



## Chairman's Comments

As a young high school student more than sixty years ago, I became interested in classical music and opera. The small town in Lower Saxony where I grew up had no venue for such music. I had to travel some forty or fifty miles to Oldenburg and Bremen, respectively to experience the splendor of live performances.

I still remember my first opera: It was *Zar und Zimmermann* by Albert Lortzing. It deals with the story of the Russian Czar, Peter the Great, who as a young man went in disguise to Holland to learn the shipbuilding trade.

At that time, I was fascinated with the music and the story's romantic allure. I also recall that its *Uraufführung* took place in Leipzig where the composer lived—a century before I was born on the outskirts of that city.

Little did I know that many years later, I would marry *Gudrun*, whose maiden name is *Zimmermann*. Of course, our friends immediately dubbed us as the "Z~Z" couple. And here I am today, learning the shipbuilding trade in Philadelphia—as a retired septuagenarian. (For the past two years, I've been heading up the US operations of a Rostock/Germany based marine outfitting company working on chemical parcel tankers being built here at the old Navy Yard site.) Who knows what else is going to be in store for me?

These days, whenever I go to the Academy of Music or the Kimmel

—Cont'd on page 2

## President's Message

After a harsh winter with many days of brutal temperatures and snow, it is wonderful to see the first signs of spring. Our elections for a new slate of officers and directors will take place on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM. The insert lists all the candidates for the specified positions. We have also asked each candidate to prepare a short vision statement. I am hopeful that we have a good turnout for this election. We also will need to update and revise our corporate By-laws. This will be an important topic at our Membership Meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

I would like to acknowledge and thank four directors and officers of the Society who will not stand for reelection for their services as members of our Board of Directors: Dennis Keough, Frank Klare, Brigitte Masci, and Frank Trommler.

Our annual fund drive is still in progress, many of you have responded with generous donations, for which we are most thankful. Our goal this year is \$55,000, and to date, we have received slightly over \$40,000. If you have not contributed, please consider a donation as we use these funds to balance our yearly operating budget. Through memberships, the annual fund drive and diverse activities we need to raise approximately \$ 340,000 per year to remain in the black, which is our all important goal.

As noted in the previous issue of the *Staatsbote*, Ulrich Both provided a

—Cont'd on page 2

## Building News

Our building is changing – we must continue to step into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. During the months of July and August, 2011, we will finally tackle the next major renovation project inside the building. The more than 50 year old and completely outdated restrooms will be remodeled. This project was scheduled to begin last summer. However, due to conditions discovered during the demolition of the Schlaraffia room, the bathroom project had to be postponed for a year in order to find construction solutions and secure funding to deal with the unexpected surprises buried behind the wall covers.

After intense consideration of many options, we agreed on keeping the powder room in front of the ladies room and adding a unisex handicapped restroom in the hallway area close to the elevator exit.

—Tony Michels

In This Issue	Pg.
◆ Chairman's Comments	1
◆ President's Message	1
◆ Building News	1
◆ New GSP Members	3
◆ WAUX Luncheon	3
◆ By-law Changes	4
◆ Annual Meeting	5
◆ Candidates for Election	6
◆ Annual Fund Donors	9
◆ Business Manager Desk	10
◆ Muhlenberg Legacy	10
◆ Calendar of Events	11
◆ William Penn Grant	12

—*President's Message Cont'd*

generous gift of \$50,000 late last year, which enabled us to start an Endowment Fund with the Philadelphia Foundation. You might ask: what is an endowment? An endowment is a gift of any financial asset, which the donor specifies to be held in perpetuity for a charitable purpose. In our case the Philadelphia Foundation holds the funds for the Society. The funds are invested to earn a return of income and growth, and a percentage of the account value is provided each year to us. You might ask: why do we need an endowment? Over 90% of our revenues are derived from five categories – membership dues, the Annual Fund Drive, event rentals, language program and our annual *Stiftungsfest* celebration, which includes a silent auction.

By comparison all program related activities contribute only moderately to the bottom line, yet they are vital to our mission, and in fact we expect to develop additional offerings. If significant repairs or maintenance projects are required to our venerable facilities, a special fund drive is typically implemented. In recent years we have garnered sizable grants from foundations for major capital projects, but matching funds are typically required. None of these grants provide operating funds.

