



**The German Society of  
Pennsylvania**

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within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999.  
Registration does not imply endorse-  
ment.*

**246th Annual *Stiftungsfest* Gala and Silent Auction**

**Saturday, November 6, 2010 at 6:30pm**

While you are waiting for you *Stiftungsfest* invitation which will be mailed around Labor Day, we invite you to already start considering what you might have on hand to donate to our Silent Auction.

This event is one of our main fundraisers for the year, and we are only able to make it such a success because of your generosity and donations!

If you have subscriptions or tickets to sporting events, concerts, theater, or the opera, we would love to auction those off at the event. If you have a favorite restaurant, please consider asking them to donate a dinner for two.

Past auctions have 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.

As we did last year, we will list all the auction items on our website for you to view in advance of the *Stiftungsfest*.

Please contact the office if you have items to donate (215-627-2332). We are happy to have your support and hope to see you here in November!

—Sharan Knoell

P.S. If you own or manage a business, we will also be accepting ads for the brochure, a copy of which is given to each attendee. For rates and specifics, please contact the office at the number above.

**President's Message**

We sincerely hope that all members and friends of the German Society are enjoying their summer vacations and will have an opportunity to relax and/or visit with family and friends.

One can easily get caught up in all the negative news of this year, such as the environmental fiasco in the Gulf of Mexico, the continuing financial uncertainties, etc.

It is important to remember that as you plan your activities for the fall, attending one of our many wonderful events at the Society might be a much needed diversion.

Our previously announced plans for this summer, which included renovations of our bathrooms, construction of a handicap accessible facility, and building a multimedia room adjacent to the Ratskeller (former Schlaraffia room) were just too ambitious for us.

More importantly, upon deconstructing several areas in the basement, we found that water intrusion caused considerable damage, probably over several decades. Consulting architects and specialists strongly recommend that we first solve the water intrusion problem from the exterior of the building, before we commence with any significant interior renovations. We recognize that this will be a major capital project for us and we will need to secure the necessary funds. Hence,

we will approach several potential funding sources.

Any help that you can provide for this project would certainly be appreciated.

By mid-September, we expect to receive cost estimates for this project, which requires excavating and sealing of all exterior walls.

Upon conferring with **Tony Michels**, who has been carrying the major burden on these capital projects, we are refocusing our attention as follows:

First, we will concentrate on rebuilding the men's room, which will include sealing a small section of that exterior wall.

Second, we will develop detailed plans for the creation of the multimedia room and implement the construction thereof.

Third, we will install a temporary, inexpensive rug in the areas recently damaged by a sewer back-up.

And finally, the renovation of the first floor kitchen will be addressed during the next 12 months, as time permits.

We appreciate your understanding in this matter and are hopeful that we will not continue to run into any further unanticipated problems. We are confident that these improvements will significantly enhance our premises and help assure that our 19th century building will continue to serve future generations.

—Ernie Weiler

**Chairman's Comments**

Last week, Gudrun and I returned from a three week trip to Germany.

We enjoyed a relaxing and culturally uplifting vacation, under sunny skies and at moderate temperatures. Everyone there was excited about their youthful soccer team reaching for the world cup championship, since it had eluded them four years ago. (As you know by now, this German team did not quite make it, but again reached a respectable third place!)

During the weeks leading up to our departure, several exciting things happened at the German Society.

First, we enjoyed a well-attended beer tasting seminar during **Philly Beer Week**. Marnie Old, the well known Canadian sommelier,

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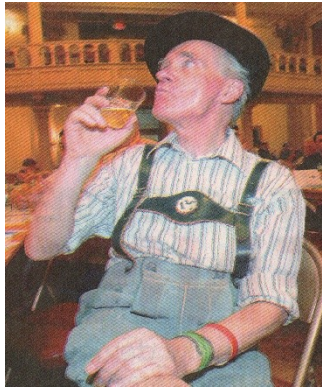
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—Chairman's Comments Cont'd

captivated us again with a two-hour presentation on the great variety of German brews.

