President’s Message

In her New Year’s Day address, Chancellor Angela Merkel pointed out that Germany has long been a country of new ideas and inventions. But—unless they are implemented, they are of no benefit.

The same principle applies to the German Society. The leadership team, in the short year since being elected to office, has succeeded in turning around the organization, because it delivered the strategy of reducing cost and increasing revenue. In both areas we were able to rely on your unrelenting support and the admirable volunteer efforts of various stalwart members.

Our Annual Fund Drive brought in a record $43,500 thanks to your tremendous generosity. (A supplementary list of Donor Acknowledgments is shown on page 3.) Ernie Weiler and I are very grateful that you heeded our call for added contributions. Please rest assured these will be used wisely!

Several essential capital improvement projects have been identified, for which we are now seeking grant money from various institutions. A sprinkler system must be installed to protect our historic buildings and the precious library collection. Also, the large single-pane windows in our auditorium, which date back to late Nineteenth Century, urgently need to be replaced—for economic as well as safety reasons. These two projects are estimated to cost a little over $300,000 of which we will have to raise a portion on our own as proof of our commitment to the cause.

Cont’d on page 2

Mural Project

Philadelphia is well-known for its Mural Arts Program (MAP). It began in 1984 as a part of the Anti-Graffiti Network, a city-wide initiative to eradicate destructive graffiti and address neighborhood blight. To date, MAP has painted approximately 2,400 murals throughout the city.

In an effort to improve the appearance of our historic buildings, we started last fall to paint our doors, windows, etc. However, there is a large, unsightly blank wall adjacent to our site facing the entrance of our administrative building that detracts from our beautification endeavors. Hence, we thought it appropriate to develop plans for a mural project reflecting our cultural part in Philadelphia’s history.

Earlier this year, we were encouraged by Jane Golden, MAP’s Executive Director, to proceed with this project by filing an official proposal. This was done by the indicated deadline of March 15. The total cost of a full-sized mural amounts to $10,000, of which the applicant has to carry only a portion, since MAP’s work is publicly subsidized. We anticipate celebrating the unveiling of this mural as a community event in 2007.

Scholarship Awards

On April 8, the Scholarship Committee of the German Society and the Women’s Auxiliary awarded six scholarships to university students. These awards were based on academic record and interviews with the applicants.

The scholarships, ranging from $500 to $2,500, are to be used toward tuition in the upcoming academic year. These funds will be directed to the following German majors at colleges in the Greater Delaware Valley:

Doug Campbell Andrea Lohr
Lauren Drew Amelia Longo
Laura Glace Silvana Pop

The Scholarship Committee is chaired by Dr. Thomas Buckley, ably assisted by Willie Aust, Drs. Christina Frei, Jean Goddall-Myers, William Heintzelman, Margarete Landwehr, and Helen Schutz.

—Sharan Knoell

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Neuer Pennsylvanischer Staatsbote

Internet: www.germansociety.org

Summer 2006
Fortunately, the operational budget of the Society is now well in balance so that the institutions who look at our grant applications can be satisfied as to the viability of our organization. (No professional funds manager will throw good money after bad!)

Efforts are also being made to improve the overall appearance of our premises—beginning with the painting project started last fall. We must spruce up the hallways of our neighbor's building facing our parking lot would truly add value to our location. (See story on page 1).

Furthermore, as reported in the prior issue of the Staatsbote, we are developing an action plan to raise the necessary funds for a reactivation of library operations by members during the past 12 months. The publications resulting from their work will enhance the standing of our library.

Several small library projects—worthy of partial public funding—have been identified. A job description for a part-time, multi-skilled librarian is presently being formulated. Further details will be conveyed to you at our Annual Members’ Meeting, on June 11th, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. At that time, we will also present to you several proposed changes to our by-laws, which the Board of Directors considers vital for the proper functioning of the Society. (For a detailed write-up on these proposed changes, see pages 9-11.)

In addition, a slate of eight directors—four of them incumbents and four new candidates—has been presented for your consideration. (The election procedure and the mission statement of each candidate are printed on pages 5-8.) Your participation in this year’s annual meeting, and the election process, would be greatly appreciated.

I wish you all the best for the remainder of spring. See you at our Members Meeting!

Respectfully yours,
Hardy von Auenmueller

P.S. To my regret, we failed to acknowledge publicly, in the recent issues of our Staatsbote, all the new members who joined our organization over the past nine months. While this notification may be a bit tardy, we welcome you most heartily to our fold. (See next two columns for a listing of names).