Other than dues, we rely heavily on our Annual Fund Drive (see acknowledgements on page 9). In the last five years, the drives have varied from \$40,000-70,000. As noted, we are currently \$15,000 short of your 2010/2011 goal. We have aggressively expanded our rental offerings, and are trying to enhance our language programs. There are, of course, capacity limits to these activities.

To free us from the year-to-year funding uncertainty, the Society has established the endowment fund. We have challenged our Board of Directors to participate in this important endeavor and to make donations or pledges. I am happy to report that at this point we have raised \$84,000 and substantial commitments.

There are many ways to participate: cash and securities are accepted; commitments to bequests through estate plans; life insurance proceeds – listing the Society as a beneficiary; charitable gift annuity, which offer an immediate tax deduction as well as an income stream to the donor; contributions from IRA accounts which also provide a tax saving. The Philadelphia Foundation offers additional options, which might be of interest.

I hope that many of you are interested in our endowment program. We plan to provide more detailed information and will initiate a solicitation campaign in the coming months. If you would like to receive further details, please call our office or Mrs. Pat Meller at the Philadelphia Foundation. Her phone number is 215-563-6417.

I remain confident that we can count on the generosity of members and friends of the Society to support the establishment of a meaningful endowment, which will help assure that our vision is realized to be recognized as the premier German-American ethnic society in the USA and to be known as a significant contributor to diverse cultural and social experiences available to all residents of the greater Philadelphia area. And most importantly, it would make us financially secure for generations to come.

—Ernest Weiler

—*Chairman's Comments Cont'd*

Center, I pick up a copy of *Playbill*. Rarely do I have a chance to read the program notes and background information before the curtain rises or the concert begins. When I go home, I have every intention of reading the booklet from cover to cover. Most of the time I don't get around to it. When I do read them, I learn things that would have made the performance so much more enjoyable had I been aware of it beforehand.

The same has been true in my experience at the German Society when attending our Sunday afternoon concerts or Friday night movies.

Most people interested in our concerts have probably noticed that we have been distributing the well written program notes—by **Lloyd Smith** and other artists—by e-mail along with the weekly announcements sent out by Sharan. While these go out to all our members who are electronically connected with us, we have decided to offer a similar service to our film *aficionados*.

For years, **Allen Krumm**, a long time Board member of our Society, has been issuing his thought provoking reviews on all the movies which we have been showing in our *Ratskeller*. These reviews are printed "in house" and distributed in pamphlet form to all our guests coming to this monthly gathering.

Since our movie nights are primarily a social event, many attendees do not have the time to read Al's review before the film begins. (Some of them might also be distracted by the alluring

—*Cont'd on page 3*

smells wafting from the *Suppenküche*, prepared by the stalwart crew of our Women's Auxiliary.)

Along with the idea of distributing an advance copy of these reviews to all GSP members by e-mail a few days prior, a request was put forward to us by the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) that we make available to them, via our website, all the reviews written on German films shown at the Society since the days when *Allen Krumm* took on this task.

Thank you, dear friend! You have been "under the radar" too long!

And while on the subject of expressing gratitude, there is another person to whom we are deeply indebted for having been our longtime, supreme *Suppenküchenchefin*. Thank you, **Renate Genieser**! Your leadership—not only in the kitchen—has been exemplary. On behalf of all your soup devotees, I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation.

May you enjoy your retirement, and indulge **Frank** with your cooking, for many years to come!

—Hardy von Auenmueller

PS: Many members have asked me in recent weeks as to whether I am going to Washington (like Mr. Smith). Apparently my write-up in the last issue of the *Staatsbote* gave them that impression when I spoke of my new affiliation with the German American Heritage Foundation (GAHF), and its new museum in that city.

No — I am staying right here in Philadelphia. As Financial Director of GAHF, I can do most of my work from home, and only occasionally do I need to travel to DC.

## A Hearty Welcome to our New Society Members!

For privacy reasons, these names have been removed.

## GHI-GSP Fellowships

As in previous years, the fellowship program of the German Historical Institute will bring several fellows to our Library between June 1 and July 15. Here is a preview of the topics on which the top contenders for the GHI-GSP Fellowship will research at the Society. Full information will follow in the summer issue of the *Staatsbote*.

