



The German Society of Pennsylvania  
611 Spring Garden Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19123-3505

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

The German Society of Pennsylvania  
611 Spring Garden Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19123-3505  
Phone (215) 627-2332  
Fax (215) 627-5297  
Email: info@germansociety.org  
Web: www.germansociety.org

The Neuer Pennsylvanische Staats-  
bote is published by the German Soci-  
ety of Pennsylvania. The German Soci-  
ety reserves the right to edit all  
submissions.

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the German Society of Pennsylvania may  
be obtained from the Pennsylvania De-  
partment of State by calling toll free  
within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999.  
Registration does not imply endorsement.

### Administrative Assistant/Program Administrator

The German Society is in need of a part-time Administrative Assistant/Program Administrator for 20 hours per week, beginning in early September. Duties include answering phones, filing, typing, data entry, program administration, registration of events, and some light bookkeeping. Experience with Microsoft Office programs (Word, Excel, Publisher, Outlook) and the internet is required, as well as excellent interpersonal, communication, and writing skills. Ideal candidate will have experience (or be interested) in working in a multi-cultural environment. Knowledge of German and/or previous nonprofit experience is desirable, but not a requirement. This position works closely with and reports to the Office Manager. Compensation is commensurate with skills.

Please mail your resume and two business references to the address of the German Society, Attn: Personnel Committee.



## Neuer Pennsylvanischer Staatsbote

Internet: [www.germansociety.org](http://www.germansociety.org)  
Summer 2007

### President's Message

What a pleasure it is to greet you in my capacity as Interim President! My wife Jackie and I have been members of the Society for a good many years now, and we're delighted to see the energy in this wonderful organization. I attribute this success to the dedication of Hardy von Auenmueller, the Board and Officers, staff, and all the volunteers who inspire with their work and devotion. Sharan Knoell has been a remarkable worker here, and we are fortunate indeed to have such a bright and capable person.

When Hardy and the Board asked me to stand for nomination to the Interim President position, I was honored but humbled, since there are so many worthy people within our Society—those who serve now, and those who have inspired through their past service. Nevertheless, I accepted the task to do what I could, while the Board works through the options of how the Society may move forward. Whether that's through a restructuring of the Executive responsibilities, or some other combination of Board and staff duties is the job at hand. There is a lot of work because we're growing!

I have served on Boards and Panels of other cultural organizations in the City, including responsibilities as President, and in my day job I am the Curator of the Fleisher Collection of Orchestral Music at the Free Library of Philadelphia. I am also a composer, and from time to time you may hear me on the classical music station, WRTI-FM.

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### Making Philadelphia a German Town

Many of you may remember the observation of the **German-American Tricentennial in 1983** when Philadelphia's academic, cultural, historical and business community collaborated and offered a great variety of programs and events to commemorate the many contributions made by German-Americans over the years.

That celebration recognized the more than 8 million immigrants from German-speaking countries who have come to America since the first settlers from Krefeld, Germany, set foot on these shores and established their homestead in nearby Germantown, now part of Philadelphia proper. In the mid-18th century, Germans, at one point, represented 45 percent of Philadelphia's citizenry, and this was considered a "challenge" by **Benjamin Franklin**, the founding father of our country. At the last nationwide census, still more than 20 percent of the U.S. population claimed German ancestry.

Following **President Reagan's** 1983 proclamation of **October 6 as German-American Day**, the Mayor of Philadelphia has held a commemorative reception at City Hall each year, and will do so again this year. Interestingly, all other festivities celebrating October 6 slipped into oblivion. Why do German-Americans, one might ask, keep such a low profile?

Look at the Irish-Americans who have St. Patrick's Day, or the Italian-Americans who celebrate Columbus Day - with much merrymaking to be seen and heard. Therefore, let's show

all the residents of the Delaware Valley and visitors to our historic city that we can have fun, too! Particularly, since the 325th anniversary is just around the corner.

