



Neuer Pennsylvanischer

Staatsbote

Internet: www.germansociety.org

Spring 2009

President's Farewell

Dear Society Members and Friends: After four years as CEO of our Society, my time of working with you in that position will shortly come to an end. I leave behind a viable organization that has become very dear to me. I shall continue to work with and support the new leadership to the best of my capabilities.

Looking back, I can honestly say that I have tried my best and set my aims high. My endeavors were not always crowned with success. No one is so exposed to the obstinacy of events as a person getting things done. I have always given everything I had, putting the task at hand first, and my duty, before my inclinations. I did not spare myself. Therefore, I felt I could fairly ask others to exert themselves as well.

In the thick of fray, neither you nor I could possibly avoid the occasional slight or misunderstanding. But when our efforts were successful—a problem solved—we forgot all our troubles. Even if the outward signs of success were not discernible, we felt richly rewarded. All of us have made progress, and with us, the institution we endeavored to serve.

I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation, especially to those of you who supported my difficult, and sometimes thankless task—who aided me and fought by my side. Please accept my sincere good wishes for the prosperity of the German Society, whose fortunes I shall continue to follow with lively interest. —Hardy von Auenmueller

Signs of the economic slowdown are everywhere. The professional service firms in Philadelphia are shedding staff, retailers are struggling and the city government is contemplating draconian measures. While economists, as usual, differ on the duration of the recession, most agree it will get worse before it gets better.

So far Philadelphia appears to be doing better than the national economy, particularly its housing market.



However, the recently proposed increases in real estate taxes (19% for 2009, and an additional 14% in 2010) are likely to be a drag on our local economy. Why will the City not eliminate the 10-year tax abatements for new construction, or make substantial cuts in variable costs to balance its operational budget? We did it successfully (see my mission statement of 2005)!

Unfortunately, our investment portfolio has shrunk substantially over the past 15 months. While we are, at

this time, not as dependent upon said endowment for support of our operating budget as we were only a few years ago, the loss of considerable income from that source still poses a significant challenge.

Given the economic uncertainties now facing us, your support in the **Annual Fund Drive** means more than ever to the Society. As of this writing, we have collected only \$27,000 (see list of donors on page 3). While we appreciate very much the giving of those who have generously contributed so far, it should be noted that said sum represents only a fraction of the \$72,000 total we garnered last year.

Hence, I would like to encourage each and every one of you who understands our situation and wants to participate in this year's campaign to do so as soon as possible.

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This \$45,000 shortfall in our operating budget for fiscal year 2008/09 will be difficult to bridge. Please remember - "A cheerful giver is a healthier person!"

On the other hand, I am delighted to let you know that we have made good—albeit painfully slow—progress on our **Elevator Project** over the past four months. All the mechanical work on our "Beichl Tower" has now been completed (as pictured here and on the front page).



There are still many items though, which the general contractor, and his subs, need to re-work or touch up.

Tri-State, whom we contracted to install the Thyssen-Krupp hoist, should be finished with its work by early April. Then we will call in the state inspector to give us the necessary certification for use. Whenever this happens I will be able to breathe again, more freely..., and we, especially the senior members of our So-

ciet, will then enjoy a more comfortable access to the various levels of our building.

Assuming that all goes well, we are planning to hold a dedication ceremony on the day of our **Annual Members' Meeting**, which is scheduled for **Sunday, April 26, at 3:00pm**. Further details on this celebration will be sent to you by e-mail. They will also be posted on our website. Please stay tuned!

Beyond that, I am pleased to report that we have just received another grant from the **William Penn Foundation** which will partially fund another major capital investment project: the long discussed replacement of six **Auditorium Windows**, and the refurbishing of its detailed millwork, where indicated.

Together with the \$25,000 funding commitment from our Women's Auxiliary we hope to realize this project still this summer. We certainly plan again to take advantage of the current economic situation by negotiating the cost down to an acceptable level.

We also received smaller grants for various other projects:

- a) \$30,000 from NRW for the continuation of our cataloging endeavor of the 1990's, specifically the Carl Schurz Collection
- b) \$5,000 from DCED (facilitated by Senator Fumo's office) to upgrade our computer network system and the microfilming capabilities in our library;
- c) \$4,500 from PHMC for cataloging the files of our former *Arbeitsagentur* (Labor Exchange Office) dating back to the period of 1860 to WWI; and

d) \$9,532 from the Philadelphia Cultural Fund in support of our general operating budget.

