



## **Building Our Beichl Tower    The Germans are Coming!    College Scholarship Awards**

Three months ago, when we relayed to you our thoughts on how best to make our premises ADA accessible, we felt the time was right to go forward with the long held dream to erect an elevator on the west side of our building, particularly since the construction industry has been stagnating for a while.

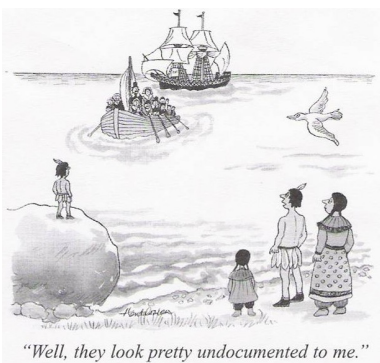
As you know from our subsequent written communications, we wish to acknowledge the most generous support of two long-time friends and members of the Society who are making their contribution to honor Dr. George Beichl's life-long leadership in the German-American community. (For the time being, both benefactors wish to stay anonymous.)

In line with the above, it was overwhelmingly agreed at our recent Annual Members' Meeting that this elevator structure will henceforth be known as "**Beichl Tower**"!

Today, we are pleased to report that all major contracts concerning this project, i.e. with the architect, construction firm, and elevator company have been signed at or below the envisioned price levels..., and the groundbreaking is tentatively scheduled for Friday, June 20.

You also know, the Barthelmes Foundation, which has been very supportive of the Society in the past, has again stepped forward with a **membership challenge grant of \$30,000**. The earlier we reach that goal, the better—as we attempt to complete the construction phase within three  
—*Cont'd on page 2*

On the day I departed for Krefeld to participate in that city's celebration of **325 Jahre Deutsche in Amerika**, I was bemused by the following cartoon published in The New Yorker calendar:



picture of the sailing vessel *Concord*, which carried the first 13 Mennonite families from Krefeld to settle in Germantown, will be shown on our **historical mural**, currently being painted on the western wall of the industrial building facing our parking lot entrance.

The mural will depict the major contributions of German immigrants to American life over the past three centuries, starting with agriculture (planting of flax seed) and its conversion to linen for clothing and paper making, as well as the Conestoga wagon chiefly used as mode of transportation in exploring their "new world."

With the advent of the steamship, subsequent generations of immigrants from Germany came over on ships of  
—*Cont'd on page 2*

Four college students will receive partial scholarships for the 2008/09 academic year, funded by the Society and the Women's Auxiliary.

The Auxiliary is supporting two students this year. The **George Beichl Award** was given to **Daniel Spigelmyer**, who will be a sophomore at Millersville. **Allison Murawski**, a high school senior from Turnersville, NJ will receive the second award from the Auxiliary, and will attend Dickinson College. The Society is providing funding to **Robert Pasternacki**, who will be a junior at Millersville, and to **Ciara McGeary**, an incoming freshman at St. Joseph's University.

The scholarships were announced at the American Assoc. of Teachers of German awards ceremony on April 12. They amount to several thousand dollars each and are funded partially by endowment and fundraising efforts.

—Dr. William Heintzelman, Chair  
Scholarship Committee

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# Neuer Pennsylvanischer Staatsbote

## *“Beichl Tower” cont’d from page 1*

months, and progress payments have to be made along the way.

Hence, it was sportingly proposed to all those present at our members’ meeting that the **federal tax rebates of \$600 be turned over to the Society** before they are spent on other causes. In return, anyone making a donation of \$600 or more will receive the additional recognition of being listed on a plaque, which will be prominently displayed in the lobby of said Beichl Tower (drawing at right).

We are also seeking contributions from other friends of the Society and are endeavoring to obtain grant support from various foundations or government organizations favoring ADA projects, which would include new handicap-accessible bathroom facilities in our basement. Total cost for our expanded ADA elevator/bathroom project is estimated to be \$420,000.

