



The German Society of Pennsylvania

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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Another Cultural Trip to Germany

Following our successful first cultural trip to Eastern Germany earlier this year, cutting across the geographic mid-section of the country, several people have asked me when and where we will be going next.

As our timing of late April/early May proved fortunate, I think we should repeat that scheduling. Spring is a beautiful season in Germany—much more so than here, where we are often shortchanged with winter turning right into summer. At our wrap-up meeting covering the above trip, it was agreed that we would next travel to the four major metropolitan cities of Germany—unless somebody comes up with a better idea.

The cities in question—Munich, Berlin, Hamburg and Cologne—are geographi- cally, historically and culturally quite different from one another. The only thing they have in common is that each has a population of more than a million. Since we are likely to travel again to Frankfurt and use a Rail Pass within Ger- many, we might wish to include stop-overs at Stuttgart, Nuremberg, Schwerin and Bremen or any other city of choice that is on our route. Or would you like to visit the two villages of Philadelphia and Neu Boston - now part of the township of Storkow in Brandenburg—named after their Ameri- can counterparts by Frederick II of Prussia in 1772?

Please let me know if you are interested in joining us. We plan to have a further discussion on this trip during our *Konversationsabend* on February 19. Kindly mark your calendar. —Hardy von Auenmüller



Neuer Pennsylvanischer

Staatsbote

Internet: www.germansociety.org

Winter 2009/10

Volunteers at the GSP

As noted in many prior communica- tions, we are a volunteer based organi- zation. We have but one full-time employee, our Business Manager, Sharan Knoell. We rely on volunteers to paint, to do some minor repairs, to support our events throughout the year, to chaperone at rental events, to help with routine clean-ups on the outside and the inside of the building, and to provide office support such as mailing the quarterly issue of the *Staatsbote* or with other mailings. Vol- unteers also support our Library opera- tions.

Our volunteers have saved us more than \$10,000 in expenses in the past 12 months! Unfortunately, the num- ber of available individuals seems to be shrinking. Some are physically no longer able to volunteer; others have moved to retirement facilities or have taken on additional responsibilities outside of the Society. We are there- fore again appealing to the generosity of our members.

Come and help us expand programs and activities and most importantly allow your Society to continue to rely on volunteers to maintain the building in tip-top shape.

Listed on the following page are broad categories of volunteer oppor- tunities, the best estimate of fre- quency and duration of the support required.

We also list the recent participants in our volunteer program. If you should be listed and are not, please accept our apology and give us a call to correct the record.

—Cont'd on pg 2

Chairman's Comments

Remember, Remember the Ninth of November

I know that the above English rhyme actually refers to the Fifth of No- vember (commonly known as Guy Fawkes Day in the UK). On that day in 1605, he and a few of his Catholic friends tried to blow up the House of Lords in London during the Opening Ceremony of Parliament.

The plot failed. Fawkes and others implicated in the conspiracy were hanged. From puritan polemics to popular literature, Guy Fawkes has been associated with the demonic ever since. However, today he is often toasted as "the last man to en- ter Parliament with honorable inten- tions."

For Germans the Ninth of November has been an historic one several times over during the 20th century. It was on that day in 1923, that Hit- ler's first attempt to seize power, in the so-called Munich *Putsch* (Beer Hall Rebellion), was foiled.

Exactly fifteen years later, during his reign, the Nazis staged vicious po- groms against the Jewish community in Germany.

That day in 1938 came to be known as *Kristallnacht* (the night of broken glass), a reference to the many bro- ken windows of synagogues, Jewish owned stores and community cen- ters.

These pogroms marked an intensifi- cation of Nazi terror which would culminate in the Holocaust.

—Cont'd on pg 2

President's Message

This is my favorite season for many reasons. It is a busy time for all of us with a lot of preparations for the Holi- day Season, trips to various stores and, of course, cards and letters to our friends and relatives. It is also a sea- son where we can count our blessings and most of all treasure our memories. For me, the Christmas celebrations from 1945 to 1950 are still very real and vivid. We lived with my grand- mother in a small town in Germany. Gifts were few, mainly hand-me- downs from cousins and friends and a few homemade toys. My mother ex- changed my father's topcoat for a used pair of army skis. I can still smell the wonderful cookies and breads baked for the Christmas meals. Late in the evening we would walk, sometimes over a fresh blanket of snow, to the small town church and listened to the choir, which had been practicing for weeks. After the service we would go home and open our gifts.

