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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

In This Issue
1. Karneval
2. Ballroom Dance Sampler
3. From the President
4. Annual Fund Donors
5. Mamie Old’s Wine Tasting
6. Financial Planning
7. Kevin Ostoyich
8. Skatabend
9. St. Martin’s parade
10. Adventsfleier
11. Homer Library
12. Konversationsabend

From the President
This year is turning out to be a very busy one in the life of our German Society. In addition to our normal programs and activities throughout the year, we will be featuring several special opportunities for education, personal growth and service.

As most of you know, our German language program for adults has long been a mainstay of our heritage and a major source of revenue. Expansion of the program will be a high priority in the months to come, particularly as we now have the experienced teaching staff and the physical capacity in our classrooms to handle more students.

In a brainstorming session with our Executive Service Corps (ESC) one spring 2006

Ballroom Dance Instructions
Kelly Ray and his partner, Leslie Mitchell have been professional dance instructors for almost two decades. They offer both group and private classes, in their home studio and at several venues throughout the Greater Philadelphia region.

Specialists in Argentine tango for the last fifteen years, they have been instrumental in developing Philadelphia’s flourishing tango community. In addition to teaching, they host guided tours to Buenos Aires, Berlin and other European centers of dancing.

This spring, a course entitled Social Dance Sampler will be offered at the Society. Please join us to learn ballroom dances, such as waltz, fox trot, cha-cha, as well as the passionate Latin America dances: salsa, merengue, and Argentine tango. Two weeks will be spent on each dance.

Learn enough of each of these dances to discover what they are and how they are danced. Take the first steps towards learning these wonderful dances, starting with simple figures and then moving up to more interesting variations and advanced combinations.

This course is offered to members at $90 for 12 hours of instruction ($110 for non-members). The lessons are scheduled to begin on Saturday, March 11th from 4:30-6:00pm, and will continue through May 6th (no class on Easter weekend).

--Sharan Knoell

"Philly Alaaf"
Calling All Karnevalisten!

The German Society will host a Karnevalsparty, and you are invited to join us—in costume of your choice—for an evening of revels, music, and dancing, rheinischer Art. Drinks and snacks are included. Tickets are $20 in advance, $25 at the door. Students with valid ID pay only $15.

The fun begins at 8:30 pm on Saturday, February 25 and will go until the wee hours of the morning. This will be the first Karnevalsparty at the Society in some time, and we are doing it in cooperation with Netzwerk Philadelphia, a new organization dedicated to bringing Germans and Americans together at weekly Stammtisch gatherings and other events. (For further info, go to www.german.meetup.com/51).

Together, we will bring rheinischen Frohsinn, Karnevalsmusik and Karnevalstimung to the Ratskeller. So, come drink with friends, sing to the music of Cologne’s Karneval, schunkeln and dance away an evening of costumed fun!

Karneval dates back to ancient Roman times, and is derived from the Latin “carrus navalis” or the “ship of fools.” In other Catholic regions, it is celebrated under the names of Fastnacht and Fasching. In France, and historically French-speaking areas like New Orleans, it is known as “Mardi Gras” (Fat Tuesday).

Continued on page 5

The New Pennsylvania
11 Berlin Staatskapelle with Daniel Barenboim
Chairperson for our Memorial Gift Fund Committee

Presenting an all
Concerto No. 23 and a post
By special arrangement with The Kimmel Center, all members and friends of
1999. Ticket prices start at $40, with a limit of 4 per customer.

The Memorial Gift Fund Committee works with the Finance Committee to
proceeds are directed according to the donor’s wishes.

The Committee provides investment vehicles for making gifts to the Society,
and assistance to donors in selecting the appropriate means of giving.

The Committee Chairperson may not be a current Officer or Board Member.
Any person willing to serve in this position, please contact our Corporate Sec-
etary, Dr. Ed Cohen at 215-893-885-893 or edcohen43@yahoo.com

Wanted!

In Germany, it is known as "Fasching," in Austria and Switzerland as “Fastnacht," and in Italy as "carrus navalis" or the "ship of fools." Karneval, or Mardi Gras, was celebrated under the names of Fasching and Fastnacht.

So, come drink with friends, sing to the music of Cologne’s Karneval, schunkeln and dance away an evening of costumed fun!

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Continued from page 1—
consultants, we ascertained that there is a need for a Center City Learning Center offering German classes on Saturdays to high school students—now that the City of Philadelphia has eliminated the teaching of German from its curriculum.

In a similar vein, we may also wish to offer German lessons to younger kids, and thus would encourage all members and friends of the Society who have children or grandchildren to please let us know who might be interested in such a program starting this spring.

