

THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA
PRESENTS THE FOURTH ANNUAL

Bierfest

SAT. FEB 21ST

CELEBRATING PENNSYLVANIA'S
GERMAN BREWING HERITAGE

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THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA
611 SPRING GARDEN STREET PHILADELPHIA, PA 19123

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The German Society of Pennsylvania

Neuer Pennsylvanischer
Staatsbote

CELEBRATING
1764 **250** 2014
YEARS OF
**GERMAN
HERITAGE**

Winter 2015



Building News

The picture above provides an unusual view of our building – one of the German Society’s greatest assets. Closer and better than Google earth, it was taken by local photographer Sal Boccuti a few weeks ago. The building serves many purposes; it is an enduring symbol of our organization, the home of our unique library and a meeting place for members and guests during our events. Over the past several years, we have made significant upgrades to the building: the elevator tower, highly insulating windows, main entrance door replacement, and remodeling of restrooms.

The basement waterproofing and garden renovation projects are ongoing. The section of the Berlin Wall is already on display waiting for its protective polycarbonate cover and rotating platform. I envision the development of a multimedia presentation to accompany the wall segment which will attract visitors to the Society and encourage people to check out our events on the new German Society website which will

be launched this spring.

Our next big building challenge is the replacement of most of our current Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning equipment during the next three years. Thanks to a grant from the William Penn Foundation, we are able to start the HVAC planning process for the entire building and realize the most urgent part of the project – ensuring climate conditions that will preserve our precious library and archival collection for future generations. But that is only the first step of a larger undertaking. The planning process will include an investigation of how best to heat and air condition the Auditorium, the Ratskeller and the rest of the building. A sustainable future solution must consider recent, sophisticated technology that would increase building functionality and decrease cost for maintenance and utility consumption.

Frohe Weihnachten und Alles Gute zum Neuen Jahr,
– Tony Michels

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Address Service Requested

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of Pennsylvania
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Chairman's Comments

As the year 2014 draws to a close, it is fitting for us to reflect on its historic importance. For us at the German Society, it was a year of celebrating our **250th anniversary** with a myriad of cultural and social events – all with an ethnic German flavor – altogether appropriate for the oldest cultural institution of its kind here in America. I remain very much in awe of how our Society's founders in 1764 – under the spiritual guidance of Pastor Heinrich Melchior Mühlenberg – had the compassion to lend support to their less fortunate compatriots who arrived on these shores – burdened with debt from their arduous trip across the Atlantic.

Since many passengers had lost family members, during the long voyage, they could not avoid being sold as "indentured servants." The legal advice and financial help offered by the German halted that despicable practice by the ship owners, and their agents, who had lured them aboard their ships in Europe – with the promise that America was "the land of milk and honey!" It was at the initiative of our Society that a law was passed by the Pennsylvania legislature in 1765 stipulating that all immigrants had to have legal representation upon arrival in Philadelphia.

Regrettably, more and more British ships were then redirected to the harbor of Baltimore where no similar law was in effect. The number of immigrants entering the United States via Baltimore soon exceeded those of Philadelphia. With the spread of the Industrial Revolution, New York built the Erie Canal which created a navigable water route to the Great Lakes region, and Baltimore established the first common railroad carrier to be built in the US – offering regular freight and passenger service going West. Thus was Philadelphia eclipsed as the largest city and port on the Eastern Seaboard.

Another organization with an important milestone in its history is **Germanna**, a settlement of forty-two persons from the Siegerland area of Germany who, **300 years ago**, were encour-

aged to immigrate and move to Virginia by Lt. Governor Alexander Spotswood to establish a mining industry in the colony. Since both my wife's father and grandfather were mining engineers who in their younger years lived and worked in the iron mines of the Siegerland – and one of the early Virginia settlers shares the same last name – it intrigues me to try to find out if a possible family connection exists. So far, I have not succeeded.

I do know, however, that her grandfather died in the very first days of **World War I** – leaving behind a wife with four young children, under age six. That war was touched off by the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire, **100 years ago**, and ended with the treaty of Versailles in 1919. While it was described as the "Great War" because of the number of military personnel involved from all sides, a total of 70 million with 9 million deaths, it's regrettable that twenty years later another World War erupted which surpassed the number of casualties.