In fact, anticipating the historic anniversary in 2008, a group of dedicated citizens, led by former GSP board member Marlene Stocks, formed a committee to revive the German-American Day celebration here in Philadelphia. It also was agreed that this year's celebration would be a three-day event as a precursor for next year's jubilee, and that our Society and its facilities would be the focal point for almost all activities in Center City.

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I’ve worked on the Library Committee for the last two years, alongside Frank Genieser, Frank Trommler, and other tremendously gifted people to help re-open this treasure of ours. We are thrilled to have hired Dr. Friederike Baer as Librarian, and she is already making a positive impact. Please make sure to read Frank Genieser’s letter concerning the Library Fund.

We are now hosting research scholars, running a lecture series, and making plans for all of the Library’s resources to be made available to as many of our members as possible. Please do whatever you can to contribute to this Fund and become a Friend of the Library.

But I hardly have to tell you what a jewel the German Society is! There’s an excitement here, new members are joining all the time, and I look forward to working with all of you who have a love for our home at Seventh and Spring Garden. I know that with your help the Society will continue to grow and make a difference. It’s an exciting time, and I’m glad to be a part of it with you.

—Kile Smith

Scholarship Awards

On April 29th, the Scholarship Committee of the GSP and Women’s Auxiliary awarded six scholarships to university students.

Ranging from \$1000-\$4000, the awards are to be used toward tuition in the upcoming academic year. Awards were given to the following German majors at colleges in the Delaware Valley: **Sarah Bakhit, Brendan Barton, Thomas Golanoski, Michelle**

**Lynn Martin, Michael McCloskey, and Erica McLaughlin.**

Congratulations on your Scholarships!

—The Scholarship Committee

Art History in the Library

Upon entering the Joseph Horner Library, one’s eyes are irresistibly drawn to the right and to an imposing bronze bas relief resting on a massive base. This is the scale model of a monument depicting the arrival in 1683 of the thirteen families from Krefeld who, under the leadership of Franz Daniel Pastorius (1651-1719), founded Germantown.

The sculptor was J. Otto Schweizer (1863-1955), a Swiss American and member of the German Society, who competed with fifteen other entries in 1911 for the honor of having his design chosen to be placed in Vernon Park in Germantown. All sculptures submitted were displayed in the “Great Hall” of the German Society where the judging was held.

Schweizer was declared the winner, but his victory was short-lived. The second-prize recipient, a Mr. Jaegers, protested the outcome and managed to force a run-off competition. A judge with impeccable character was selected to guide the process, and he told both contestants to improve their designs. This time, Schweizer, to his great disappointment, came in second. What would your decision have been? You can admire Jaegers’ monument in Vernon Park, despite the defacing graffiti, and compare it to Schweizer’s.

The German American Alliance (*Deutschamerikanischer Nationalbund*), founded by Charles Hexamer (president of the German Society 1900-

1916), paid Schweizer \$550 for the model and commissioned the foundry of Bureau Bros. on Allegheny Ave. in Philadelphia to produce three bronze casts, one of which was donated to the German Society.

The front bas relief shows the thirteen families on October 6, 1683, after having survived their 74-day voyage and disembarked from the “Concord.” Pastorius, who had arrived on an earlier ship, is welcoming them and is prominently displayed in the center.

The back relief shows the contributions of German immigrants in the fields of science, industry, and art by depicting such greats as the Mühlenbergs, Steuben, DeKalb, Sigel, Röbling, and Schurz. Charles Hexamer, then president of the Society and friend of the sculptor, can also be seen. A figure on the left with a spinning wheel symbolizes the weaving trade brought to America by the immigrants from Krefeld. A woman to the right represents the ideal of motherhood teaching her children. Panels surrounding the reliefs carry inscriptions of the names of the Krefeld families, descriptions of the ideals and accomplishments of the early Germantown inhabitants, accounts of contributions of German immigrants to their chosen country, and admonitions to their descendants not to forget the hardships and struggles endured by their ancestors.