Apart from this, three long time GSP members, Catherine Krauss, Gabriele W. Lee and Edwin Winter, Jr. have decided to make a lifelong commitment to our Society by upgrading their memberships to the Benefactor level. This, too, is greatly appreciated!

LISTING OF NEW MEMBERS

ARTICLE X Meetings of Members of the Society. . .
10.5-Quorum. A) Fifteen (15) Twenty-five (25) members in good standing shall constitute a quorum at any and all meetings of the members.
B) All action except election of officers and directors shall be by vote of the majority of those members present and entitled to vote at such meeting.
C) Election of officers and directors shall be by a plurality of members present and entitled to vote at such meeting.

ARTICLE XX Disposal of Funds and Securities Assets of the Society. . .
20.1-None of the funds of the Society, or the contents of any safe deposit box registered in the name of the Society, may be withdrawn or removed, nor any of its securities transferred except on the signature of any two of the following: any of the Stated Officers and/or the Executive Director.
20.2 A two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors at a stated board meeting and a two-thirds vote of the membership at a regular stated meeting of the membership shall be required to mortgage real estate of the Society. (This wording reflects a provision that has been in our Articles of Incorporation since 1870.)
20.3 In the event of the dissolution of the Society, the Board of Directors or in the absence thereof, governing staff shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the said Society, dispose of all the assets of the said Society in such manner, or to such organization(s) organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as (an) exempt organization(s) under § 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the said Board of Directors or governing staff shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the Society is then located, exclusively for such purposes as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes. (This wording reflects a provision added to our Articles of Incorporation in 2006 in order to preserve our eligibility for exemption from PA taxes.)

ARTICLE XXII Amendments. . .
C) The notice for such meeting at which final action is to be taken by the members shall contain a copy of the proposed amendments, or a summary thereof together with a statement that a complete copy of the proposed amendments is on file at the office of the Society for inspection by members, and such copy shall be so on file.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AT THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Tue. May 2
“Good-bye Bayern—Grüße Gott Amerika.” Lecture by Mr. Heinz Stark, 12:00noon
Fri. May 5
Medical Insurance Seminar with Dr. Nikolaus Heltich, 5:30pm
Fri. May 12
Skatbend, 7:00pm in the Ratskeller
Sat. May 13
Spring Cleaning of the GSP premises, 10:00am — volunteers welcome!
Fri. May 19
Friday Film Fest, 6:30pm, “Die Edukatoren” (Die Feten Jahre sind vorbei), with Julia Jentsch
Sun. May 21
Concert Series — The Wister Quartet — Glazunov, Mozart and Beethoven, 3:00pm
Wed. May 24
“Die spanische Fliege,” Comedy performed by the Elmshorn High School, Germany Students
Fri. June 9
World Cup Opening Game (Germany vs. Costa Rica) in the Ratskeller, 12:00 noon
Sat. June 10
Skatbend, 7:00pm in the Ratskeller
Sun. June 11
Annual Members’ Meeting, 3:00pm, Auditorium
Fri. June 23
Saturday Film Fest, 6:30pm, “Blueprint,” with Franka Potente
Sat. June 24
Wandertag with Frank Genieser in Wissahickon Park, 10:00am
Mon. July 10
German Language Program—Six-week Summer Session begins
shall constitute a quorum.

D] Actions taken by the Executive Committee shall be reported to the Board of Directors at a subsequent expediently and no later than the next Board meeting.

E] The Executive Committee shall appoint a sitting Stated Officer other than the President to serve at its pleasure as Executive Vice President in addition to his or her other office.

F] The Executive Vice President, if any, shall act in the President’s stead for any and all of the purposes enumerated herein, in the event of the incapacity or death of the President, or upon delegation by the President. [Former 7.2- B]

ARTICLE IV Nominations and Elections....

4.1....B] Names in nomination shall be solicited from the general membership no later than forty-nine (49) days preceding the annual meeting. At a regular meeting of the Board of Directors at least fifty (50) fourteen (14) days preceding the annual meeting of the Society, or at any adjournment thereof, the chair of the Nominating Committee shall certify to the meeting the offices to be filled at the next election. Nominations for such elective offices shall be made at this meeting by the Nominating Committee....

4.2-Elections....C] In the event of a contest for any office, the Secretary shall prepare and distribute a ballot to the members of the Society present in person at the meeting and the President shall appoint a Judge of Election to tabulate the votes. The said ballot may reflect the contested offices only.