This event drew front page publicity in the Sunday, June 6, 2010 issue of *The Philadelphia Inquirer*! The write-up included a picture of yours truly, appropriately dressed for the occasion in *Lederhosen* (see photo courtesy of the Inquirer), savoring one of the many beers offered at the tasting. Who says that a Saxon cannot look handsome in that garb?



After all, if it had not been for a Saxon Princess, named *Therese*, who was to wed Crown Prince *Ludwig* of Bavaria just about 200 years ago, Munich would not be enjoying its well known *Oktoberfest* today.

It has become the largest *Volksfest* in the world—drawing over 6 million people annually. That is why the 100-acre site where the festival is held, is called the *Theresienwiese*.



The entire ***Bier- and Sommerfest*** drew over 500 people to our premises. Quite a few expressed an interest in touring our Society building, and several signed up to become members. Two bands taking turns—playing German or bluegrass music—provided good beer-drinking entertainment.

Unfortunately, the midday sun bore down hard on the people sitting on benches in the open space of our festively decorated parking lot.

Earlier, our last concert of the season, featuring the **American Virtuosi** consisting of the **Borowsky siblings, Elizabeth, Emmanuel and Frances Grace**, on Sunday, May 16, produced much enjoyment.

Just a few days earlier, in response to our grant proposal, the **Albert & Hete Barthelmes Foundation** of Tulsa, OK had issued a dollar-for-dollar matching challenge to us in the amount of \$25,000 for the acquisition of a new grand piano. And on the Saturday before, **WRTI** broadcast an interview with the writer in their weekly show "Creatively Speaking". A podcast can be heard on WRTI's web site. —Cont'd on next page



## Jessica and Rob Staub A Wedding To Remember

On January 2, 2010, Jessica Litts and Rob Staub were married in a beautiful ceremony in the library at the German Society. The couple met in a German course at Saint Joseph's University in 2002. As undergraduates, Rob received an academic scholarship from the German Society, and Jessica worked there as a volunteer intern. During their studies, Jessica and Rob spent a semester together at the Philipps-Universität Marburg. After earning her M.A. in Foreign Language Pedagogy from the University of Delaware, Jessica currently works as a German instructor at Widener University.

The couple chose to get married at the German Society because of their special connection to the German culture. Their guests were fascinated by the large collection of German books in the library, which provided the perfect backdrop to their winter wedding. After the ceremony, their guests proceeded downstairs to the auditorium, where they enjoyed a traditional German meal and a full selection of German beer and wine. Many of the guests, including visitors from Germany, commented that the Society was a unique and memorable location for a wedding. After dinner, Jessica and Rob danced the night away with their guests. They truly had a perfect wedding day at the German Society.

If you would like to see a photo spread of the Staub wedding, pick-up an issue of Philadelphia Brides magazine, which will be on newsstands in late July. Their wedding at the German Society, with photos by Alison Conklin, will be featured on a multi-page spread!



