



The German Society of Pennsylvania

611 Spring Garden Street

Philadelphia, PA 19123-3505

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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.

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Pennsylvania

The German Society of



Neuer Pennsylvanischer

Staatsbote

Internet: www.germansociety.org

Spring 2006

The Committee Chairperson may not be a current Officer or Board Member. Any person willing to serve in this position, please contact our Corporate Secretary, Dr. Ed Cohen at 215-885-2011 or edcohen43@yahoo.com.

The Committee provides investment vehicles for making gifts to the Society, and assistance to donors in selecting the appropriate means of giving. The Memorial Gift Fund Committee works with the Finance Committee to assure that any memorial gifts to the Society are invested properly, and that the proceeds are directed according to the donor's wishes.

Chairperson for our Memorial Gift Fund Committee Wanted!

Presenting an all-Mozart program including Symphonies 39 and 41, plus Piano Concerto No. 23 and a post-concert chat with Maestro Barenboim. By special arrangement with The Kimmel Center, all members and friends of the German Society will receive a 25% discount by mentioning the word, "Daniel" when making reservations at the box office or by calling 215-893-1999. Ticket prices start at \$40, with a limit of 4 per customer.

Berlin Staatskapelle with Daniel Barenboim
On Wednesday, February 8 at 8:00pm at The Kimmel Center

"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 into 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 *Karnevalstimmung* to the *Ratskeller*. So, come drink with friends, sing to the music of Cologne's *Karneval*, *schunkel* 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).

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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, foxtrot, 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

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)
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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 *Deutsches 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 who 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

Calendar of Events at the German Society of Pennsylvania

- Tue. January 24

Konversationsabend, 7:00pm, "Charity in the Age before Welfare” by Dr. Birte Pfleger
- Sat. February 4

German *Bier* Tasting with Marnie Old, 3:00pm
- Fri. February 10

Skatabend expertly guided by Karl Moehlmann, 7:00pm
- Wed. February 15

Presentation of *Altjapanische Gesänge* by Thomas Müller, 3:00pm
- Fri. February 17

Friday Film Fest, 6:30pm, “*Der Hauptmann von Koepenick*”
- Fri. February 24

Konversationsabend, 7:00pm, “*Wenn Menschen zu Waren werden* - An Introduction to Bioethics" Lecture by Dr. John Haas
- Sat. February 25

Faschings-Party a.k.a. “*Philly Alaaf*” *Karneval* in the *Ratskeller*, 8:30pm
- Sun. March 5

Classical Concert Series — The Wister Quartet — Haydn, Barber, and Dvorak, 3:00pm
- Sat. March 11

Social Dance Sampler by Kelly Ray and Leslie Mitchell, 4:30-6:00pm
- Tue. March 14

“Philadelphia’s German Communities, before, during and after World War I” Lecture by Dr. Birte Pfleger, 12:00noon
- Fri. March 17

Friday Film Fest, 6:30pm, “*Erbsen auf Halb Sechs*”
- Mon. March 20

Start of Spring Session — German Language Classes (12 weeks)
- Wed. March 22

Investment Seminar with Topper Brick, 3:00pm
- Fri. March 24

Konversationsabend, 7:00pm, “*Zugang zum Himmel: Kirchenportale und –fenster*” Slide presentation by Prof. Dr. Karlfried Fröhlich
- Sun. March 26

Classical Concert Series — Ephrata Cloister Chorus, 4:00pm
- Sat. April 1

Wine and Food Tasting with Marnie Old, 3:00pm
- Fri. April 21

Friday Film Fest, 6:30pm, “*Der Tunnel*”
- Sun. April 23

Classical Concert Series — The Wister Quartet — Beethoven, Smith, Dvorak, 3:00pm
- Mon. April 24

Konversationsabend, 7:00pm, “Action Reconciliation—Service for Peace” Discussion led by Dr. Matthias Hass
- Sat. April 29

AATG Scholarship Award Ceremony, 10:00am
Hamburger Abend in the *Ratskeller*, 7:00pm
- Tue. May 2

“Good-bye Bayern—*Grüss Gott Amerika*—The George Schramm Story” Lecture by Mr. Heinz Stark, 12:00noon
- Fri. May 19

Friday Film Fest, 6:30pm, “*Die Fetten Jahre sind vorbei*”

Konversationsabend...and the beat goes on!

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 Haas, 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. Any-one who attended prior lectures of Dr. Fröhlich will appreciate his deep knowl-edge of this subject. Also, on Tuesday, April 11, Dr. Froehlich will be our eru-dite 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 Ber-lin 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 headquar-ters of said organization, and its newly appointed executive director, Dr. Mat-thias 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, Ger-many 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 inher-ent acting talents..., which, I under-stand, 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 *Wander-meister*, Frank Genieser and his wife Renate, who incidentally represent one of those wonderful “matches made in [the GSP] 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, admis-sion, and a guided tour by Professor Froehlich of Princeton Theological Seminary, as well as dinner at Bing-hamton’s Ferryboat Restaurant, moored on the Hudson River overlooking the Manhattan skyline. Further details and reservation information will be forth-coming.