ARTICLE V Meetings of the Board of Directors....

5.4- Adjourned Meetings....C] No reasonable notice of the any adjourned Board meetings need shall be given to the absent Board members.

ARTICLE VII Duties of Officers

7.1-President...D] The President shall, by and with the approval of the Board of Directors and in consultation with the appropriate Vice President, appoint the chairs of all committees, of which the President shall be an ex-officio member.

7.2-Vice President. A] Each Vice President shall have such powers and perform such duties as may be delegated by the President. B] [content moved to 3.5 - F]

C] The remaining Vice Presidents shall then advance in accordance with their respective seniority as a member of the Board...

7.4-Treasurer. The Treasurer shall assure that accurate accounts of the receipts and disbursements of the Society are maintained; shall cause financial reports to be provided to the Board as requested, but not less than quarterly, and to the members as requested, but not less than annually; shall oversee the preparation of the annual budget in cooperation with the Finance Committee; and shall perform such other duties as may be delegated by the President.

Article VIII Solicitor

8.1-A] The Solicitor shall be designated by the Board and shall be an experienced and duly accredited attorney-at-law practicing entitled to practice in Pennsylvania.

ARTICLE IX Membership in the Society....

9.2-Election to Membership. A] Applications for membership shall be submitted by the Membership Committee at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors. The President shall, from time to time, direct the Secretary to notify all persons with Board of Directors voting rights of the names of those who have applied for membership, and of the member sponsoring each such applicant.

B] Election to membership shall be by vote of the Board. If none of the persons with Board voting rights directs an objection in writing to the Secretary within fourteen (14) days of notification, each such applicant shall be deemed admitted to membership. Membership cards and welcome letters shall then be issued to those admitted to membership.

C] If a timely objection to admitting any applicant for membership is received by the Secretary, the question of admitting or denying admission to the said applicant to membership shall be placed on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Acknowledging Additional Annual Fund Donors

Names have been removed from WEB version to preserve the privacy of our members.
**Proposed By-Law Amendments**

In any healthy organization, the by-laws are always a work in progress. A number of items needing renovation have cropped up in ours. A committee comprised of Don Simpson, Frank McGuigan, and I have recommended changes, approved by the Board, to be voted on at the annual meeting. Here is a summary of their substance:

**Re-electing officers every two years, to coincide with the president’s term.** It is hoped that the shortened commitment will make it easier for prospective officers to see their way clear to serve.

**Making the term limits for officers one step less strict.**

**Reducing the term limits for Directors, to conform to the existing Strategic Plan.**

**Establishing a mechanism for removing Directors, since there can occasionally be circumstances when a Director becomes a serious liability or impediment to the Society.**

**Appropriately redefining the powers and modes operandi of the Executive Committee.**

**Improving nomination, election and by-laws review procedures.**

**Improving the job descriptions for the treasurer and the solicitor.**

**Expediting the process of admitting new members.**

**Reflecting distinctive provisions of our Articles of Incorporation in our by-laws.**

Please take some time to review these proposed changes.

Edmund D. Cohen, Secretary

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**Beer Tasting Seminar**

People automatically assume that as Germans, we already know all there is to know about beer. I was one of those. Yet, I was very interested in attending an Introduction to Beer Tasting led by Marnie Old. I attended her other seminar, Introduction to Wine Tasting, and knew that she was a very lively and dynamic instructor. I was certain that she would take a complex topic and break into easily understandable pieces.

Indeed, it was entertaining and then some. I also learned a tremendous amount of beer facts (my ancestors would be ashamed of my limited understanding!). Did you know that there are only four basic ingredients to beer? It is the different manipulation of these basic ingredients that make up different kinds of beer. Or at least, that is true for Germany where the now-famous Reinheitsgebot does not allow for addition of other spices (not so true for those Belgian brews). Did you know that there are two different kinds of yeast? One makes ale and the other makes lager...and as all non-Philadelphians know, lager does not automatically mean Yuengling.

We tasted many different styles of beer including Berliner Weisse (a low alcoholic beer that is “perfect for breakfast” or refreshment during the day), Hefeweizen (made with ale yeast and distinctive smells of banana bread and cloves...um, yummy!), Kockel (the most strictly regulated beer in Germany thereby making it a very consistent beer across multiple brands), Pilzner (the most popular style of lager beer in many countries which can be distinguished by a distinctive herbal bite), Oktoberfest (also known as Mauerz, and contrary to the name, can be enjoyed at any time of the year), Schwarzbier (deceptively heavy looking, but light feeling), and finally the Pils (a strong malty brew originally from Austria)...