Calendar of Events	
July and August	
Mon. July 26	6-Week Summer Session of German Classes for Adults Begins
Mon. August 2-6	“Meine Umwelt” Summer German Camp for Children, 9am-1pm
Wed. August 25	<i>Diskussionsrunde</i> - “Germany 2010: As Seen by Three Students Visiting Philadelphia”, 12:00pm—1:30pm, Please bring bagged lunch.
September	
Sept. 3, 4, 7, 10, 11	“A Crock of Schnitzel”, A Comedy by Barbara Pease Weber, 8pm in the Auditorium
Sept. 5 and 12	“A Crock of Schnitzel”, A Comedy by Barbara Pease Weber, 2pm in the Auditorium
Mon. Sept. 6	Closed for Labor Day Holiday
Sat. Sept. 4	Women’s Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10am
Sat. Sept. 18	<i>Oktoberfest</i> at the German Society, 2pm
Mon. Sept. 20—Dec. 10	12-Week Fall Session of German Classes for Adults
Wed. Sept. 22	Women’s Auxiliary Bus Trip to Hudson River Valley
Sat. Sept. 25	12-Week Fall Session of German Classes for Children
October	
Fri. Oct. 1	German-American Day Proclamation at City Hall with Mayor Nutter, Room 202, 12pm
Sat. Oct 2.	Women’s Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10am
Sun. Oct. 3	“Wister and More!” Series presents Piano Duo Volker Ahmels and Frederike Haufe, 3pm “A Celebration of German Unity Day”, Selections include Schumann, Schubert, and Brahms
Fri. Oct. 8	Monthly Film Fest, Film TBA, 6:30pm
Fri. Oct. 15	<i>Konversationsabend</i> , “Report on Trip to China”, presented by Hardy von Auenmueller, 7pm
Sun. Oct. 24	“Wister and More!” Series presents Keystone State Boychoir, 3pm
November	
Sat. Nov. 6	246th Annual <i>Stiftungsfest</i> - Reception, Silent Auction, Dinner, Dancing, 6pm
Date TBA	St. Martin’s Parade for Families
Sun. Nov. 14	“Wister and More!” Series presents The Wister Quartet, 3pm Selections include Paganini, Ravel, and Haydn
Mon. Nov. 15	<i>Konversationsabend</i> , “Das Leben in Suedwest-Afrika” By Author Katie Thieck, 7pm
Fri. Nov. 19	Monthly Film Fest, Film TBA, 6:30pm
Sun. Nov. 21	“My Name is Grieg, Edvard Grieg”, Portrayal by Rolf K. Stang of the Delius Society, 3pm
Thurs. Nov. 25—28	Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

Beginning in September, the Horner Memorial Library will be open Mondays and Tuesdays, 10am-4pm.

We thus registered double the 'walk-in' attendance for this concert which was quickly converted to a benefit event.

When the above grant challenge was announced, the excitement of the audience was palpable.

A "loaned" *Boesendorfer Konzertfluegel* from The Cunningham Piano Company sounded heavenly, and the acoustics in our auditorium—with its new windows—were greatly improved. Also, the afternoon sunlight glowing through our new golden curtains radiated a wonderful atmosphere so that, in the end, pledges for \$18,000 were received. (The full matching amount has since been collected, as has the grant money—see listing of donors.)

Based upon these positive responses, the GSP Board, at its regular quarterly meeting the following night, authorized the start of purchase negotiations for a new instrument—with certain stipulations. Both, *Boesendorfer* and *Bluethner*, had earlier expressed a serious interest in placing an appropriately sized piano into our space. However, due to the summer holiday season, our negotiations have not yet been completed.

Nonetheless, in order to protect such a valuable acquisition, our colleague, *Tony Michels*, has agreed to build a humidity control chamber under the stage of our auditorium, with a scissor lifting device, for which we have set aside \$10,000 that had been collected earlier for our piano fund.

Please remember, you too, should avoid the hot and humid weather!

Thus, stay cool and enjoy your summer, wherever you are.

—Hardy von Auenmueller

P.S. Our first concert of the new season - scheduled for **Sunday, October 3, 2010** - will coincide with the **20th Anniversary of German Unity**. For that celebration we are planning to bring over a well established piano duo, *Volker Ahmels* and *Friederike Haufe*. While he hails from the West (Hamburg), her family roots go back to the East (Dresden)—thus perfectly symbolizing the re-unification of Germany.

Please mark your calendar! I hope to see you on that day.

### Piano Fund Donors

For the privacy of our donors, all names have been removed.



## German Historical Institute Fellows

**Lisa Candidi**, from the University of Udine in Italy, is the first GHI-GSP Fellow who is using our collection of German children's and youth books from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries as part of a scholarly project. As the cultural transfer between nations takes a particular form in this kind of literature, which includes primers and textbooks of learning German in an early age, Lisa studies the stories, thoughts, images, and general perceptions aimed at German Americans. For the last four years, Lisa has been living in Berlin where she completed her dissertation (jointly at Udine and Humboldt University Berlin) under the title, "Gedächtnisräume im postsozialistischen Berlin." She just edited a fine collection of photographs of Berlin by Italian and German photographers (*New Berlin: Traces of Urban Memories*, 2009).