From the positive responses and pledges received to date, I am confident that all our members and friends will contribute a total of **\$50,000, or 12% of the project cost!**

Why do I think so? Well, on our most recent Annual Fund Drive, which is primarily directed towards supporting our day-to-day operations, you have again proven to be most generous.

In fact, with \$71,000 received as of this writing, you passed the prior year’s record. Congratulations, and many, many thanks! (A listing of the additional donors’ names is shown on page 4.)

You now might ask: What do we do for an encore?

—Hardy von Auenmueller

## *“The Germans are Coming!” cont’d from page 1*

the *Hamburg-Amerika Linie*. Such an ocean liner is flanked in our mural by pictures showing a gymnast on parallel bars (*Turnvereine*) and a hospital room reflecting the many contributions



which Germans made in the field of medicine.

It just so happened that on May 24, when I read out and delivered the ceremonial document signed by Mayor Michael Nutter to the city-fathers of Krefeld, this country celebrated the 125th birthday of the Brooklyn Bridge. Built by *Johann August Roebling* and his son *Washington*, it was commonly referred to in its day as “the eighth wonder of the world”!

Appropriately, we will acknowledge this engineering masterwork in our mural, along with the wealth of musical contributions by German composers and conductors (one will be shown leading an orchestra) and in the field of rocket science (a missile launch will be presented).

**The mural will be dedicated during our German-American celebration in early October.** So will an **historical marker** (see photo prop on next page) which the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission has agreed to place in front of our building, upon our petition.

We greatly appreciate the donations received for this mural from the following members: Topper Brick, George Colborn Jr., Joseph Griesbaum, John M. Haas, Allen Krumm, Lachlan Pitcairn, Gabriele W. Lee, Hardy von Auenmueller, Ernie Weiler, and Ed Winter Jr., as well as Concordia Trust and our neighbor, Joseph Gramaglia.

Without their generous funding, we would not have garnered the support of Jane Golden, Executive Director of the city’s Mural Arts Program, for this important historic project.

Coincidentally, 2008 also marks the **400th anniversary** of the arrival of the very **first Germans** reaching this continent, at **Jamestown, VA**—generally considered “America’s birthplace”. These were Dr. Johannes Fleischer, a theologian and botanist who hailed from the Breslau area in Silesia, and two unnamed Hessian glassmakers who set up shop just a short distance from Fort James. That site is presently being excavated.

Sadly, Dr. Fleischer who had come to study the healing potential of “exotic” American plants could not pursue his research for very long. He died within a year, along with many other Jamestown residents.

Our own efforts this year are directed towards celebrating the **325th anniversary of the first settlers from Krefeld**

who landed on these shores and established their homestead in Germantown. Last fall, in anticipation of this year's jubilee, the slogan, "**Making Philadelphia a German Town,**" was coined. (I might say **again!**) Germans in the mid-18th century represented nearly half of the city's population. That was considered a challenge by Benjamin Franklin. In the 2000 census, more than 20% of US citizens still claimed German ancestry.

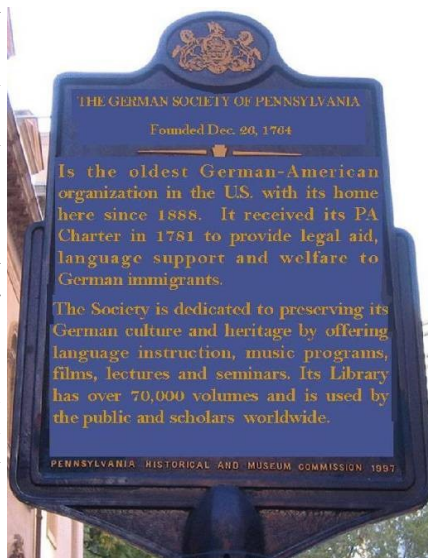
We plan to build on last year's experience, which drew more than 1000 people to our premises over a three-day weekend. The tentative schedule for this year's celebration—expanded to six days—looks as follows:

On Wednesday, October 1, we will start out with an historic play, "**Ben and the Germans,**" developed and presented by area high school students. It will focus on the competition of Benjamin Franklin and Christoph Sauer, two successful printers in the mid-18th century.