It is noteworthy that the latter grant represents a 50% increase over the prior year. This clearly underscores the respect which Mayor Nutter holds for the Arts Community as a whole, and the economic power which it represents by providing employment to almost 20% of Philadelphia's work force.

Last but not least, I wish to report that our space rental program continues to grow. As you know, it represents a major, and increasing source in revenue for the Society, and this is sorely needed in times of economic stress. However, in order to safeguard our newly furnished premises it is important that we have "chaperones" for each and every event.

While in the past, these chaperoning duties were almost exclusively performed by a handful of people, we are beginning to exhaust their volunteering effort, and therefore, I would appreciate it very much if other members of the Society were to step forward and offer a helping hand. Please contact Sharan, who in her new position as Business Manager, runs this program. She can also tell you from her own experience how interesting and rewarding such an engagement can be.

—Hardy von Auenmueller

P.S. Incidentally, you may have learned from the media that the German Society has been selected to be part of the **Hidden City** program, for which we will also need volunteers (see story on page 4).

Annual Fund Donors (Listing as of 3/25/09)

HIDDENCITY PHILADELPHIA

Hidden City, a summer arts festival featuring world-class artists at various unknown architectural and historical sites throughout the city, is scheduled for Saturdays and Sundays, May 30 - June 28, 2009.

The locations selected for Hidden City were all important landmarks in neighborhoods at one time, but their significance - and in some cases their existence - has been forgotten over the years, making them hidden to the people who walk, run, or drive by them everyday. "This festival is really about rediscovering Philadelphia", said Thaddeus Squire, GSP member and Artistic Executive Director of Peregrine Arts. "It started with the simple realization that there are many great places here that the average resident or tourist likely doesn't know or hasn't seen. We hope that through new works of art people will have the opportunity to experience the overlooked in a way that gives them a deeper understanding of the city and its neighborhoods."

The "hidden" sites include: Armory First Troop Philadelphia City Calvary, Disston Saw Works, Founder's Hall at Girard College, Metropolitan Opera House on North Broad Street, Mother Bethel AME Church, Philadelphia Inquirer, Royal Theater (the first African American-run theater in Philadelphia), Shiloh Baptist Church, and last but not least, the German Society of Pennsylvania.

Each site will feature performing and/or visual artists, who have created dance, music, sculpture, video, print, and mixed media pieces inspired by

the history and architecture of their selected sites. The artists are well-known in Philadelphia and around the world for their visionary and provocative work.

The German Society will host "Der Sandman", a film installation in the Horner Library by African-Canadian artist, Stan Douglas. The installation (running time: 10 minutes) was shot on 16mm film in the old Ufa studios near Potsdam.

The piece investigates the intersection of history and memory against the backdrop of post-Cold War Germany. The plot fuses E.T.A. Hoffmann's tale of the same name as well as the social impulses behind the 19th-century German urban planning, which instituted the *Schrebergärten*, plots of leasable land on which the poor could grow their own food. Projected as two separate but intersecting videos, the film shows the garden at different chronological points (during the 1960s and as a construction site some 20 years later). Ultimately, "Der Sandman" contemplates the transformative effects of history.

During each of these weekends, the GSP will be in need of volunteers to welcome visitors to the building and direct them to the Library presentation. Each volunteer will be trained and will receive access to a volunteer appreciation party, a free deck from the Hidden City Philadelphia card game, and one free collectible poster.

If you are interested in participating in an unprecedented event that will connect contemporary art and the unknown past of historical sites around our city, please contact me by email (info@germansociety.org), or phone (215-627-2332). —Sharan Knoell

The Pastorius-Haus in Bad Windsheim

Are you planning to travel in Germany? Why not stay a day or two in the Pastorius-Haus in Bad Windsheim, located in southern Germany near Rothenburg and Nürnberg. Visitors can stay at the Pastorius Haus for \$25 per night, which includes a great breakfast.

They can easily accommodate groups with single rooms, double rooms, dormitories, seminar space and a lounge with a TV.

The building is a lovely, restored *Fachwerkhaus* (half-timbered house). It was originally building in 1668 by the father of Franz Daniel Pastorius, then mayor of Windsheim. The original purpose of the house was to provide shelter for unmarried women and widows of the town after the 30 Years War in Germany. Over the centuries, it has served as barracks for French soldiers under Napoleon, as housing for the poor, and to lodge refugees of both world wars.