**Randall Donaldson**, Associate Professor of German at Loyola University in Baltimore, is a well-known expert in German-American culture and literature. His project is to collect pertinent material in the Horner Library for a new edition of a classic in German-American studies, Dieter Cunz's comprehensive history, *The Maryland Germans* (1948). When Randall engaged with the re-editing of the book, he discovered to his surprise and dismay that the sources from which Dieter Cunz drew in Baltimore in the 1940s are apparently lost. At the GSP he expects to find materials allowing him to fill gaps and write a comprehensive commentary, followed by his own study about the Maryland Germans.

**Miron Mislin**, Professor at the Tech-

nische Universität Berlin, an expert on industrial architecture in 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Germany, uses the GHI-GSP Fellowship for his current project on the development of industrial architecture in Pennsylvania, 1890-1930. Miron shows that this topic is by no means outside of our usual German-American focus as he has found many instances of mutual influences between German and American industrial architecture. German industrial entrepreneurs who built factories in PA before World War I often used German architects; at the same time American expertise in industrial architecture was influential for German buildings. While Miron has used materials at the Franklin Institute, the oldest American museum of technology, he has located interesting documents in our German-American Collection.

—Frank Trommler

## College Scholarship Awards

Five college students will receive partial scholarships for the 2010/11 academic year, funded by the Society and the Women's Auxiliary.

The Auxiliary is supporting Swarthmore College student **Kathryn Stockbower** with the **George Beichl Award** and also Moravian College student **Lauren Rommal**.

The German Society is issuing awards to Temple University students **Aleandra Austria** and **Mark Newman**, as well as **Ekaterina Ponomareva** of Moravian College.

The scholarships amount in total to \$11,000 and are funded mainly by endowment and member contributions.

We wish these students successful academic careers! —Sharan Knoell

## Time, Talent, or Treasure?

A volunteer is a person who renders aid, performs a service, or assumes an obligation of their own free will. Here, at the GSP, we have a wonderful volunteer corps who cooks, cleans, repairs, files, stuffs, runs, and maintains the functions of our organization and historic building.

Without these special folks, the building would never be able to sustain the expanding operations of a 246 year old organization.

With that in mind, we open our arms and doors to anyone willing to be part of such an eclectic group of individuals.

If you like to fold, collate, seal, and stamp member mailings...

If ticket-selling, ushering, or tending bar sounds fun...

If you have a green thumb or can do wonders with a feather duster...

If you enjoy cooking for events or large numbers of people...

If you would like to be the minders of our beautiful building for a wedding or birthday party...

If you have a knack with screwdrivers, power tools, or construction equipment...

### We have a job for you!

Please keep in mind that giving financially to an organization is only *one* way of showing your appreciation and support. Your time is just as valuable.

We have events and activities on nights and weekends...so we can accommodate virtually any schedule.

We would love for nothing more than for you to donate your time to us!

—Sharan Knoell

On Thursday, there was a big parade which passed City Hall, where they were greeted by Mayor Warwick and Pennsylvania Governor Daniel Hastings, who joined the parade in a horse-drawn carriage and attended a huge picnic at Washington Park 26th and Allegheny Avenue.

More than 50,000 attended this picnic. There was singing throughout the day, and in the evening the winners of the singing contests were announced.

As the visitors left, many exclaimed "Ade du schöne Halle", not "Auf Wiedersehen", because the hall was to be dismantled in compliance with the city agreement.

Today, to show our appreciation, we can support the choruses still in existence by attending their concerts. We can also strengthen them by encouraging men and women with good voices to join them.

These groups are not restricted to those of German descent. In my younger years, I sang with the Fairmount Liedertafel in Philadelphia and invited two of my former classmates in a high school German class, who were of Irish descent, to join me. They not only joined the club, but participated in a Saengerfest in New York during WWII.

Whether or not we join an organized chorus, we should be mindful of the German saying,

*"Wo man frohe Lieder singt, da lass dich ruhig nieder,  
Böse Menschen haben keine Lieder"*

*(Where joyful songs are being sung,  
there you should stay,  
Evil people have no songs.)*

—Dr. George Beichl

## 2010 Summer Camp for Kids: "Meine Umwelt"

With last year's camp being a success, we would like to introduce you to the second annual

German Summer Camp for Children at the German Society.

