



Neuer Pennsylvanischer

Staatsbote

Internet: www.germansociety.org

Summer 2009

President's Message

This is my first report as President, and I am happy to report that the Society is progressing well on a number of fronts.

The leadership of the Society has been altered. The Chair of the Board, a new position, occupied by Hardy von Auenmueller, the President, Ernie Weiler, the Executive Vice-President, Tony Michels, and the Business Manager, Sharan Knoell supported by the Executive Committee and your Board of Directors are responsible for and provide the strategic as well as tactical support to the Society operations.

Hardy von Auenmueller, as noted in his farewell letter in the spring issue of the Staatsbote, relinquished not only his duty as President of the Society, but also reduced his very hands-on support and long volunteer hours. We acknowledge his many contributions over the past four years, and most importantly wish to thank him for reshaping and invigorating the organization.

In the coming months, I will devote some of my efforts to help revitalize several of our committees and to strengthen our volunteer programs. As noted in a companion report on page 2, effective committees and dedicated volunteers are critical to the long term success of the Society.

Preliminary financial data suggests that we managed to operate with a slight surplus in the last fiscal year, which ended on June 30th. We experienced a significant decline in contributions to our Annual Fund Drive, and a

number of members did not renew their memberships. Our Board approved a balanced budget for the new fiscal year, and we need to be extra vigilant on expenses and hopefully grow some programs, during this economically challenging time.

Our facility improvement activities are progressing well. Our new 'Beichl Tower', which houses a beautiful five stop elevator, was dedicated on June 27th. A contract to replace the badly deteriorated Auditorium windows was signed, and we expect to complete this work by late September. We received a grant from the Phoebe Haas Trust to help with the second phase of our efforts to make the facility handicap accessible. We already installed the elevator and we dedicate these funds for the construction of a new ADA compliant bathroom and the alteration of the existing bathrooms. We expect to complete this project by September of 2010.

Volunteers

I recently heard a minister eulogize a friend who passed on. The minister noted that true worth is not measured by what you can acquire, but rather what you can give away or share with others. He noted that my friend was not wealthy in the conventional sense of the term, but that he was exceedingly generous with his time, energy and talent that he shared with others.

We also have a number of very generous and talented volunteers at the Society.

-Cont'd on page 2

Chairman's Comments

Dear Friends:

These are demanding economic times for everyone in America. Our Society is facing the same challenges as many other non-profit organizations across the country. Over the past 18 months, our investment portfolio has suffered along with nearly all others. Earned income and revenue flow from contributions has slowed.

Our most recent **Annual Fund Drive** garnered \$25,000 less than that of the previous year. We appreciate your generosity nonetheless, and wish to recognize all those who have given to that cause over the past three months (see listing of additional donors on page 10).

Michael Kaiser, president of the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, recently predicted that the current *-Cont'd on page 2*

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—President cont'd from page 1

recession could kill off at least 10,000 cultural organizations this year. Especially in these economically challenging times, we need to expand our volunteer corps. We are currently searching for a coordinator who will help us schedule volunteer events, or programs, provide some baseline training and most importantly help assure that contributions are appropriately recognized. If you feel you could fill this role and would like to be considered, please give us a call.

The following is a partial list of opportunities for our volunteer corps - 1) office and clerical support work, 2) routine maintenance activities throughout the building, which will include interior and exterior painting, 3) periodic building and exterior clean-up - likely scheduled quarterly, 4) concert, film or other event support - to help set up chairs, welcome visitors and help with clean-up chores, and 5) finally we need chaperones for our rental program.

All these activities can be fun and rewarding. Please call the office if you would like to participate. We will schedule an organizational meeting for new volunteers in early September.

To honor our dedicated volunteers for contributions during the 2008/2009 fiscal year, we have (or will) distribute personal acknowledgement letters which will include a coupon for two concerts or film showings. We recognize that this is only a small tribute in recognition of the more than 4,500 person-hours our volunteers donated to the Society. We all benefit from their generosity - many, many thanks.

