

The German Society of Pennsylvania

Neuer Pennsylvanischer
Staatsbote

CELEBRATING
250
YEARS OF
**GERMAN
HERITAGE**

Summer 2014

Calendar of Events

Sat. Oct. 1	Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10:00am
Mon. Oct. 3	Springerle and More Presentation, 5:00pm
Sat. Oct 8	Buchclub: Stefan Zweig's <i>Schachnovelle/Chess Story</i> , 1:30pm
Sun. Oct. 9	"Wister and More!" presents the Wister Quartet, 3:00pm
Wed. Oct. 12	Konversationsabend: Favorite Quotes, 6:00pm
Fri. Oct. 14	Friday Film Fest presents <i>Frau Müller muss weg!</i> , 6:00pm
Wed. Oct. 19	Notgeld Presentation, 2:30pm
Fri. Oct. 28	Poe Arts Festival, 5:00pm
Sat. Nov. 5	Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10:00am
Sat. Nov. 5	252nd Annual Stiftungsfest, 6:00pm
Wed. Nov. 9	Konversationsabend: Migranten sprechen, 6:00pm
Sun. Nov. 13	"Wister and More!" presents the 40th Anniversary of the Delius Society, featuring the Choral Arts Chamber Choir, 3:00pm
Sat. Nov. 12	St. Martin's Parade, 5:00pm
Fri. Nov. 18	Friday Film Fest presents <i>Michael Kohlhaas—Der Rebell</i> , 6:00pm
Sat. Dec. 3	Women's Auxiliary Christkindlmarkt, 12:00pm
Sun. Dec 11	"Wister and More!" presents the Ephrata Cloister Chorus, 3:00pm
Wed. Dec. 14	Konversationsabend: Music and Poems, 6:00pm

In this issue...

President's Message	1	VP of Development Report	4
Stiftungsfest 2016	2	Rental Income	6
Welcome New Members!	2	Website Launch	7
"Wister and More!" Series Preview	3		

Save the Date!

Christkindlmarkt

(Christmas Bazaar)

sponsored by the Women's Auxiliary
on Saturday, December 3rd from Noon to 5:00pm

Pork & Sauerkraut dinner will be served.

Kaffee & Kuchen available in the Ratskeller.

*Holiday shopping at the many booths filled with imported
chocolates, greens, gifts, and much more!*

Santa will be there for the children, and there will be crafts.

The afternoon finishes with a carol sing-along.



President's Message

In recent months, we have worked diligently on those projects that needed to be addressed before weather conditions become less predictable or could prevent certain outside work. Since the heating season is around the corner, the main focus was on completing Phase 0 of the HVAC upgrade project. The new boilers and fan coil units (which replace the old radiators) have been installed, and we will be ready by mid-October to make everything warm and cozy. At least two of the three roof-related projects will be completed by the end of September, and work on the Ratskeller and Townhouse entrances will continue. The limited funds for these two entrances are nearly exhausted, and we are now primarily dependent on volunteer efforts to bring them to completion.

The benefits we have derived over the past three years by waterproofing the building foundation are not always readily apparent. The foundation is, after all, underground. In the basement, the Ratskeller climate is much less stuffy, and the adjacent *Schlaraffia* Room will become fully usable in the future. As part of this project, we replaced the impractical Ratskeller emergency exit to Spring Garden Street with an inviting direct basement access to the Leidy Terrace. We are also bringing the Ratskeller parking lot exit up to safe, modern standards. Other improvements which were realized by the waterproofing project include the Leidy Terrace and the completely refurbished main entrance staircase. These renovations not only add security and value to our building, but also contribute substantially to the quality of life for our organization.

Many smaller problems in and around the building have been addressed during the "Big Dig", but there are still more related issues on the inside that need attention. These matters must be addressed, in part, by professionals, but also by our volunteer force. The volunteers currently serving are working hard to continue the high level of activity established during the past several years, but we need more help.



I would like to take this opportunity to encourage those able members who are not currently putting in volunteer time to consider offering some of their energy and talents in support of the German Society. Of course, that is easier said than done - many of our members are still in the workforce, and their free time is limited. Our retirees also have many demands on their time. There are areas like administration, cleaning, and equipment maintenance that need regular attention by professionals. But there are plenty of jobs to be done by volunteers that would enable us to maintain a busy schedule of activities, enhance our outreach,

and attract more people to our organization.