The building enjoys historic preservation status. It was acquired by the Pastorius Home Association from the city of Bad Windsheim in 1983, the year of the Tricentennial of German Immigration, and restored at a cost of over \$1,000,000.

Today, the building serves as a German-American educational and cultural visitors center. Students and adults of all ages can make use of the home when they travel to Europe, study or just spend an enjoyable time.

For more information, please call the Pastorius Home Association at 610-767-6981 or send an email to geramunion@aol.com.

Annual Members' Meeting and Elections

At the Annual Meeting of the Members of the German Society of Pennsylvania, scheduled to be held on Sunday, April 26, 2009, a variety of matters will be discussed, including the election of Officers and Directors. In preparation, the Board of Directors discussed extensively the positions to be filled, the requirements of each position, the time commitments required, and the talent and expertise available, amongst other items. Principal concern focused on the senior Officers' positions, and in particular the position of President. The current office holder has, for the last four years, essentially served as a full-time Officer. Since he has indicated that he will not stand for re-election to the office of President, it became apparent that the duties of President needed review, as it did not appear that any member of the Society would be willing to assume the extensive responsibilities which the current President has willingly and enthusiastically accepted - to the great benefit of the Society.

Following extensive discussion, involving the Nominating Committee, the Executive Committee, and the Board of Directors, the Board has resolved that the current duties of the President be divided into three separate positions, Chair of the Board, President, and Executive Vice President, which would permit taking their respective talents, desires, and available time into consideration. Briefly stated, the names and functions of these positions will be as follows;

1. **Chair of the Board:** This individual shall represent the Society in external relations, particularly involving governmental agencies, and head various fund-raising activities as to members, foundations, and others. S/he shall be responsible for the activities of the Board of Directors, shall manage publicity for the Society, and function in any other capacity as the Board of Directors may designate.
2. **President:** The President shall serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the Society, and shall exercise such responsibilities as are set forth in Article VII, Section 7.1(A) of the By Laws.
3. **Executive Vice President:** This individual shall serve as Chief Operating Officer, having responsibility for the daily operations of the Society. S/he also shall act for the President when the latter is not available.

No amendments to the By Laws are required to provide for such offices and functions, as Article 2, Section 1-A specifically authorizes the Board of Directors to designate such Officers other than President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer as the Board may deem appropriate.

Further, following the report of the Nominating Committee, the Board recommends that the following individuals be nominated for election at the forthcoming Meeting of the Membership of the Society, to serve in the position and the term specified for each nominee.

Chair of the Board (serving a two year term) – Hardy von Auenmueller

President (serving on an interim basis for a term of six months) – Ernest Weiler

Executive Vice President (serving a two year term) – Tony Michels

Treasurer (serving a two year term) – Doris Simon

Secretary (serving a one year term) – Karl Spaeth (incumbent)

Vice President of Finance (serving a two year term) – Lew Volgenau (incumbent)

Incumbent Directors (serving a three year term, Class of 2012) – Charles Becker, Allen Krumm, and Hella Volgenau

New Director Candidates (Classes of 2012, 2011, and 2010, depending on number of votes cast) – Joseph De-Maria, Bill Hardham, Dennis Keough, James Niessen, and Timothy Rausch

It should also be noted that, following election by the Members of the Society, any vacancies then existing or occurring before the next Meeting of the Membership, may be filled by the Board of Directors, as provided by Article VI of the Bylaws.

—Karl H. Spaeth, Secretary

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Five years ago, as a newly elected director, I saw the Society as a rudderless vessel—sailing in uncharted waters and losing money to the tune of \$80,000 to \$100,000 per year. Hence, in the spring of 2005, I offered my services to be its helmsman. I pledged to restore fiscal responsibility and improve communications by drastically cutting discretionary costs, increasing revenue, expanding programs, launching a meaningful volunteer support program, and restoring the Women's Auxiliary to its rightful place within our Society.

All of this, and a complete financial turn-around of the Society, were accomplished within the first year. Implementing a business plan which included operational goals and the capital requirements for major projects, as well as potential funding sources, has brought our Society to where it is today.