Committees

You might consider committee activities at the Society. We presently have ten different committees and some are more active than others, but all are important. Since we really can't afford a professional staff to run our organization, much of the support for programs and activities must come from our committees. Please call the office (215-627-2332) if you are interested in joining any of the committees below:

Membership Committee

Music Committee

Movie Committee

Nominating Committee

Personnel Committee

Library Committee

Arts Committee

Finance Committee

Yearly Special Event Committees —
Hamburger Abend, Sommerfest, Oktoberfest, Stiftungsfest

—Ernest Weiler

—Chairman cont'd from page 1

(Let's make sure that ours is not one of them!)

He cautions that "an institution shored for years with philanthropic largesse can become just as complacent as Wall Street investment bankers betting their future on profitable but risky mortgage-backed securities."

He goes on to say that "...most leaders in the non-profit world are chosen above all for their fund-raising skills. Their ability to weather tumultuous markets by constantly reviewing spending practices and productivity tends to be a secondary concern." In order to make sure that we do not

fall into that trap, we have to be most vigilant with the management of our financial resources—and fortify the volunteering spirit of our membership, as covered in a separate write-up by Ernie Weiler in this issue of our newsletter.

Michael Kaiser also recommends that cultural institutions, like ours, focus on marketing their products more aggressively. This is a challenge which must be addressed by us as soon as a functional marketing committee has been formed. Is there anyone wishing to participate in that endeavor?

- Hardy von Auenmueller

College Scholarship Awards

Six college students will receive partial scholarships for the 2009/10 academic year, funded by the Society and the Women's Auxiliary.

The Auxiliary is supporting Millersville student **Robert Pasternacki** this year with the **George Beichl Award**.

The German Society is issuing awards to Temple University students **Thomas Golanoski** and **Armin Pop**, current Millersville student **Daniel Spiegelmyer**, and incoming freshmen **Jessica Micciolo** of American University and **Chenoa Wolters** of West Chester University.

The scholarships amount in total to over \$10,000 and are funded mainly by endowment and GSP members.

We congratulate these students and wish them successful academic careers!

—Sharan Knoell

Women's Auxiliary Anniversary Luncheon

In the heat of the summer, it is refreshing to recall beautiful spring days, especially the perfect day of the 109th Anniversary Luncheon of the Women's Auxiliary in May.

The event was just beautiful. Everywhere, there was an abundance of spring flowers, and their fragrances mixed with the happy chattering and laughter of the participants.

Everybody chimed in to the sing-along of *Frühlingslieder* lead by three of our members and accompanied on the piano by **Jacqueline Smith**. As a special treat, Jackie gave an intermezzo of Mozart's "Komm lieber Mai und mache..." It was wonderful.

As in prior years, our friendly and efficient wait staff received waves of applause. Our thanks to: **Hardy von Auemueller, Werner Carrieri, Don Detwiler, Ray Dietrich, David Fingerle, Frank Klare, Tony Michels, Tim Rausch, Werner Tillmann, Lew Volgenau, and David Winter.**

It is unique in the German-American community that Board members and members of an affiliated organization show their support in this way. It most certainly gives our luncheon a special flair!

I also wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to all the other volunteers, members and friends of our organization who individually donated their time and efforts.

Last but not least, I would like to remind all of you that the Women's Auxiliary is planning a bus trip to the Washington, DC area for September 15th. Please call Doris MacPherson at 570-897-7791 if you would like more information or to make a reservation.

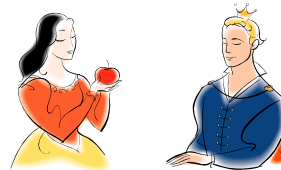
—Christel Tillmann, President

Women's Auxiliary of the GSP

"Freizeit für Kinder: Ein märchenhaftes Sommercamp"

With pleasure, we would like to introduce you to the first annual German Summer Camp for Children at the German Society.