—Renate Genieser, Arts Committee



The Power of an Internet Search

For all you computer users out there, how many times in a week do you use a search engine such as Google or Yahoo? What if the German Society could earn funds every time you did one of those searches on the internet? Well, we can!

GoodSearch is a new search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. You use it just as you would any search engine, and it’s powered by Yahoo, so you get great results.

**Just go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com), enter “The German Society of Pennsylvania” as the charity you want to support, and click “Verify”.** Every time you do a search with GoodSearch thereafter, the GSP will receive a donation.

And, it doesn’t cost you a thing — the money they donate comes from their advertisers. They even have a convenient toolbar you can download that will automatically select the GSP as your designated charity.

Imagine what we could do for the German-American and Philadelphia communities if all 1,000 members, families, and friends who receive this newsletter did just *one* search per day using GoodSearch!

—Sharan Knoell



Come to our Oktoberfest—Oans, zwoa, g’suffa!

(One, two, drink!) In true *Münchener* style, we will have our annual *Oktoberfest* on **September 15**, beginning at **12:00 noon**. In addition to plenty of German beer and other beverages, various wursts, delicious potato salad, sauerkraut and a slow-roasted *Spanferkel* (pig) will be served.

Don Bitterlich, once again, will serenade us with his musical stylings on the accordion. The cost is \$25 for adults and \$8 for children 12 years old and younger. If you plan to join us, please fill out, detach and return the form below.

243rd Annual Stiftungsfest on October 13, 2007

Slightly less than one month after our *Oktoberfest*, the Society will host its annual *Stiftungsfest* to celebrate the founding 243 years ago. Always elegant, this black-tie dinner/dance gala begins at **6:00pm** with a champagne reception in the Library. An excellent dinner and dancing accompanied by The Paul Kauriga Orchestra will follow.

Throughout the evening, attendees will also be able to bid on the wonderful (and sometimes unique) items included in our Silent Auction. These offerings range from restaurant gift certificates, theater tickets, sports memorabilia and tickets, dinners in private homes, handmade items, goods and services, art objects...to diverse US and European vacation properties. If you have any items you would like to donate to the Silent Auction, we gladly welcome them!

Official invitations will be mailed towards the end of the summer, so keep your eye on your mailbox!

Oktoberfest Reservation Form

I would like to make a reservation for \_\_\_\_\_ number of people at the Oktoberfest on September 15th.

Names of the people attending: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make a tax-deductible donation to support the event in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is my check in the total amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_. Please make checks payable to “The German Society of PA”

\_\_\_\_ Please charge my Visa/Mastercard. Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Your name and address: \_\_\_\_\_

German Society Calendar of Events

<b>July &amp; August</b>	
July 16—August 23	Summer Session of German Classes
<b>September</b>	
Sat. Sept. 8	Women’s Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10:00am
Mon. Sept. 10-Dec. 1	12-Week Fall Session of German Classes for Adults Begins
Sat. Sept. 15	12-Week Fall Session of German Classes for Youth Begins
Sat. Sept. 15	<i>Oktoberfest</i> , 12:00 noon
Tues. Sept. 25	Women’s Auxiliary Bus Trip to Lancaster and Columbia, PA
Sun. Sept. 30	2007/08 “Wister and More!” Concert Series Opener, pianist Petronel Malan, 3:00pm
<b>October</b>	
Fri. Oct. 5-Oct. 7	German American Weekend Celebration (see page 4 for details)
Sat. Oct. 6	Women’s Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10:00am
Fri. Oct. 12	<i>Konversationsabend</i> , Introduction to Ballroom Dancing with Prof. Peter Kadel, 7:00pm
Sat. Oct. 13	243rd Annual <i>Stiftungsfest</i> and Silent Auction, 6:00pm
Sat. Oct. 21	“Wister and More!” Concert Series, The Wister Quartet, Haydn, Beethoven, Debussy, 3:00pm
<b>November</b>	
Sat. Nov. 3	Women’s Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10:00am
Fri. Nov. 9	Friday Film Fest, “Der Name der Rose”, 6:30pm
Sun. Nov. 11	St. Martin’s Day Parade, 4:00pm
Mon. Nov. 12	<i>Konversationsabend</i> , Artists’ Colony Worpswede, by Prof. Sigrid Weltge, 7:00pm
Sun. Nov. 18	“Wister and More!” Concert Series, <i>Liederabend</i> , with Jackie Smith, Larry Indik, and Marvin Keenze, 3:00pm
<b>December</b>	
Sat. Dec. 1	Christmas Bazaar of the Women’s Auxiliary, 12:00 noon
Fri. Dec. 7	Friday Film Fest, “Joyeux Noel”, 6:30pm
Sun. Dec. 9	“Wister and More!” Concert Series, The Wister Quartet, Rachmaninoff, Borodin, etc., 3:00pm
Wed. Dec. 12	<i>Konversationsabend</i> —Traditional Advent Celebration at the Auenmuellers, 7:00pm