One project is connected to the 500th anniversary of Luther's famous posting of 95 Theses at the gate of the Castle Church in Wittenberg in 1517. In preparation of scholarly assessments of Luther's impact on the world, the project will explore the politics of identity among Lutherans in Pennsylvania between 1742 and 1825.

Last year's assessment of our collection of German-American children's books since the 18<sup>th</sup> century by the Italian scholar Liza Candidi will have a successor this year. German-American children's books will be analyzed within a larger study about the relationship of play, citizenship, and pedagogy since the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

We hope that a project on peace making in early modern Pennsylvania will materialize, as it brings an even earlier period into focus in which German settlers shaped important policies. A familiar focus is presented by a project on the missionary educational work of the Moravian Brothers. In addition, the German Historical Institute has agreed to sponsor the continuation of a study of German industrial architecture in early 20<sup>th</sup> century Pennsylvania for which Professor Miron Mislin of the Technische Universität Berlin did work at the German Society in the summer of 2010. —Dr. Frank Trommler

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## Women's Auxiliary

### 111th Anniversary Luncheon

All are invited to our celebration luncheon and spring festival in the Barthelmes Auditorium at the Society on **May 7, 2011 at 12:00 noon**.

The event will feature our famous *Erdbeerbowle*, a delicious meal (salmon or chicken) and delectable dessert, and a sing-along of *Frühlingslieder*. The cost is \$20, and reservations are a must (deadline May 4th). For info, call Doris Simon (215-342-5140).

## **Proposed By-Laws Changes**

### **ARTICLE I Objectives of the Society**

The German Society of Pennsylvania, through its programs, activities, Library holdings as well as outreach and educational efforts, seeks to further the understanding of German and German-American contributions to U.S. history and the growth of U.S. culture.

In accomplishing its objectives, the Society engage exclusively in non-profit activities, such as charitable, educational, scientific, literary pursuits that conform to the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, of 1986, as amended, or the corresponding provisions of any subsequent or successor Federal tax laws.

### **New ARTICLE XXII Nondiscrimination**

**22.1-** Admission to and use of any Society facilities will be open to all, regardless of race, color, religious creed, or sexual preference.

**New 5.10- Action Without Meetings.** Any action required or permitted to be taken may be taken without a meeting of the Board of Directors if all of the Directors consent in writing, and if the written consents are filed with the records of the Board. Such consents shall be treated for all purposes as a vote at a meeting, and may be delivered electronically or by any other method whereby they are printed and filed with Board reports.

### **By-law Proposal for Establishing an Endowment**

#### **(New) Article XX. Endowment Fund**

A. The Society shall maintain an Endowment Fund to receive gifts of cash or publicly traded securities, tangible assets, and bequests. Investment of the fund assets shall be administered by the Treasurer in cooperation with the Finance Committee of the Society.

B. The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to support a portion of the Society's operating and/or capital expenses. Up to 5% of the average fair market value of the Fund, calculated over 20 trailing quarters, may be used each year for this purpose and for fund administration.

C. The Endowment shall continue in existence and be used as herein provided, so long as the Society shall continue to exist. In the event of the dissolution of the Society, the Endowment shall be dispersed as all other property of the Society according to Article XXI-21.3, or it may be maintained under a trustee named by the Board, and its income used to support organizations described in XXI-21.3.

### **Dissolution By-law Change Driven by the Establishment of an Endowment**

#### **Section 21.3**

**21.3** In the event of the dissolution of the Society, the Board of Directors or, in the absence thereof, governing staff shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the Society, dispose of all the assets of the Society in such manner, or to such organization(s) that are

organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, historical and cultural purposes as shall at the time qualify as (an) exempt organization(s) under § 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), and have objectives and mission similar to the Society,

as the said Board of Directors or governing staff shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the Society is then located, exclusively for such purposes as said Court shall determine.

### **New ARTICLE XXII Nondiscrimination**

### **ARTICLE XXI Liability and Indemnification becomes XXIII**

### **ARTICLE XXII Amendments becomes XXIV**

### **Annual Members' Meeting and Election**

On Sunday, May 15, 2011 at 3:00pm, the German Society will hold its 2011 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 13, 2011. 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 her at [info@germansociety.org](mailto:info@germansociety.org).