—Renate Genieser (856-795-3549)

2005 Annual Fund—Donors Acknowledgment

Name have been re-moved for the website to preserve our mem-bers’ privacy

Intro to German Beer
Styles
with Marnie Old



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 traditions as we savor a range of classic styles, like *Pilsener*, *Hefeweizen* and *Doppelbock*. Taste the influence of beer's ingredients; from wheat to barley, from pale to dark, from light to heavy and from lager to ale. Learn how German brewing innovations changed the beer world forever in this tasting tour of Germany's flavorful brewing heritage.

Join us:

Saturday, February 4, 2006
from 3:00-5:00pm.
The cost is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members.
Call 215-627-2332 or
email info@germansociety.org
for reservations!
—Marnie Old

Marnie Old's Wine Tasting

On Sunday evening, December 4 2005, the first of a series of wine tastings took place, downstairs in the Ratskeller. Luckily, the original speaker, who had to cancel, was replaced by Marnie Old, of Old Wine, LLC. Marnie is one of Philadelphia's leading wine educators. 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.

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 nasopharyngeal “taste”—and definitions of “fruity,” “bone dry,” “brut,” etc. Marnie 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 malolactic acid 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? See you there next time....

—Lisa Peddinghaus

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 first seminar, on **financial planning**, with Mr. Edgar “Topper” Brick will be on **Wednesday, March 22nd** at 3:00 PM. He is founder and President of Brick & Kyle Associates, a financial/retirement planning service based in Newtown, PA. Mr. Brick is a nationally-recognized expert on this subject. Prior to creating his own firm in 1984, he was a Senior Vice President with PaineWebber. There he managed eight hundred accounts with \$60 million in assets. He is a very dynamic speaker and has given many seminars on the financial planning with employees at Bristol-Myers Squibb, GlaxoSmithKline, Rohm and Haas, SONY and Hershey Foods.

Subsequent seminars, on insurance and German pensions, wills and trusts, will be scheduled in May and September, respectively. See the next *Staatsbote* for further information.

—Ernie Weiler

Revitalizing 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 Pflieger 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. Pflieger 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 30–45 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 Pflieger**, 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

The eagerly-anticipated *Weihnachtsbasar* was once again hosted by the Women’s Auxiliary on December 3rd. Hundreds came out on the sunny, crisp day to enjoy this venerable tradition.

The Society never looks more festive than it does at Christmas-time after the Auditorium is set up for the Bazaar. The event is unique for its handmade gifts, delicious German food and baked goods, and of course, the familiar *Weihnachtslieder*. The Auxiliary is indebted to the many volunteers who worked tirelessly to make it an outstanding success. *Herzlichen Dank!*

—Doris MacPherson

Christmas Returning to our Society



Adventsfeier bei Auenmüllers

Es war so wie an manchen anderen Konversationsabenden. Wir trafen uns im grosszügigen Foyer des Hauses, wo in den Vorjahren fleissig Gedichte rezitiert und Lieder gesungen wurden. Dieses Mal mussten wir uns mit dem *Kuttel Daddeldu* von Ringelnatz begnügen. Hier bedichtet der Autor die Menschen, die durchs soziale Netz gefallen sind..., und deren gibt es heute viele aufgrund von Hartz IV und Globalisierung. Natuerlich war es keine bürgerliche Weihnacht, die *Daddeldu* feierte. Er war schliesslich ein harter Mann, der zur See fuhr. Bei ihm brannten keine Lichter am Baum, bei ihm brannte gleich der ganze Baum!

Danach gingen wir zum Bleigiessen über. Hier haben alle, die nicht gekommen waren, wirklich etwas verpasst. Sind Sie denn überhaupt nicht neugierig, was Ihnen das nächste Jahr wohl bringen wird? Ja, ich weiss, das Bleigiessen ist nicht zuverlässlich. Aber, wenn man die nötige Phantasie bzw. die Fähigkeit besitzt, die geformten Bleiteilchen richtig zu deuten, dann sieht es schon anders aus. Ich hatte nun das Glück, neben einen begabten Mann zu sitzen. Er sah in den drei kugelförmigen Gebilden eine männliche Person mit einem dicken Bauch (schade!) und zwei kleine Kinder. Dieses sollte nun meine Zukunft für das Jahr 2006 sein? Kaum zu glauben; aber er hatte sich nur leicht geirrt.