WAUX Bus Trip

The Women’s Auxiliary is planning a bus trip on **Tuesday, Sept. 25th to Columbia and Lancaster, PA**. The bus will pick us up from two locations in Philadelphia around 9:00am, and proceed to Columbia on the Susquehanna River, where we will tour the National Association of Clock and Watch Collectors’ Museum and the charming 18th century Wright’s Ferry House on the river. Bring a brown bag lunch!

After that, we will go to Lancaster to see the Heritage Museum. Dinner will be at the Press Room. Return to Philadelphia should be approx. 9pm.

The cost for the trip is \$85. To make reservations, please contact Doris Simon (215-342-5140), or mail your reservation to 7346 Ryers Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19111. Checks should be made out to “Women’s Auxiliary of the GSP”.

—Claire Degnan (610-923-6570)

Meditation Classes

With the hectic pace of life – raising kids, babysitting grandkids, working long hours, and realizing you’re busier in retirement than you were in your working life – everyone longs for those moments when the outside world can be shut out and relaxation takes over. For some people, these events happen in the woods or at the beach or in your comfy armchair at home. Now, in an effort to reach out to a new audience, you can experience this deep relaxation at the German Society.

One of our seasoned language teachers, Gesine Politz, who was trained in India to conduct these special meditation sessions, will be our guide to help create an authentic personal experience. Please keep in mind that there is no dogma or specific teaching involved. This is not a program designed as an alternative to religion. It is simply a way for you to relax in a group setting with a teacher who will help you shut out the outside world and begin healing any ailments you have from the inside out.

The format of this session will consist of an Invocation of Divine Energy, Meditation, Transfer of Energy, Rest Period and a social time with a Q&A to conclude.

This group is open to members and the public. If you are interested, please contact the Office at 215-627-2332. These sessions will be tailored to the schedules of the interested parties.

The projected cost for a 6-week, 2-hour, bi-weekly session is \$125 plus an initial free “Schnupperstunde”.

We hope you will join us in support of this new and innovative program.

The F. Otto Haas Language Program

Evening Adult Classes

If you have been a GSP language student in the past or if you have always been meaning to start classes but haven’t yet, the **Summer Session** is a great way to give our classes a try. They meet once per week for three hours, **beginning July 16**. Our classes are designed to help you brush up on your current skills, prepare for a pleasure or business trip to Germany or just keep your mind active by learning new things.

The 6-week summer schedule is:

German 1A (new beginners)  
Thursdays, 6:15-9:15pm

German 1R (review of level 1 book)  
Thursdays, 6:15-9:15pm

German 2R (review of level 2 book)  
Tuesdays, 6:15-9:15pm

German 3R (review of level 3 book)  
Wednesdays, 6:15-9:15pm

The level 4 classes will resume in the fall.

The cost is \$200 for members or \$230 for nonmembers, plus textbooks at a cost of \$50.

If you have any questions as to which level to join or the format of our classes, please call or email Sharan (info@germansociety.org).

Registration forms can be downloaded from our website. Please be sure to register so we can hold a seat in the class for you.