In 1939, when **World War II** began, I was a toddler, and when it was over, I was still a boy. Yet to this day, I have vivid memories of the misdirected bombing raids that regularly "ploughed" our fields, because the allied spotter planes set their markers by daylight, and when the bombers came at night, the predominant westerly winds had blown them onto to our land, thereby missing the intended target of a nearby refinery, which was "fogged" as an added precaution, and thus never hit. Most spectacularly though, was the lit-up sky from the Dresden bombing raid in early 1945, in which my grandparents lost their lives.

Yet another important historic event took place **25 years ago**, on November 9, 1989 when the **Berlin Wall** came down. This represented a greater upheaval to me than the San Francisco earthquake, which I had experienced three weeks earlier. More than 40 years had passed since my family and I had been forced to leave

eastern Germany, following the expropriation of our landholdings by the Soviet occupational forces. When I returned to our former Saxon homestead over the Thanksgiving holidays, I was shocked to see that the once pristine countryside had been reduced to a moonscape.

A smell and taste of sulfur defiled the air, spewing – at the rate of 1,500 tons of SO² per day – from the largest soft-coal-fired power plant that had been built on what had been our land in the late 1960's. This created a deleterious environment for the people living in that area. I resolved then and there to do something about it. I quit my well paying management consulting job in California, and for the next twelve years, I shuttled across the Atlantic on a monthly basis – rendering volunteer support to the restructuring efforts of that region which had been devastated by the communist command economy.

When it became apparent that a retro-fitting of the old power plant was not possible, the decision was made to build a new one – with state-of-the-art technology. An older chemical plant, sitting on a toxic waste site, first had to be dismantled and thoroughly cleaned up. In 2001, the new power plant went on line; the old one was shut down – and my wife and I decided to relocate to Philadelphia for our retirement. This also marks the beginning of my active involvement with the German Society.

Last year, upon hearing that a few Berlin Wall sections were still available, I petitioned the

Berlin Senate, and was granted permission to pick up two pieces at the *Gärten der Welt*. They were shipped to the US late in August – courtesy of Kuehne & Nagel. One has since been placed in the Society's garden, the new Joseph Leidy Terrace, on **November 9, 2014** in a special commemorative event – with radio, television and a few dignitaries present.



Unveiling of Berlin Wall Section

The other is slated to go to Washington, where it will be placed at the entrance of the GAHF museum. Our stele will eventually be clad with Macrolon® polycarbonate sheeting – donated by Bayer USA – to fend off any Mauerspechte and graffiti artists.

May the blessings of this Christmas season be with you and your loved ones throughout the coming year!

– Hardy von Auenmueller

President's Report

The Holiday Season is just ahead and for many of us it is the most enjoyable time of the year. I trust that you will have an opportunity to visit and reconnect with family members and friends. Let me wish all of you the best for 2015, especially good health. And I hope that our political leaders find the courage to tackle the pressing global, economic and social problems which confront our nation.

With my December 2012 report to our mem-

bers I shared some of our dreams for the future of the Society. Let me pick up the same theme again as we approach the closing event of our 250th Anniversary year on December 28th at 3:00 pm in the Library. We hope that many of you will accept our invitation to attend.

As I indicated in my comments at the wonderful *Stiftungsfest Gala* on November 22nd with 207 attendees and special guests such as State Senator Anthony Williams and the Deputy Ger-

man Ambassador Dr. Phillipp Ackermann, I believe we are looking at a bright future for the Society. A few photos are shown here from the celebration that everyone seemed to enjoy, including a festive meal prepared by Chef Walter Staib.



Decked out hall for Stiftungsfest Gala.

We have demonstrated during the 250th Anniversary year that we can host very diverse and interesting programs, which attract broad audiences from the tri-state area. We can certainly build on this experience and follow the model – as we did this year – where different individuals are in charge of various events.

Our fiscal house is in reasonable shape – we have operated with a balanced budget since 2005 and must strive to do so into the future.

We have shown that various foundations will fund specific capital projects and are delighted to report that the William Penn Foundation, the Cannstatter Foundation Inc., the German Society of New York City and the Max Kade Foundation will provide most of the necessary funds to solve the Library's air-conditioning and heating problems – projected to cost around \$ 325,000. Our endowment is off the ground and we received a generous contribution of \$ 25,000 from the Women's Auxiliary at the *Stiftungsfest* celebration. We are thankful for this and all other donations. I believe that in the not too distant future we will be able to fund 20 to 25% of our operating costs from the endowment, especially if our members make provisions to remember the Society in their wills.