Furthermore, we are planning to offer new courses in Business German, which will include cultural awareness training for people being transferred to or from Germany. Anyone currently working for a German-owned company or other multi-national firms doing business in Germany is encouraged to get in touch, and let us know what their company's requirement might be in this regard.

Lastly, we are planning to resurrect the teaching of the English language to new immigrants—just as our forbears did in the 1870s—by setting up an English as a Second Language (ESL) program here at the Society. With Chinatown only a few blocks away, and many Korean and other Asian and East European immigrants living in and near our neighborhood, we hope to offer a valuable service to our community with this program.

As another part of service to our members over the course of the year, we will be presenting three seminars on "Financial Planning," "German Pension and Insurance," as well as "Wills and Trusts.

We may wish to also establish a resource pool for "specialized legal advice" by drawing upon the expertise of our various attorneys. Hence, all those with a legal background are encouraged to register with the Society, and we in turn, will then publish a directory, as a reference guide to our members. Perhaps, we shall consider expanding this program to other professional areas at a later date.

Encouraged by the highly favorable response to our first wine tasting seminar, led by Marnie Old, we will be continuing this path into the olfactory and culinary field by offering two more sessions in the weeks to come: (1) an "Introduction to German Beer Styles" on February 4th, and (2) the "Sommelier's Secrets of Wine and Food Pairing" on April 1st.

Also, an introductory course to Social Dancing is in the planning stage for this spring - with Kelly Ray and his partner Lesley Mitchell who enchanted us with their fascinating steps during the Wister Quartet concert "Tango and Fandango" presented last fall.

The response to our Annual Fund Drive has been very encouraging, indeed. As of this writing, we received over $30,000 from a broad spectrum of our membership. My personal thanks to all who have given so generously. Your names are listed in a separate recognition write-up on facing page.

And those of you who have yet to post a year-end donation, please note that we will welcome any contribution in the weeks to come, particularly since we just learned that our entire HVAC system for the library needs a major overhaul—at an estimated cost of $10,000 to $20,000. Our 30 year old steam boiler is also making ominous noises.

Last but not least, I would like to express my great appreciation to all those faithful GSP members who over the past year have logged endless hours in support of our Society by helping in the office, volunteering in the kitchen, “chaperoning” certain events, cleaning and sprucing up our premises and doing all sorts of maintenance work which have saved us a "bundle" of money. Also, many thanks for all your contributions of goods and services to and participation in the Silent Auction of our Stiftungsfest.

Keeping our commitment made at that time, we are now sending a check to Deutches Haus in New Orleans which was severely damaged by the flood waters of Katrina. And while we are planning a Faschings-Party at the Society late in February, we think it might be appropriate to direct also a portion of said revenue to our friends in New Orleans. They are unable to use their facility for their traditional Mardi Gras celebration.

Let's follow the giving spirit of prior GSP generations which have stood by their fellow countrymen in times of need! This point was underscored by our "in-house" historian, Dr. Birte Pfleger, with her recent lecture of "Charity in the Age before Welfare" presented as part of the 2005/06 Konversationsabend series.