If you’d like to join but prefer to wait until the autumn, we will have a **Fall Session**, beginning on September 10 that will run for 12 weeks.

Saturday Youth Classes

Since its inception in the fall of 2006, the Saturday Youth Classes have been met with much enthusiasm and a commendable number of youngsters who fill our halls with studious laughter every week.

Aside from the new friendships formed among the kids, their parents have also developed quite a network among each other while waiting for the kids to finish their classes—an unplanned bonus!

Though we enjoy seeing this group each week, we have decided to break for the summer in order to allow plenty of time for family vacations.

**We will, however, resume in the fall on Saturday, September 15th.**

The class schedule is as follows:

4-7 Year Olds 10:00-11:00am

Pre-Teen Group 9:45-11:15am

Teen Group 9:45-11:15am

Since we have a few youngsters who have made great progress, we will offer an advanced class for teenagers this fall.

Our youngest group is full of songs, games, rhymes and stories, and the two older classes are working from the same textbook our adult students use. We thus hope to satisfy the language needs of any young person interested in learning the German culture and language.

If your kids or grandkids are interested in learning with us this fall, please let us know.

We wish all of you a great summer and hope to see you in September!

—Sharan Knoell

German-American Weekend 2007

—Cont’d from page 1

What we have lined up for that week-end promises to appeal to young and old alike, Germans and non-Germans, who want to savor our culture and history. Concurrently with the Mayor’s reception, we will kick off our festivities here at the Society with a concert for young people. Our ongoing events include a kid’s art show, a lecture on the German language, an Academy Award German film, a fundraising walk-a-thon, a *Volkslieder* sing-along, a dance performance, a champagne reception, an evening of cabaret, a beer tasting seminar, a brass band concert and an ecumenical church service at Old Zion Lutheran Church.

And not to worry, for dining throughout the weekend there will be German bratwursts, sauerkraut, rolls and potato salad with plenty of beer, wine and sodas from our vast selection of *Ratskeller* beverages.

For details of these wonderful pleasures, please read further in this newsletter. Also as October 6 approaches, check your email or the Calendar of Events on our website.

Of great importance, the Society acknowledges with deep gratitude the financial support we will receive from the **German General Consulate in New York** for hosting these various cultural events. We are also moved by the spirit that **President Clinton** expressed in 1993: “It is fitting that we set aside this special day to remember and celebrate how much German-Americans have done to preserve our ideas, enrich our culture, and strengthen our democracy.”

—Hardy von Auenmueller

*Food and drinks will be available from 11a.m. to 7p.m. each day. The exact starting time of each program and cost (where applicable) is listed below and may also be gleaned from our website.*

Friday, October 5

At 12 noon, concurrently with the Mayor’s Reception at City Hall, the Society will kick off the weekend’s events in our Auditorium with a **concert by well-known entertainer Uwe Kind**, to which area high school students and parents are invited.

**Student Art Show** of works produced by youth attending German classes at the *Donauschule*, German Society and Immanuel School (continues through weekend).

At 5:30 p.m., **Dr. Sandro Moraldo**, University of Bologna, Italy, will present a lecture on behalf of the *Gesellschaft für deutsche Sprache* entitled **Deutsch for Sale! Deswegen Deutsch schöner per Gesetz—zum “Lightwesen” populärer Sprachkritik.**

At 7:00 p.m., our **Friday Film Fest** will feature **Das Leben der Anderen**, recent Academy Award-winning German movie. (\$12 members, \$15 non-members, \$10 students)

Saturday, October 6

5K-Walk (approx. 3 miles) begins at 10 a.m. in support of the new **German-American Heritage Center** to be built in Washington, D.C. with the **Liberty Wanderers** and other local German organizations participating. (See our website for details and names of sponsoring organizations.)

At 3:00 p.m., **Hella Volgenau** and her sister **Siri** will enliven the Auditorium

with a group sing-along of German **Volkslieder**.