Ernie Weiler addressing the Stiftungsfest party.

And finally, I should note that some might think that our building is beginning to look like a construction site which may be true, but on the other hand, it is in much better shape than in many years. Unfortunately, the upgrading process will continue for a number of years. The Leidy Terrace, made possible through a generous donation by the Churchmans, is a wonderful addition to our facilities and will be enjoyed by members and all visitors to the Society, especially with one of the few remaining Berlin Wall sections being displayed on the Terrace.

We can achieve our vision, as articulated in our strategic plan, to be recognized as a premier German-American ethnic society in the United States by making our own historic building the home of significant contributions to the diversity of social, historical, educational and cultural experiences in the Philadelphia area.

As I reflect on past year, I am impressed with what our volunteers have accomplished to make this a very festive year – many individuals were very actively engaged. Thank you!

And as we move forward as an organization we need a new generation of volunteers who give their time, energy, and most importantly, their talents to maintain or enhance our programs and activities and who also help us with ongoing maintenance and repairs to the building. Furthermore, we require dedicated individuals who will join our Board of Directors as active

participants and leaders and eventually serve as officers.



"Young Meister Bach" opera by Chuck Holdeman

Our Annual Fund request is in the mail. We ask you to be as generous as you can.

Frohe Weihnachten und Alles Gute zum Neuen Jahr,

– Ernie Weiler

Endowment Appreciation Letter

As we observe the 250th anniversary of the founding of the German Society this month, I am reminded of Goethe's adage, "Was du ererbst von Deinen Vätern hast, erwirb es, um es zu besitzen". I believe this was adopted by the German Society as its motto and is certainly a suitable aphorism.

Besides my parents who instilled the importance and value of preserving our rich cultural heritage, I also saw this exemplified for many years by Dr. Beichl at the German Society. It is something I treasure greatly and it is the primary reason for my long-term and committed association with the Society.

On this momentous and significant occasion, the 250th Anniversary, I am pleased to enclose an additional donation in the amount of \$2,500 to the German Society's Endowment Fund. I extend my wholehearted congratulations to you and the German Society Board of Directors.

In langjähriger Verbundenheit,
A True Friend of the German Society

Classical Concerts at the Society

Those of you who attend our **Wister & More** Sunday afternoon concerts throughout the year know how diverse our chamber music offerings are. This past year was no exception!

Thanks to financial support of the Albert & Hete Barthelmes Foundation and Styron, LLC, we were able to celebrate our 250th Anniversary in 2014 with a special performance, presented by the **Bethlehem Bach Choir** and its Festival Orchestra, of **Young Meister Bach**, a new opera by GSP member Chuck Holdeman, and J. S. Bach's secular **Coffee Cantata**. This Bach bonanza early in March filled our auditorium to the hilt.

Late in September, we enjoyed the **Wister Quartet** in a Grand Jubilee Concert offering **Lloyd Smith's Piano Quartet, Opus 20**, as a world premiere dedicated to our Society in homage to the many great German composers of the last 250 years.

Another highlight, at the end of October, was the **Best of Viennese Operetta** presentation by the **Concert Operetta Theater**, under the direction of Daniel Pantano. It delighted us with bright young Philadelphia singers in selections from *Gypsy Princess*, *Countess Maritza*, and *Merry Widow*, among others.

Following our tradition for a **New Year's concert**, we will again feature the internationally renowned pianist **Claire Huangci** in a recital of various Scarlatti, Beethoven, and Chopin sonatas, and the Wagner/Liszt *Tannhäuser* overture, on January 4, 2015. For **Valentine's Day**, you may bring your loved ones to the Society on February 15 for a concert by the **American Virtuosi** who have enthralled our audiences in previous years.

And then you may enjoy three different ensembles, in four week intervals, by the **Pyxis Piano Quartet**, **Mélomanie** and the **Wister Quartet**. The season concludes on May 31, presenting **M. Djupstrom**, piano and **A. Kozasa**, viola, in a joint effort with the **Delius Society**.

– Hardy von Auenmueller

Promote German Culture - Call for Docents

Docents are vitally needed to guide groups of visitors through the exhibition *Quill & Brush: Pennsylvania German Fraktur and Material Culture*, on view at the Parkway Central Library location of the Free Library of Philadelphia from March 2 to July 18, 2015. The exhibit focuses on hand-drawn and printed fraktur along with important manuscripts, ephemera, and printed books that highlight the breadth and depth of the Free Library's renowned Pennsylvania German collection. Who else, other than members of the German Society of Pennsylvania are as well qualified to talk about the German cultural contribution to this country? Please consider becoming a volunteer to provide information about the fraktur, speak about the influence of German culture in this country, and promote the Free Library of Philadelphia and the Joseph E. Horner Memorial Library of the German Society.

