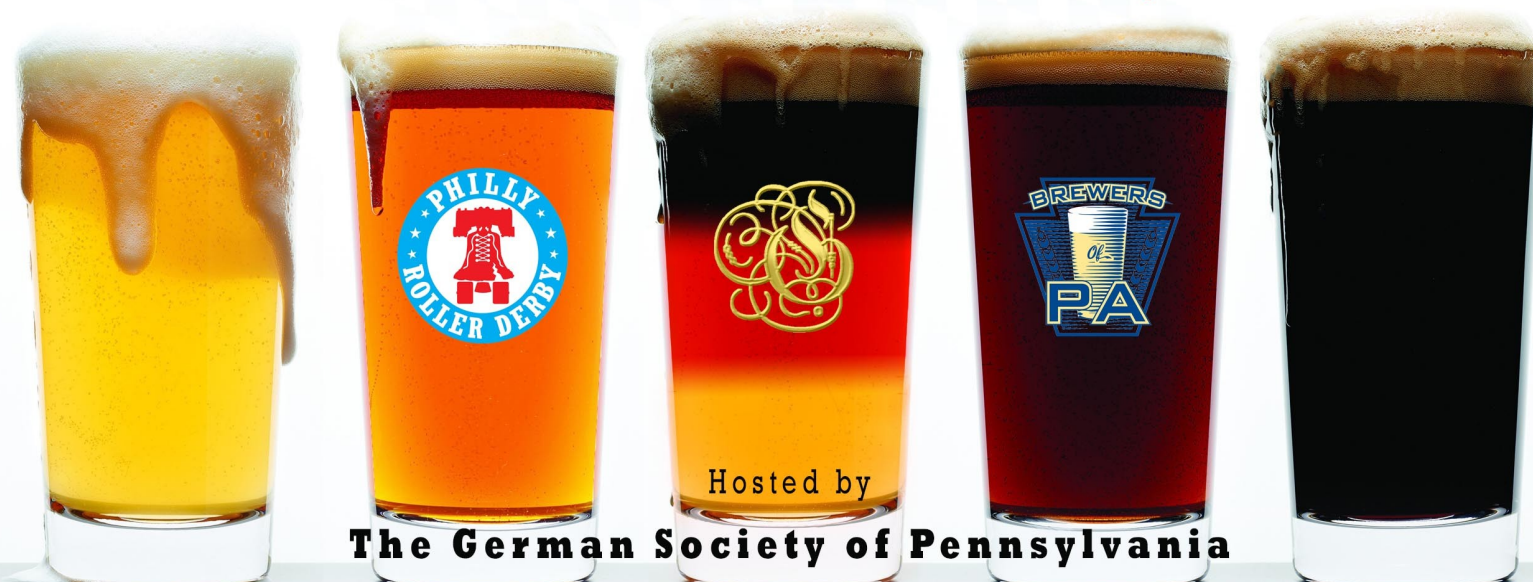


Calendar of Events
The GSP Office will be closed Dec. 22—Jan. 1 for the winter holidays.
Normal business hours will resume January 2.

Wed. Dec. 14 Konversationsabend: Music and Poems, 6:00pm
 Sat. Jan. 7 Women's Auxiliary Appreciation Party, 10:00am
 Sun. Jan. 8 "Wister and More!" presents Claire Huangci, piano, 3:00pm
 Wed. Jan. 11 Trip to St. Joseph's University to view the St. John's Bible, 10:30am
 Fri. Jan. 13 Friday Film Fest: *Die Wahlverwandschaften / Elective Affinities*, 6:30pm
 Sat. Jan. 14 Buchclub: Johannes Bobrowski's *Levins Mühle/Levin's Mill*, 1:30pm
 Sun. Jan. 29 "Wister and More!" series concert, 3:00pm
 Sat. Feb. 4 Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10:00am
 Wed. Feb. 8 Konversationsabend, 6:00pm
 Fri. Feb. 17 Friday Film Fest: *Victoria*, 6:30pm
 Sun. Feb. 19 "Wister and More!" presents Estrella Piano Duo, 3:00pm
 Sat. Feb. 25 6th Annual Bierfest, 1:00pm
 Sat. Mar. 4 Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10:00am
 Wed. Mar. 8 Konversationsabend, 6:00pm
 Fri. Mar. 17 Friday Film Fest: *A Coffee in Berlin*, 6:30pm

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The German Society of Pennsylvania