Next, at 5:30 p.m., we host a lecture and modern **dance performance** on stage by internationally-known **German choreographer Susanne Linke and the Jeanne Ruddy Dance Company** (\$20). This is followed by a **“Meet the Artists” Champagne Reception** in our Library (\$30).

In the evening, 8:00 p.m., we will host the **German cabaret performer Karen Kohler**, who will transport us back to the "Roaring Twenties" with her renditions of **Marlene Dietrich** type songs (\$20).

Sunday, October 7

At 10 a.m. an **ecumenical service** will be held at **Old Zion Lutheran Church** (located at North Broad & Mt. Vernon Streets) with whom the German Society has shared a common history dating to 1764.

At noon, or shortly thereafter, the Society will host another **German Beer Tasting with Marnie Old**, who has enchanted us in the past with lectures and hands-on advice so enthusiasts can get greater enjoyment from their wine and/or beer selections (\$30 members, \$35 non-members).

In the afternoon, 4:00 p.m., the week-end’s festivities conclude with a bright **brass concert** by the **28th Pennsylvania Regimental Brass Band** of the Civil War era (\$20).

**Mark your calendars and invite your friends, neighbors, relatives and house guests of all ages to join in the spirited festivities!**

Volunteering

Volunteerism has been a strength of our Society ever since its founding in 1764. The need has never been greater—especially since we moved to essentially a volunteer-based organization with only one full-time employee, our office manager. We have been very fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteers, and are very grateful to their support. We need to expand the ranks of our volunteers, to support additional programs and activities and to deliver on ongoing capital improvements and maintenance projects.

It can be both fun and rewarding to be a volunteer at the Society. Your help will assure that we continue to grow and to attract new members. You will make new friends, have some fun and quite possibly learn some new skills. Consider offering your services and let us know your interest to be engaged and involved. After all, it is *your* Society!

What opportunities exist?

The maintenance team needs help with painting and minor repair work throughout the building. The team meets one day per week, generally for 4-5 hours.

At least three capital improvement projects are underway, including a new sprinkler system and new windows in the Directors Room. Individuals with project management skills would be helpful. Here is a great opportunity for recent retirees who wish to remain active.

The fund raising team could use the support of experienced grant writers.

Our new rental program has been

quite successful. We need one or two volunteers to “chaperone” for every event; typically 20 – 25 per year. This can be fun, as the events are very diverse!

The facilities, including the outside areas, need to be cleaned periodically. We hope to do this every 3-4 months and a crew of volunteers could accomplish this in 4-5 hours. We have a number of storage areas which need to be cleaned and reorganized.

Office support is always needed, for special events and projects as well as routine work.

We have many other needs, which could use your talents. Why don’t you call Sharan and let us jointly explore your volunteering opportunities.

—Ernest Weiler

Acknowledgements

Among the many volunteer hours our members and friends donate throughout the year, we tremendously appreciate the following grants and donations in-kind.

**Briggs Plumbing Products** in South Carolina was gracious enough to ship us seven ADA compliant toilets, tanks and toilet seats. These water-efficient units have replaced the outdated and unattractive hardware in the Ratskeller restrooms and staff bathroom. They have been fully installed and are ready for use. We commend Briggs’ philanthropy and thank them for participating in our renovation efforts.

**The William Penn Foundation** recently awarded the German Society a grant covering a large portion of the

costs related to installing a sprinkler system and other fire protection measures in the Ratskeller, Auditorium and main hallway. Once the adequate water pumps, piping, and sprinkler heads are installed, the areas affected will be repainted so as not to disrupt the historic nature of our interior.

We are grateful for the support from an organization that supports Philadelphia nonprofits in so many areas.

**Spiegel Verlag** recently donated a one year subscription of *Der Spiegel* to the Society’s Library.

**Fred Greim**, a member for many years, has donated approximately 90 hours of his electronic expertise in an effort to bring the Society’s parking lot gate back into full operation. The gate will eventually help to keep out “unwanted” overnight guests from neighboring nightclubs. Though it is still a work in progress, we commend Fred’s dedication to this project.