Do you feel unqualified to take on this task? No fear, Lisa Minardi, who is the guest curator of this exhibit and a contributing author to a com-

panion book that will be published in June, will provide training and information necessary to guide groups of people through the exhibit. As a guide you do not have to know all the answers, just stimulate some curiosity, and people will investigate for themselves using the library, literature and internet. Lisa Minardi will schedule some training classes in February, or shortly after the exhibit opens, so that you can serve for the remainder of the time of the exhibition.

The Parkway Central Library would like to have someone from the German Society of Pa. lead a tour through the exhibit at least once or twice a week. This branch of the Library is also willing to provide a lunch/dinner for one or more groups of about 20 people from the German Society to come and see the "Framing Fraktur" exhibition. So, plan to sign up to see the exhibit, and/or also become a docent.

– Reinhard Kruse

Framing Fraktur: Celebrating Pennsylvania's German Art and Culture

Free Library of Philadelphia

Quill & Brush: Pennsylvania German Fraktur and Material Culture (2 March–18 July 2015)
Word & Image: Contemporary Artists Connect to Fraktur (2 March–14 June 2015)

Parkway Central Library Galleries and Dietrich Gallery, Rare Book Department



These exhibitions are part of the Free Library's *Framing Fraktur* project, funded by the Pew Center for Arts and Heritage. *Quill & Brush* focuses on hand-drawn and printed fraktur along with important manuscripts, ephemera, and printed books that highlight the breadth and depth of the Free Library's renowned Pennsylvania German collection. *Word & Image* takes a unique approach to the study of traditional fraktur by connecting it to the work of contemporary artists who similarly combine images with texts. Additional support for *Framing Fraktur* has been provided by the Wyeth Foundation for American Art and The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation. A fully illustrated catalogue featuring both exhibitions and edited by Judith Tannenbaum, with essays by Lisa Minardi and Matthew Singer, will be available in June 2015; distributed by University of Pennsylvania Press.

Philadelphia Museum of Art

Drawn With Spirit: Pennsylvania German Fraktur from the Joan and Victor Johnson Collection (1 February–26 April 2015)

Special Exhibitions Gallery, Perelman Building

This exhibition celebrates the remarkable gift to the Philadelphia Museum of Art from Joan and Victor Johnson of more than two hundred and forty examples of fraktur which will significantly increase the breadth, depth and quality of the museum's collection. The fraktur will be complemented by decorative arts of the period including painted furniture, redware pottery, and metalwork to show how a common vocabulary of colorful and engaging motifs embellished all manner of domestic objects in rural Pennsylvania German households. A fully illustrated catalogue by Lisa Minardi will accompany the exhibition; distributed by Yale University Press.

Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library

A Colorful Folk: Pennsylvania Germans & the Art of Everyday Life (1 March 2015–3 January 2016)

With more than 125 examples of fraktur, redware pottery, ironwork, painted furniture, and textiles, this exhibition explores the colorful world of the Pennsylvania Germans through everyday objects and groundbreaking new research. Highlights include fraktur, needlework, and clothing from the late Frederick S. Weiser collection, recently acquired by Winterthur; a painted chest decorated by fraktur artist Heinrich Otto on loan from a private collection; and a technical look at the pigments, tools, and techniques of making fraktur. Visitors can also enjoy guided tours of a dozen rooms furnished with more examples of Pennsylvania German art and architecture, as well as explore the Winterthur Library's collection of manuscripts, books, and printed ephemera. A fully illustrated catalogue by Lisa Minardi will accompany the exhibition.

Fraktur and the Everyday Lives of Germans in Pennsylvania and the Atlantic World, 1683–1850 (5–7 March 2015)

Taking advantage of the rare occasion when three major exhibitions of Pennsylvania German fraktur will be on view, this conference will bring together an international group of scholars to discuss how these small but exuberant documents celebrated important moments in their owners' personal and domestic lives, and the historical and cultural contexts in which they were created. Topics to be addressed range from patterns of migration, education, and religious practices to music, farming, medicine, and the occult. The conference is collaboratively organized by the Free Library of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the McNeil Center for Early American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, with the participation of the German Society of Pennsylvania and Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library. For more information or to register, visit mceas.org/fraktur.html.