After four years as a full time, hands-on manager it is time for me to pass the torch to two younger colleagues. I will gladly share the leadership responsibility for the Society with them—albeit mostly in an advisory capacity—as **Chairman of the Board**, if you so desire. —Hardy von Auenmueller

I envision the GSP to be a significant contributor to cultural, historical and social offerings in the greater Philadelphia area. We need to grow our membership and strive for broader participation in our programs and activities by the public at large.

I am committed to build on the achievements of the recent past, with special emphasis on the completion of building and infrastructure enhancements currently under way or planned. I am proud to have served as the chief fundraiser and grant writer for the past four or five years.

As we look ahead, I intend to focus on four overarching themes: 1) Enhance our operational effectiveness; develop a functional business plan, which is aligned with our mission as well as actionable goals for our various committees. 2) Strengthen the contributions of our talented members of the Board of Directors and develop a viable succession plan. 3) Seek innovative ways to enhance the value and contributions of our generous volunteers and most importantly expand this critical group. 4) Improve our financial position. As **Interim President**, I also intend to support fundraising activities as appropriate and help address a long-term goal to build a GPS Endowment Fund.

—Dr. Ernest Weiler



There are good people, bad people and people from Krefeld. Until 16 months ago, I lived in the Lower Rhein region. As I was born just outside the Krefeld city limits in St. Toenis, I have been influenced by the landscape and the residents of that region for my first 53 years. I enjoy a strong network of contacts in Krefeld developed over years of experience, and you can imagine that I must have had a very strong reason to leave that environment. That reason is named Patty, a Philadelphian. We have been married now for 14 months and we are building a new life here. In Germany, I was active in local politics, served as a volunteer in the German Agency for Technical Relief and have been an avid fan of the Borussia Mönchengladbach soccer team for the past 40 years. Having been elected last year to the Board of the German Society gave me opportunities to exchange ideas with people of similar backgrounds, to maintain a connection to my homeland and to further develop the sharing of information, ideas, and culture between Germany and Pennsylvania. This year I am able and willing to take on more responsibilities for the further development of our Society, and I will be a candidate for the position of **Executive Vice President**. —Anton Michels

I am very much committed to helping the German Society of Pennsylvania realize its vision statement, having been a member of the Board when that statement was approved. My special interest lies in the area of music and cultural matters generally, and I currently serve as Chair of the Music Committee. Most of my professional experience was as a corporate lawyer, with particular emphasis on the activities of corporate secretary, and I expect to bring that expertise the position of **Secretary** of the Society.

—Karl H. Spaeth, Esq.



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 25 years as Director, 1st and 2nd Vice President, and twice previously as **Treasurer**. I am currently a Director and also volunteer my time in the office in a variety of accounting functions. I am a member of the Finance and Music Committees. Additionally, I am 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”. Translated, the adage says “Whatever you have inherited from your forefathers, earn it so that it will be truly yours.” —Doris Simon



The current recession has driven home the importance of not letting expenses exceed income. As **Vice President of Finance**, I work with the Finance and Executive Committees to prepare balanced budgets and monitor our investment portfolio. Good financial management the past several years has allowed us to not have to dip into our endowment funds to finance operations. Despite the recent market setbacks, my vision for the future remains: to grow our endowment to where the income generated would cover building operating expenses. The success in financing the elevator project shows that our Society members will rally to the challenge of funding a major capital improvement. I am optimistic that we will be able to fulfill the Mission of the Society into the future. —Dr. Lewis Volgenau

I have seen many new and exciting improvements at the Society in relation to the Facility as well as Community and Civic Programs, Financial Fund Raising initiatives, and endeavors to make ourselves better known to the public. The initiatives are born out of the imagination and determination of those members who take an active interest in the German Society. I’ve been a member for many years and have seen the Society survive many challenges. As a member of the Board of Directors, I am able to participate in the new and exciting future that lies ahead. I see many opportunities ahead and wish to continue to serve on the Board of Directors to be a part of the decision making team that takes the German Society into the future. —Charles W. Becker, Jr.