Über die Weihnachtsvorbereitungen hatte ich diese Angelegenheit vollkommen vergessen. Es klappte alles, wie ich es mir vorgenommen hatte. Meine Kinder - Tochter, Enkelin und Schwiegersohn - sollten am Heiligabend zum Dinner kommen. Der Tisch war gedeckt, der Fisch und Reis waren gerade zum Warmhalten in den Backofen geschoben, und die Lichter am Weihnachtsbaum glänzten in ihrer leuchtenden Herrlichkeit. Da hörte ich draussen die Stimme meiner geliebten, 20 Monate alten Enkelin "*Ama*" (Oma) rufen. Ich öffnete die Tür, und das Kindchen lief mir in die Arme. Hinter ihr stand mein Schwiegersohn, schlank und rank wie immer. Dann kam meine Tochter, sie hatte unübersehbar einen dicken Bauch. Im Juni werde ich ein zweites Enkelkind haben. Also, doch nur leicht gefehlt! Oder?

—Inge Niebisch

Philly Alaaf continued from page 1

The Church tied *Karneval* to the *Fas-tenzeit* (Lent) as a way of limiting the wild revels. With Ash Wednesday, the parties end.

Today, drinking and dancing in costume are hallmarks of the frenetic *Karneval* fun, as are the more political, satirical *Sitzungen*, where participants are apt to criticize the government under the protection of a “fool’s cap”. The street *Karneval* in Cologne opens the Thursday before Ash Wednesday, when the “Washer Women” storm City Hall and cut off the neckties of city officials. *Prinz Karneval* reigns over the subsequent *tollen Tage* (Crazy Days).



For more information on *Karneval* traditions, go to www.karneval.de or www.serve.com/shear/germusa/karneval.htm.

For reservations, call the Society’s office or email info@germansociety.org.

Capacity is limited, so register now!

—C. v. Andreae, M. McGuigan, G. Lee

Teaching German to Sitting Bull?

Strutting through cow patties with Buffalo Bill? Sound interesting? Such are the exploits of one Rudolf Cronau—artist, correspondent, and Rocky Mountain German. Cronau was born in Solingen (Germany) on January 21, 1855.

Orphaned at the age of seven and raised by an uncle, the young Cronau volunteered for the Red Cross during the Franco-Prussian War (1870/1). After the war Cronau took up the brush at the “Maler-Akademie” (Academy for Painters) in Düsseldorf. Within a few years he had become a correspondent for the famous, bourgeois periodical *Die Gartenlaube*.

It was in this capacity that he journeyed to the United States in 1879 to cover the Far West. Under the “Big Sky” he painted western landscapes and Native Americans. Cronau’s growing appreciation for the American West led him to write *Our Wasteful Nation* (1908), a treatise on environmental conservation.

While in South Dakota, Cronau befriended the Sioux Chieftain Sitting Bull and frontier showman William F. Cody a.k.a. “Buffalo Bill”. The former was so fascinated with the “guttural sounds” of German that he implored Cronau to instruct him in the language.

Throughout his sojourns in the West, Cronau never lost his German identity. In fact, he became active within the German American community. At the Constitutional Convention of the German American National Alliance in 1901, it was Cronau who proposed the erection of a monument to commemorate the early settlement of Germans in America under the direction of Franz Daniel Pastorius in 1683.

This proposal eventually led to the erection of the famous Germantown Memorial in Vernon Park, Germantown, Pennsylvania on November 10, 1920.

Eighteen years later, in 1919, Cronau founded the Steuben Society of America in New York. In the decade that followed, Cronau capped his lifelong interest in German American culture with the publication of his illustrated history of the German element in America, *Drei Jahrhunderte Deutschen Lebens in Amerika* (*Three Centuries of German Life in America*).

How is it that we know so much about this interesting man from the past? We know about Rudolf Cronau because the Society possesses documents on him and many other fascinating German Americans in its archives.

In a few months time, the German Historical Institute of Washington, D.C. will be publishing a reference guide on the Society’s holdings. The hope behind this endeavor is that scholars from across the country (perhaps, the world) will become aware of the rich archival material that the Society holds. Awareness breeds scholarship. As scholars come to the German Society, they will hopefully write histories on such extraordinary figures as Rudolf Cronau.

I am currently a Visiting Professor of German History at The University of Montana. If you wish to get in touch with me, please contact the German Society office and your message will be forwarded.

—Kevin Ostoyich

Skatabend

Achtzehn – Zwanzig – Zwo – Null – Vier



Liebe Skatfreunde!

Wenn Sie mal wieder Lust haben, zu reizen und zu stechen, dann kommen Sie zu unserem ersten Skatabend am **Freitag, den 10. Februar um 19 Uhr im Ratskeller.**

Fortgeschrittene und Anfänger sind willkommen. Wenn das Interesse groß genug ist, dann werden wir uns an jedem zweiten Freitagabend eines Monats treffen.

Dear Skat-Lovers!

If you always wanted to learn this quintessential German card game or play it again with other enthusiasts, here is your chance. **On Friday, February 10, at 7 pm in the Ratskeller,** we will have our first Skat meeting. If the interest is high enough we will have it every second Friday of the month. So, don't miss this chance to become part of our Skat-Club. Instruction for beginners will be provided.

—Karl Moehlmann

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

AND
HERE
THEY
MARCH



Photos by Iris Richardson