—Cont'd on pg 2

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President’s Message—Cont’d from p 1
I am sure we all have memories that we cherish. I believe it is important to share these memories with friends, our children and grandchildren, and what better time than at Christmas. We are very fortunate in the Philadelphia area to have a very vibrant German Society, which offers a lot of different events throughout the year. We have refurbished many parts of the beautiful building and our renovation efforts will continue in 2010. What we need most of all is for our members and friends to attend and to participate in the various activities and programs. Let me wish all of you a very enjoyable Holiday Season, all the best for 2010. Hopefully, we will be able to spend some time together at the German Society.

Eine frohe und gesegnete Weihnacht,
Ernest D. Weiler

Volunteers—Cont’d from pg 1
We ask that all of our volunteers sign our log, and we have included all who contributed a minimum of 20 hours in the past 12 months and who have used the sign-up book. If you would like to be included, please let us know or send us an email and indicate the area of interest and your availability. Please note that this goes to a very fine cause, but most importantly it can be fun and rewarding!

- A list of Opportunities
- Painting:** 3 times per year; 3-4 hours; mainly touch-ups
- Routine Maintenance:** 4-6 times per year; 4 hours
- Routine Clean-ups:** inside and outside; 4 times per year
- Rental Chaperones:** 15-20 events per year; 1 or 2 chaperones per events

- Hamburger Abend:** annual event
- Sommerfest:** annual event
- Oktoberfest:** annual event
- Stiftungsfest:** annual event
- Concerts:** greeters, set-up chairs etc.
- Films:** kitchen help and set-up
- Office Support:** ongoing
- Mailings:** 6-8 times per year, 2-3 hours

Current Volunteers

We thank the above individuals wholeheartedly for their support!

Chairman’s Comments
—Cont’d from pg 1
And then twenty years ago— in 1989—November ninth was the day that the Berlin Wall came down, following a peaceful revolution by the people of East Germany. With the active support of George H. W. Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev, the two countries, East and West Germany, which had been separated since the end of WWII, were reunited by the fall of the following year. For quite a few people in the East this unification looked more like an annexation, since every political and administrative matter—down to the most local level—was converted to the Western practice. With it, a total de-industrialization took place during the next eighteen months. Other countries and cities, such as Philadelphia, had a chance to adjust to something similar over a 40 year period. Undoubtedly, the highly favorable currency conversion—with which Chancellor Helmut Kohl had baited the people of the East when he seized the historic opportunity to extend his power in office (for another 8 years as it turned out) by promising "flourishing landscapes within fifteen years"—contributed greatly to this economic disaster. Granted the infrastructure in many Eastern cities are by now equal or better than in the West—the result of the huge money transfers of \$100 billion per year. Yet the rate of unemployment in that area is still twice as high as in the West even though many people, particularly the young, moved to the West for better job opportunities.