We, the newly reactivated “Volunteer Committee,” would love to hear and discuss your suggestions for volunteer projects, as well as your own availability to join forces with the existing volunteers to further the work of our wonderful organization.

- Tony Michels

Welcome New Members!

As many of you know, the German Society of Pennsylvania was founded in 1764 to assist German immigrants as they acclimated to an American way of life. Although the mission of the German Society has evolved since its founding, the history and tradition of the organization remain, even 252 years later! On November 5, 2016, we will celebrate and honor the founding of the oldest German-American organization in the United States with our annual Stiftungsfest.

As we celebrate 252 years, members, friends, partners, and benefactors of the Society will convene in the Horner Memorial Library for a champagne reception, followed by dinner and dancing in the ever-elegant Barthelmes Auditorium.

On this special evening, a silent auction raises funds to further the mission of the German Society. The silent auction typically features tickets to sporting events, enticing food and wine baskets, gift certificates, tickets to cultural events, extended stays at vacation homes in choice locations, and more. If you believe you have something to contribute, please consider making a donation to our Stiftungsfest silent auction.

Please make your reservations by October 21. We hope to see you at this year's Stiftungsfest!

- Liesl Jandrey



Stiftungsfest 2016

We also learned the importance of advanced planning to ensure that the dates for our own activities and programs were on the calendar and not rented out to others. Some weddings are booked a year in advance.

Caterers and equipment rental companies used at weddings needed to be carefully monitored and controlled to ensure prompt deliveries and pick-ups of only their property and not the Society's.

Several groups have had positive experiences with us and continue to be customers.

Looking ahead, we would like to augment our rental program, as it has become a good source of income for us. The completion of the Leidy Terrace gives us another venue for possible rentals. The replacement of our HVAC system should produce a habitable environment in our Auditorium and Ratskeller, enabling opportunities for rentals in the summer months.

- Lew Volgenau



Contact us at:

Phone: 215-627-2332

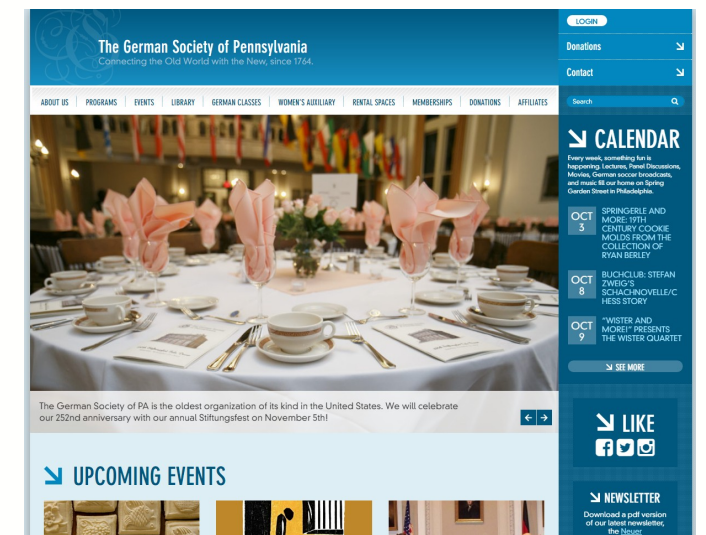
Fax: 215-627-5297

info@germansociety.org

New Website Launch

Several years ago, the German Society realized the need for an updated web presence to present our mission and programs in a modern way. To attract a wide array of new members and best serve existing members, our website needed an overhaul.

In 2013, the Board created a website committee, including Bill Hardam, Jim Beinlich, Andrew Payne, Allen Krumm, Jeannette Brugger, Tony Michels, and society staff. The team listed out the ideal functions of a new website, including a clean and modern appearance, ability to purchase tickets for events, the ability to accept donations, information on rental spaces, and information about several associated committees and organizations. The Board authorized a modest budget for design services, and the committee worked with Pepper-Lillie, a local firm, for the next 1.5 years to develop the design scheme and content.