August 17 - 21, 2009



The theme for the camp will be German Fairy Tales, including:

Aschenputtel (Cinderella)

Hänsel und Gretel (Hansel and Gretel)

Rotkäppchen (Little Red Riding Hood)

Schneewittchen (Snow White)

Rumpelstilzchen (Rumpelstiltskin)

The cost is \$200 for the first child, and \$150 for each additional child from the same family. **All children ages 3-12 are welcome.** No previous knowledge of German is required.

We ask that kids are sent each day with a brown bag lunch. Drinks, snacks, and all supplies will be provided.

Every day will focus on a different story and include a reading of the actual fairy tale, activities, songs, games, recreation, crafts and more.

All classes will be held here at the German Society, and the children will not be taken off the premise.

For those of you who participate in our Saturday German classes, you are already familiar with **Claudia Biester**, our 4-7 year old teacher. We are pleased to have her as the instructor for our summer program. She is a native German speaker and has an educational background in teaching German.

If you do not have a child in the program, and would be willing to lend your voluntary support by helping with games, crafts, or any other aspect of the summer camp, please let us know. We will need assistance, and are happy to make use of your service!

If you would like more information on the camp or on volunteering, please call Sharan at 215-627-2332. You can also download a registration form here: www.germansociety.org/summer_camp.html.

We are very excited about this new program for our young German students and hope that it will be a great success!

—Sharan Knoell

GHI Fellows at the Horner Library

As the cooperation of the German Society with the German Historical Institute in Washington continues with our summer fellowship program, we have again been impressed by the high caliber of the visiting fellows. In June and July the Society hosted three fellows under the auspices of the "German Historical Institute Fellowships at the Horner Library": two doctoral candidates from the University of Mainz (Laura Feil) and the University of Cambridge, UK (Christopher Geissler), and Assistant Professor of History Richard Schaefer from the State University of New York at Plattsburgh. The fellows presented their findings in a brown bag luncheon seminar in the Ratskeller on July 10. The lively discussion showed a strong interest by the members of the Society. We asked them to make short summaries available to the readers of the Staatsbote.

"Vor die Sonnenhöhe von Pennsylvanien"

The Saur Press: German Printing in the Colonies (1738-1777)

My dissertation project concerns itself with German printing in the colonies, using the Saur press in Germantown as an example. I adhere to Hugh Amory's statement: "The 'colonial book' may be divided into two scriptures, British and German: British for the national nexus...; German for the religious and linguistic nexus that provided other emigrants their central identity." (*A History of the Book in America*, vol. 1, 2007) I argue that the Saur press does fill both spaces. I am also convinced that Saur prints provided the reader with more than spiritual texts and thus contributes to identity building as well

as nation shaping in the American eighteenth-century context. Working towards this conclusion, I pursue close reading of Saur manuscripts and prints such as almanacs, newspapers, broadsides, and other available publications, which I consider all to be pieces of literature. With this research I intend to give the press, its work and the German-speaking population a new classification in colonial studies that has not yet been considered; the prints have not yet been read as literature.

Important texts are in the Horner Library, among them issues of *Der Hoch-Deutsch Americanische Calendar*, and other almanacs and calendars, aside from many religious publications. By examining the texts from a cultural rather than a religious perspective, it will become clear that the Saur press illustrates the complexity of German immigrants' identity formation in colonial America from the opening of the press in 1738 until 1777 when the press was shut down after the revolution. Currently I pursue the relationship of Saur with his main competitor in printing, Benjamin Franklin, for which I found important documents at Horner.

—Laura Feil

A Distinctly German Mission Slavery and Abolitionism in German Writing, 1848-1918

My research stay at the Horner Library comes at the end of my first year of doctoral work at the University of Cambridge (UK), where I am writing my dissertation entitled "A Distinctly German Mission: Slavery and Abolitionism in German Writing, 1848-1918". This project aims to uncover

and qualify the hitherto unrecognized prominence and importance in German writing of the debates about and representations of slavery and its abolition. German writers appear to have related slavery and abolition to much more broadly held notions of a particular German duty to the world. The scholarly appreciation of German identity will benefit from this dissertation's focus on a German discourse situated in a globalized context.