**August 2-6, 2010, 9am-1pm**



The camp theme will be the environment, including topics such as:

Recycling

Trash

Weather

Wind and Energy

And More!

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 topic and include 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 premises.

During last year's camp, we were fortunate to have Jessica Staub assist, and she will be returning again this year to lead the camp. She has an enormous passion for teaching German, is fluent, and has recently completed a graduate degree in German (see page 11 for more on Jessica).

Even if you do not have a child who you will be enrolling in the program, we will need voluntary support for help with games, crafts, or any other aspect of the summer camp. We are happy to make use of your time and talents!

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](http://www.germansociety.org/summer_camp.html).

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

—Sharan Knoell

## A Memorable Saengerfest

When the Germans came to America, they brought with them their love for music and singing. This is reflected in their adage *“Das Lied, das aus der Kehle dringt, ist Lohn der reichlich lohnet”*. (*“The song that gushes from the throat is a rich reward in itself”*.) But singing had a deeper basis than mere personal pleasure, as can be seen in the motto I encountered at a choral society in Herbrechtingen, Germany.

*“Tausend Künste kann der Teufel  
Aber singen kann er nicht  
Denn der Gesang ist das Streben  
Unserer Seele nach dem Licht.”*

*(The devil has mastered a thousand  
arts  
But singing is not within his might  
For song is the striving of our soul  
To reach the light.)*

This can be recognized in the caliber of the songs offered at their concerts. The first male chorus, the Maennerchor, was founded in Philadelphia in 1835.

Soon others appeared and saw the need for a union with each other. One such union was the Northeastern Saengerbund, which was founded in 1851.

Saengerfests were organized in various cities. The 18th Saengerfest held in Philadelphia was unique and is the subject of this article.

There were many skeptics who questioned the ability of Philadelphia to stage this Saengerfest, since there was no auditorium with a stage large enough to accommodate the 6,000 singers who would attend.

But the Philadelphia singers had as-

tutely appointed an Honorary Committee that helped them solve this problem. Chairman of this Committee was John Lankenau, a native of Bremen who was President of the German Hospital of Philadelphia—today flourishing as Lankenau Hospital. Vice Chairman was Charles Warwick, Mayor of Philadelphia.

It was decided to petition the city for permission to build an appropriate auditorium on a city square.

The city granted this request and offered Fotteral Square to the United Singers of Philadelphia.

The Square extended from 11th to 12th Streets and York to Cumberland Streets. However, there was also a proviso that the auditorium be removed after the Saengerfest.

In October 1896, the architectural firm of Hazlehurst & Huckel was selected to design the hall, and the construction was awarded to the lowest bidder, Doak and Doyle, for \$24,900.

At a special meeting of the Honorary Committee in November, it was decided to raise \$25,000 by asking 50 persons to pledge \$500 apiece, which was soon accomplished.

The hall was built of wood and iron and had a white coating (makite). It was 200ft. wide and 400ft. in length. The corners were surmounted by towers with gilded domes.

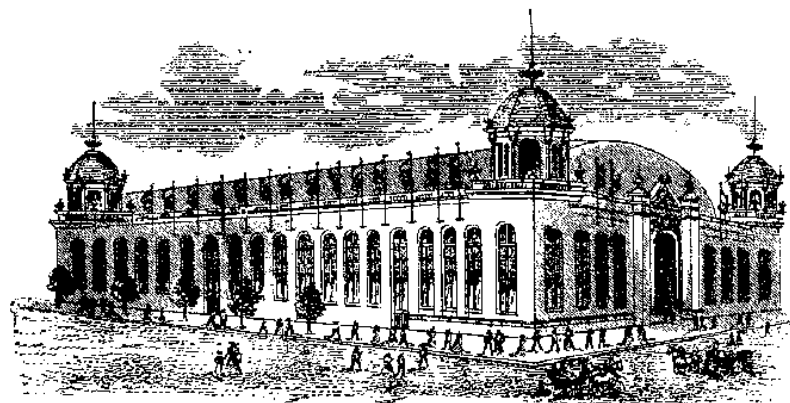
It provided seating for 10,400 persons (folding chairs) and the mammoth semi-circular stage accommodated 6,000 singers, as well as an orchestra of 150 pieces. The height from floor to ceiling was 65ft.