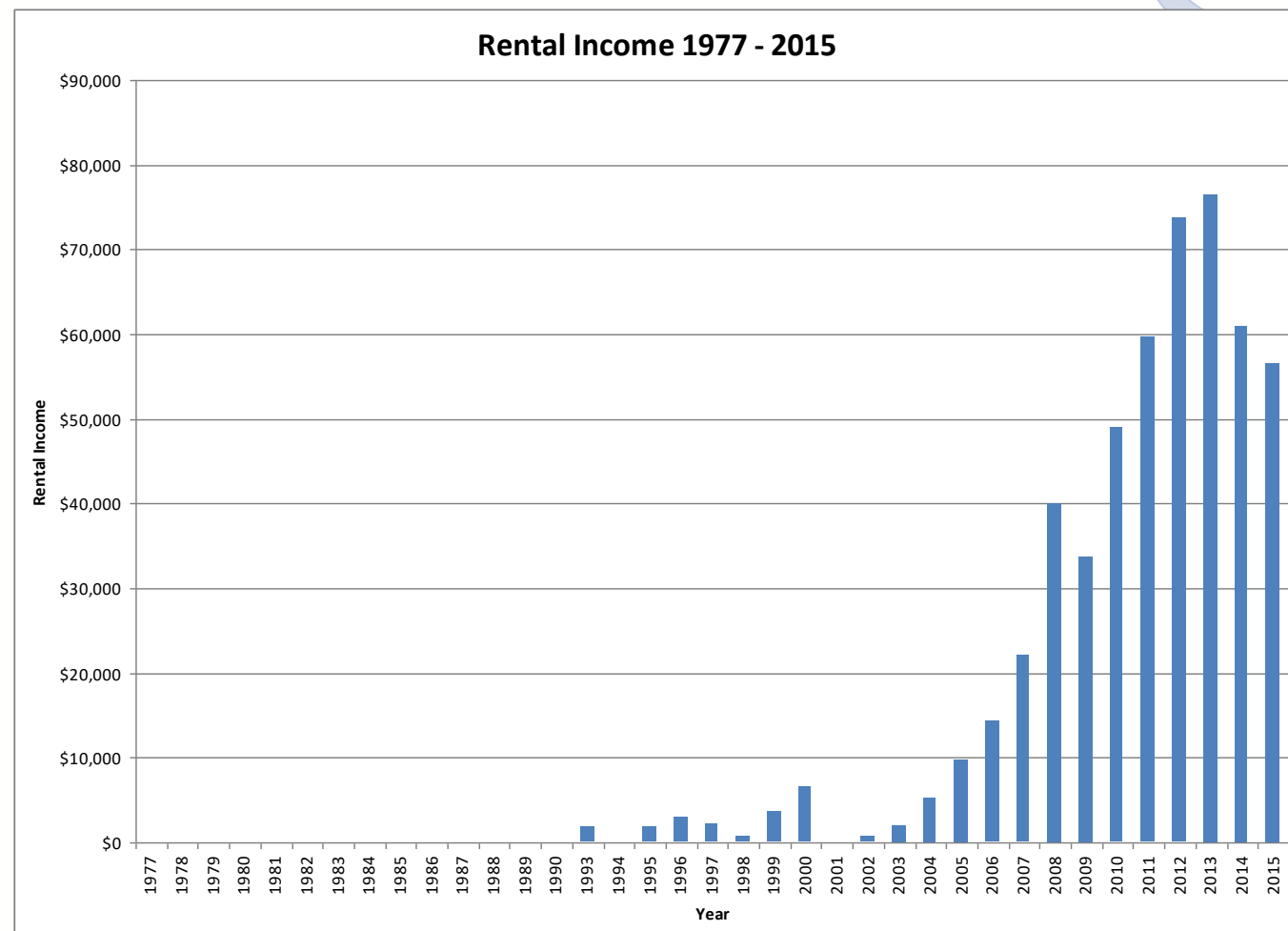
The new website launched in early September 2016. Please check out the new www.germansociety.org website and let us know what you think!

- Jeannette Brugger and the Website Committee

Rental Income

"History is for human self knowledge....the only clue to what man can do is what man has done."

- R. G. Collingwood



In this column, we look at Rental Income.