The opportunity to work with the resources of the Horner Library has greatly contributed to my ability to properly account for the German *Amerikabild* in the early and mid-nineteenth century. Equally important is my much improved sense of the German-American engagement with slavery and abolitionism. This American community's direct experiences and the connection they shared with Europe through the transfer of information and people were a formative component in continental Germans' understanding of and opinions about American slavery.

The Horner's collection provided me with some materials that are not easily accessible in Great Britain or Germany. For example, I was able to get my hands on a rare copy of a German novel about Brazilian slavery, Ludwig Heinrich's *Der Sklavenhändler* (1867). More directly relevant, I was able to read several works by Friedrich "Armand" Strubberg, Graf A. Baudissin and Friedrich Kapp, which has proven quite enriching in my survey of the German and German-American perspective on American questions of race and slavery, a perspective much more equivocal than has often been

acknowledged.

As I prepare to return to Cambridge to continue my work, I would like to thank the German Historical Institute (Washington, DC) for supporting my trip to Philadelphia and especially Dr. Frank Trommler, Dr. Violet Lutz and the entire staff of the German Society of Pennsylvania for making this stay so rewarding. —Christopher Geissler

“Catholic and Modern:

German Scholars and the European Catholic Imagination, 1815-1865”

I am currently working on a manuscript that explores the ways that German Catholic scholars sought to reconcile professional and confessional identities in the nineteenth century. Confronted not only by a discourse of modernity that was explicitly hostile to Catholicism, scholars were forced to take stock of a Church that was itself in the throes of structural change.

Beginning mid-century, Catholics throughout the German territories mobilized to defend themselves against what they took to be their exclusion from German culture. Strategies of mobilization included decidedly innovative lay organizations, an active popular press, and scholarly attacks against the ‘Protestant’ foundations of the German nation. As I and others have argued, these strategies laid the foundation for an activist Catholicism that served Catholics in their decades-long struggle for parity in the German territories. I have gone a long way in comparing these activities with those of German immigrants in the U.S. Though I found much replication, I also saw that the religious liberties in the U.S. created a very different context for Catholics.

While extending this research, I was pleased to find in the Horner Library a rich collection of materials relating to the various dissenting Christian groups that proliferated in the 1830s and 40s. Linked in various ways with broader political aspirations of the German *Vormärz* and with radical theologians inspired by the philosopher Hegel, these materials have inspired me to broaden my perspective on Catholic modes of self-assertion and community building.

—Richard Schaefer

Bernard Freitag

Bernard Freitag, President of the German Society from 1993-2003, who passed away on June 21, 2009, liked to quote his mother’s words, “If you don’t do it well, don’t do it at all!” I remember a particular moment in the 1990s, when the big Restoration and Cataloging Project of the Horner Library got under way and the discussion turned to the long-term effects for the Society.

What would happen to the Society in the future once thousands of books were restored, catalogued and ready to be forgotten as an antiquarian albatross in the building on Spring Garden Street? What would happen to the building itself that had lived with deferred maintenance since the 1960s, showing signs of becoming an albatross of physical deterioration? What was to be done?

It was that moment when Bernard Freitag brought the Society’s Board and a substantial number of interested bystanders and sponsors on board with the above quoted motto – meaning: if we engage in such a crucial project for the survival of the Society, we have to go the whole way and complement the

Library Project with a Building Renovation Project. Only such a combination would enable the Society to remain viable in the future.

As the co-chair of the Library Project that ran from 1994-99, I had the privilege to work with Bernie through the ups and downs of this combined endeavor. Looking back at his life as a highly successful teacher of German – mostly at Council Rock High School – and a shrewd administrator on the board of the Pennsylvania Public School Employees’ Retirement Association, I cannot but state that his highest achievement has been his diligent, tenacious, and exhausting leadership in moving the GSP as the foremost German-American institution into the twenty-first century. His goal became reality: thanks to the enormous work and sacrifice of many members and friends, and the successful solicitation of foundations and the German Foreign Ministry, the \$1.1 million-fund drive for the Library Project was complemented by a \$1.5 million fund drive for the building.