I would like to continue to support the German Society in its various programs aimed at preserving German heritage and culture. The progress made over the past few years in terms of building improvements and establishing a sound financial basis should serve as both an encouragement and a source of motivation for all the members of the Society. —Allen Krumm

As a member of the German Society of Pennsylvania and the Woman's Auxiliary of the German Society of Pennsylvania since February 2000, I have been involved in fundraising activities, maintenance projects, and supporting cultural events at the Society; in particular, keeping the building and its premises clean and presentable so that others can enjoy the many activities the Society offers. Ever since I was elected to the Board in 2003, I have worked diligently to support our Mission Statement : to serve our members and our community, especially those who share our interest in our German heritage and culture. This is important to the longevity and well-being of the Society and I will direct my energy to serve the stated goals of the Society. —Hella Volgenau



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As a member of the GSP for the past 12 years, I currently serve on the Membership Committee. I am also Secretary and a past President of the Zenger Law Society. I interpret the mission of the Society to be one which strives to act as the premier organization to further the German culture, not only in Philadelphia, but throughout the state and nation; to provide an environment for socializing in a truly German atmosphere and to maintain a prominent public image as a monument to the centuries long contributions of German immigrants and German Americans to the social and cultural fabric of our nation. This encompasses the development of a closer relationship to other German cultural and social organizations, especially in PA, in order to foster cooperation and mutual support. If elected, I would strive to implement such a vision. —Joseph DeMaria, Esq.

Grüss Gott! The German Society has made much progress since my first visit in 1980 as a college student. The remarkable transformation from a quiet building with a beautiful, dark library to a lively cultural institution is very impressive. I would like to help build upon the past improvements.

1) Expansion of German and other cultural offerings including broadened German language programs, more visiting speakers, art exhibits, and performances. 2) Marketing of the venerable facility for more social events including German-oriented gatherings, weddings, meetings, etc. 3) Increase participation from among the many native Germans living and working in the region. 4) Enhance and upgrade the physical site to meet the Society's needs in the new century. I look forward to contributing to the Board and continuing my language studies at the Society. —Dennis Keough



Soon after arriving in the US in 1892 from the Rhineland, my grandfather Emil Niessen moved with parents and siblings into their first Philadelphia home, a few blocks away from the GSP. The Society's archives reveal Emil's brother Leo took the opportunity of registering himself with its *Arbeitsbüro* in 1894. My research in the archives convinces me we possess an under-appreciated treasure for research in family and social history. Emil and Leo were GSP members long ago, while I joined in 2007. I'm a librarian and historian specializing in European studies and *Germanistik* at Rutgers University in New Brunswick and chair of the German-North American Resources Project, a consortium of large research libraries seeking collaborations across the ocean in the area of libraries and collections. I hope my heritage and professional concerns will help me contribute to the progress of the Society. —Dr. James P. (Jim) Niessen

Although my surname is English, my genealogical research shows that I am 10% German, so part of my interest in things German has a genetic basis. Also, as a newly minted PhD chemist in 1961, I spent a year doing research in a Max Planck Institute in Germany and developed an appreciation for German science and culture (and beer and wine too!). Since joining GSP about 15 years ago, I have served food at several Christmas bazaars and recently have been helping to paint the interior and exterior of our treasured building. Because I believe that for organizations like the GSP to prosper, members must give their work, wealth and wisdom, I accept the invitation to stand for the Board. I will do my best to further the understanding of German and German American contributions to the growth of American history and culture. —Bill Hardham



For the past two years, I served as Treasurer. However, due to the increase in tuition payments for my two teenage sons, I had to take a second job, and will no longer be able to dedicate as much time to the Society as I wish. I am delighted to hear that Doris Simon, who helped me immensely during my two year term, has agreed to serve again as our Treasurer. I'll make sure that transition goes smoothly. On the other hand, I would like to remain an active member of the Board, serve on the Finance Committee, and help with other activities, such as grounds cleanup and chaperoning. —Timothy N. Rausch, Esq.

The Women of the Auxiliary –Who We Are

It has been suggested we write a short article about the Women's Auxiliary that describes our organization, our active members, and our activities to those who contemplate joining our ranks or are just curious to learn who we are.

Well, most of us are native Germans who immigrated in the decades after WWII. As we hail from different areas in Germany, we may speak any number of dialects but are, of course, united by High German. However, all our business and other meetings are conducted in English. There is a wealth of difference in our backgrounds, such as upbringing, education, and customs that contributes to enriching our interactions.

We are fortunate also having among us "real" Americans, i.e., those born here. These ladies are vital to us because they are usually younger and, therefore, represent our Auxiliary's future. Some of them have German roots; others simply have a love of the German language and culture.