**Fussballweltmeisterschaft**

Germany will be hosting the above quadrennial event, commonly known to soccer aficionados as WorldCup, this summer - starting with the opening game in Munich's new Allianz Arena on Friday, June 9, at 12 noon. 32 national teams from all over the world will participate. The are divided into 8 groups of 4 teams who play each other. The top two teams of each group will move into the subsequent ‘knock-out’ rounds, with the ultimate winner being determined in the final game on Sunday, July 9.

In line with our Bundesliga presentations, we are offering all our soccer friends the opportunity to watch live games in the Ratskeller without annoying commercial interruptions while the ball is rolling. Bring your alms and enjoy the atmosphere. The top two teams of each group will move into the subsequent ‘knock-out’ rounds, with the ultimate winner being determined in the final game.

**Rheinischer Karneval in the Ratskeller**

Beginning at 8:11 PM on Saturday, February 25th, a chicken, a couple of Zimmersminker (carpenters), several flappers, a cowboy, a pair of doctors and even Pitagoras were to be found mingling in the Ratskeller. What brought about this unusual gathering at such an odd time? The co-sponsored Netzwerk Philadelphia German Society Karnevalsparty of course! Balloons filled the ceiling, beer and wine flowed freely from the bar and the dance floor was full for most of the night.

A highlight of the evening was the sudden appearance of three Mummers dressed in sequins who burst out of the Schlaraffia floor and an accordion. The live music from their instruments: a banjo, a saxophone and an accordion. The live music was a hit, and a corona line started up as nearly everyone in attendance joined in.

The crowd started to thin around midnight, but nearly everyone in attendance joining in. The live music and an accordion were to be found mingling in the Ratskeller. What brought about this unusual gathering at such an odd time? The co-sponsored Netzwerk Philadelphia German Society Karnevalsparty of course! Balloons filled the ceiling, beer and wine flowed freely from the bar and the dance floor was full for most of the night.

Many thanks to the Karneval committee: Christoph von Andreass, GSP/Network member and experienced Karnevalist, Mark Mcguigan, organizer of Netzwerk Philadelphia and especially Gabriele Lee, VP of programs at GSP, for their key contributions in organizing this successful event! Our thanks to Gerd Burgarzt for providing the Karneval music and lyrics, Hans Preissing for helping with the sound system, and Lisa Peddinghaus for greasing guests and collecting entrance fees.

**Summer 2006**

**Lisa Peddinghaus**
As a member of the German Society, and the Women’s Auxiliary since February 2000, I have been involved in various fundraising activities and maintenance projects, in addition to attending cultural events at the Society. Ever since I was elected to the Board in 2003, I have worked hard in support of our Mission Statement, i.e. to serve our members and our community, especially those who share a common interest in our German heritage and culture.

It is also my desire to help – to the best of my knowledge and ability – build on the positive climate which now again exists at the Society. I will do my best keeping the building and its premises clean and presentable so that others enjoy participating in the many activities the Society is now offering.

My affiliation with the German Society goes back to my parents, and I have been a member for many years, as well as an Officer and Director. I have tried to apply my sense of ethics and my years of business problem-solving experience to my efforts at the Society.

I have worked hard to reunify the Society by earning the trust of members with different points of view and by being an effective ‘bridge’ and communicator. I believe we must continue now, more than ever, to be inclusive and to welcome all those who share an interest in the Society’s aims, its programs and its future. It is my wish that no one feel alienated or unwelcome at the Society.

As always, the future of the Society rests with its members. I believe communication with current, past and prospective members, as well as the community are the key. I have volunteered to chair the Marketing Committee to help the Society improve the quality, quantity and focus of its marketing and communications efforts.

As a Director, I have been an outspoken contributor to the Board’s decision-making. I believe that the Board must continue to govern in an efficient, business-like way, while being reasonable and sensitive to differing opinions. We must also encourage innovation and new ideas that can advance growth and adaptation to new challenges ahead, while preserving the German Society’s distinguished heritage.

Henry Greenly

The Nominations Committee, consisting of co-chairs Karl Spaeth and Frank Genieser as well as president Hardy von Auennueller, for the elections to be held at the Annual Meeting of Members on June 11, 2006, hereby report to the Board of Directors and the Membership as follows:

There are a total of eight positions open for election to the Board of Directors of the German Society of Pennsylvania as follows:

- Class 2006-2009 (full 3-year term) – 5 (five) positions.
- Class 2004-2007 (1-year unexpired term) – 3 (three) positions.