Until the 1990's, there was no rental income. From 1993 to 2004, there were occasional rentals by various individuals or groups who needed our Auditorium or Ratskeller for meetings, as a performance space, or for a personal party. In 2000, we had first wedding rental. We began to more actively promote our facilities in 2005, and, as can be seen, rental income has now become a significant component of our total income.

We learned many lessons along the way. With no air conditioning in the Auditorium, rentals even in the month of May were sometimes problematic in the warm, muggy weather. We currently do not allow any rentals during the summer months from June to August.

High school and fraternity party goers were not respectful of our facilities, despite having chaperones present, a \$500 security/cleaning deposit, and required insurance coverage. We no longer allow these groups to rent.

For many years, we used volunteers as chaperones. While satisfactory in most instances, a better approach was to have paid staff members who were knowledgeable of the facilities, cleaning equipment, lighting, and security systems do the chaperoning.

"Wister and More!" Series Preview

The 25th season of world-class chamber music at the Society is about to begin. Nearly all of this season's artists have already delighted us in recent past seasons. On September 18, **Pyxis Piano Quartet** will return. **The Wister Quartet**—our flagship ensemble—will perform a program of Beethoven, Haydn, and Brahms on October 9. Begun in 1991 at the behest of Dr. F. William Sunderman, the quartet is still comprised of the same four musicians.



The Wister Quartet

On November 13, the **Delius Society** will return, with its 40th anniversary concert (and our only one with artists predominating who have not been with us before): The **Choral Arts Chamber Choir** will perform Delius, Parry, and Elgar. Choral Arts Philadelphia, under the direction of Matthew Glandorf, is a rising star in the choral music firmament. For our Christmas program, the **Ephrata Cloister Chorus** will appear once more, on December 11.



Claire Huangci

As has become our tradition, the first concert of 2017 will be pianist **Claire Huangci** on January 8. These days, she has a thriving concert career and is a celebrity in Germany. On January 29, soprano **Leslie Johnson** will be accompanied by composers **Chuck Holdeman** and **Michael Djupstrom**. (Ms. Johnson starred in Mr. Holdeman's opera, *Young Meister Bach*. Mr. Holdeman is an active Society member.) On

February 19, **Estrella Piano Duo** will return.

The next two concerts feature Wister Quartet members with pianist **Marcantonio Barone**: on March 19, **The Casimir Trio** (Nancy Bean, Lloyd Smith and Mr. Barone) will perform works of Beethoven, Brahms, and Smetana. On April 23, the **Delius Society** (the full quartet and Mr. Barone) will present works of Finzi, Delius, and Bax. The season concludes on May 14, with **American Virtuosi**. With this ensemble, we have had the pleasure of witnessing the three Borowsky siblings grow from prodigies into fine professional musicians.



American Virtuosi

Please consider buying a 6-, 8-, or full 10-concert ticket package, as well as becoming a Patron or Benefactor of the series. Ticket packages afford up to 30% discount from individual ticket prices. Tickets can also be purchased on the web through ticketleap.com, where detailed

information about these concerts can also be found.



Karl Spaeth

After completing arrangements for the current season "shipshape and Bristol fashion," Karl Spaeth has retired as chairman of the Music Committee. So, I have picked the portfolio up.

-Ed Cohen

VP of Development Report

In a long series of Staatsbote articles in the past few years, we have described various ongoing capital improvements at the Society. Fortunately, many of these enhancements were or are funded by special grants as well as a family donation. We thought it important to provide an overview of these gifts. It should be noted that, invariably, the Society needed to add substantial monies from our investment accounts to fully fund these projects. One of key objective of the endowment is to establish a reserve to fund capital-related expenses for our vulnerable building, which will continue to require a substantial maintenance and equipment replacement budget – even as ongoing projects are completed over the next 12 months. In fact, we have agreed that about 50% of the future payments from the endowment will be used for the stated purpose. The other half will fund operational expenses and enhanced membership services, and help us manage the year-to-year variability in available funds.

For example, the William Penn Foundation, through a special \$250,000 grant, provided the majority of the funds for the extensive waterproofing activities undertaken in the past few years. However, the project needed to be scaled back significantly, and the Society will have added \$110,000 for a garden exit, a new Ratskeller entrance, and a new sewer connection, once the ‘finishing touches’ are done.