As far as our professions are concerned – we are either still actively working or retired - we run the gamut from homemaker, secretary, dental technician, teacher, business-woman, lawyer, social worker, nurse, professor, pharmacist, artist, and researcher to managers in different fields. We pursue a range of extracurricular activities from hiking, reading, traveling, music, art, and so on, to the one activity that unites us all – **volunteering!**

A follow-up question to who we are usually is, "What do you do?" The last word in the previous paragraph summarizes the answer, "we volunteer." If you are willing to work with us, we will find a place for you to make use of your talents. And, in answer to those who claim not to have any specific talents at all, we reply that we have not yet come across a single person who has not been able to contribute in one way or another. Also, while working together, we get to know each other forming friendships, and we always have fun and many good laughs, too.

Although we are an independent organization founded in 1900 with the encouragement of then-president of the German Society, Charles J. Hexamer, we actively contribute to the German Society in many ways by supporting fundrais-

ers, organizing social programs for members such as the popular Hamburger Abend, participating in committees, and lending a hand wherever and whenever there is a need.

However, we also organize our own events, such as our Anniversary Luncheon in May, our *Christkindlmarkt*, and bus trips. We contribute to a number of local charities and, through the German Society, provide scholarships for deserving college students whose major or double major is German.

Delving back into history, the Auxiliary held its first Christmas Bazaar in 1901, shortly after its founding, to raise much-needed funds for necessary building repairs. The ladies were proud to hand over to the Society the impressive sum of \$7,000, a testament to their ingenuity and hard work.

Starting in 1902, each Bazaar was followed by a "Bescherung," a Christmas celebration with entertainment that culminated in the distribution of gifts of clothing, food, and toys to poor families, widows, orphans, and elderly couples. This tradition was discontinued after the advent of public assistance and Social Security.

During and after World Wars I and II, the women not only raised cash but also had active sewing circles, meeting twice a week, to contribute to the overseas relief efforts of the Quakers.

The above is a brief summary of our activities – then and now - but we welcome further questions. Our meetings, usually held once a month on Saturday mornings, are open to those interested in getting an initial impression of our organization. If you like what you see, why not join us?

Or, if your time permits, we encourage you to attend our **109th Anniversary Luncheon on Saturday, May 16**, at noon. We promise you a good time with fine food, musical entertainment, singing, and socializing. In a repeat performance of last year, male GSP Board members and volunteers will again dazzle us with their waiters' skills, serving our meals with expertise and great *élan!*

—Renate Genieser

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Freizeit für Kinder

As we recognize that young people are the future of our historic Society, producing new programs that appeal to this fresh audience is a top priority.

Therefore, we would like to hold our first annual Summer Camp, “Freizeit für Kinder”.

The camp will run in the summer, and all kids ages 3-12 (regardless of ability) are invited to participate.

We would like to hold the camp from 9:00am-12:00pm Monday-Friday for one week in July.

If you have children or grandchildren who would like to be part of this venture, please let me know. We are also open to your feedback on this program.

Furthermore, for those of you with youngsters under the age of three who wish to expose them to the German language, GSP members Daniel and Anne Dorn are planning to form a Playgroup for toddlers.

The Dorns are located in University City. They have two toddler daughters, and are willing to host this group at the German Society or in various parks around the City. Please let me know if you have an interest in such a group as well.

As you can see, the Youth Language Program of our Society is certainly flourishing, and we look forward to adding more opportunities for kids.

Please don't forget that the Spring Session of German classes for ages 3-12 will begin on Saturday, April 25 and run for 10 weeks. Again, registration is open to kids of all ages and abilities.

We look forward to seeing you and your children here in the months to come. —Sharan Knoell

Film Festival on June 5th

When you think of German films, several probably come to mind: *Das Boot*, *Der Untergang*, *Der blaue Engel*, *Das Leben der Anderen*, etc. But, there are other films that don't seem to register on our radar—comedies. Unfortunately, Germans are not known for their comedies and their sense of humor in the movie world.

In June, we hope to prove the contrary, and introduce you to three German comedies which will illustrate to you that Germans do, indeed, have a sense of humor!

The first film we will show is *Das merkwürdige Verhalten geschlechtsreifer Großstädter zur Paarungszeit*. Yes, it's quite a title and also a truly funny little movie about relationships and the interconnectedness of us all.

The second film is *The Kebab Connection*, a comedic tale about a boy not ready for fatherhood and a feud between a Turkish and Greek restaurant located across the street from each other in the city of Hamburg.