This will be followed by an **Early German-American History Symposium** consisting of three or four 20-minute lectures with subsequent Q&A sessions on such diverse subjects as "The First Germans in America", "Pennsylvania's Immigrant Recruitment in Germany", "The Life of German-Americans in the Late 18th Century", and "The Contributions of the Muehlenberg Family."

The PBS historic series on "**Germans in America**" will be shown over the span of two evenings: parts 1 and 2 on Thursday, October 2, and parts 3 and 4 on Friday, October 3. **The official dedication of our German Immigration Mural and the Historical Marker is scheduled for early Fri-**

**day,** to be followed at noon by the traditional **Mayor's Reception at City Hall.** In mid-afternoon you might want to enjoy **Songs of the Minnesingers and Instrumental Dances** in our auditorium.



On Saturday morning, October 4, you may take part in a **5K or 10K walk** through the historic part of Philadelphia with the Liberty Bell Wanderers—in support of the **German Heritage Center in Washington, DC.** For the rest of the day, a true **Oktoberfest Street Festival Celebration**—with lots of music and plenty of beer, under the guidance of *Marnie Old*—is beckoning you!

That evening, we will also enjoy a modern dance performance in our auditorium by the **Group Motion Dance Company**, under the direction of Manfred Fischbeck. They are celebrating their 40th anniversary this year.

And on Sunday, October 5 at 11:00am, an ecumenical **Gottesdienst** is scheduled to be held at the Immanuel Lutheran Church.

At 3:00pm, our "Wister and More!" music program starts its new season with a concert by the **Landesjugendorchester Rheinland-Pfalz** featuring Elgar's Enigma Variations, Beethoven's Triple Concerto and Mendelssohn's Fourth Symphony.

On Monday, October 6, a **German-American Memorial Luncheon** will be held in Center City, honoring the philanthropist John Haas, of Rohm & Haas. In mid-afternoon, you may see the intriguing play, "**AMERIKA, GIBT ES ODER GIBT ES NICHT**" presented on our stage by the **KRESCHtheater Company of Krefeld**, to be followed by a German **Volkslieder sing-along.** In the evening, a second concert will be performed by the **Landesjugendorchester Rheinland-Pfalz.**

This latter concert will be dedicated to all the host families who have opened their homes to these young German musicians, and to other GSP volunteers who are helping us make the 325th anniversary celebration a great success. As the schedule outlined above is not yet cast in stone, you might wish to check our website for any updated information, including tickets, pricing, etc.

—Hardy von Auenmueller

P.S. Please note that the celebrations here on our premises are only a part of this year's jubilee. For further information on other German-American Day activities, please visit:

[www.germanamericanday.org](http://www.germanamericanday.org)



### Add'l Annual Fund Donors

#### Heinrich Keppele Level

Anonymous

### New Members

We extend a cordial welcome to all new German Society members. Your interest in joining is appreciated, and we look forward to seeing you at many of our upcoming events.

### Donations and Gifts In-Kind

Wholeheartedly believing that donating "time, talents, or treasure" is equally valuable, we would like to thank those who have recently given tangible "treasures" to the Society and its operations.

The Women's Auxiliary, in honor of longtime GSP member and Librarian, **Lidy Pohl**, have donated a soon-to-be-completed *Lesecke* in our Library. The new furniture will serve as both a comfortable place to browse your favorite books, and a memorial to the decades of service Lidy dedicated to the Society.

We also would like to extend our appreciation to **Robert Wild, Exec. VP of Niehoff Endex North America** (a subsidiary of the German producer of machinery for the wire and cable industry). Mr. Wild has been graciously toting sacks of **children's books from Germany** for use in our Saturday Youth Classes and to stock the Children's Book Collection in our Library.