Welcome New Members!

Names removed for online version.

Your interest in joining is appreciated, and we look forward to seeing you at many of our upcoming events.

– Caroline Martin-Tumaszk

“Die PhillyKinder werden groß – PhillyKinder is growing up”

The PhillyKinder team is both delighted and grateful for the continued strong interest in our program as it enters its fifth year. It is hard to believe that in 2010 our program started with just six bilingual preschoolers, several younger siblings and a handful of determined German-speaking mothers. Our intention was simply to support each other in teaching our children German. In doing so, we started developing a German-language afternoon pre-school program that incorporated songs, rhymes, finger plays, stories, games and crafts. We were hoping that eventually it would become second nature to our children to communicate in German, both at home and with their peers, and we envisioned providing our children with an opportunity to forge new friendships which would grow stronger over time. By creating a German-speaking environment outside of our homes we were hoping to foster our children’s willingness to continue speaking German with us and among each other in the years to come. Gradually we realized that we were not the only ones with a desire to teach German to our children. Within six months, we managed to secure a room at Overbrook Presbyterian Church and welcomed new kids to the group. At the beginning of the next academic year, we planned to continue with two pre-school groups – each with approximately eight students. However, we were soon overwhelmed with interest from others. Demand was so high

that we were faced with an influx of 56 students for the fall semester of 2011/12.

Faced with such growing interest we quickly had to build the infrastructure for our program. Maria Sturm, a German Society Board member and VP of Culture and Heritage, suggested a partnership with the Society. Heeding her advice, a meeting was conducted at Overbrook Presbyterian Church in the summer of 2011 between our founding team Gabriele Albrecht, Manuela Sieber and Sonja Srama-Souder, and two representatives of the German Society, Tony Michels and Hardy von Auenmueller. Together we established the terms of cooperation between PhillyKinder and the German Society – which has proven to be of mutual benefit. The German Society’s insurance coverage and their administrative support enabled us to conduct an open enrollment process. As a result, in the fall semester of 2011/12, PhillyKinder was able to offer five classes and enrolled not only preschoolers but elementary students as well.

Since then we have continued to grow. In fact, we have expanded to such a degree that for the school year 2014/15, we faced the prospect of making structural changes. For instance, we realized that as the students advance through our program, we needed to “graduate” our oldest students, the *ABC-Schuetzen 1+2* to *Schlaue Fuechse 1+2* (3rd-7th graders). Below

the 3rd grade level, there are three additional school-age groups, two of which are our new *ABC Schuetzen* (1st and 2nd graders) and one group of Kindergarteners, our *Vorschueler*. Our pre-school groups – originally the heart of our operation – remain with two groups of *Junge Entdecker* (3-to-4-year olds) and last but not least we have our *Kleine Freunde* (2-year-olds plus one caregiver). Additionally, we created a parent-led *Mommy-and-Me* group to offer a space to our youngest and provide both them and their parents with a chance to socialize in German. Nine groups of PhillyKinder – all in all about 100 children plus their parents – meet on Thursdays for 90 minutes to work and play in German. The energy, the chatter and the excitement – it is quite something to behold!

At this juncture, we would like to express our gratitude to Overbrook Presbyterian Church, which welcomes us to their premises and has been extremely accommodating particularly with respect to our constant need for more space. We are especially thankful to The Rev. Wallace W. Bubar (who is married to one of our teachers, Gabriele Albrecht) for supporting our needs and bearing with us when we, at times, wreak havoc in the building. We also extend our gratitude to the office staff at the German Society for their administrative support.

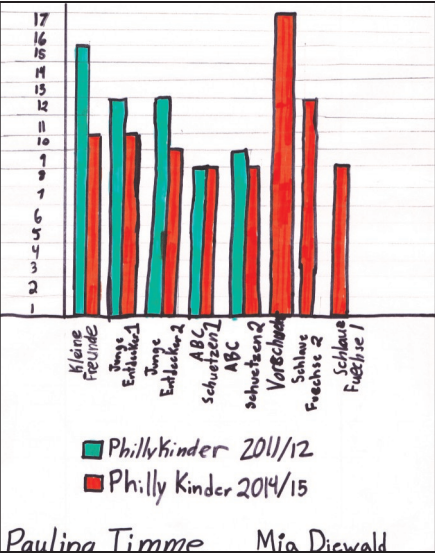
We hope you enjoy following PhillyKinder’s activities. You will have seen many of our children

in action during the “Krippenspiel”, if you joined us to celebrate the Christmas season together at the annual German Christmas Service, presented by The Rev. Wallace W. Bubar, at Overbrook Presbyterian Church on December 13. The PhillyKinder Team wishes everyone a peaceful *Adventszeit*, a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all!