### Now the Saengerfest could begin!

The visiting singers arrived by train, some of which were chartered. They were met by members of the local singing societies who escorted them to the Junger Maennerchor clubhouse at 6th and Vine, where they were assigned their lodging (hotels and private homes), and given a lunch.

The evening concerts were all sold out and the afternoon sessions of the competitive singing were well attended.

Mayor Warwick gave the welcoming address at the opening concert, in which he pointed out that nothing can promote the appreciation of music more than these huge festivals by the German-American singing societies.



## The Haas Story

In a series of articles of our quarterly Staatsbote, we will introduce readers to a group of selected German-Americans, who have made significant contributions to the political, economic, cultural or social welfare of their adopted country.

The list of potential candidates is rather long, as we learned while preparing for our mural project. It is our intention to provide brief biographical summaries and discuss achievements.

In this, and the next two editions, we will focus on prominent German-Americans who were also major benefactors of the Society. In fact, we have three spaces named in their honor; the Horner Library, the Barthelmes Auditorium and the F. O. Haas Language Center.

The Haas story begins at the dawn of the 20th century. Migration to America was at a high level. All immigrants were searching for new opportunities and a better life than at home. Mr. Otto Haas was twenty-nine years old when he left Esslingen (close to Stuttgart) for America. His father, a civil servant, had died when Mr. Haas was fifteen years old. His mother and younger siblings relied on him for financial support. He started as a bank apprentice, followed by a clerkship for a dye and chemical manufacturer. When he came to America in 1901, he was offered a job with the same chemical company. Several other positions followed, but Mr. Haas wanted a business of his own.

His good friend Dr. Otto Roehm developed the first generation of a revolutionary new *bating* solution, the critical component in the conversion of animal

hides into leather. Oropon was born, a product based on pancreatic juices from cattle rather than dog manure, which had been used for centuries. A partnership was established in 1907, and Mr. Haas became Dr. Roehm's American business partner. A US sales office was established in 1909 in Philadelphia, and Mr. Haas spent his time in tanneries along the Delaware River. By 1911 business had grown to \$47,891 and in 1912 an experienced German immigrant was hired as the first salesman. US production started in 1911. By 1918, the Bristol plant was operational, and land, buildings and equipment were valued at \$287,000. Sales were approaching million dollars per year.

The First World War brought many changes. By 1921 Rohm and Haas was an independent American corporation and Dr. Roehm had lost his financial interest in the company founded on his technology, due to the US government seizing the American assets of German citizens. To diversify, Mr. Haas purchased Charles Lennig and Co. with its operation in the Bridesburg section of Philadelphia. Throughout the 1920s and early 1930s, Mr. Haas continued to transfer different German technologies, available through a series of acquisitions or licensing arrangements, to the American market.

During the depression years, sales and profits tumbled, but Mr. Haas kept his workforce on his payroll. He had them fix up equipment and improve the properties, and not a single worker lost his or her job.

Probably the biggest contribution to the ongoing partnership with Dr. Roehm

was the research and development of acrylic technology, which Mr. Haas subsidized for the rights to produce and market these products in the US. By 1936 Plexiglas, an acrylic sheet product, was introduced commercially, and was featured at the World Fair in 1939. Soon Plexiglas was specified as the material of choice for military airplane usage. By 1944, the production from three plants amounted to \$43 million and the workforce had grown to over 7,000. The company became a publicly traded company in 1948.

Rohm & Haas, under the leadership of Mr. Haas, significantly diversified its product portfolio with the introduction of textile chemicals, a broader range of materials useful in leather applications, agricultural products, plastics, oil additives and a wide range of products and technologies based on acrylic chemistries.

At the golden anniversary in 1959, the 87 year old founder was still at the helm. The company had grown to a multinational specialty chemical company with more than 10,000 employees and annual sales of \$200 million. Dr. F. Otto Haas, his oldest son, took over the leadership of the company two weeks before his father's death in 1959. Under his leadership, the transition from an entrepreneurial business structure to a professionally managed company occurred. He brought new innovations to the market, built a strong research organization and expanded international markets.