The following four individuals (all incumbents) have been duly nominated as candidates for election to the Board of Directors Class 2006-2009:

- William Heintzelman, Lisa Peddinghaus, Hella Volgenau, Carl Weber

The following four individuals have been duly nominated as candidates for election to the Board of Directors for the remaining 4 (four) open positions:

- Henry Greenly, Helga Haltfiass, Allen Krumm, Lou Oschmann

The individual receiving the highest number of votes will fill the 3-year term in the Class 2006-2009. The remaining candidates will fill the one-year unexpired term in the Class 2004-2007. All candidates must receive a majority of the ballots cast in order to be duly elected.

The Nominations Committee report was presented and approved by the Board of Directors and the Membership at its June 11, 2006 meeting.

Submitted by Frank Genieser, Nominations Co-Chair

As a true Philadelphian, born and educated in the City of Brotherly Love, I am proud of all the history that this city holds, including the German Society. Although I do not come from a German heritage, my wife Anja is a native of Hanover, Germany. I met her when working in Germany during the Hanover World’s Fair a few years ago and have since adopted, with great pride and satisfaction, Germany’s culture and heritage.

It gives me great joy to be a member of the German Society and see the future for which the current Board has worked so diligently in seeking out new opportunities for people of my generation. I have both sales and management experience in the hospitality field which perhaps could become an asset to the Society as well.

I will gladly offer my customer service background to render assistance in the planning of special events and in developing new interests for members of the Society.

Submitted by Frank Genieser, Nominations Co-Chair
We arrived from Goettingen in Philadelphia in 1977—for my husband to teach Indian Philosophy at the University of Pennsylvania and for me to teach German Literature, Language and Culture at Penn and other Institutions in the region, now at Villanova University). Someone told us about the German Society.

We were interested, and impressed most of all by the beautiful Library and the remarkable history of the Society. We joined, and have been members ever since. For several years, every Saturday we took our daughter to the Classical Guitar Society in Center City for lessons, and then visited the library to take out books, read magazines, meet people. In those days, the library was open to members two or even three times per week. What was missing were events for which this library would have been a suitable venue. Later, opening times were reduced while the Library was being restored to its original beauty.

Now, life has returned to the Society, and it would be a pleasure for me to assist in program development, cultural planning, including "fun events", and —last but not least—library activities.

One project I would like to initiate this fall is a book group for members and non-members, meeting once or twice per season for an informal discussion of a book or story of general interest, in gemuetlicher Runde, over coffee and tea at one of the old round tables in our Library. With your support, I hope this will materialize. More to follow.

Because of my long-term interest in German language and culture stemming from my being of Pennsylvania-German descent, I joined the German Society more than a dozen years ago. Last year, I was elected to a one-year term on the Board of Directors.

My major contribution during the past year has been as a member of the Information Technology Committee, where I have helped our office staff learn how to use the membership database software that is an essential tool for communicating with our members and maintaining records. Recently I also served as the Board's representative on the Scholarship Committee.

With much effort from many dedicated members, we have made substantial progress during the past year. To bring the Society to full prosperity, we must continue our efforts in numerous areas:
- Presenting a program of activities interesting to our current membership and attractive to new members;
- Raising our visibility as a center for German culture in this area;
- Reopening our library;
- Continuing renovation of our physical facilities;
- Attracting rental usage of our building to help us carry maintenance costs;
- Responsible management of the Society's financial resources.

As we’ve all witnessed, the German Society of Pennsylvania has made tremendous strides in the last year. We’ve had more members, make that active members, have had more diverse and exciting programming, and have reached out to the community at large. And what’s better is that there are more interesting ideas in the pipeline.

As a member of the board, it has been a great pleasure to see the community respond to our efforts. However, there is a lot of work yet to be done. The year has gone by too quickly and many ideas have not been realized yet. I am running for another position on the board so that I can help to continue to improve the society. For example, there has been a lot of demand for a toddler’s group (Spielgruppe) and a children’s language class. I would like to be involved in helping this work out…perhaps as early as this Fall.

In addition, I would like to stay involved in some of the projects that were already begun over this past year. It will take a lot of effort to turn some of the new activities into annual events.

It is important for whom you vote, but even more important is the fact that you are voting…this is the kind of activity and involvement that is necessary to keep up the momentum!