**MAB Paints** continues to donate toward our interior repainting efforts.

In addition, the following **gift-in-kind donors** deserve our recognition and gratitude.

- Sonia and Morgan Churchman
- Bill Knoell
- Nury and Otto Reichert-Facilides
- Harry Schaub, Esq.
- Ann and Karl Spaeth
- Desiree Toneatto
- Luigi’s Restaurant (Doylestown)
- Spring House Tavern
- William Penn Inn (Gwynedd)
- Austrian Village (Fox Chase)
- Riecker’s Prime Meats
- Doubletree Hotel (Phila.)
- Branzino’s Restaurant (Phila.)
- Loew’s Hotel (Phila.)
- Warwick Hotel (Phila.)



Annual Fund Donors

The following is a list of those donors who gave after the last *Staatsbote* was published. A total of **\$69,000** was received in donations. Many thanks for your generosity!

New Members

We extend a hearty welcome to you all—especially the John P. Zenger Law Society members!

Names Removed  
for WEB Privacy

Special Events at the German Society



▲ An anniversary celebration and a wedding reception in the Ballroom



Graduation Party in the Ratskeller ◀

R o m a n style dining on the balcony ▶

One of the programs that has blossomed in the past two years is special event rentals. The German Society has rented space to outside parties for weddings, engagements, baby showers, bridal showers, graduations, anniversaries, birthdays, college formals, documentaries, photo shoots, awards ceremonies and corporate training seminars. Through our listing on a party planning website and development of the rental section of our own website, an increasing number of parties have found their way to our door.

Averaging approximately 20 events per year (some of which are multi-day rentals), this is a growing program that not only increases income, but also introduces new and different people to our historic facilities. By building this aspect of our current offerings, we can also increase our exposure to those who are looking for space with character and historical significance in which to hold their special event.

We are currently booking for the rest of 2007 and 2008. So, if you, your family or friends are or will be planning an event in the future, consider the German Society!



Friends of the Library

During the past nine months, we have made great strides in resurrecting the programs of our Library, a process which we are sure you have followed in every issue of the Staatsbote. Also, many of you attended the Reopening Celebration of the Library and have meanwhile met our very capable and personable Librarian, Dr. Friederike Baer. She is always happy to assist members in locating material and checking out books. Perhaps you have participated in one of the Daytime Lectures in the Library or maybe even browsed through the collections, either in person or by visiting our website perusing our library catalog.

We are currently hosting a group of research scholars from here and abroad who are supported by the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C., and who will be using our collections in support of their work. The Carl Schurz Collection Room has been renovated and is ready for use. So much has been accomplished with your donations and your volunteer time. We want to thank you again sincerely for your generous contributions to help make this possible!

Renewed activity in our Library is just part of what has been happening at the Society over the past two years, and we all celebrate this “revival”. Please note that we are in the planning stage for opening the collection of modern German literature, popular biographies, and travel literature to our members on a regular basis through volunteers.

As stewards of our Library and in order to be able to carry on our work, we hope that you will permit us to ask you at this time to make a special donation to **The 2007 Friends of the Joseph Horner Memorial Library Fund** which will support the salary of our librarian and the costs associated with running the operation. Funds received last year helped us meet these needs, and we would like to continue our plans for the reactivation of library programs. We hope that you will find it in your hearts to continue your support with a generous contribution (please use the enclosed form).

Sincerely,  
Frank H. Genieser and Dr. Frank Trommler  
Co-Chairs of the Library Committee

Library Volunteers Needed

The Horner Library is once again up and running nicely during the week but still remains closed on Saturdays. This is the day parents with kids in the Saturday morning German classes might want to browse through the collection, when Netzwerk members may wish to interrupt their professional lives to find something to read in our Library, and when members and visitors probably have more time to drop in.

Unfortunately, there is not enough funding at the moment to engage a weekend Librarian. Therefore, we can only open up this treasure with the help of sufficient volunteers.