A slate of candidates was presented and approved by the Board of Directors at the March 21, 2011 meeting. The vision statements and photos of the various candidates follows below.

Also, several changes in the By-Laws are necessary to reflect the proposed establishment of an Endowment Fund, as shown on the previous page.

In addition, changes in Article I -- dealing with the objectives of the Society -- are proposed. (Here the old version "to assist needy people" has to be replaced and brought in line with the current mission and objectives of our organization.)

And finally, a slightly expanded nondiscrimination clause is suggested as a new, separated Article XXII.

—Lou Oschmann, Secretary

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For the privacy of our candidates, their mission statements and photos have been removed.

## **Annual Fund Donors\***

For privacy reasons, these names have been removed.

\*This list has yielded ~\$40,000 as of 3/11/11.

## From the Desk of the Business Manager

In the 5 1/2 years I've been with the German Society, you have probably seen my name hundreds of times, attached to newsletter articles or email reminders. However, there are other interesting and noteworthy items that pass through my desk in our business office that often don't get the attention they deserve.

In February, the German Society was the recipient of a \$3,495.77 gift from the estate of **Hans Rieger**. We are in the process of doing research on Mr. Rieger to learn about his life and relationship to the German Society. If any of you knew him (he was last a resident of New York state), please contact our office.

In an effort to expand our language program, we have just entered into a formal agreement with a Dräger executive and his wife for total immersion tutoring lessons. They will be relocating to Hamburg in the summer and are undergoing approx. 200 hours of accelerated tutoring with our most seasoned teacher **Frank Brückner**. Because quality language instruction is such an essential part to conducting business in Germany, I hope to engage more professionals in arrangements like this in the future. Our language classes suffered quite a bit from the economic downturn in 2008, and increasing our tutoring offerings has brought in much-needed income to support this program. In more dramatic news, we are pleased to announce that the German Society will be a venue for a play during the Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts (April 26—May 15). The 1908 Henri Barbusse novel, entitled "**Hell**", involves an unnamed narrator who peers into a hole in the wall of his

hotel room. From the other side, he witnesses a multitude of vices and, finally, death. Only when he feels he has uncovered all the secrets of life does he decide to leave the room for good. As he attempts to leave, however, he is overcome with physical maladies.

Performing the play is **EgoPo**, a 15 year old theater company who relocated to Philadelphia in 2005 after being displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Some of you may recall (or may have attended) EgoPo's production of "Woyzeck" performed in our library in 2008. Ticketing information and opportunities to volunteer will be sent out in the coming weeks. We have two free tickets available to each performance for those of you who might be willing to "chaperone".

Lastly, I am excited to announce our **Summer Camp for Kids** from **July 11-15**. The camp will run from 9am-1pm, and we welcome children of all abilities, ages 3-12, who want to learn German. This year, we have chosen the theme "**Bleib fit—Mach mit!**".

It's a camp about being healthy and active. The children will learn how to talk about themselves, their hobbies, eat healthfully, and be active. On the last day, we will have a gallery of the artwork and projects created during the week and a performance for the parents. I am pleased to welcome Jessica Staub back as the instructor.

If you would like more information about any of the above topics or would like to get involved, I encourage you to email or call our office. I am always open to new ideas and volunteers!

—Sharan Knoell

## The Legacy of Henry Melchoir Muhlenberg

This year, the Lutheran Theological Seminary of Philadelphia (LTSP), along with Muhlenberg College, the *Franckesche Stiftungen* in Halle and countless other historic and religious organizations will use the tercentenary of **Henry Melchior Muhlenberg's** birth (1711) as an opportunity to mark the importance of his legacy.

As patriarch and pillar of Lutherism, he is widely recognized as the most influential German-American cultural figure in 18th century America. While spending 43 years in a vigorous engagement with life in colonial America, he actively participated in community affairs. He officially served as pastor to congregations in Pennsylvania and New York, but even more importantly worked as advisor to hundreds of small Lutheran settlements. The descriptions of his travels and work offer an unparalleled glimpse into the life of German settlers.