The third is *Männer wie wir*. When Ecki gets kicked off his hometown soccer team after a misunderstanding in the locker room, he forms his own team of misfits and challenges his old team.

For those of you who do not like to drive at night, we will show the first film at 3pm, and the second at 5pm. At 6:30, we will host our regular Film Fest with the Women's Auxiliary and their homemade salads and desserts. The third film will be shown at 8:00pm.

We encourage you to join us for this special 3-in-1 deal and hope that you will enjoy spending the afternoon and evening laughing with us in the Rat-skeller. —Sharan Knoell

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.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

April

- Sat. April 4 Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10:00am
- Sat. April 4 "Ein Abend an der Waterkant: Hamburger Abend", 7:00pm
Menu includes: *Würstchen*, potato salad, goulash soup, and desserts.
- Fri. April 17 "Wister and More!" Series presents Cole Porter Trio, 7:00pm
Selections by artists from Schubert to Tchaikovsky, Kern to Mancini
- Mon. April 20 Spring Session of Adult Evening German Classes Begins
Beginner to conversational levels available for all ages and abilities
- Wed. April 22 *Konversationsabend*, "Keine Angst vor der Zukunft—die Bamberger Apokalypse aus dem Jahre 1000", Prof. Karlfried Froehlich, 7:00pm
- Fri. April 24 Friday Film Fest, "The Good German", 6:30pm
U.S. Army correspondent Jake Geismar gets caught in a web of intrigue with ex-flame Lena set in post-World War II Berlin
- Sat. April 25 Spring Session of Saturday Youth German Classes Begins
Classes for 4-7 year olds and Pre-Teens available
- Sun. April 26 Annual Members' Meeting, 3:00pm
- April 27— May 7 Trip to Eastern Germany—Weimar, Leipzig, Dresden, and Berlin
With side trips to Görlitz, Wittenberg, and Eisenach

May

- Sun. May 3 "Wister and More!" Series presents The Wister Quartet, 3:00pm
Selections by Gesensway, Mozart, and Dvorak
- Fri. May 8 Friday Film Fest, "Die Luftbrücke", 6:30pm
Historic drama about a difficult love affair between a German woman and an American soldier during the Berlin Airlift
- Sat. May 16 108th Anniversary Luncheon of the Women's Auxiliary
- Thurs. May 21 *Konversationsabend*, "Das Ende der Schlaflosigkeit - Roman von Helmut Marrat", 7:00pm
Presentation and reading by the author
- Sun. May 24 "Wister and More!" Series presents The Wister Quartet, 3:00pm
Selections by Mozart, Dohnanyi, Dvorak, and Griffes

June

- Fri. June 5 Friday Film Fest, Three Films: A Look at German Comedies, films and times TBA
- Sat. June 6 Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10:00am
- Sat. June 20 *Konversationsabend*, *Wandertag*: Hike Along the Delaware River (starting at Bulls Island State Park on Rte. 29 north of Stockton, NJ), 10:00am
- Sat. June 27 *Sommerfest* in our garden "unter den Linden", 2:00pm-10:00pm
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**The German Society of
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The **Neuer Pennsylvanischer Staatsbote** is published by the German Society of Pennsylvania. The German Society reserves the right to edit all submissions.

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

Wartime Treatment Study Act

Most Americans know of the 100,000 Japanese-Americans who were needlessly rounded up and imprisoned after Pearl Harbor. Americans are far less aware that comparable numbers of German-Americans suffered similar mistreatment. Not one of those German-Americans was ever prosecuted for subversive activities. Many signed secrecy agreements as a condition of their release. Their injury and loss deserve remembrance and amends no less than those of other vulnerable immigrant groups.

Passage of the Wartime Treatment Study Act is an ever more pressing piece of unfinished business. Senators Feingold (D-WI) and Grassly (R-IA) have repeatedly introduced this legislation. Congressman Wexler (D-FL) has sponsored it in the House of Representatives. Five times since 2001, the legislation has been thus introduced. It has been cleared for unanimous consent on the Democratic side but not the Republican side of the aisle. It would be an immense shame if this legislation were not passed while some victims of those arbitrary internments still live.

—Edmund Cohen

Please note: The father of GSP member Al Taubenberger was one such victim. He was interned for over one year. —HvA



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED