



The German Society of Pennsylvania

611 Spring Garden Street

Philadelphia, PA 19123-3505

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

The official registration information of the German Society of Pennsylvania may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free 1-800-732-0999.

registrations.

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611 Spring Garden Street

Pennsylvania

The German Society of

Live Theater on Stage at the German Society



a 1910 German comedy by Franz Arnold and Ernst Bach will be performed live on the stage of our Auditorium on Wednesday, May 24 at 7:00pm by the graduating class of the Elmsborn, Germany Elisa-Brändstörff High School.

With this play, we are re-introducing a tradition of years past when some of our longtime members felt the urge to show their inherent acting talents onstage. This time, however, our generation can sit back, relax and enjoy—at a modest charge of \$10 per person — what youngsters from the Old Country can do with an intriguing play on our venerable stage.

Since this is the first trip by these High School students to the US, it would be greatly appreciated if we were to show them our hospitality by offering overnight accommodations for their three-day stay in Philadelphia. Anyone willing to lend a hand and host a student or two is asked to call me at the office, 215-627-2332, or my home 215-875-9911. Much obliged.

Hardy von Auenmueller



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 on 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—

Neuer Pennsylvaniaischer

Staatsbote

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Summer 2006

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 application. This was done by the indicated deadline of March 15. The total cost of a full-sized mural amounts to \$10/15,000 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-\$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 Godsall-Myers, William Heintzelman, Margarete Landwehr, and Helen Schutz.

—Sharan Knoell

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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 two buildings in an effort to garner more rental income—even though to date we have tripled this source of revenue from the prior year level. A mural covering the unsightly wall 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 re-activation of library operations by the end of 2006. As you know, the library was closed to the public for various reasons two years ago. Thanks to the funding support of the German Historic Institute, two scholars have done research on our premises 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 support—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—is 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 sales tax.]

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— <i>Grüß Gott Amerika</i> ,” Lecture by Mr. Heinz Stark, 12:00noon
Fri. May 5	Medical Insurance Seminar with Dr. Nikolaus Helbich, 5:30pm
Fri. May 12	<i>Skatabend</i> , 7:00pm in the <i>Ratskeller</i>
Sat. May 13	Spring Cleaning of the GSP premises, 10:00am — volunteers welcome!
Fri. May 19	Friday Film Fest, 6:30pm, “ <i>Die Edukators</i> ” (<i>Die Fetten Jahre sind vorbei</i>), with Julia Jentsch
Sun. May 21	Classical Concert Series — The Wister Quartet — Glazunov, Mozart and Beethoven, 3:00pm
Wed. May 24	“ <i>Die spanische Fliege</i> ,” Comedy performed by the Elmshorn High School, Germany Students
Fri. June 9	World Cup Opening Game (Germany vs. Costa Rica) in the <i>Ratskeller</i> , 12:00 noon <i>Skatabend</i> , 7:00pm in the <i>Ratskeller</i>
Sun. June 11	Annual Members’ Meeting, 3:00pm, Auditorium
Fri. June 23	Friday Film Fest, 6:30pm, “Blueprint,” with Franka Potente
Sat. June 24	<i>Wandertag</i> 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 expeditiously 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.

of the Society

Acknowledging Additional Annual Fund Donors

Names have been removed from
WEB version to preserve the privacy
of our members.

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 yeasts? 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!), *Koelsch* (the most strictly regulated beer in Germany thereby making it a very consistent beer across multiple brands), *Pilsner* (the most popular style of lager beer in many countries which can be distinguished by a distinctive herbal bite), *Oktoberfest* (also known as *Maerzen*, and contrary to the name, can be enjoyed at any time of the year), *Schwarzbier* (deceptively heavy looking, but light feeling), and finally the *Doppelbock* (a strong malty brew originally used for sustenance during Lent!).

Everyone walked away with a better understanding of beer basics. I, for one, will try to substantiate my new found knowledge at the local brew pubs... —Lisa Peddinghaus

Philly Alaaf! Rheinischer Karneval in the Ratskeller

Beginning at 8:11 PM on Saturday, February 25th, a chicken, a couple of *Zimmermänner* (carpenters), several flappers, a cowboy, a pair of doctors and even *Pipilangstrumpf* (Pipi Longstocking) 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 of the more than 100 attendees, who represented a mixture of German Society and *Netzwerk* Philadelphia members, sang with gusto to a soundtrack of traditional *Karneval* songs throughout the celebration. A highlight of the evening was the sudden appearance of three Mummers dressed in sequins who burst out of the Schlaraffia room in an explosion of sound emanating from their instruments: a banjo, a saxophone and an accordion. The live music was a hit, and a conga line started up with nearly everyone in attendance joining in. The crowd started to thin around midnight, but a group of about 20 *Karneval* enthusiasts sang, danced and drank their way into the wee hours of the morning. While nothing can compare with celebrating *Karneval* in Germany, it is quite possible this was the most authentic and fun filled *Karnevalsparty* on this side of the Atlantic.



Many thanks to the *Karneval* committee: Christoph von Andreae, GSP/*Netzwerk* member and experienced *Karnevalist*, Mark McGuigan, organizer of *Netzwerk* Philadelphia and especially Gabriele Lee, VP of programs at GSP, for their key contribu-

tions in organizing this successful event! Our thanks to Gerd Bungartz for providing the *Karneval* music and lyrics, Hans Fremuth for helping with the sound system, and Lisa Peddinghaus for greeting guests and collecting entrance fees. —Abigail Bruhlmann

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. **Brazil**, the favorite and winner of the 2002 championship, is currently ranked no. 1; the **USA** 4th and host **Germany** only 19th. However, Germany as home team won in 1974 beating Holland, the favorite at that time, in the final. **Germany**, playing in group A, will meet **Costa Rica** in the opening game, and then face **Poland** on June 14 at 3 pm , and later **Ecuador** on June 20 at 10 am. The **USA**, playing in group E, has a very tough schedule: facing first the **Czech** team on June 12, then **Italy** on June 17, both at noon, and ultimately **Ghana** on June 22 at 10 am. Will the US team prevail?

So, let's meet in the *Ratskeller* for the opening game, enjoy some good Bavarian beers and see if we can predict all the winners of the games. —Georg Simon

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 Doris Simon, Frank Genieser, and me has 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 *modus operandi* of the Executive Committee.
- Improving nomination, election and by-laws revision 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

Key: Denotes existing language to be deleted. Denotes new language to be added.

ARTICLE II Stated Officers....

2.1- A] The Stated Officers shall be a President, one or more Vice Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and such other offices as the Board of Directors may designate. The Stated Officers shall be elected by the members of the Society as provided herein. The President Each Stated Officer shall be limited to serve three (3) consecutive two-year terms in any one office, and until the President’s such officer’s successor has been duly elected or appointed.
B] There shall be a limit of (1) one four-year term for each other officer effective Section 2.1- A shall take effect with the elections for the year 2003 2007.

ARTICLE III Board of Directors....

3-2-.... B] There shall be a limit of four (4) three (3) successive terms for each director effective with the annual meeting elections for the year 2001 2007. Any such director may stand for election after an interval of one year following the expiration of the fourth third term.
C] Each Board member shall serve on at least one Committee, shall use best efforts to secure funding for the Society, and shall use best efforts to act in the best interest of the Society.
D] The Board may, by a simple majority, remove from Board membership any member whom the Board finds: {1} continually and recurrently puts forth little or no effort to advance the purposes of Section 3.3- C; or {2} acts in a manner or makes a declaration contrary to the said purposes; or {3} is absent from three (3) Board meetings within a period of twelve (12) months in office. The procedure for such removal shall be the same as that specified in Section 13.2- C.

3.5-Executive Committee. A] The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of the Corporation. Members of the Board of Directors may attend any meeting of the Executive Committee.
B] The Executive Committee shall have and may exercise, between the meetings of the Board of Directors, all the powers and authority of the Board to take necessary, exigent operational decisions including personnel decisions.
C] The President or any two members of the Executive Committee may call meetings at any time, giving the purpose of the meeting and three (3) days’ written notice to the Board of Directors of the date, place and time of the meeting. The President and three other officers



Hella Volgenau

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.



Carl Weber

Annual Members’ Meeting and Elections

On **Sunday, June 11, 2006 at 3:00pm**, the German Society will hold its 2006 Annual Meeting/Election for Directors at **611 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123**. Members of the Society will also vote on changes to its By-laws. Members must be in good standing to be eligible to vote, i.e., current on dues no later than end of business, Friday, June 9, 2006. Members wishing to vote must be present at the meeting – there is no provision for absentee ballots or proxy voting under the Society’s By-laws. If you have any questions about your current membership status, please contact the Society’s office at (215) 627-2332 and speak with the office manager, Sharan Knoell, or e-mail the Society at info@germansociety.org.

Report of the Nominations Committee – April 17, 2006

The Nominations Committee, consisting of co-chairs Karl Spaeth and Frank Genieser as well as president Hardy von Auenmueller, 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 Halbfass, 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 at the April 17, 2006 meeting.

Submitted by Frank Genieser, Nominations Co-Chair



Henry Greenly

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.



Helga Halbfass

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.



Allen Krumm

I have been a member of the German Society for over 12 years and have participated in activities ranging from the language program and Film Committee to serving on the Board. My professional background comprises working as a consultant in the pharmaceutical industry, specifically in the software and compliance arenas, for the past twenty years.

My vision for the Society is that of a self-sustaining cultural organization which maintains the essence of its heritage and traditions while serving as a relevant and contemporary contributor to the community at large. In sum, we need to be a genuine German-American society whose doors are open to everyone who shares our love of culture and community.

In line with the above, my goal is to help the German Society maintain its identity as a rich resource for educational, cultural and social programs related to German life and language.



Lou Oschmann

The German Society of Pennsylvania is an institution that epitomizes the very essence of German-American culture. As a member for 34 years, I am proud to be associated with such a fine organization. I have been privileged to serve the Society in various capacities for over 15 years, including board membership, several committee chairmanships and vice president.

I am currently a member of the Arts Subcommittee, the Finance Committee, the Stiftungsfest Subcommittee, the Steuben Parade Subcommittee, and have a strong concern for our Library. My principal interest is in the further development of the history of German-American culture, and the preservation of the German Society as its main trust and hope for the future.

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!



Lisa Peddinghaus