Anyone who would be willing to serve a few hours once a month or so—checking out books, sending out reminders, and talking to really nice people—should sign up! Our first meeting will be on **Saturday, September 8th at 11am** at the Society to discuss organizational questions. Hopefully, we will be able to officially start this program on September 29th!

GSP Lesezirkel

Also, at recent gatherings, people have expressed an interest in a GSP Book Club (*Lesezirkel*).

In order to determine the format, literature preferences, and meeting times most desirable to the participants, we will meet on **Saturday, September 8th at 1:00pm**.

This will give us all a wonderful opportunity to refresh our familiarity with past and present German literature and other writings.

If you are interested in either opportunity,  
please contact Helga Halbfass at 610-667-5925  
or halbfass@dca.net.

Meet the German Historical Institute Fellows in the Horner Library

Dr. Michael Boyden

Dr. Boyden is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Harvard University Longfellow Institute. His research focuses on the issue of language in immigrant autobiographies. He is presently working on a new scholarly edition of Carl Schurz’s memoirs.

In this work, he aims to faithfully reconstruct the bilingual dimension of the work—Schurz wrote about his American political career in English, but used his mother tongue to describe the events prior to his migration to the US—a dimension that has been lost in posthumous editions of the work on both sides of the Atlantic. By analyzing the divergences between the different language versions of Schurz’s writing, Dr. Boyden hopes to draw renewed attention to his linguistic activism and correct misconceptions about Schurz’s assimilationist bias. He also hopes to visualize how the recursive monolingualization of Schurz’s life story has served to inscribe it into the respective national imaginations of the US and Germany at different stages in their history. In this way, the bilingual edition will be a reflection of the changing transatlantic relationships between America and Germany.

Katja Herring

Ms. Herring holds a Masters of Arts in History and Political Science from the Universität Hamburg and has also studied at the Freie Universität Berlin. She presently works for the Oral History Program at George Mason University Libraries.

Ms. Herring is currently working on her dissertation at George Mason University in Virginia as well. Most broadly, her dissertation deals with the history of genealogy and local history in the United States. More specifically, she is analyzing the history of genealogical and local historical research among individual people and groups who identified themselves as descending from Pennsylvania German ancestors from the late 19th century until today, with a particular emphasis on the period between the late 19th century and the 1960s.

She intends to explore the history of the German Society and genealogical research among its members, in addition to the GSP’s relationships with other organizations and groups that promoted said research.

Dr. Kirby Richards

Dr. Richards holds a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary and a doctorate in German language and literature from the University of Virginia.

He has also recently published a book entitled *A Method of Prayer. A Mystical Pamphlet from Colonial Pennsylvania*. Johannes Kelpius, sometimes called the Hermit of the Wissahickon, and a small band of spiritual seekers, settled along the Wissahickon Creek in 1694. They wrote poetry and music, watched the stars, and educated local children. Some say they also practiced alchemy and divination. *A Method of Prayer* presents a simple method of silent prayer that we would call “meditation” today.

Dr. Richards’ translation brings the work into modern English. The book is available through Amazon.

He is undertaking preparatory research for a book on German mysticism in colonial Pennsylvania. Key figures include Christopher Sauer and his son, Abraham Wagner, Peter Leibert, and many others.

Dr. Stefan Zahlmann

Dr. Zahlmann has earned a Masters of Arts in History and a PhD in History from the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität in Münster. He has lectured on different subjects of German and American history at the Humboldt-Universität in Berlin, and Universität Konstanz. His book, *Scheitern und Biographie*, was published in 2005 and was one of ten national and international nonfiction books chosen for the 2005 literary supplement of Die Zeit and was reviewed as an “outstanding new release”.

Last fall, he completed his second book on the comparative history of failure in Germany and the USA.

With his current project in the GSP Library, Dr. Zahlmann is looking to answer the following question: What were the cultural prerequisites of being German in America in the 19th and early 20th century? Were these aspects based on stereotypical ideals? Was being a “German” in the US different from the ideals in Germany? Did those requirements allow people with a different ethnic background to become a “German” or a “German-American” in the US?