With warm regards,
Hardy von Auenmüller

Spring 2006

Calendar of Events at the German Society of Pennsylvania

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue. January 24</td>
<td>Konversationsabend, 7:00pm, “Charity in the Age before Welfare” by Dr. Birte Pfleger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. February 4</td>
<td>German Beer Tasting with Marnie Old, 3:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. February 10</td>
<td>Skatabend expertly guided by Karl Moehlmann, 7:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. February 15</td>
<td>Presentation of Altpansische Gesänge by Thomas Müller, 3:00pm</td>
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<td>Fri. February 17</td>
<td>Friday Film Fest, 6:30pm, “Der Hauptmann von Köpenick”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. February 24</td>
<td>Konversationsabend, 7:00pm, “Wenn Menschen zu Waren werden - An Introduction to Bioethics” Lecture by Dr. John Haas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. February 25</td>
<td>Faschings-Party a.k.a. “Philly Alauf” Karneval in the Ratskeller, 8:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun. March 5</td>
<td>Classical Concert Series — The Wister Quartet — Haydn, Barber, and Dvorak, 3:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. March 11</td>
<td>Social Dance Sampler by Kelly Ray and Leslie Mitchell, 4:30-6:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue. March 14</td>
<td>“Philadelphia’s German Communities, before, during and after World War I” Lecture by Dr. Birte Pfleger, 12:00noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. March 17</td>
<td>Friday Film Fest, 6:30pm, “Erbsen auf Halb Sechs”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. March 20</td>
<td>Start of Spring Session — German Language Classes (12 weeks)</td>
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<td>Wed. March 22</td>
<td>Investment Seminar with Topper Brick, 3:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. March 24</td>
<td>Konversationsabend, 7:00pm, “Zugang zum Himmel: Kirchenportale und –fenster”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun. March 26</td>
<td>Classical Concert Series — Ephrata Cloister Chorus, 4:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. April 1</td>
<td>Wine and Food Tasting with Marnie Old, 3:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. April 21</td>
<td>Friday Film Fest, 6:30pm, “Der Tunnel”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun. April 23</td>
<td>Classical Concert Series — The Wister Quartet — Beethoven, Smith, Dvorak, 3:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. April 24</td>
<td>Konversationsabend, 7:00pm, “Action Reconciliation—Service for Peace” Discussion led by Dr. Matthias Hass</td>
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<td>Sat. April 29</td>
<td>AATG Scholarship Award Ceremony, 10:00am</td>
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<td>Tue. May 2</td>
<td>Hamburger Abend in the Ratskeller, 7:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue. May 2</td>
<td>“Good-bye Bayem—Grüß Gott Amerika—The George Schramm Story” Lecture by Mr. Heinz Stark, 12:00noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. May 19</td>
<td>Friday Film Fest, 6:30pm, “Die Fetten Jahre sind vorbei”</td>
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As of this writing, no one has asked for a change in format. Hence, we will be continuing with our accustomed pattern of presenting mostly lectures—with subsequent discussions—in our monthly KA group sessions. Also, having a jour fixe—a specific day of the month for our gathering—has worked out well. Taking the greatly expanded calendar of events into account, we picked the 24th for our meeting day January through June 2006: Tuesday, January 24: We started this year with a presentation by Prof. Dr. Birte Pfleger, our “in-house” historian. From her extensive research on the 240 year history of our Society, she selected the topic, Charity in the Age before Welfare. She discussed the large-scale social outreach performed by the Women’s Auxiliary during the Great Depression. These were indeed troubled times for many Americans, as your parents or grandparents may have told you…, and certainly more challenging than anything we have experienced in recent years.

Friday, February 24: Wenn Menschen zu Waren werden – Einführung in die Bioethik is the subject of a lecture by Prof. Dr. John Haus, who heads the Bioethics Research Center of the Roman Catholic Church, here in Philadelphia. Established in 1972, the Center is engaged in education, research, consultation, and publishing to promote and safeguard the dignity of human beings in healthcare and the life sciences.

Friday, March 24: Zugang zum Himmel: Kirchenportale und –fenster will be the title of a slide presentation by Prof. Dr. Karlfried Fröhlich, of the Princeton Theological Seminary. Anyone who attended prior lectures of Dr. Fröhlich will appreciate his deep knowledge of this subject. Also, on Tuesday, April 11, Dr. Froehlich will be our expertise guide for a visit of the New York Cloisters—the destination of a bus trip organized by the Women’s Auxiliary.

Monday, April 24: Action Reconciliation – Service for Peace was founded in 1958 at the Synod of the Protestant Church in Berlin by people who had belonged to a small resistance group during the Nazi era called, “The Confessing Church.” Here in Center City is the US headquarters of said organization, and its newly appointed executive director, Dr. Matthias Hass, has agreed to share with us what he and his young volunteers are doing stateside in support of this effort.

Wednesday, May 24: Die spanische Fliege by Franz Arnold and Ernst Bach is an early 20th century comedy which will be performed by the graduating class of the Elmshorn, Germany high school. These students will be on tour through the United States. With this live performance on the stage of our Auditorium, we are resurrecting a tradition of the 60s when some of our older members made use of their inherited acting talents…, which, I understand, led to several life-long marriage bonds.

Saturday, June 24: Wandertag – our traditional mid-summer day hiking tour will bring our 2005/06 KA season to an end. Here, we will be guided again by our Wandermeister, Frank Genieser and his wife Renate, who incidentally represent one of those wonderful “matches made in heaven,” for what will surely be another interesting excursion. The exact location, starting point and time will be posted later on.

Except for this latter outdoor event, we will meet in the Society’s Ratskeller at 7:00pm, unless otherwise posted on our website. Alternatively, you may also call me at the GSP office or at my home 215-875-9911.