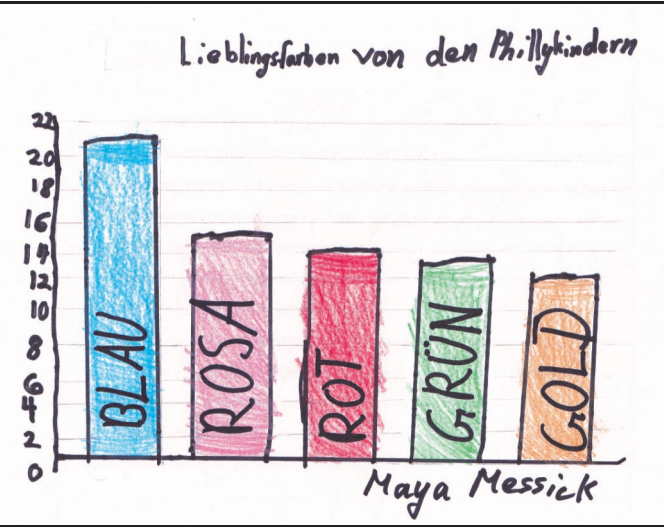
– Birgit Splitt

P.S.

To illustrate PhillyKinder’s steady expansion from 2011 to 2014, the class of *Schlaue Fuechse 1* was given the task to actually create the first diagram below depicting our growth. During this exercise our 3rd-and-4th-graders practiced introducing themselves to another group, presenting their task, collecting data, reporting back, creating a comparative bar chart and working together in groups – all in German, of course. (See graph and statistical numbers on previous page.) As an additional incentive to interact with the students of the other groups, they also conducted a survey about our children’s favorite colors as even the youngest would be able to participate in this exercise. The results are illustrated in the second diagram below. Despite the fact that all of our students are bilingual, this was no easy task. It was great practice and they are all very excited to find their work printed in “Der Staatsbote” – a publication of which they had little knowledge before they set out with this project.



PhillyKinder student numbers 2011/12 and 2014/15		
PhillyKinder classes	2011/12	2014/15
Playgroup	----	14
Kleine Freunde	15	12
Junge Entdecker (1+2)	24	22
Vorschueler	----	16
ABC Schuetzen (1+2)	17	20
Schlaue Fuechse (1+2)	----	20
Total	56	104



Konversationsabend 2014 - 2015

The news on the traditional conversation night at the German Society is good. 2014 was a terrific year with presentations and discussions on a wide range of themes and topics. There was an "Evening with Parzival" (Helga Halbfass), another one on the famous controversy between Thomas Mann and Bertolt Brecht in the early 20th century (Karl Moehlmann), a presentation on the *Unwort des Jahres*, the non-word of the year, (Prof. Horst Rolly), an introduction into the development of the German finance and banking terminology (Prof. Armin Burkhardt), a moving reflection on the changing perception of WWI in the literature of the time—"In Memoriam 1914-1918" (Inge Niebisch), and finally a wonderful session on Spiel and Spiel-Theory in life and literature (Jean Godsall-Myers).

2015 looks good, too. We will begin with a second session on WWI with several speakers commenting on the latest trends in research on the topic—using Christopher Clark's "The Sleepwalkers" and others. We will have a full evening on German dialects, and a presentation on "China 300 million years ago and today," the latter by Prof. H. Pfefferkorn. We still have to establish the exact dates for a growing number of further suggestions, such as Heine/Schumann, Dichterliebe – *Im wunderschönen Monat Mai* Hans Kueng, "Die Frau im Christentum", Film und Literatur, German Theater in the 21st century, etc.

– Helga Halbfass

Friday FilmFest 2014 - 2015

Our Friday Film Fest for the 2014 – 2015 season exemplifies our typical predilection for a good mix of history, cultural excursions and literary adaptations. We began last fall with a light hearted documentary called *Beerland* and followed up with *Nikolaikirche*, a poignant historical docudrama which looked back at a peace movement which catalyzed the collapse of the Berlin Wall.