For tickets or more information, visit **PhillyBierfest.com** or call 215.627.2332

The German Society of Pennsylvania

Neuer Pennsylvanischer
Staatsbote

CELEBRATING
250
 YEARS OF
**GERMAN
 HERITAGE**

Winter 2017

President's Message

It has now been 9 years since I moved to the United States from my hometown of Krefeld, Germany. It was not easy at 53 to leave all that had become so familiar to me, but with the help of family and friends, I have set down roots in my new "hometown," Philadelphia. The German Society of Pennsylvania was an important part of that transition, and I am grateful for the warm welcome my wife and I received from the members. Next to family, the German Society has been my main focus during these years – a home-away-from-home, so to speak. Seven years ago, I was given the job of taking care of the day-to-day operation of the Society and overseeing all building related projects. Since becoming President, the scope of my work has broadened, but the building, although no longer my only responsibility, is still close to my heart. We have just completed the replacement of the majority of our heating systems. The old steam boiler and the hot water boiler for heating the library have been replaced with 4 high efficiency modular boilers made in the Netherlands by the German company Buderus, which is owned by Bosch. The installation of fan coil units instead of radiators in areas like the Auditorium, the hallways, and the Ratskeller will give us the additional opportunity to air condition these spaces after we replace our failing late 1990s cooling system during the next step of the project. We are currently considering various technologies for cooling – seeking the most sustainable and financially feasible option. However, whichever option we choose will allow us to use the entire building year round.

Another meaningful goal of mine has been to improve our outreach to the community and

increase cooperation with other organizations whose goals overlap with ours. Our work with groups like PhillyKinder, the National Park Service, the Delius Society, and the Philadelphia Roller Girls have brought mutual benefits. One significant gain for the German Society has been to establish contact with a population who had never set foot in the German Society before, but who are now interested in learning about German culture – past and present – and how they can get involved. The recent Poe Arts Festival was an excellent example of how such cooperation can create new interest in the German Society. Outreach is important in sustaining our organization, but we must always keep in mind the mission of German Society of Pennsylvania and that the goal of any cooperation is to support that mission.

It has been rewarding to see our organization becoming more diverse during the past eight years. Events have become more varied, and we are attracting a wider public. The building improvements have made the GSP a more attractive destination for its members and for our guests. Some activities receive more attention than others, some create substantial revenue, and some need to be subsidized. Some make it into the news, and others allow us to meet on a more intimate scale. It is important to value all of our activities; it is exactly this mix that guarantees our success. As I looked around at the very successful Christkindlmarkt last weekend, I saw this diversity in action – long-time members interacting with current language students, Phillykinder participants, new members, and first time visitors to the Society. Another very positive sign for our future was the lively

potluck for new members, which took place on November 19th. I am grateful for the efforts of all our volunteers in not only sustaining the organization but moving us forward into the 21st century.



New Boilers



Old Library Boiler

As always this time of the year, I will be asking you for your ongoing support for our Annual 2016/2017 fund drive in a separate mailing. Please consider making a donation to the mission of the German Society. I am proud of the job we do now and will continue to do in the coming years, but we are dependent on your financial support to thrive and grow. I wish all *Frohe Weihnachten* and hope your holidays are joyous and spent celebrating with family and friends. *Guten Rutch* into 2017 – may it bring good things to all.

- Tony Michels

Event Income

"We learn from history that we learn nothing from history". (George Bernard Shaw)

In this column, we look at our Programs. What do we have for our members? Most of you are familiar with our Wister concert series, movie nights, and social events such as Hamburger Abend, the Women's Auxiliary May Luncheon, German Heritage Fest, the Stiftungsfest formal dinner dance, and the Christkindlmarkt. What else do we do, and how have we done financially?

Revenue is obtained from ticket sales, food and beverage sales, and bar tips. Costs include, depending on the event, artist fees, catering, food, beverages, equipment rental, parking, printing, advertizing, flowers, and other decorations. The difference is our net event income. (See graph, opposite.)

Until about 1998, event income was not very significant with losses taken in some years.

Since then, program income has ranged from about \$10-\$30,000 annually, however, consistently in the black. This is one area where we have learned a lot from our history.