—Hardy von Auenmueller

April Bus Trip

Mark the date of Tuesday, April 11, 2006, in your calendar and plan to participate in our spring bus trip to The Cloisters in Manhattan sponsored by the Women’s Auxiliary. The cost is $85 which includes transportation, admission, and a guided tour by Professor Froehlich of Princeton Theological Seminary, as well as dinner at Binghamton’s Ferryboat Restaurant, moored on the Hudson River overlooking the Manhattan skyline. Further details and reservation information will be forthcoming.

—Renate Genieser (856-795-3549)
Rewitalize the Joseph P. Horner Memorial Library

Plans are being made for resuming operations at the Joseph P. Horner Memorial Library. In previous issues of the Staatsbote, you read pieces from Dr. Birte Pfleger and Kevin Ostoyich, scholars and researchers who are using the Archives and the Library under the guidance of Dr. Frank Trommler of the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Pfleger is writing a book on the history of the German Society from its founding in 1764 to the present. Mr. Ostoyich is preparing a reference guide to the collections of our Library to be merged into a compendium of reference guides at the German Historic Institute in Washington, D.C. Those works will be very helpful for scholars planning to do research in our Library.

The Library Committee has presented a formal plan for resumption of Library operations later this year, so that not only our members but also other libraries, universities, and scholars will again be able to use it regularly. We want to make sure that the community and the world knows about us and what we have to offer.

So, what is going on? First of all, we are showcasing our Library on our website www.germansociety.org/library. Our reference catalog—very easy to use—is available for locating books by title and author. Next, we have organized a Library Committee, consisting of eminent professionals. They are working diligently on formulating a budget and preparing operational procedures, including hiring a part-time librarian who will be supported by member volunteers.

If you are a retired librarian or interested in volunteer work at the library, we would like to hear from you.

Historic Lectures in the Library

The Lecture Committee of the Library is assembling a new program at the Horner Memorial Library of the Society. We invite our members, as well as those of other historical and cultural organizations in the greater Philadelphia area, and people working in Center City, to come and listen to 30 minute talks on German-American history and culture presented in English. Afterward we will adjourn to our Ratskeller for lunch (bring your own—beverages can be purchased) and stimulating conversation and socializing.

Besides presenting an outreach of our programs to the surrounding community, we want to provide an alternative to evening programs for those who may find night driving difficult, and to give workers in the city a relaxing lunch break.

Our first talk will be given by Dr. Birte Pfleger, Assistant Professor of History, California State University, on Tuesday, March 14, at 12:00 noon. She will paint a picture of “Philadelphia’s German Communities before, during and after World War I.” In the late 19th century, German-Americans in Philadelphia constituted many communities marked by regional, religious and class differences. It was the outbreak of World War I that brought Germans in Philadelphia together in their effort to keep the U.S. out of the war and to organize relief for German war widows and orphans. When the U.S. did enter the war in 1917, anti-German hysteria brought suspicion and hardships to many Philadelphia Germans.

The second meeting will be on Tuesday, May 2, at 12:00 noon. Our speaker will be Mr. Heinz Stark of The Center for Bavarian History, who, under the overall heading of “Carl Schurz and His Times,” will give a talk with the title “Good-Bye Bayern – Gruess Gott Amerika – The George Schramm Story.” The Schramm story is part of a traveling exhibition in Germany, compiled by The Center of Bavarian History which received books on loan from our Library for this event.

If you plan to attend, please e-mail the office—info@germansociety.org—or call at (215) 627-2332.

—Above articles by Frank Genieser

—Ernie Weiler

Financial Planning Seminars

The German Society is delighted to offer three unique and informative financial seminars to our members in 2006.

The first seminar will be on financial planning, the second on insurance and German pensions, the third on wills and trusts. We believe these topics are important to all of us as we plan for retirement and consider options how best to utilize our assets.

These seminars will be conducted by experts on each respective topic in an informal setting. Each seminar will be about one hour, followed by questions and answers, and coffee and cake. These are free, informational sessions designed to help you plan for your future.

The evening was highly entertaining. We started off by tasting club soda mixed with lemon juice for acidity, with sugar for sweetness, with tea for tannins, etc. We also learned the anatomy of taste—taste buds versus naso-pharyngeal “taste”—and definitions of “fruity,” “bone dry,” “brut,” etc. Mari nie was able to adapt her presentation to everyone’s skill level. She answered questions ranging from new world as opposed to old world wine, up to the chemical reaction in maloactic fermentation. We tasted and analyzed six different wines, white as well as red.

Marnie’s enthusiasm for her topic was infectious. Everyone came away with more knowledge about wine tasting. Well, maybe I stumbled away with more knowledge. But who’s checking? Who’s checking? Well, maybe I stumbled away with more knowledge about wine tasting.