Two of our upcoming films are adaptations of

best sellers in Germany: *Die Vermessung der Welt* (*Measuring the World*) by Daniel Kehlmann and *Die Wand*, by Marlen Haushofer. The former took the German literary scene by storm in 2005 and the latter, published in 1963, has over the years become a veritable cult novel among a wide spectrum of the German reading public. We will also be featuring a fascinating film based on an equally fascinating philosophical novel, *Nachtzug Nach Lissabon* (*Night train to Lison*).

Our second history lesson for this season is *Der ganz große Traum*, the true and very surprising story of how in 1874 a young German school teacher brought soccer to Germany from England, of all places. For fans of either Orson Welles, Graham Greene or Carol Reed, we will be featuring a German language version of *The Third Man*, the film noir classic set in post-war Vienna.

Please put these dates on your calendar and bring some of your friends along to the Rat-skeller, where you can immerse yourself in good soup, good cinema and the Friday Film Fest's inimitable Gemütlichkeit!

– Allen Krumm

Meet Our New Administrative Assistant



Three weeks ago, I began working at the German Society as the new part-time Administrative Assistant. Working with the Society has been exciting and different so far, and I am very happy to be a part of this non-profit organization. I graduated from Pratt Institute with a degree in Writing and a concentration in Art History. Studying the German language and art has been a long-time passion of mine. My other passion is children's literature, and I am currently writing a novel for children.

– Jessica Kwasniak

Calendar of Events

December 2014

- Sat. Dec. 6 Women's Auxiliary Christkindlmarkt, 12.00pm
- Wed. Dec. 10 Lecture: Dr. Frank Trommler - "German Diplomacy: Not a Topic for Diplomats", 6.00pm
- Sat. Dec. 13 PhillyKinder Krippenspiel at Overbrook Presbyterian Church, 4.00pm
- Sun. Dec. 14 "Wister and More!" presents Cantus Novus, 3.00pm
- Sun. Dec. 28 Closing Event of our 250th Anniversary Celebrations, 3.00pm

January 2015

- Sun. Jan. 4 "Wister and More!" presents Claire Huangci, 3.00pm
- Sat. Jan. 10 Buchclub: Hans Fallada's "Kleiner Mann, was nun?/Little Man, What Now?", 1.30pm
- Sat. Jan. 10 Women's Auxiliary Appreciation Day, 11.00am
- Fri. Jan. 16 Friday FilmFest presents "Die Vermessung der Welt" (German with English subtitles), 6.30pm

February 2015

- Sat. Feb. 7 Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10.00am
- Sat. Feb. 14 Buchclub: Wolfgang Herrndorf's "Tschick/Why We Took the Car", 1.30pm
- Sun. Feb. 15 "Wister and More!" presents American Virtuosi, 3.00pm
- Sat. Feb. 21 4th Annual Bierfest
- Fri. Feb. 27 Friday FilmFest presents "Der Dritte Mann" (German with German subtitles), 6.30pm

March 2015

- Fri. Mar. 5 - Fraktur and the Everyday Lives of Germans in Pennsylvania and the Atlantic World,
- Sat. Mar. 7 1683–1850 [Registration required at <http://www.mceas.org/fraktur.html>]
- Sat. Mar. 7 Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10.00am
- Sun. Mar. 15 "Wister and More!" presents Pyxis Piano Quartet, 3.00pm
- Fri. Mar. 20 Friday FilmFest presents "Nachtzug nach Lisbon" (German with German subtitles), 6.30pm

April 2015

- Sat. Apr. 11 Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10.00am
- Sat. Apr. 11 Hamburger Abend, 6.30pm
- Sun. Apr. 12 "Wister and More!" presents Melomanie, 3.00pm
- Fri. Apr. 17 Friday FilmFest presents "Die Wand" (German with German subtitles), 6.30pm

May 2015

- Sat. May 3 Women's Auxiliary Luncheon, 12.00pm
- Sun. May 10 "Wister and More!" presents The Wister Quartet, 3.00pm
- Fri. May 15 Friday FilmFest presents "Der ganz große Traum" (German with German subtitles), 6.30pm
- Sun. May 31 "Wister and More!" in a cooperative effort with the Delius Society presents Michael Djupstrom & Ayana Kozasa, 3.00pm