We would like to once again thank **Briggs Plumbing**, who, in addition to donating the commodes for the ladies' restroom in the Ratskeller, has contributed three new washout urinals for the men's room. These new facilities will help in updating the bathrooms.

Additionally, **Zurn Industries, Inc.** has donated three sensor-operated, battery-powered flush valves to accompany the new urinals.

Lastly, the \$3,000 granted by **Home Depot** was put to good use last month when one of our hot water heaters began to leak. We used part of those funds to replace the unit.

Many thanks to all the above donors!

—Sharan Knoell

We issue an enormous thank you to all those who contributed so generously.

\*Indicates a lapsed member who has recently re-joined the Society.



## Ladies Who Lunch

On Saturday, May 3rd, a beautiful spring day, members, friends, and representatives of the German-American community streamed into the Society to celebrate the **108th anniversary of the Women's Auxiliary.**

The newly-painted Barthelmes Auditorium looked so very festive with elegant table settings and was decorated with a multitude of spring flowers.

Next to the stage, a beautiful May pole had been raised in honor of the day. A saxophone quartet filled the room with familiar jazz and blues melodies. The catered meal was delicious—from the spring salad to the crème brûlée.

A highlight of the afternoon was a special presentation, honoring **Renate Genieser**, who had been President of the Women's Auxiliary for ten years.

Directors, and some members of the German Society, added a touch "extraordinaire" to this event. As in the previous year, they again had volunteered to act as wait staff to show their appreciation for all the work the women perform for the good of the Society throughout the year. This they did with such expertise and enthusiasm that many of our guests expressed compliments on their efficiency and good humor. No professional could have done a better job!

The women were touched, and want to thank each and every one of them:

Hardy von Auenmueller

Don Detwiler

John Engelbrecht

Kyle Fratz

Frank Klare

Tony Michels

Werner Tillmann

Lew Volgenau

Ernie Weiler

David Winter

—Christel Tillmann

President, Women's Auxiliary



Photos courtesy of Helen Schutz

## Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for our  
**244th Annual *Stiftungsfest***  
on

**Saturday, November 8 at 6:00pm.**

Come join your friends for a champagne reception in the Library, followed by an elegant catered dinner in the freshly-painted Barthelmes Auditorium. Music for your listening and dancing pleasure will again be provided by the Paul Kauriga Orchestra.

In order to make this event a success, we are looking for donations for the Silent Auction at our *Stiftungsfest*, which makes it our principal fundraising event.

Do you have season tickets to sport events, concerts, shows, theater, or the opera? Is there a specific date when you might not be able to attend? Please consider giving these to the Society; they are always popular in the Auction.

Do you have a favorite restaurant? Next time you are there for a meal, ask if they would be willing to donate a dinner for two to a worthwhile charitable cause. Alternatively, you might want to consider opening your home for a dinner or luncheon party, particularly if you possess culinary talents.

Past auctions have also featured vacation home stays, works of art, handcrafted and decorative items, spa services, baskets of cheer, gift memberships, train sets, gift cards, books, and autographed photos.

Please contact the Society (215-627-2332) with any items or services you would like to donate. Anything, large or small, will be greatly appreciated.

Official invitations to the event will be mailed shortly after Labor Day.

—Lew and Hella Volgenau

### Three GHI Fellows to Use Horner Library

As in the previous year, the German Society will host young scholars for their work in German-American Studies in June and July '08. This year, the competition for the "German Historical Institute Fellowship in the Horner Library" was even stronger than last year. Candidates from Germany, Spain, Hungary, Ukraine joined those from the United States. The selection committee chose four candidates of whom one had to decline due to a newly scheduled dissertation defense in Hungary. We are pleased to welcome the following GHI Fellows between June 1-July 11 and look forward to a **brown bag luncheon in the Ratskeller on Friday, June 20 at 12:00 noon** at which they will present their research to the members of the Society. Last year's luncheon meeting drew a substantial group of interested members.