Both projects were completed, though with some huffing and puffing, in 2000. Bernie was the right man at the right place at the right time. He recognized the moment when the financial markets allowed big planning and the Society itself was energized by the transatlantic attention it had found with its self-help rescue operation.

Bernie’s sudden death is a shock for friends and colleagues everywhere who have known him also as a well-rounded conversationalist, speaker and ambassador for the Society. We mourn with his wife Mary Ann who helped him carry the many burdens with grace and good humor. —Frank Trommler

Cultural Trip to Eastern Germany

Late in April, Sixteen members and friends of the German Society flew to **Frankfurt** for a ten-day cultural trip across Germany's midsection. Upon arrival early on a Tuesday morning, we headed for downtown Frankfurt—commonly referred to as "Mainhattan" with lots of skyscrapers—mostly bank buildings—including the European Central Bank. We also saw the *Paulskirche* (birthplace of German Democracy) from a distance, and passed by the birthplace of *Goethe*.

Our next stop was **Weimar**, where Goethe spent his most productive years as poet, writer and statesman (counselor to Duke Karl August). His friendships with Schiller, Humboldt, Schubert, and Wieland among others, made him and Weimar the intellectual and cultural focal point of Germany in the early 19th Century.

After WWI, this historic town became the

capital for Germany's second attempt at establishing a democratic government—the *Weimarer Republik*. That ended with the rise of Hitler. Our young guide from the local International School showed us all the historic sites. He also pointed out that the Buchenwald concentration camp, which President Obama visited recently, is located a short distance away.

We ended up the day (staying for three nights to avoid constant packing and unpacking) at a centrally located hotel

in **Leipzig**, a few hundred feet from its main railway station—the largest in Europe. This imposing *Kopfbahnhof* now includes a three-tiered shopping mall. It attracted a few of us who wanted this first day to last forever—tasting a few local brews. There were many more local brews to follow over the span of our trip.

Leipzig—with its more than 800 years of international trade fair tradition—also celebrates its university's 600th

ziger Schule) as well as the *Völkerschlachtdenkmal*, a gigantic structure commemorating the battle of Leipzig, where Napoleon was decisively defeated in 1813. More than 30,000 Russian soldiers died during that battle...and so we visited the *Russische Gedächtniskirche*.

Our next stop was **Dresden**, the capital city of Saxony, also known as *Elbflorenz*. A 30-minute stop at the main station gave us time to check in

luggage at our hotel in the *Fussgängerzone*, before continuing on to **Goerlitz**. After strolling through this most picturesque town with many renovated buildings of the Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque eras, we ventured across the Neisse river to have lunch on the Polish side.

This was a mistake! Not only did the area still look pretty drab—the people and the service personnel reminded us of their

socialist past. No wonder that most of us hurried back to the western side, where we enjoyed a scrumptious meal served by a beautiful and efficient waitress who, ironically, hailed from Poland. The others who stayed waited patiently for more than an hour to get their food.

Upon our return to Dresden late that night, we stopped at the famous *Kartoffelkeller* and feasted on a seemingly diverse menu—all based on potatoes, the traditional main staple of German



cooking. A young *Dresdner* banker was our guide through the *Altstadt* which has been totally recreated to its 19th Century splendor, after the devastating bombing destruction in 1945.

Our walking tour took us past the *Fürstenzug* (porcelain mural of the Wettiner Dynasty), the Zwinger Museum, Semper Opera, *Frauenkirche* and many other places of worship, museums and royal palaces—all of which we were able to take in one more time by viewing the old city from a high point across the river—the famous *Canelotti* view. On our private bus tour, we also visited *Moritzburg* (summer residence of *August der Starke*) and the vineyards of Radebeul. The next day we continued our travel to **Berlin** where we were given two different guided tours, One showed us the capital district, major historic buildings and the *Brandenburger Tor*, along the east-west thoroughfare, *Unter den Linden*. The other, an actor, gave us a non-tourist view of the city.

