



## President's Message

Anyone visiting the Society over the past three months will have noticed an unusual amount of activity. All this happened while many people—in spite of the relatively mild weather—appear to prefer staying at home.

Immediately after the most successful Christmas Bazaar run by the Women's Auxiliary in recent years, several different trades—all contracted by **Martin Knappe** following extensive negotiations—started to get busy on our premises.

First, a demolition crew swept through our *Ratskeller* and basement area, tearing down the old suspended ceiling. Hardly had the dust settled (and it spread all the way up to the library), did masons, pipe fitters and sundry others begin their daunting task of installing the rather intricate system of pumps, pipes and sprinkler heads throughout our building complex. Then, the electricians supplied by **Dennis Keough**, a Society member and German language student of long standing, got into the act, upgrading our lights in that area and providing the necessary power supply for the pumps and fire alarm system. So did the carpenter and his crew, whom we used before on the kitchen project, installing a new suspended ceiling.

Finally, a painting crew headed up by **Karl-Heinz Kampe**, an old (renewed) GSP member, who had painted our auditorium 30 years ago, did the marvelous job of transforming said space

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## 325 years of German Immigration to Philadelphia

On January 30th, 2008 we were honored by a visit of **Dr. Jürgen Rüttgers**, *Ministerpräsident* of North Rhine Westphalia, and his entourage, including **Gregor Kathstede**, Lord Mayor of Krefeld, the city wherefrom the first 13 German families who founded Germantown (now part of Philadelphia proper) emigrated 325 years ago.

Quite a few members of our Society took up the German Historic Institute's invitation to attend a forum and reception in the historic Lincoln Room of the Union League (see photo below). In his address **Dr. Rüttgers** praised



these early pioneers who braved many hardships while establishing a new home. Nearly 8 million Germans have followed their paths over the centuries.

**Dr. Rüttgers** noted that at the census in 2000, more than 42 million US citizens, or 15.2 % of the total population claimed German ethnic origin—followed by 30 million people with Irish roots, and 25 million African-Americans. Therefore, German-Americans are by far the largest ethnic group living in America. Over the years, they have assimilated almost completely into US Society, and made substantial contributions to all aspects

of it.

America has long been referred to as a “melting pot” of all nations. Germany, as well, has become a multi-cultural country in recent years. Fully, 15 million out of the total 82 million people now living in Germany have a migration background. Their integration poses a major challenge, as **Dr. Rüttgers** stated. They come from 140 different countries, and their educational background and expectations vary widely.

How is successful integration achieved? To address that question, Germany may have to draw on the American experience, since it shows how integration requires a mutual acceptance of core values and norms, but also an acceptance of the cultural differences on the basis of these mutual values. In other words, integration does not necessarily require abandoning one's own religious identity, traditions or philosophy of life.

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# Neuer Pennsylvanischer Staatsbote

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into a classy hall using the exquisite color scheme selected by our own two interior designers, **Gabriele Lee** and **Roy Bernat**.

Since that time, we have been complimented over and over again by the many visitors who have recently attended our Sunday afternoon concerts, the St. Peter's School Auction, or our most recent Beer Tasting with **Marnie Old**. Incidentally, the latter event was a smashing hit, indeed, with over 140 beer enthusiasts participating who were graciously served by the Philly Roller Girls (as you can see from the photo.)

Donations to our 2007/08 Annual Fund Drive, as of this writing, are still more than 20% short of the level reached last year. Nonetheless, we appreciate very much the giving of all those who have generously contributed so far. A listing of all the donor names as they have been recorded to date is shown on pages 9-10. At our most recent Board Meeting, it was agreed that we will stop soliciting money for that cause by the end of this month because there is a new challenge being presented to us which we would like to tackle still this summer. Hence, anybody who still wants to participate in our annual campaign that supports our operational budget is asked to do so soon.