We generally lose money on our Wister Series concerts. When the Wister program started, we were one of the few venues with a Sunday afternoon concert. Since then, the competition has increased dramatically. After trying other days, evening performances, and different types of music, we find that Sunday afternoons are still preferred, and operettas will draw a bigger crowd than the 3 B's. There are many, many fine musicians who would like to perform in our concert hall with its superb acoustics, and of necessity, our Music Committee has to be very selective to insure a varied concert season that will please our audiences. Our co-operative ventures with the Delius and the Welsh Societies have been beneficial to all of our organizations.

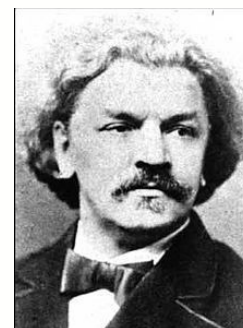
For Movie Nights, our patrons prefer German movies with English subtitles. It is not always possible to obtain them, though we try to at

Luther Oratorio

Two years ago, when we celebrated the 250th Anniversary of the German Society with numerous events, it was our great pleasure to host the premiere of a new opera, "Young Meister Bach", composed by Chuck Holdeman, a member of our Society. That performance in our venue was the musical highlight of the year.

Next year, we will be celebrating the **500th Anniversary of the Reformation**, begun by Martin Luther when he posted his 95 theses (challenging certain papal edicts and practices of the Church of Rome) on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg on October 31st, 1517. This summons to debate changed the course of history.

While there will be a variety of special events and lectures at the Society relating to the Reformation Anniversary next year, we are planning to present an **oratorio**, composed by **Ludwig Meinardus**, about Martin Luther and his trial at the Imperial Diet of the Holy Roman Empire in Worms. The composition "*Luther in Worms*" is a fairly large ensemble piece, comparable in scope to Brahms' German Requiem, with approximately one hundred choristers, forty instrumentalists and six vocal soloists.



Ludwig Meinardus started to work on the oratorio in 1871, just as the various German kingdoms, dukedoms and principalities formed the second German Empire under the rule of William, King of Prussia, who was proclaimed Emperor of Germany in the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles. The piece reflects not merely the composer's fervent Protestantism, but also extols Martin Luther in his dual role as religious and national hero.

The oratorio was presented many times in 1883, as part of the 400th anniversary celebration of Martin Luther's birth, but rarely since. There was also one performance in Philadel-

phia at that time. So we desire to re-introduce this work to an audience here next fall as part of the Reformation Quincentenary, particularly since our Society has had a Lutheran connection from its very beginning. That connection is with Pastor Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, the Patriarch of American Lutherans, whom I consider the "spiritual father" of our organization.

We have been assured by the *Singakademie Dresden* that they will support a performance here by sending 40 to 50 choristers, who will travel at their own expense across the Atlantic to make this endeavor a truly transatlantic, German-American choral venture. We only need to provide housing for their brief stay in Philadelphia, over the weekend of November 4th/5th, 2017. I trust that many of you will step forward and open your homes to them.

To finance the rest of the performance, which is likely to cost us as much as \$30,000, is quite a challenge! In the past, we had the good fortune to receive grants from various foundations for major concerts, including the acquisition of our Bösendorfer grand piano, but regrettably, they all are "maxed out" for 2017. Hence, we will have to see if we are able to generate enough financial support and enthusiasm for this project from within our own member community.

At the Society's Board meeting on November 21, one of our senior members presented a \$10,000 challenge to his colleagues. Perhaps the membership at large also wants to participate in this effort – with contributions of its own to match that dollar-amount. If you also feel this is a worthwhile project for us to present in our auditorium on **Sunday, November 5, 2017 at 3:00 pm**, please let us know to what extent you wish to make a tax-deductible contribution, either this year or in 2017.

I am confident that with your generous support, we will be able to accomplish our goal. And please: Remember, remember the Fifth of November!

- Hardy von Auenmueller

Children’s Books in the Horner Library

Did you know that the German Society’s Horner Library has an extensive collection of modern children’s books that can be borrowed? Well we do! For the past several months, library staff and volunteers have been working to make this collection more accessible by creating a separate, user-friendly online catalog for the lending library (thanks to a free catalog called *LibraryThing*). We have been photographing covers, bar coding, and labeling every book in the collection. The catalog is accessible through a link on the German Society’s newly updated website. Under the Library tab, click on Library Home Page, and then follow the link to search the Children’s Book Catalog. Or you can go to the catalog’s website directly: <https://www.librarycat.org/lib/GSPLibrary>.

The Children’s Book collection contains everything from board books to picture books to easy readers and chapter books appropriate for older children and young adults. Children’s books are also a fun way to practice your German if you are learning the language. To date, the board books and picture books have been cataloged, and the chapter books are being worked on. If you are looking for books on a particular topic - Christmas stories or arts and crafts, songs or airplanes - just type in the word, and any record that has been “tagged” with that word will come up. You will also be able to see whether the book is available or checked out.

The Library’s research collection, which does not circulate, contains literature published up to 1960. In the future, we plan to add current and classic German literature published after 1960 to this Lending Library catalog, enabling GSP members to easily see whether we own a copy. The library is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am-4pm. If you email the librarian at librarian@germansociety.org, we can make arrangements for you to pick up books during the German Society’s business hours if you are unable to make it in on a Tuesday or Thursday. Check it out!

- Bettina Hess

Save the Date!

As mentioned elsewhere in the *Staatsbote*, 2017 marks the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, and I would like you to mark your calendars for April 20-22, when the German Society will be honored to host the annual symposium of the Society for German-American Studies under the theme of “The Protestant



Reformation at 500: Its Legacy from Pennsylvania across German America”. Philadelphia is a fitting choice to commemorate this special anniversary - it is where the first German

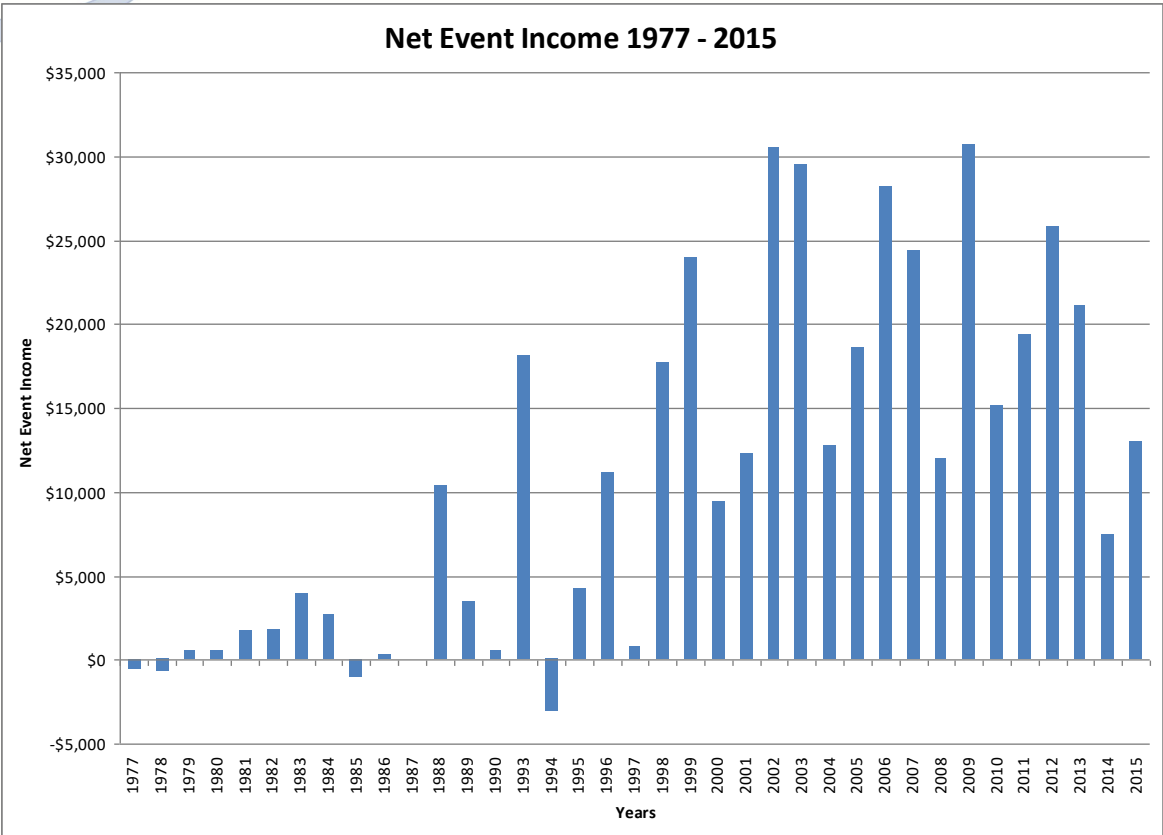
settlers arrived in 1683, attracted by William Penn’s promise of religious freedom - and where Heinrich Melchior Mühlenberg landed in 1742 and held his first position as a pastor after being dispatched from Halle to organize the Lutheran Church in America (and in 1764 became a founding member of the German Society). More details about the symposium will be available later, but I already want you to know that SGAS has offered to waive the registration fee for members of the German Society, in order to encourage your participation in the event. There will be a reception at the Wyndham Hotel in Old City on the evening of April 20th, followed by the conference presentations on Friday and Saturday morning. I hope you will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to learn more about the Society for German-American Studies and the legacy of the Reformation in the United States!

Furthermore, the Library Committee would like you to know that we will host an event in honor of the Horner Memorial Library’s 200th Anniversary. We are planning a champagne reception followed by a presentation on the founding of the library, with a special emphasis on showcasing what a visitor would have found on the shelves back in 1817. We will announce details about this event as they become available, so keep an eye out for updates!

- Maria Sturm

least have films with German subtitles. This is still one of the best deals in town. The movies are free to watch, though most of our guests prefer to pay a small fee for dinner, dessert, and stimulating conversation.

We want to continue to provide free events such as the Konversationsabend (an opportunity to hear and speak German), the Library Book Club and lecture series, and our St. Martin’s Day lantern parade. Most members are not aware of it, but we provide a lunch each year for our local police precinct and host an awards dinner for the Temple University German Society students. We need our social events too. While the Stiftungsfest is not for everyone, it is an important fundraiser each year. It seems like everyone has an Oktoberfest these days, providing strong competition for our German Heritage Festival, but we’re still the only ones with a Hamburger Abend!



What else have we done? While our stage is not particularly suited for dramatic presentations, we have had German plays and an opera performed on it. The Ego Po theater group used our Library for two of their plays. We have had cooking demonstrations, wine and beer tastings, bus trips, and other off-site events. We learned that there were too many competing sites during Philly Beer week which hurt attendance at our events. Who wants to drink beer in February? It turns out lots of people do, and our Bierfest has become our most popular and profitable event.

We continue to look for new programs for our members. The Lobster Feast, initiated by Charles Borowsky, with generous help from the whole Borowsky family providing fresh vegetables and manning the kitchen, has supported our music program. “Frankfurt in June” was a good introduction to Philadelphia’s newest sister city. Look for “Frankfurt in May” in 2017. The first ever Poe Arts Festival, a collaborative venture with our neighbors in the Edgar Allen Poe House across the street, was a great success and will be continued. The Leidy Terrace, used in both of these events, was a big hit and opens up possibilities for other types of activities in this space.

- Lew Volgenau

VP of Development Report

It seems like I have been writing about our need to establish a vibrant giving program at the Society for a decade, but it has actually only been five or six years. The Annual Fund drive has to be at the center of our efforts. We need these funds to balance our operating budget, and this year is no different. Solicitation letters will be mailed to all members by President Tony Michels, and we ask you to be as generous as possible, especially since we were almost \$10,000 short of our goal for the 2015/2016 campaign.

About five years ago, we started the first endowment fund in our 250 year history to support the needs of the Society - hopefully for generations to come. We set an interim goal of \$2.00MM, which would provide an additional cash flow of \$80,000 per year. A significant portion of these funds will be placed in a capital replacement fund, since our beautiful building will continue to require substantial updates in the years to come. Currently, we have slightly more than \$900,000 in the account with the Philadelphia Foundation, and our outreach activities to members and friends of the Society continue. We do not plan to take any distributions from the account until we reach our stated goal.

In the past few months, we also launched a separate endowment to support the needs of the *Horner Memorial Library*. Our goal is less ambitious, as we established an interim target of \$600,000. We plan to roll out this initiative to our full membership early next year, especially since we will be celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the library in 2017. However, we contacted some members and friends of the Society, and we have already received \$50,000 in donations and commitments. We would be delighted to share our business case for giving with anyone who might be interested and wishes to participate now. Any gift to the *Horner Memorial Library Endowment* will be very much appreciated, and we recognize these gifts by including the donor's name in a summary of the *Friends of the Horner Memo-*

rial Library, which can be found on the information table in the library. Gifts of \$1,000 or more are also listed in the *Linden Society*, which was established to recognize donations to our endowment funds.

Friends of the Horner Memorial Library as of November 30th:

A Reminder of a New Giving Opportunity

As reported in the spring issue of the *Staatsbote*, the US Congress late in 2015 made permanent a change in our tax laws that should benefit not-for-profit organizations, such as the German Society, and should be of special interest to all who are 70½ years old and who need to take yearly IRA required minimum distributions (RMDs), which can have unpleasant tax consequences.

The newest revision allows portions or all of the yearly required minimum distributions to

Heritage Travel through Germany – 500 Year Anniversary of the Reformation

Next Spring, from May 27 to June 5, 2017, we will have the opportunity to follow the footsteps of Martin Luther by participating in a journey through Germany in advance of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

As the German Society is a supporting member organization of the German-American Heritage Foundation (GAHF), based in Washington, DC, you are entitled to participate in this trip at a 10% discount on the cost of \$2,177 (\$1,959 with discount). This fare covers all transportation in modern coaches with air conditioning and WC, as well as lodgings in 4-star hotels, including dinners and buffet breakfasts.



Also included are professionally guided sight-seeing tours of Berlin, Wittenberg, Eisleben, Kronach, Wörlitzer Park, Eisenach, Coburg, Nuremberg, Regensburg, Augsburg and Munich. Admission to Luther's houses in Eisleben, Wartburg Castle, Wörlitzer Park Castle, Fortress Coburg, Town Hall and Fuggerei of Augsburg is included. Finally, there will be a boat ride on the Danube to the Walhalla Temple.

For further details on the day-to-day itinerary of the tour itself, please check the website of the GAHF at <http://www.gahmusa.org/trips-to-germany/>, email harms@gahmusa.org or visit the travel partner's website at <https://germanheritage.travel/product/luther-500-anniversary/> for booking. The transatlantic airfare can be booked under the special United Airlines promotion code: ZX5H931449 – with a discount of up to 10%.

If you choose to stay longer in Berlin, Munich or elsewhere in Europe, the airline will accommodate you when making your reservation. Should you wish to confer directly with German Heritage Travel in Germany, just remember the 6-hour time difference between the US and Germany, although the 1 (703) 994-4699 listing represents an American telephone number.

Since I also plan to participate in this trip, please feel free to call me at (215) 875-9911.

– Hardy von Auenmueller

Welcome New Members!

William Hermann Rau

His name was not in the volume listing members of the German Society, nor was he mentioned in the annual reports of the Society from 1889 to 1908, but William Herman Rau merits attention because he was one of the most adventurous and innovative German American photographers of his era. He mastered new photographic techniques and created historically significant photographic documents from around the world.

He was born in Philadelphia on January 19, 1855. His family had a three-story row house on Girard Avenue near the corner of 9th Street. On the ground floor was the shop in which William's parents and sisters operated a women's haberdashery and tailor shop. Upstairs, William's brother George had a photography studio.

William found a job as an assistant to photographer William Bell when he was thirteen years old. Bell had a strong influence on Rau, teaching him about photography as he trained him. It was Bell who, six years later, advised Rau, who had by then married Bell's daughter Louise, to join the 1874 government expedition to photograph the Transit of Venus on Chatham Island (see photo). On this trip, Rau was one of the first to use photography to measure the earth's distance from the sun.



When Rau returned to Philadelphia, he went to work for Edward Livingston Wilson's Centennial Photographic Company, taking pictures of the great exhibition. Afterwards, he joined his father-in-law's business as a partner, but when Wilson invited Rau to accompany him on his expedition through the Arabian Desert to Mount Sinai, he couldn't pack his bags quickly enough.

Rau was by then an intrepid and innovative travelling photographer. Because wet plates were so hard to keep stable, Rau decided to use dry plates to photograph the Egyptian pyramids. He also tried lighting the interiors of the pyramids with magnesium wire – taking photos quickly before the wire burned out. Wilson used Rau's negatives from Egypt for a Magic Lantern lecture series and illustrated articles for Century Magazine. Rau himself published a series of eleven articles on the sojourn in the *Philadelphia Photographer*.

Rau belonged to the Photographic Society of Philadelphia. He had little money to spare for joining groups, but this was a priority for him. It paid off when he attended Frederick Gutekunst's demonstration of the Moissard Panoramic Camera on April 9, 1890. Rau used the Moissard as the starting point for developing his own design of panoramic camera, which became his trademark work tool.

In 1891, Rau was hired to produce photographs of the Pennsylvania Railroad. He was given a car to use as a darkroom. His panoramic camera used flexible film which allowed him to take 180° images for dramatic views of railroad curves and topography. He also took pictures for the Lehigh Valley Railroad. These remain his most famous photographs.

In spite of his success (in 1911, he was elected to the Pennsylvania Academy of Natural Sciences), Mr. Rau was always seemed to be a step away from the poorhouse. By 1917, his finances had deteriorated to the point that he had to suffer the embarrassment of being expelled from the Academy of Sciences for failure to pay dues. He died of a cerebral hemorrhage in Philadelphia three years later on November 19, 1920.

- Margaret Darby

be directed to a charity of your choice without triggering any tax consequences; of course, you may not claim a tax deduction for this donation. Most importantly, these donations count toward the required annual distribution. There is an upper limit of \$100,000 in any given year. But there is no lower limit, and as such, this is a nice vehicle by which to make a meaningful gift to our Annual Fund or to donate to the two referenced endowment funds. I am happy to report that several members of the Society took advantage of this giving feature during 2016. It might be getting late for some donors to take advantage of this opportunity during the current tax year, but if you are eligible to participate, consider this as a giving option for 2017. If you would like more information, just contact the office, and we will return your call.

New Events at the Society

You may have noticed that we are trying to offer some new events and activities to our membership and the general public using our attractive facilities at the Society. Please let me comment on a few such happenings:

On October 19th, we featured a talk on German Notgeld (emergency money) which was issued



during and after World War I—initially as a means to earn a little extra money, and then as an alternative currency during the hyperinflation years that followed the war. Towns, local saving banks, municipalities, fire companies, and private and state-owned firms printed their own, often colorful Notgeld. Dr. Carl Renner, president of the Wilmington Coin Club and a member of the Currency Club of Chester County, and Mrs. Pamela Stitely, an office holder in the same organizations, provided a most interesting talk, which included many wonderful examples from their personal collections. A number

of attendees also brought some of their own samples for what could be described as a show and tell portion of the presentation.

On October 28th, we collaborated with our friends at the Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site to establish the first annual Poe Arts Festival. The Poe House, located conveniently across 7th Street from the German Society, offered dramatic guided tours of the house that Edgar Allan Poe inhabited during his time in Philadelphia. The German Society's beautiful and versatile building provided the perfect backdrop for Poe-themed performances, lectures, music groups, poetry readings, film screenings, contests, and food and drink. The event drew a large cult following of enthusiastic "Poe heads". We plan to repeat the event next year on October 27th.

On November 19th new members (anyone that joined us in the past 48 months) language students from the Society, as well as participants in PhillyKinder were invited to join representatives of the Women's Auxiliary and members of the Board of the German Society in the Ratskeller for our first potluck dinner. It was a great opportunity to meet interesting people and establish new contacts which will form the basis for continued friendships. The very young language students, accompanied by their proud parents, were not only well-behaved, but seemed to have a great time as well. The food was wonderful, and the group agreed that we should repeat this event again in 2017. Petra Goedde suggested the event, and many thanks go out to Petra, Jean Godsall-Myers, and Maria Sturm for making this a memorable event for fifty-three friends and members of the German Society.



- Ernie Weiler

PhillyKinder Summer Contest Draws Numerous Imaginative Responses

As the dreary winter months are upon us, one way to lift our spirits is to reminisce about our joyful summer adventures and the precious memories we made with friends and family, near or far. This uplifting spirit is what our PhillyKinder children set out to capture in their creative summer artwork, some of which we would like to share with you.



Contest participants, some only 4 years old, captured their summer adventures in elaborate drawings, which spark the viewer's imagination.

Compared to last year, the number of submissions this year more than tripled to an impressive 16 participants. The children, who were encouraged to compose either a written piece in a genre of their choice or a creative art project, spanned the ages from 4 to 9 years old. Prizes ranged from a subscription to a German language magazine to a book or treat bag.



ABC Schützen showing off their “paintings.”

See if you can match the title to the picture!

- Spaßbad Wimmelbild
- Afrikanischer Wasserfall
- Die kleine gelbe Maus und die große gelbe Sonne (im Sommer)
- Mein Fußballsommer, even though I'm only 4
- Alles, was mir lieb ist
- Im Flugzeug hoch über den Wolken
- Der Herbst



PhillyKinder Mal- und Schreibwettbewerb Sommer 2016



A colorful collage of ABC Schützen entries.

Perhaps this can remind to us of the importance of recapturing that sense of freedom, summer breeze, and carefree children's spirits that so often slips our mind during the daily grind of the year.

- Manuela Sieber-Messick