Because of a heart condition, Dr. Haas stepped down as president in 1970. For sixty years the family had shaped the

enterprise, which would now be handled by professional managers who had come up through the company ranks. Rohm and Haas grew and was widely respected as specialty chemical suppliers by employees, customers and the financial community. The hundred year history of the company came to a close in 2009 with the acquisition by Dow Chemical for a purchase price of \$18.8 billion.

Dr. Haas during his retirement years focused on various philanthropic activities. He was active in the Philadelphia Historic Preservation Corporation, the American Philosophical Society, and the German Society of Pennsylvania. He served on our Board of Directors and for several years was also the Honorary German Consul in Philadelphia.

The Haas family has been very generous for many decades. As noted, Mr. Haas kept his workforce during the depression years. In 1945, Mr. Haas and his wife, the late Dr. Phoebe Waterman, touched by the social problems caused by World War II, formed the Phoebe Waterman Foundation. By 1955 grant payments exceeded \$100,000. And in 1959, when Mr. Haas died, he left the bulk of his estate to the Foundation. Mr. John C. Haas and Dr. F. Otto Haas headed the Foundation's board, which by 1974 changed its name to the William Penn Foundation and was providing annual grants totaling \$7 million to non-profit organizations in the Philadelphia area. By 1999 assets exceeded \$1 billion. In December of 2009, Mr. Haas donated \$747 million to the William Penn Foundation to use in perpetuity for the advancement of the Philadelphia region. Assets have now grown to \$1.9 billion and last year the Foundation provided grants of \$69 mil-

lion to three areas of concentration: arts and culture, children, youth and families, and environment and communities. With the reorganization of the family trusts in 2009, a newly formed Wyncote Foundation was also established with a donation of \$504 million.

Over many years, the German Society has benefitted directly or indirectly. Our F. Otto Haas Language Center is a tribute to the contributions by Dr. Haas as member of our Board and the financial donations by him and his wife, Mrs. Carole Haas Gravagno. These donations were generally directed from the Phoebe Trusts. And most recently, gifts directed by Mr. Haas from the Phoebe Trusts were given for our ADA compliance activities, bathroom renovation projects, and installation of a first floor kitchen. We should also note that grants by the William Penn Foundation helped us install a new sprinkler system throughout much of the building and install new windows in the auditorium.

A hundred years have passed since Mr. Haas arrived in Philadelphia from Esslingen, Germany. Certainly many thousands of employees are grateful for their careers with a great company and the citizens of this region have benefited and will continue to benefit from the vision, drive, and generosity of a prominent German-American and his family.

—Ernie Weiler

References: Rohm and Haas a Century of Innovation, by Regina Lee Blaszczyk 2009; and Rohm and Haas, History of A Chemical Company by Sheldon Hochheiser 1986

### Back to School Fall German Classes

Since the German Society's founding 246 years ago, language instruction has been an important part of our program offerings. Serving everyone from three 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 don't forget fun! Because we have been perfecting the art of teaching German 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 speaking and/or teaching the German language.

**Our Fall Session will begin after Labor Day, during the week of September 20th.** We will have another 12-week session with Saturday classes for 3-7 year olds and Pre-Teens (8-12 year olds).

For those of you with children who just can't wait until the fall to get started on their German, see page 9 for information on our **August Summer Camp for Kids entitled "Meine Umwelt"**.

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

—Sharan Knoell

P.S. If you are a German speaker (native or otherwise fluent), and would like to consider instructing others in the language, we frequently have openings in our program for teachers - from beginner to conversational level classes. Classes are held on nights and weekends, and we encourage you to let us know if you have an interest!

### Additional Annual Fund Donors (since 3/19/2010)

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.

REMINDER TO  
ALL MEMBERS!

OUR GOAL IS THAT EACH OF  
YOU RECRUIT  
ONE NEW MEMBER  
TO THE SOCIETY DURING  
2010.

PLEASE HELP WITH THIS  
IMPORTANT DRIVE!

For the privacy of our supporters, all member and donor names have been removed.