The highlight of our stay in Berlin was a personal, two-hour tour conducted by the Mayor of Krefeld, **Bernd Scheelen, MdB**, of the *Reichstag* (German Parliament Building), telling us its turbulent history. The photo, taken under the new glass cupola designed by Norman Foster, captures this unique experience.

On our way back to Frankfurt we trod in the footsteps of **Martin Luther**—prime mover of the Protestant Reformation. We stopped in Wittenberg and Eisenach as well. In Eisenach we also visited the Bach-Museum and Wartburg castle, where Luther sat in protective custody while he translated the Bible into German. (No wonder he did not extend his stay: Even on a sunny

day early in May it was cold up there!) At a wrap-up meeting back in Philadelphia, it was agreed that we would next tour the four major metropolitan areas of Germany. Would you be interested in joining us?

- Hardy von Auenmueller

Window Replacement Project

Finally, after extensive preparation, the replacement of our Auditorium windows has begun. As you know, numerous grant proposals were written over the past three years to obtain the funds required for this project, and three months ago, we were successful! The preparation for the bidding process was handled with considerable care. The project group (Ernie, Hardy, and Tony) decided to have one of the windows deconstructed before opening the bidding.

To avoid any unpleasant surprises, the



entire window was taken apart and laid out in the Auditorium. Interested

bidders had an opportunity to take measurements and submit proposals.

We plan to fully replace all functional portions of the six windows and will try to reuse as many of the salvageable mullions as possible.



The old milled decorative elements will be used as templates for any replacement parts to make the windows look as they did 120 years ago.

We are also adding major technical improvements: installing sound reducing, double layered, insulated glass filled with argon gas, and the capability to open all the lower sash.

Six companies were invited to participate in the bidding process. After three weeks of intense negotiations by the project team, the Board approved and selected a local window manufacturer with in-house milling capabilities on June 15th.

If everything runs according to plan, all six windows will be replaced by the end of September.

—Tony Michels

Beichl Tower Dedication and *Sommerfest*

During the 1880's, when our venerable building on Spring Garden Street was new, people in Germany spoke of *Kaiserwetter* when they experienced beautiful weather.

I still remember the words of my grandmother who was born in that "golden era"—*Petrus ist uns hold!* And so, I think, were we indeed blessed when we assembled at the German Society on Saturday, June 27, to celebrate, at long last, the dedication of our **Beichl Tower**. The sun was shining on our premises, and has been ever since.

All the pent up frustrations and daily challenges that we had to endure during the extended construction period were quickly forgotten, when

Fortunately, we were not doubly jinxed by that date! The inspector issued the sorely needed permit, generously overlooking several flaws which we have since pointed out to the construction company during our walk-through last week—along with 20 other items that need to be reworked or touched up.

A plaque commemorating all the most generous donors was presented during the ceremony (it now hangs on the vestibule wall of the elevator annex), and a champagne toast was offered to all who had given their best in time, talent and treasure.

As soon as the dedication ceremony had come to an end, 35 members and friends of the Society, including

Diana and Sharan Knoell, moved down to the *Ratskeller*, where the latter two had set up that space for a **Wine and Food Pairing Seminar**. Over the next two hours, we witnessed a very informative and captivating performance by *Marnie Old*, a well known sommelier, who had taught us the basics on beer

and wine in various tasting sessions over the past three years.

Our lecturer sparkled as always in her presentation. That can be discerned from the picture below. By the time

Dr. George Beichl, accompanied by his wife, **Isabella**, and the other honored guests, **Lisel Trustorff** as well as **Ulrich and Ella Both**, as main financial supporters of this project, were able to take the "inaugural trip" on our new elevator (see photo above).

