scholl — Die letzten Tage” with Julia Jentsch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun. Nov.</td>
<td>“Wister and More!” Concert Series — Roberto Prosseda, 3:00pm — Mendelssohn Discoveries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov.</td>
<td>Beer Tasting with Marnie Old, 3:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>Skatabend with Frank, John and Hardy, 6:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec.</td>
<td>Reopening of Library — Reception with Presentations by Historians and Liederabend, 4:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri. Dec.</td>
<td>Friday Film Fest, 6:30pm, “Mephisto” with Klaus Maria Brandauer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. Nov.</td>
<td>Konversationsabend — Discussion on Dr. Angela Merkel and Her First Year in Office, 7:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun. Nov.</td>
<td>“Wister and More!” Concert Series — The Wister Quartet with Christoph Eschenbach, 3:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haydn, Schubert, Schumann</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>Skatabend with Frank, John and Hardy, 6:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. Dec.</td>
<td>Christmas Bazaar hosted by the Women’s Auxiliary, 12:00 noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri. Dec.</td>
<td>Friday Film Fest, 6:30pm, “Der Tanz auf dem Vulkan” with Gustaf Gründgens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun. Dec.</td>
<td>“Wister and More!” Concert Series — Birgit Gruetzner and Andreas Greger, 3:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan.</td>
<td>Brahms, Beethoven and others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. Dec.</td>
<td>Konversationsabend — Traditional Advent Celebration at the Auenuelleurs, 7:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. Dec.</td>
<td>Wine and Food Tasting with Marnie Old, 3:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan.</td>
<td>Sylvesterabend — International Buffet with Open Bar — Managed by Christel Tillman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan.</td>
<td>German Language Program — Twelve-Week Winter Session Begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri. Jan.</td>
<td>“Wister and More!” Concert Series — Night and Day: The Best of Cole Porter, 7:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri. Jan.</td>
<td>Friday Film Fest, 6:30pm, Film TBA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 Konversationsstäbchen 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, 6:15-9:15 pm
- German 1B Tuesday, 6:15-9:15 pm
- German 1C Thursday, 6:15-9:15 pm

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

Advanced Level
- German 3A Thursday, 6:15-9:15 pm
- German 4 Wednesday, 1:15-4:15 pm

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

Tuition is $400 for 12 weeks (36 hrs.).
Please register early by phone or email!
Writing the History of the German Society

“Jacob Uleckinger’s journey from Rotterdam to Philadelphia in the fall of 1764...”

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 always found it wrong treatment of wood beans 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 Wertaerbe—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 Pfeffer’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 Pfeffer’s history but also a reference guide to its holdings, especially to the German American Collection or “Archive” as it was called by its founder in 1867, Oswald Seidensticker.

Kevin Ostoyich has brought impressive substance to this book in his 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 with 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 book 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 Trompler

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 Library’s Libraries Information Network (RLIN). The German American Collection (GAC), consisting of over 9000 items, is divided into Books, Pamphlets and Manuscripts (flats and oversize). All GAC items were 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 Association for the Advancement of German 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 from 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

Neuer Pennsylvanischer Staatsbote

Neuer Pennsylvanischer Staatsbote