The new HVAC project for the Horner Memorial Library is another major ongoing effort. We are fortunate that four organizations have contributed a total of \$384,500. We received a \$204,500 grant from the William Penn Foundation, and \$60,000 from the Max Kade Foundation, The German Society of New York City, and the Cannstatter Foundation Inc., respectively. Will this be enough? We believe not, and we should be in a better position to have a firmer cost projection in late September, but we anticipate expenses to be above the designated amount.

The costs for our new heating system for the Auditorium and other areas of the building will

likely be in the \$250,000 to \$300,000 range. We elected to replace the old steam radiators with fan-coil heating and cooling units. This will allow us to air-condition the Auditorium, once we build and commission a new cooling plant to supply chilled water to the fan coil units, in addition to the existing air conditioning units on the library and collections floors. How will this major upgrade be funded? Once again, the William Penn Foundation has come to the rescue. The Foundation recently stopped funding capital projects, but instead provides ‘core support’ for not-for-profit cultural and historic institutions that meet their stringent funding requirements. We were successful with our expedited application and received a grant for the fiscal years 2017, 2018, and 2019 totaling \$281,250. These monies can be used for capital projects, operational support, or to meet any other urgent needs. We earmarked the bulk of these anticipated funds for the new heating/cooling system.

It is important to note that we need to file yearly reports with the William Penn Foundation on progress toward specific goals we have set for ourselves. One of our goals is to maintain a strong financial position, as there is a special bonus associated with all awards to organizations that show good fiscal discipline. We have committed to grow our membership, to develop new cultural programs and activities, to increase attendance at events, and to enhance outreach and cooperative programs with other organizations. It would be wonderful if we were in a position to successfully apply for a follow-up grant in three years. This will require the commitment and engagement of the full Board and membership.

And let us not forget the generous financial contribution for the construction of the new Leidy Terrace by Morgan and Sonia Churchman. Dr. Joseph Leidy was a distinguished medical doctor and professor at Swarthmore College and the University of Pennsylvania, as well as a scientist, respected both here and abroad, in the late 1800s. He was a very promi-

nent German-American, a member of the German Society, and a great-great-uncle of Mr. Churchman. This Terrace has become a wonderful space for public and private events. Again, the Society’s contributions exceeded \$100,000, which includes the installation of a cistern to capture the rainwater from our roof to water trees and plantings.

As you already know, each year we ask our members to consider a donation to our Annual Fund Drive. In recent years, we have not met our targeted goals, but hopefully this year it will be different when the President will again mail out requests for donations toward the end of November. We use these funds to balance our annual budget, and currently we do not have a means to easily make-up significant unexpected shortfalls.

To round out our discussion of grants, we should report that the Philadelphia Cultural Fund is a source of City-provided funding for not-for-profit Philadelphia cultural and historic organizations. This September, we will again enter the annual competitive applications process and apply for a three year grant. We gratefully acknowledge prior grants that ranged from \$8,000 to \$11,000, which can be applied to cover operating costs and represent a significant element of our annual operating budget.

As we already reported in the 2016 Spring issue of our Staatsbote, we intend to launch the *Horner Memorial Library Endowment Fund*,



dedicated to help us maintain and operate this most cherished treasure. We are very excited about this new fundraising activity, and details will follow in the coming months.

Maria Sturm, Vice President of Culture and Heritage, provided the following summary:

“The Horner Memorial Library is the 6th oldest library in Philadelphia - only the collections of the Library Company, the American Philosophical Society, the University of Pennsylvania, the College of Physicians, and the Athenaeum are older. This is a point of pride, but it also poses special challenges - many of the library’s holdings date back to the 18th and early 19th centuries and are in need of preservation, which today means proper storage conditions and a reliable HVAC system. The other libraries are part of larger institutions or have already established endowments to support their operations, and they have one other advantage the German Society’s library does not have: they can appeal to a much wider base of potential supporters because their holdings are mostly in English, whereas the opposite is true of our library. It is unique; no other German Society in the United States has built up a collection like ours - but it can be used to its full potential only by those who are fluent in German. We have been successful in raising funds from foundations for cataloging and capital projects important to maintaining the collection, but the daily costs of operating the library are borne by the Society, and this is where our future endowment becomes important!”

- Ernie Weiler