It had been "touch and go" until the very last day. We had failed the first state inspection, and then kept our fingers crossed that the corrective actions, taken by the general contractor, his subs and the elevator installer, would earn us a passing grade on the second try on Friday, June 26.

she was finished, we were more than ready to catch some fresh air. So we moved to the Society Garden for our first annual ***Sommerfest*** celebration, where several Board members had



begun to grill and serve a vast spread of sausages, kebobs and other meats donated by Chef **Walter Staib** of City Tavern.

He also presented us with a gigantic *Wurstsalat* platter. I had never seen anything like it before. Thank you, Walter! You truly spoiled us. In fact, we feasted on the leftovers throughout the following week. May we count on your continued support for future festivities?

Aided by the cool summer breeze, we sat for hours under Linden trees—eating and drinking, conversing and thinking, until nightfall bade us to cease.

Hardly had we cleared the deck—moving the tables and chairs inside—when our elevator came to a stop! But that's another story...

- Hardy von Auenmueller



Save the Date!

**245th Annual *Stiftungsfest*
on
Saturday, November 7 at 6:00pm**

This year, enter the Beichl Tower for a ride in our new elevator up to a champagne reception in the Library. An elegant catered dinner follows in the Auditorium, and music for your listening and dancing pleasure will again be provided by the Kauriga Orchestra.

In order to make this event a success, we are looking for donations for the **Silent Auction** at our *Stiftungsfest*, one of our main fundraising events. Perhaps you have subscriptions or tickets to sporting events, concerts, theater, or the opera, which you would consider giving us for our 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. A letter from the Society acknowledging their donation will be provided. 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, hand-crafted and decorative items, spa services, baskets of cheer, gift memberships, train sets, gift cards, books, and autographed photos.

This year, **all auction items will be listed with pictures on our website.** Therefore, we ask that items be donated to the German Society ASAP. Anything, large or small, will be greatly appreciated.

Official invitations to this gala event will be mailed shortly after Labor Day. —Lew and Hella Volgenau

Friday Film Fests Coming this Fall

Calling all movie buffs and film connoisseurs!

This fall, our Film Committee will be showing several movies about historical subjects for your viewing pleasure. As always, we will have homemade *Suppenküche* (dinner and dessert) by the Women's Auxiliary prior to the film and a discussion following the screening. Admission prices remain \$12 for members, \$15 for non-members, \$10 for students.

The first film on October 9th will be *Walküre*, the popular Tom Cruise hit film dubbed in German. It follows Cruise as Colonel von Stauffenberg, responsible for the failed attempt to assassinate Hitler.

The second on November 20th will be the Academy Award winner *The Reader* with Kate Winslet. The story is about a teenager and his affair with an older woman. Later in life, their paths cross in a courtroom during the WWII criminal trials. David Kross, the actor who plays the young teenager won many awards for his portrayal and acting ability.

The third on December 11th will be the first part of the German TV series *Dresden*. The episodes focus on a love triangle between a nurse, a physician, and an injured pilot set against the backdrop of the bombing of Dresden. The conclusion will be shown in January.

We are happy to present these contemporary films (all made within the last three years) and hope that you will join us for these showings!

Back to School! Fall German Classes

Since our founding 245 years ago, language instruction has been a focal point of our program offerings. Serving everyone from four 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. All are also native speakers.

Our Fall Session will begin after Labor Day, during the week of September 14th. A full schedule will be offered, from a new beginner's class to an advanced conversational class. Tuition cost is \$400 for members, \$430 for non-members, and \$50 for textbooks.

The Youth Classes will also resume on Saturday, September 19th. We will have another 12-week session with a class for 4-7 year olds and a Pre-Teen group.

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

—Sharan Knoell

Additional Annual Fund Donors (since 3/25/09)

We issue an enormous thank you to all those who contributed so generously. As operating expenses continue to grow, these much-needed funds allow us to maintain our historic building and daily operations.

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.