Bye Bayern

No country is more strongly associated with quality beer than Germany. Join Marnie Old, Philadelphia’s leading sommelier and beverage expert, for this lively yet informative seminar and guided beer tasting. Explore German brewing innovations changed the beer world forever from light wheat to barley, and range of classic styles, like Doppelbock and Pilsener.

Learn how German brewing innovations changed the beer world forever from light wheat to barley, and from lager to heavy and from old world wine, up to the “fruity,” “bone dry,” “brut,” etc. Marnie’s enthusiasm for her topic was infectious. Her curriculum vitae are extensive. For example, she has been a faculty member at the French Culinary Institute in Manhattan, and a wine consultant for area restaurants Buddakan and Striped Bass.

She has been the regional wine educator for Wine & Spirits Magazine, and worked with other culinary publications. Her classes, which normally start at approximately $45 per person, were available to us for $20 per person or $30 per couple.

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Danach gingen wir zum Bleigiessen über. Hier haben alle, die nicht gekommen waren, wirklich etwas verpasst. Sind Sie neugierig, was Ihnen das nächste Jahr wohl bringen wird? Ja, ich weiss, das Bleigiessen ist nicht zuverlässig. Aber, wenn man die nötige Phantasie bezw. die Fähigkeit besitzt, die geformten Bleiteilchen richtig zu deuten, dann sieht es schon anders aus. Ich hatte nun die Glück, neben einen begabten Mann zu sitzen. Er sah in den drei Tagen, wie er die *Washer Women* übte, an, wie er über das *Kranz* und das *Schwert* sprach. Er konstruierte mit seinem Blei, und es entstand ein wunderschöner Baum! Ich war von der Leistung erstaunt, wie er die Formen nachgezeichnete und den Baum auf den Pfeilern aufstellte. Er zeigte mir, wie man die Lichter aufbringt, und ich erkannte, dass es kein Zufall ist, wenn man die Lichter aufbringt. 


Die Kranzfeier war ein riesiger Erfolg. Die Mitglieder der Gesellschaft waren begeistert und freuten sich auf die Zusammenkunft der nächsten Woche. Es war ein Abend voller Freude und Freundschaft, an dem wir zusammengekommen waren. Ich freue mich auf die nächsten Jahre, in denen wir diese feierlichkeiten fortsetzen werden.
First Annual St. Martin's Day Parade

While looking through the Staatsbote last summer, a familiar yet unexpected sight caught my attention: two pictures of paper lanterns, of the kind used at a Martinszug. Traditionally, there are parades in November to celebrate St. Martin, a Roman officer who became a bishop.

For years, we had been doing a little Martinszug with our German playgroup in Ardmore and later in Narberth. I was delighted to see that the German Society was planning to host such a parade, too.

I got in touch with Iris Richardson, who was organizing the event, to tell her that in addition to doing our suburban version, we would also love to attend the German Society Martinszug.

And so it happened that we found ourselves in the Ratskeller on the evening of November 11, with many other children and their parents—everybody admiring all the colorful lanterns. Some were even lit by real candles, the way I remembered it from my German childhood.

When it was time to start the parade, it was grand to see all those different shapes illuminating the darkness: suns, moons, stars, flowers and various animals, as well as some more unusual choices. There were a couple of cartoon characters like Thomas the Tank Engine. My own son insisted on a bat.

It was a sizable group assembled there on Spring Garden Street. We proceeded to wind our way through Northern Liberties—certainly a big enough assembly to warrant the police escort which made sure that we could cross the streets safely!

The children were very much impressed with this aspect of the parade, and it made up for the lack of an actual St. Martin on his horse, like they had seen in the books we had shown them about the story of St. Martin.

So everybody marched along happily, singing the songs that are customary on this occasion, like Ich geh mit meiner Laterne, over and over again. It was great fun to do this with a much bigger group than what we were accustomed to, and in the city, with lots of passers-by commenting on the beautiful lanterns and the songs, as well as asking what tradition was behind this event.

It was also very encouraging to see what a comeback Northern Liberties has made, compared to ten or twelve years ago, when I first encountered the area!

And then we were back at the Ratskeller, happy to indulge ourselves with hot apple cider and delicious cookies after having been out in the cold. It was indeed a wonderful sight: a room full of a new generation of German-Americans, at a location that has seen so many of them over the centuries.

Hopefully it will see many more of them in the future!

But first of all, another Martinszug in November of 2006—maybe this time with St. Martin, himself, leading the parade on his horse!

—Maria Sturm

Photos by Iris Richardson