During the academic year 2011/12, LTSP will offer a series of programs, lectures and special events - starting with a Gala Dinner on September 6, 2011.

Three of his sons also led very public lives that shaped the early American Republic: John **Peter** famously abandoned the pulpit to become a colonel/general in the American Revolution, **Frederik A. C.**, as member of the Continental Congress, was elected Speaker of the First Congress and **Henry E.**, an internationally acclaimed botanist, became first president of Franklin & Marshall College.

Peter and Frederik also served as GSP presidents in the late 18th/early 19th centuries. —Hardy von Auenmüller

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### March

- Sat. March 26 Spring Clean-Up, 10am  
Sun. March 27 “Wister and More!” presents Delius Society Concert, 3pm  
Featuring Nancy Bean (violin) and Davyd Booth (piano)  
Selections include Elgar, Delius, Beethoven, Williams, and Grieg  
Wed. March 30 *Konversationsabend*, “Deutschland schafft sich ab”, 7pm

### April

- Sat. April 2 Women’s Auxiliary Monthly Meeting in the Ratskeller, 10am  
Sat. April 9 *Hamburger Abend*, 7pm  
April 11-June 30 12-Week Spring Session of German Classes for Adults (Weeknights)  
Fri. April 15 Friday Film Fest presents “Das weisse Band” at 6:30pm (German with English subtitles)  
April 16-July 2 12-Week Spring Session of German Classes for Children Ages 3-12 (Saturday mornings)  
Sun. April 17 “Wister and More!” presents the Wister Quartet, 3pm  
Selections include Turina, Rodriguez, Villoldo, Anderson, Gardel, and de Falla  
Wed. April 27 *Konversationsabend*, “Das Ende von Humboldt? Die deutsche Universitätsreform”, 7pm  
Sat. April 30 Book Club Meeting to discuss “Effi Briest” by Theodor Fontane, 1:30-3pm

### May

- Sat. May 7 Women’s Auxiliary 111th Anniversary Luncheon, 12pm  
Sun. May 8 “Wister and More!” presents the Wister Quartet, 3pm  
Selections include Puccini, Beethoven, and Brahms  
Sat. May 14 *Maifest*—Beer Tasting with Marnie Old at Noon, Other Activities Outside at 2pm  
Sun. May 15 Annual Meeting of the Membership, 3pm  
German Society Board of Directors Meeting, 4:30pm-6pm  
Fri. May 20 Friday Film Fest presents “Metropolis”, 6:30pm (Silent film with no subtitles)  
Wed. May 23 *Konversationsabend*, “Die Zukunft der German Society. Brauchen wir sie noch?”, 7pm

### June

- Fri. June 10 Friday Film Fest presents, Film TBA at 6:30pm  
Sat. June 11 *Wandertag*, 11am at The Willows in Radnor Township  
Wed. June 29 *Konversationsabend*, “Goethes Faust als Lebenshilfe. Ausgewählte Aspekte im Umfeld der heutigen Zeit“, 7pm

### July

- July 11-15 Summer German Camp for Youth  
July 18-Aug. 26 Six-Week Summer Session of German Classes for Adults (Weeknights)

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## Save the Dates!

*Oktoberfest* on Saturday, **September 17th** from 12 noon-Dusk  
247th Annual *Stiftungsfest* Dinner and Dance Gala on Saturday, **November 12** at 6:30pm



**The German Society of  
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## **Grant Award from the William Penn Foundation**

Dear Friends and Members of the German Society,

I have some wonderful news to share with you:

We were just informed that our grant application with the William Penn Foundation - for addressing the water intrusion problems in our building(s) - has been fully funded at the requested level. It is a two year project for which we will receive \$250,000 in two equal installments..., and the first payment has just been received.

It might be important to point out that the William Penn Foundation has been most generous to us in recent years. In fact, with this grant, we will have received in total slightly more than \$525,000.

It is also important to note that they have supported projects which were building safety or security related. They will not consider an application for reconstruction of our bathrooms or building a new kitchen, for which other funding sources have been secured.

We are very thankful for the consistent support of the William Penn Foundation!

—Ernie Weiler



**The German Society of Pennsylvania**

611 Spring Garden Street

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**