Calendar of Events

July and August

- Mon. July 20—Aug. 29 6-Week Summer Session of German Classes for Adults Begins
Mon. Aug. 17—Aug. 21 *Freizeit für Kinder* Summer German Camp for Children

September

- Sat. Sept. 12 Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10:00am
Mon. Sept. 14—Dec. 4 12-Week Fall Session of German Classes for Adults Begins
Tues. Sept. 15 Women's Auxiliary Bus Trip to Washington, DC
Wed. Sept. 16 *Konversationsabend, Die deutsche Bundestagswahl—Diskussionsrunde*, 7:00pm
Sat. Sept. 19—Dec. 5 12-Week Fall Session of German Classes for Children Begins

October

- Sat. Oct. 3 Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10:00am
 Oktoberfest at the German Society, 2:00pm
Fri. Oct. 9 Friday Film Fest, "Walküre" with Tom Cruise, 6:30pm
Fri. Oct. 16 *Konversationsabend, Die Wolfenstein Story*, presented by Dr. Michael Seidel, 7:00pm
Sun. Oct. 25 "Wister and More!" Series, Keystone State Boychoir with the *Heidelberger Kinderchor*, 3pm
 Selections include: "Ein Jäger aus Kurpfalz", "Gospel Medley", and "Der schwarze Mond"

November

- Sat. Nov. 7 Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10:00am
 245th Annual *Stiftungsfest*—Reception, Silent Auction, Dinner, Dancing, 6:00pm
Sat. Nov. 14 St. Martin's Parade for Families Meets in the *Ratskeller*, 5:30pm
Sun. Nov. 15 "Wister and More!" Series presents The Wister Quartet, 3:00pm
 Selections by Delius, Haydn, Warlock, and Goossens
Mon. Nov. 16 *Konversationsabend, Der Lusitania-Effekt*, presented by Dr. Frank Trommler, 7:00pm
Fri. Nov. 20 Friday Film Fest, "Der Vorleser" with Kate Winslet, 6:30pm

December

- Sat. Dec. 5 Women's Auxiliary *Christkindlmarkt*, 12:00 noon
Fri. Dec. 11 Friday Film Fest, "Dresden" Part 1, 6:30pm
Sun. Dec. 13 "Wister and More!" Series presents Duo Parisienne, 3:00pm
 Selections by Schubert, Vivaldi, Bach, V. Williams, and Piazzolla
Wed. Dec. 16 *Konversationsabend, Adventsfeier bei Auenmuellers*, 7:00pm
Fri. Dec. 25—Jan. 3 Closed for Winter Holidays

**The German Society of
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The **Neuer Pennsylvanischer Staatsbote** is published by the German Society of Pennsylvania. The German Society reserves the right to edit all submissions.

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.

Come Celebrate *Oktoberfest* with us!

Undoubtedly, you will have noticed that, over the past five years, our *Oktoberfest* celebration has evolved quite a bit.

In 2004, it was part of the extended weekend celebration of our Society's 240th anniversary. There, the new concept for our *Stiftungsfest* - supplemented with a Silent Auction - was introduced. The next day we pulled out all stops for a true Bavarian *Oktoberfest* - with a roasted pig, accordion music and plenty of imported German beer! And on the third day, our first wine tasting seminar was held in the Ratskeller - accompanied by music of medieval times.

While this was certainly fun for all of you who came to enjoy the various activities, we subsequently realized that our group of faithful volunteers was "overstretched". Therefore, in following years, we separated our *Oktoberfest* from the gala *Stiftungsfest* event by a few weeks. And last year, we made it part of our week long celebration commemorating the 325th anniversary of the first permanent German settlement here in America.

This year, **our *Oktoberfest* celebration will take place on Saturday, October 3rd** - either in our garden '*Unter den Linden*' or in the Ratskeller, depending upon the weather. The activities will start at 2:00pm and last well into the night. **Tony Michels**, our new Executive Vice President, will champion this event. He has picked this date because it coincides with 19th anniversary of **German Unity Day**, a true day of celebration for all Germans and German-Americans. Please mark the date on your calendar now and stay tuned for further e-mail communications or check our website. —Hardy von Auenmueller



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