The new challenge facing our Society is a **capital project** which has been under discussion for many years. It was ranked third on our priority list. Now that the sprinkler system has been installed, and the financing for the window project substantially secured, it behooves us to address the need for ADA access to our premises. You all know that many of our members are senior citizens of whom quite a



few are having difficulties climbing our stairs, and thus can no longer partake in the many cultural programs and social activities presented by the Society.

After weighing the pros and cons of various access ramps, mini lifts and the like, we have come to the conclusion that **an elevator to be erected on the west side of our main building** (adjacent to the Spring Garden St. entrance) is the only viable alternative fully meeting this need.

We know that this is a major project costing upward of \$300,000 (some estimates came in as high as \$650,000), but since the construction industry is presently in doldrums, and two venerable GSP members (who, at this moment, do not wish to be identified) have agreed to fund a major portion of the cost of this project, and two others have stepped forward to finance the balance on an interim basis, we could

actually see this project come to fruition within the next few months. However, since we do not wish to strain the financial largesse of these people, it is herewith requested that every member make a significant contribution and send in a check for \$50, \$100, \$500 or more ... whatever you think is appropriate - considering that one day you may also be dependent on this. Just remember, a generous giver is a

healthier person!

The architectural plans of this handsome structure will be posted on our website just as soon as we have them approved by the appropriate city agencies. They will consist of a glass enclosed vestibule in our gated garden at street level. The elevator tower will have a total of five stops with platforms at every level of the building, and a window each on the upper two floors affording a skyline view of the city.

—Hardy von Auenmueller

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However, as the American experience has shown, a common language is mandatory. It is the key for success at school, on the job, and the social standing in society. (In the Q & A period following *Dr. Ruettgers'* address, it was suggested that this topic might well be suited for our next *aktuellen Konversationsabend* -- see page 6)

The keynote speaker at this memorable evening in the Union League was **Dr. Frank Trommler**, former head of the German Language Department at the University of Pennsylvania and Chair of our Library Committee. His speech, entitled "Transatlantic Bridges between the Rhine and Delaware—1683-2008" was very well received. It is reprinted in an abridged form on page 5, and so is a German newspaper article about the Krefeld connection (see page 4).

In anticipation of this year's 325th anniversary of the first German settlement in Philadelphia, the slogan "**Making Philadelphia a German Town**" was introduced last fall. We have hope that **Michael Nutter**, our new mayor, who had been invited to the gala event, might still propose a resolution at City Council declaring Philadelphia a German Town for 2008, or part thereof.

On German Day last year, we rang in our jubilee by hosting ten rather diverse events in our historic, 120-year-old building over a three-day weekend. That celebration attracted well over 1000 people to our premises. While the gathering in the Union League—also well attended—was, no doubt, the premier event of this year, many more are planned for the rest of this year, such as the German play **Der zerbrochene Krug**" (The Broken Jug) by *Heinrich von Kleist* to be presented on the stage

of our auditorium on March 28, 2008. Later this summer, we will hold an Open House when our **German Immigration Mural**—of which a preliminary design was displayed at the Union League—will be unveiled. In October we are looking forward to hosting two concerts by the **Landesjugendorchester Rheinland-Pfalz**, for which we are still seeking funding support. Other special events are in the planning stage for this year to commemorate our German heritage here in Philadelphia.

—Hardy von Auenmueller

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**Siegfried H. Schmaus**



A native of Muelheim/Ruhr and former Vice President of the German Society, Siegfried Schmaus passed away in early January.

He had a degree in mechanical engineering and served in the German air force during WWII.

A champion soccer player as a young man in Germany, he later played on the US National Team.

Mr. Schmaus was a holder of several patents, and he designed low-pressure gauges for open heart surgery and dental drills.

In 1983, the *Bundesverdienstkreuz* was bestowed upon him by the German government for his involvement in the tricentennial celebration of the arrival of the first Germans in Pennsylvania.

He is survived by his longtime companion, Ms. Lois Greene, a niece and a nephew.

He will be sorely missed by us all.

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**New Members**

We sincerely extend a hearty welcome to all new German Society members. Your support is greatly appreciated, and we look forward to seeing you at upcoming events.

## US-Reise: Kathstede und Rüttgers erinnern an deutsche Auswanderer

**Vor 325 Jahren sind deutsche Pioniere von Krefeld aus nach Amerika aufgebrochen. Aus diesem Anlass besuchen Oberbürgermeister und Ministerpräsident die Stadt Philadelphia.**



Gregor Kathstede und Jürgen Rüttgers waren zu Gast im ehrwürdigen Lincoln Saal der Union League in Philadelphia

**Krefeld.** Großer Bahnhof für dreizehn Krefelder Familien: In einer Feierstunde haben am Mittwoch Abend (Ortszeit) im ehrwürdigen Lincoln Saal der Union League in Philadelphia der Vorsitzende der German Society, Hardy von Auenmüller, der Krefelder Oberbürgermeister Gregor Kathstede, NRW-Ministerpräsident Jürgen Rüttgers und der Historiker Frank Trommler an die ersten deutschen Auswanderer erinnert, die vor 325 Jahren in die Staaten kamen. Es waren Pioniere aus Krefeld.

Die Namen Franz Daniel Pastorius und Abraham Op den Graeff waren in aller Munde. Kathstede erinnerte in seiner Rede an die beiden Männer, die vor 325 Jahren mit der „Concord“ in eine bessere Zukunft segelten. Sie brachen mit 14 Ochsen und 30 Fass Bier auf. Die Überfahrt dauerte zehn Wochen, zwei Kinder wurden auf hoher See geboren.

Die Aussiedler gründeten am Ufer des Delaware die Siedlung Germantown, heute Teil von Philadelphia. Die Pioniere fassten schnell Fuß: „Pastorius und Op den Graeff wurden in den Rat der Stadt und auch ins Repräsentantenhaus gewählt“, so Kathstede. Als gläubige Christen engagierten sie sich gegen die Sklaverei. „Mit Philadelphia und unserer Partnerstadt Charlotte verbinden uns 325 Jahre Geschichte und eine tiefe Freundschaft“, so Kathstede.

Rüttgers erinnerte an den enormen Überlebenswillen der Pioniere: „Es war ein hartes Leben, aber es hat sich gelohnt. Sie haben eine neue Heimat gefunden.“ Für den Ministerpräsidenten ein besonders treffendes Beispiel von gelungener Integration. Er schlug den Bogen zur aktuellen Situation in NRW: An Ruhr und Rhein leben Menschen aus 140 Nationen, zwei der 18 Millionen Nordrhein-Westfalen haben einen Migrationshintergrund. „Das bedeutet: Integrationspolitik ist zu Beginn des 21. Jahrhunderts Kern der Gesellschaftspolitik.“

Deutschland könne bei dem Weg dahin eine Menge von den Amerikanern und eben auch von den Krefelder Pionieren lernen: Man brauche nicht dieselbe Religion, nicht die gleiche Hautfarbe oder Herkunft - die Sprache sei der Schlüssel zu allem.

Der Historiker Trommler machte deutlich, dass in Philadelphia selbst das Wissen um die deutschen Wurzeln und die Krefelder Pioniere lange verschüttet war. Erst im 19. Jahrhundert sei langsam so etwas wie ein historisches Bewusstsein gewachsen. Der Durchbruch in der Erinnerungskultur sei die 300-Jahr-Feier gewesen: Einerseits der Besuch des damaligen Vize-Präsidenten George Bush sen. in Krefeld, dann der Gegenbesuch einer starken deutschen Delegation, angeführt vom damaligen Bundespräsidenten Karl Carstens.

Der Kontakt sei danach nie abgerissen, so habe sich der ehemalige Krefelder OB Dieter Pützhofen verdient gemacht, indem er beim Bundesaußenministerium Zuschüsse für die Arbeit der German Society locker machte. Diese Gesellschaft verfügt über eine Leihbibliothek mit 70.000 Bänden im Bestand – die größte außerhalb Deutschlands, wie der Chef der Gesellschaft, Hardy von Auenmüller stolz anmerkte.

Die rund 300 Gäste genossen den Ausflug in die Vergangenheit sichtlich. Für viele war es so etwas wie ein Familientreffen, viele gerade der Älteren unterhielten sich auf Deutsch. Auf Bratwurst und Sauerkraut mussten sie anschließend jedoch verzichten - es gab italienische Spezialitäten.

—Frank Uferkamp, Westdeutsche Zeitung, 31.01.08



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## Transatlantic Bridges Between the Rhine and the Delaware: 1683—2008

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It is a great honor and pleasure to speak in the grand Lincoln room of the oldest Union League in America about the contribution of the Germans to Philadelphia, to Pennsylvania, and to the United States at large. As we focus on 325 years of this contribution, we deal with a lot of history. And yet, we should not just ask what this past is but rather what this past has meant in the various stages of German American history, beginning in 1683, when the Krefeld settlers disembarked in Philadelphia under the guidance of Francis Daniel Pastorius, going on to 1883, when the founding of Germantown was determined to mark the beginning of organized German immigration to America, and further to 1983, when the Tricentennial was celebrated both in Krefeld and Philadelphia, and finally to 2008.

When anniversaries are celebrated, history seems to be written in stone: without the Mayflower no American settlement, without the Krefeld settlers on the ship "Concorde" no Germantown. The Italians show their version on Columbus Day with their parade, the Irish theirs on St. Patrick's Day with a lot of green beer, and the Germans theirs on October 6, "German Day," with a lot of golden beer.

And yet, anniversaries are nothing god-given. For a long time Pennsylvania Germans did not remember that the first immigrants came from Krefeld. A hundred years later Pastorius was forgotten. And he did not lead them. He sailed on an earlier ship, and the *Concorde* did not arrive on October 6, but rather a week or two later. And some of the thirteen families did not speak

German but rather Dutch. Not even a picture of Pastorius exists, although later he got a lifelike bust and a hero's monument. The German Society of Pennsylvania owns a model of an impressive monument where Pastorius stands erect like Moses in the promised land surrounded by pious settlers, announcing his vista of a new dawn for his Rhinelanders. Where are the sources for this commemoration if no picture exists of the German founding father?

If it had not been for the Quaker poet John Greenleaf Whittier who wrote a much publicized poem about Pastorius and the professor of German, Oswald Seidensticker, at the University of Pennsylvania, who studied the history of Germantown and was greatly impressed by the parade in commemoration of the founding of Philadelphia in 1882, the German Bicentennial a year later, in 1883, would not have been celebrated with a four-day festivity which included a big parade on October 6. Whittier was intrigued by the fact that the Germantown Quaker community wrote the first public declaration against slavery in North America in 1688 and praised Pastorius for leading the effort. The pageant that rolled through the streets of Philadelphia in 1883 with a thousand carriages, 3 000 horses, 300 floats and 10 000 participants, also contained a float that showed a house in the style of 17<sup>th</sup>-century Germantown, entwined with grapevines and, visible through the door, a weaver sitting at his loom. "In front of the house," a contemporary observer reported, "Pastorius is standing, surrounded by his companions." This is exactly the picture that has

been projected of the father of the German Americans since 1883.

Speaking of invention in 1883, it is no less true for the events a hundred years later, in 1983, when the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Germantown had to be organized. This is where Krefeld comes in, or at least some insightful citizens of this city who proudly pointed to the fact that it is the town the settlers left behind to find a better life in America. I remember vividly how in 1980/81 the President of the German Society, George Beichl, was complaining that there was no way of lifting Philadelphia out of the disappointment over the botched celebration of the American Bicentennial in 1976. If it had not been for the enthusiasm of the Krefelders, their invitation to Beichl and city officials in June of that year, the Tricentennial celebration in Philadelphia would not have become the highly praised political and symbolic bridge between the Germans and the Americans, between the Federal Republic and the United States. When Vice President George Bush and Federal President Karl Carstens, at a festive dinner in a Philadelphia hotel on October 6, 1983, invoked the friendship and partnership of the two nations, the 300-year story of the Germans in America served as the authentic reference. Not to forget: with the controversies about the stationing of medium-range missiles in West Germany, the cold war seemed to heat up again in the early eighties, and Philadelphia saw anti-nuclear, anti-NATO demonstrations at the very same time as the two politicians were

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speaking in the name of friendship and partnership.

This was clearly different from the inner-American show of ethnic pride in 1883 that went almost unnoticed in Germany. Two world wars and a cold war did not let such anniversaries go unnoticed. The festivities involved the envoys from the Federal Republic, among them a whole Bundestag delegation, not to forget the guests from Krefeld, including Mayor Pützhofen who made sure that this was not the last time the Rhineland could do something for the cause of the German Americans in Philadelphia.

This story involves the German Society of Pennsylvania that took the lead in organizing the Tricentennial Banquet in 1983, and the University of Pennsylvania that organized the big international Tricentennial Conference where scholars took stock both of the history and the present state of German-American relations. Both institutions developed a fruitful relationship in planning for the restoration of the Society's 70,000 volume library. This is where North Rhine Westphalia comes in – or not. The first real promise of help towards the renovation and a big cataloging effort – 300,000 Deutschmarks - came from that state in 1989, not least because of the previously installed bridges between the Rhine and the Delaware. And to give the story the flair of true historic irony: what happened in 1989 to the joy of the Germans, the opening of the Berlin Wall, diminished the joy of the German Society of Pennsylvania, as the moneys, promised by the Kulturstiftung Nordrhein Westfalen, went to saving the cultural treasures in East Germany with

the unification in 1990. A German paper even grumbled that a valuable cultural treasure in the United States had become a victim of German unification. Well – I think if this is the only concrete sum of money sacrificed on this shore for uniting East and West Germany, the German Society should be in the annals of recent history.

A few years later, Mayor Pützhofen made good on his promise. As the Society itself raised \$300,000 and Thyssen and Bosch Foundations contributed almost half a million, Pützhofen, then a member of the German parliament, helped securing a substantial subsidy from the German Foreign Ministry for restoring the Horner Library. At the heart of this success story lies the reminder for tonight: that preserving the past is honorable and uplifting but also costly.

Let me conclude these anniversary remarks by looking at the transatlantic bridges between the Rhine and the Delaware in 2008. The fact that we celebrate 325 years of the first German settlement in North America in the presence of the Prime Minister of North Rhine Westphalia, Jürgen Rüttgers, the Mayor of Krefeld, Gregor Kathstede, and a delegation of public figures from the Rhine, fills us with pride and confidence. All the speeches from both sides give us reason to expect that they are not just used for public declarations of friendship but also seal a new round of cooperation between Pennsylvania and North Rhine Westphalia. In 2008 the focus is on the future. The German Society can show how important the engagement with history is for this agenda.

—Dr. Frank Trommler

## The Monthly Konversationsabend - a Long-Standing Society Tradition

For many years, Society members have been meeting in our Ratskeller for the monthly *Konversationsabend*. These gatherings are the only forum within our organization at which German is predominantly spoken.

Hence, it's a good opportunity for anyone who is currently enrolled in our German classes, to practice the recently acquired language skills in a non-competitive environment. Also, those who feel that their knowledge of German is fading away are encouraged to participate in these sessions.

While most of the time a specific subject of common interest is presented, in the form of a lecture, report or panel discussion, there is the occasional opportunity when we can offer *ein Schauspiel* on the stage of our auditorium, such as "*Der zerbrochene Krug*" by *Heinrich von Kleist*. This will be performed by the theatre group of the *Elsa-Braendstroem-Gymnasium* of Elmshorn, Germany on Friday, March 28 at 7:00 p.m.

For April 28 we are scheduling a panel discussion on the **Cultural Diversity of present day Germany**, a subject covered by *Dr. Ruettgers* in his speech at the Union League. Following an inquiry from the floor, it was felt that this matter warrants further dialog.

And on May 28, we welcome Prof. Armin Mruck of Towson University, who will give us an historic overview on "*Der deutsche anti-Hitler Regime widerstand aus Sicht der USA*".

Following our custom of prior years, another *Wandertag* is planned for June. Date, place and other details will be posted soon. —Hardy v. Auenmueller

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## Annual Members' Meeting and Elections

On Sunday, May 4, 2008 at 3:00pm, the German Society will hold its 2008 Annual Meeting/Election for Directors and Officers at 611 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123.

Members must be in good standing to be eligible to vote, i.e. current on dues no later than end of business, Friday, May 2, 2008. Members wishing to vote must be present at the meeting — there is no provision for absentee ballots or proxy voting under the Society's By-laws. If you have any questions about your current membership status, please contact the Society's office at 215-627-2332 and speak with Sharan Knoell, or email the Society at [info@germansociety.org](mailto:info@germansociety.org).

A report of the Nominations Committee containing all the candidates standing for office was presented and approved by the Board of Directors at the March 17, 2008 meeting.

The vision statements and photographs of the various candidates are listed below and on the following page.

—Karl Spaeth, Secretary

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In the late 1990s, I was Treasurer of the Society and spent countless hours reorganizing its books. More recently, I have been on the Board acting primarily as Chair of the Stiftungsfest Gala event and our Oktoberfest celebration.



Looking toward the future, as a Board member, I hope to expand and embellish some of our programs and increase our membership via sound community outreach towards all ethnic groups. I hope to see the Society members come together as a group for the good of our German heritage so that it can be kept alive for many generations to come. We have a two year old daughter who already knows several German words. It is so wonderful to see our language and culture passed down from one generation to

the next. —**Sonia Churchman**

In keeping with the GSP mission statement, I would like to help facilitate the following goals:

-Continue and expand the Society's cultural and educational offerings while providing for a wider audience than currently exists.

-More integration with the community by leveraging the facility and archival assets that the Society owns as a spring board to reach out to non-members, the local community and educational organizations, so they can get a better understanding of the Society's rich historical and societal contributions.

-Maintain the Society's relevance in modern times by leveraging the latest technologies to make sure that both the Library collections and the Society offer a transparent method for non-members, community and educational organizations so that they can interact with the GSP, its art and archival collections, and participate more in the wonderful cultural events we are offering. —**Joseph Griesbaum**



I was born near Dresden, Germany and grew up in Munich. My wife Elizabeth and I emigrated to the US in 1965. Our two daughters have given us five grandchildren.

In my hotel career I have managed hotels around the world. After six years in Japan, we returned to the US in 2001, and I managed the Radisson Plaza Warwick Hotel for one year; I then formed my own hotel consulting company.

As a member of the German Society's Board, I was involved in the kitchen renovation project. In recent years I twice organized the catering aspect of the *Stiftungsfest*. I am now running again for a position on the Board and will be glad to be the Chair of the 2008 *Stiftungsfest*. —**Frank V. Klare**

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In 1994 I became a member of the Women's Auxiliary, and I served as the Second Vice President from 1995 to 2006. Our achievements in fundraising have focused on supporting German students, families in our community, and the German Society on numerous projects.



As member of the German Society for 14 years, I served on the Board of the Society for three of those years as co-chair on the Penn's Landing committee. Fundamental to the success of this fundraiser were my efforts through every phase of the project. Beginning with organizing and purchasing items for sale, we not only enjoyed ourselves, but were rewarded with its huge success.

With my extensive background and experience in fundraising, I bring to the Society a vast knowledge and resources in obtaining funds for their many important projects. I would be proud to serve as a committee chairperson on the Board and hereby, respectfully, submit my name for election. —**Brigitte Masci**

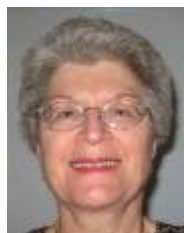
As I was born just outside the city limit of Krefeld, I have been influenced by the landscape and the residents of the Rhein and Ruhr area for my entire life. I enjoyed a strong network of contacts in Krefeld, and you can imagine that I must have had a good reason to leave that region. That reason is a native Philadelphian named Patty.

We got married just a few weeks ago and are building a new life in Philadelphia. Unfortunately, it is difficult to pursue many of my old hobbies here. In Germany, I was active in local politics and served as a volunteer in an agency for technical relief and have been a professional soccer fan for 40 years.

As a GSP Board member, I should like to develop the sharing of information, ideas, and culture between Germany and Pennsylvania. Especially, I wish to pursue and promote the Philadelphia relationship to Krefeld and nurture its historic bonds. —**Tony Michels**



I strongly support the Mission Statement of the German Society as adopted in May of 2000 "to serve our members and our community, especially those who share our interest in the German and German-American culture, heritage, and values".



I have been actively involved in the German Society for most of the past 20 years as Director, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, and most recently as Treasurer. I currently volunteer my time in the office in a variety of accounting functions and serve on both the Finance and Music Committees. Additionally, I am the treasurer of the Women's Auxiliary.

As one who immigrated from Germany with my parents in the 1950's, I think it is important to preserve and honor the traditions and culture of my ancestors. The German Society, which has served generations of German Americans, provides many opportunities to do just that. I firmly believe in, and strive to live by, the Goethe quotation which the German Society has used as its motto for many years: "*Was du ererbt von deinen Vätern hast, erwirb es, um es zu besitzen*". —**Doris Simon**

As co-chair of the Library Committee, I headed the Library Renovation and Cataloging Project from 1994-1999. It helped transform the Joseph Horner Library into a research collection of German-American history that is increasingly attracting scholars and students from everywhere. The rededication of the Library in November 2006 opened the door to new activities, making the Library accessible to the Society's members and secure funding from the German Historical Institute in Washington for sponsoring three or four fellows who use the collection for four weeks of research in the summer.

As in the past, I will provide continuity and guidance for library in the coming years. It is a great pleasure to work together both with professionals on the library committee and the many gifted and enthusiastic volunteers during the library hour for members on Saturdays. I hope we can make progress in guiding members and their children or grand children with some knowledge of German back to the treasures of the Horner Library. —**Dr. Frank Trommler**





### **Eine Schiffsreise auf der Elbe - Lichtbildervortrag von Georg Simon**

In Prag starteten wir unsere Reise auf der "Katharina von Bora". Während wir auf den Wassern der Moldau der Elbe zuglitten, nahmen wir mit einem rückwärtigen Blick Abschied von der goldenen Stadt. Diese lag im schönsten Sonnenschein, vom Hradschin überlagert.

Durch das Elbsandsteingebirge und die Sächsische Schweiz, vorbei an der Feste Königstein fahren wir weiter nach Dresden. Hier erlebten wir den einzigen Regentag unserer Reise. Aber das hielt uns nicht davon ab, all die Herrlichkeiten des "Elbflorenz" und der Residenzstadt Augusts des Starken mit Zwinger, Oper und wiederaufgebaute Frauenkirche zu bewundern. In Meissen hatten wir Gelegenheit, wertvolle Stücke des berühmten "weissen Goldes" (Meissner Porzellan) zu sehen.

In Wittenberg begegnete uns dann Katharina von Bora in Person (als Skulptur). Auch die Tür der Schlosskirche, an die Luther seine Thesen heftete, konnten wir staunend bewundern, sowie eine Skulptur des Malers und Lutherfreundes Lukas Cranach.

In Magdeburg angekommen erfuhren wir, dass dies die Heimatstadt des General von Steuben ist. Dann war der Mittellandkanal zu überqueren. In einem Schiffshebewerk wurden wir zu dem Zweck 18 Meter angehoben. Mich hat das sehr beeindruckt.

Alle Liebhaber Berlins (und wer gehört nicht dazu?) werden uns beneiden um unseren Abstecher nach dort – mit dem neuen Regierungsviertel, Sony Center, Alexanderplatz alles bei strahlendem Sonnenschein.

Diesem Sonnenschein haben wir es zu verdanken, dass Georg Simon so gestochen klare Bilder aufnehmen konnte, dass man meinte, selbst mit von der Partie zu sein.

Fazit: ein perfekter Konversationsabend!

—Inge Niebisch

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### March

Fri. March 28      *Konversationsabend*: The comedy "*Der zerbrochene Krug*" by Heinrich von Kleist will be performed by the theater group of the Elmshorn High School from Germany

### April

Sat. April 5      *Hamburger Abend: Ein Abend an der Waterkant*, 7:00pm

Fri. April 11      Film Fest, "*Deutschland. Ein Sommermärchen*", 6:30pm  
A documentary on the German national team's World Cup 2006 journey, all the way from boot camp in Sardinia to the third-place play-off.

Mon. April 21      Spring Semester of Adult Language Classes Begins

Tues. April 22      Women's Auxiliary Bus Trip — Annapolis, MD

Sat. April 26      AATG High School Scholarship Awards Ceremony, 10:00am

Sat. April 26      Spring Semester of Youth Language Classes Begins

Sun. April 27      "Wister and More!" Concert Series presents The Wister Quartet, 3:00pm  
Turina, Mozart, and Schubert

Mon. April 28      *Konversationsabend*, "*Das multi-kulturelle Leben in Deutschland*", 7:00pm  
Panel discussion with Dr. Guenter Finke, Tony Michels, and Hardy von Auenmueller

### May

Sat. May 3      Women's Auxiliary Anniversary Luncheon, 12:00 noon

Sun. May 4      Annual Membership Meeting/Election of Directors and Officers in the Ratskeller, 3:00pm

Fri. May 9      Film Fest, "Witness", 6:30pm  
Samuel Lap is a young Amish boy who witnesses a murder in Philadelphia while traveling with his mother, Rachel. A good cop, named John Book, must go with them into hiding when the killers come after them. All three retreat to Amish country and Book has to adjust to the new life style, and his feelings for the boy's mother.

Sun. May 18      "Wister and More!" Concert Series presents The Philadelphia Trio, 3:00pm  
Beethoven, Turina, and Schumann

Mon. May 26      Closed for Memorial Day holiday

Wed. May 28      *Konversationsabend*, "*Der deutsche anti-Hitler Regime Widerstand aus Sicht der USA*", 7:00pm

### June

Fri. June 13      Film Fest, Film TBA, 6:30pm

Spring 2008

The Library is now open to members and the public on Saturdays from 9:30am—12:30pm.

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**The German Society of  
Pennsylvania**

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## **The Benefit of a Bequest**

Bequests allow individuals to make much larger gifts than they could during their lifetime. This is particularly appealing if you want your gift to “amount to something”, but haven’t had the means to make a substantial donation before.

Bequests provide the opportunity to honor or memorialize a loved one through the establishment of a fund. They enable savvy donors to avoid federal and state estate taxes. As with other financial decisions, it is important to consult legal counsel to maximize the benefits of estate planning.

Furthermore, in most cases, the last communication you have with your children is through your will. Bequests to the German Society are a way of telling your loved ones what is important to you. They also allow you to decide what your legacy will be and the kind of impact you will have on the future. You can earmark your bequest for facilities, the library, programs, scholarships, or simply where they are most needed.

In connection, we wish to acknowledge the generosity of two members who made provisions for the Society in their wills and have since passed on.

**Marie Beucler**, a longtime member, was kind enough to bestow a gift on the Society of \$13,500 which will be used to further enhance our programs and building needs.

**Wilma Ruoff**, a Society and very active Women’s Auxiliary member who died last year, asked her daughter, Yvonne Katermann to recognize her last wishes. In learning about the needs of our organization, especially the Library, Ms. Katermann was gracious enough to make a \$10,000 contribution in honor of her mother to this year’s Annual Fund.

We gratefully acknowledge these gifts.



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