**Chad Fulwider** is completing his dissertation at Emory University in which he analyzes the German propaganda campaign in the US between 1914-1917. His thesis has the title, "*The Kaiser's Most Loyal Subjects? Germany's Vision of America and German-Americans During World War I*". The German Society, whose former President Charles Hexamer also headed the National German-American Alliance during this period, had a prominent position in the fight to preserve America's neutrality in WWI. In his four week stay, Chad will find pertinent material in our collection.

**Bettina Hessler**, a doctoral student at Northwestern University, pursues research on the Moravians and their building of American communities in

the 18th century. In her dissertation, "*Community Formation in an Atlantic World: The Moravians in North America, 1740-1800*", Bettina examines how the Americans gradually retreated from the global Moravian community and, specifically, how the transformation of the choir system, the establishment of family solidarities, and the admission of non-Moravians into the settlements began to reshape the contours of the Moravian community.

**Gregory Kupsky**, a Ph.D. candidate at Ohio State University, works on another topic in German-American relations during the 20th century. His focus is on the Steuben Society and its response to National Socialism. It will constitute one chapter of his dissertation, "*German America and National Socialism, 1933-1945*". The Steuben Society, founded after WWI, was to channel the public display of German-American issues in a non-partisan manner. Gregory will analyze the ways in which that Society, probably the most prominent German-American organization in the interwar years, succeeded – or not.

—Dr. Frank Trommler

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### Wister and More! Concert Series

While a few details remain to be resolved, the artistic elements for the 2008/09 Classical Concert Series have been determined, and this is to inform you of what to look for next year.

The 2008/09 season promises to be a very exciting one, with a somewhat different balance than in the past. As part of the German-American Celebration, we will host an outstanding **Youth Orchestra from the Palatine region of Germany**. They will present

two concerts in early October, starting our season *mit Pauken und Trompeten!* We will also present four concerts by the well-known **Wister Quartet**, as well as one by the **Duo Parisienne**.

The **American Virtuosi**, a family trio consisting of Society members, will make its official debut in our Hall, and the **Frankfurter Kammertrio** will be revisiting us.

As a change of pace, we will present two choral groups this year, the **Key-stone State BoyChoir**, and in December the **Ephrata Cloister Choir** (singing Christmas chorales and other early American music).

And, to round out the season, we will again have a Friday evening concert with the **Cole Porter Trio**, offering some of the great song and dance music from the golden era.

As has been our practice in years past, after each concert, we will hold a *Kaffee und Kuchen* reception supplied by volunteer members of the Women's Auxiliary. This is also an opportunity for the audience to meet the musicians.

As soon as the final details have been worked out, we will be printing and mailing our Classical Concert Series brochure (with full information and subscription forms).

If you are not on the distribution list for this information and wish to receive it, please contact Sharan Knoell at the Society.

Furthermore, we are hoping that by the time our 2008/09 concert season begins, we will have a new elevator tower in place, which will make it much easier to negotiate the challenges associated with climbing the many steps of our building.

—Karl H. Spaeth, Chair  
Music Committee

## Calendar of Events

### June

Sat. June 28                      *Wandertag* in Tyler Park with *Wandermeisters* Lew and Hella Volgenau, 10:00am

### July and August

July 21-August 30              The Society will be closed on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and Labor Day.  
Summer Session of German Classes

### September

Sat. Sept. 6                      Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10:00am  
Mon. Sept. 15                    German Society Board Meeting, 7:00pm  
Mon. Sept. 15-Dec. 6          12-Week Fall Session of German Classes for Adults Begins  
Sat. Sept. 20                    12-Week Fall Session of German Classes for Youth Begins

### October

Wed. Oct. 1-Oct. 6              Expanded German-American Weekend Celebration (see pages 2-3 for details)  
Sun. Oct. 5                      "Wister and More!" Concert Series, *Landesjugendorchester Rheinland-Pfalz*, 3:00pm  
   Selections by: Elgar, Beethoven, and Mendelssohn  
Sat. Oct. 11                      Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10:00am  
Tues. Oct. 14                    Women's Auxiliary Bus Trip to Hyde Park, NY  
Sun. Oct. 26                      "Wister and More!" Concert Series, The Wister Quartet, Haydn, Staneck, Verdi, 3:00pm

### November

Sat. Nov. 8                      Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10:00am  
Sat. Nov. 8                      244th Annual *Stiftungsfest* and Silent Auction, 6:00pm  
Mon. Nov. 10                    *Konversationsabend*, Topic TBA, 7:00pm  
Fri. Nov. 14                      St. Martin's Day Parade for Families, 6:00pm  
Fri. Nov. 21                      Friday Film Fest, Film TBA, 6:30pm  
Sun. Nov. 23                      "Wister and More!" Concert Series, The Wister Quartet, Glasonov, Beethoven, Dvorak, 3:00pm

### December

Sat. Dec. 6                      Christmas Bazaar of the Women's Auxiliary, 12:00 noon  
Wed. Dec. 10                    *Konversationsabend*—Traditional Advent Celebration at the Auenmueller's, 7:00pm  
Fri. Dec. 12                      Friday Film Fest, Film TBA, 6:30pm  
Sun. Dec. 14                      "Wister and More!" Concert Series, Ephrata Cloister Chorus, 3:00pm  
Mon. Dec. 15                    German Society Board Meeting, 7:00pm

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**The German Society of  
Pennsylvania**

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

## Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

"I feel like I missed some of the movie because I had to read the subtitles."  
"They speak too fast for me to understand." "By the time I compose a response in my head, they're onto the next topic." "Grammar is so difficult."

If any of these sound familiar to you, the German Society can help.

Since its founding 244 years ago, language instruction has been a focal point of the Society's program offerings. Serving everyone from five year olds to senior citizens, our German classes will prepare you for a variety of language needs: travel for business or pleasure, graduate and post-graduate translation exams, career advancement...and also for fun!

Because we have been perfecting the art of teaching languages for so long, the biggest advantage of our program is the development of all communication skills simultaneously—speaking, reading, writing, and listening comprehension. All of our teachers have years of experience teaching the German language.

Our Youth Program will be on hiatus until the fall, but we will be offering an **Adult Summer Semester starting the week of July 21**. The session will run for six (6) weeks. If you have ever been curious about our program but were hesitant to make a 12 week commitment, the summer is a perfect time to try one of our classes. Costs range from \$200-\$280.

If you would like more information, please call or email the office. We will be happy to tell you more! —Sharan Knoell

P.S. We will *not* be offering a new beginner's class in the summer, due to the shortened schedule, but will resume German 1A classes shortly after Labor Day.

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## Society Space Rentals - Fastest Growing Revenue Source

Four years ago, when we booked our first major space rental to a wedding party, I remember well how we needed to touch-up and cover various ugly wall surfaces to meet the expectations of the Egyptian bride and her family.

Subsequently, after renting out our space for various other purposes, such as a movie shoot in the Library, a business conference in the Auditorium and a birthday party in the Ratskeller, we realized that greater income could be derived if the appearance of our premises were better.

Now that our Auditorium, the Ratskeller, and hallways have been refurbished, we are pleased to report that these areas have been developed to become a substantial income producer. In fact, last year our revenue from space rentals reached \$16,000. This year we have logged in almost \$30,000. With the elegant earth-colored decor of our Hall and a reconditioned floor, we know that our premises will be in high demand. Increased bookings for fashion shows, dance and music events, professional conferences, silent auction fundraisers are proof thereof.

"Chaperones" are needed to watch over these events in order to make sure that all goes well and our renovating efforts have not been in vain. If you would like to lend a hand, please call our office. —Hardy von Auenmueller