Calendar of Events

January 2010

Mon. January 4
Sat. January 9
Sat. January 9
Sun. January 10

Fri. January 15

Mon. January 18
Tues. January 19

Fri. January 22

Sat. January 23
Sun. January 31

February

Sat. February 6
Thurs. February 18

Fri. February 19

Sun. February 21

Date TBA

March

Sat. March 6
Sun. March 7

Fri. March 12

Mon. March 15
Fri. March 19

April

Sat. April 10

- 12 Week Winter Session of Adult Evening German Classes Begins
- 12 Week Winter Session of Youth Saturday German Classes Begins
- Women’s Auxiliary Monthly Meeting in the Ratskeller, 10:00am
- 2009/10 “Wister and More!” presents Claire Huangci (piano), 3:00pm
Selections by: Bach, Beethoven, Mendelssohn
- An Evening in the Black Forest at City Tavern with Chef Walter Staib, 6:00pm
Supports the Women’s Auxiliary of the German Society
- German Society Board Meeting, 7:00pm
- Konversationsabend*, “Action Reconciliation Service for Peace”, 7:00pm
Presented by: Magdalena Scharf, Executive Director, ARSP
- Monthly Movie Night, “Buddenbrooks”, 6:30pm
Shown in German with English subtitles
- Horner Library will be open from 10:00am - 4:00pm
- 2009/10 “Wister and More!” presents Birgit and Friends, 3:00pm
Selections by: Haydn, Schubert, and Brahms
- Women’s Auxiliary Monthly Meeting in the Ratskeller, 10:00am
- Monthly Movie Night, “The Baader-Meinhof Complex”, 6:30pm
Shown in German with English subtitles
- Konversationsabend*, “Cultural Trip to the Major Metropolitan Cities of Germany”, 7:00pm
Presented by: Hardy von Auenmueller
- 2009/10 “Wister and More!” presents Invencia Piano Duo, 3:00pm
Selections by: Brahms, Schumann, Kasparov, and Schmitt
- Karnevalsparty im Ratskeller*
- Women’s Auxiliary Monthly Meeting in the Ratskeller, 10:00am
- 2009/10 “Wister and More!” presents The Wister Quartet, 3:00pm
Selections by: Smith, Barber, and Tchaikovsky
- Monthly Movie Night, “Hilde”, 6:30pm
Shown in German with German subtitles
- German Society Board Meeting, 7:00pm
- Konversationsabend*, “Climate Change - Past, Present and Future”, 7:00pm
Presented by: Prof. Hermann Pfefferkorn, UPenn
- Hamburger Abend*, 7:00pm

Please mark your calendars!

Library News



Greetings! For those of you who haven't met me yet, I have been the librarian of the Joseph P. Horner Memorial Library since November 2008. I received my Ph.D. in German literature from the University of Pennsylvania, and trained as a manuscripts and book cataloger in the Rare Book & Manuscript Library at Penn (I continue to work at Penn part-time). With its books, manuscripts, pamphlets and ephemera peeking out from veritably every nook and cranny the Horner Library is a fascinating place to work.

Members and non-members alike are welcome to visit! The library is open Mondays and Tuesdays from 10 am to 4 pm, and one Saturday per month; the next Saturday hours will be on January 23, from 10 to 4. Whether you would like to read a German book or magazine for pleasure, or research a specific topic in German-American history, the library has rich offerings for you.

Please visit our webpage, www.germansociety.org/library.html, where you can search in the online catalog, or peruse the reference guide that is available in pdf format: *The German Society of Pennsylvania: A Guide to its Book and Manuscript Collections*, by Kevin Ostoyich.

Books in the main library published after 1918 may be borrowed by German Society members. Although the lending-library books are not in the online catalog, they can be looked up in the paper catalog in the library (which has subject headings too).

Recent acquisitions of the lending library, including exciting new books purchased with funds donated by the Women's Auxiliary, can now be browsed online at the website: www.librarything.com. Search for "germansociety," under Members and Locations.

Currently the library is making new strides in the cataloging and descriptions of holdings. Thanks to a grant from the *Landesregierung* Nordrhein-Westfalen, Bettina Hess is back at work cataloging more books in the Carl Schurz and the German American Collections. And under a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (obtained by my predecessor Friederike Baer), Maria Sturm is creating a finding aid for the records of the GSP's "Agentur," which assisted German immigrants from the mid-19th to the early 20th century.

Much of my time is also devoted to cataloging manuscript holdings and creating finding aids. Following are a few items that recently came to light:

·Magda Heuermann (1858-1962; miniature portrait painter of Illinois). Correspondence and Memorabilia, ca. 1901-1909.

·Joseph A. Heintzelmann (1834-1915). Speech and Clipping, 1911. Items related to celebration of 50-year anniversary as GSP member.

·Georg Joseph Bischof (b. 1827; shoemaker of Bavaria). Military and Emigration Papers, 1855.

I look forward to your visits and inquiries. Please feel free to contact me by phone via the German Society office or by email:

librarian@germansociety.org
— Violet Lutz

Winter German Classes

We want to issue a big "thank you" to all of you - adults and children alike - who took German classes with us in 2009. Though our language program was affected by the economy, we appreciate those of you who made use of the talented instructors we have here to teach both German and English to willing students.

Our first Summer Camp for Kids in August was also a success, and a good time was had by all as we learned about German fairy tales. We will be holding another camp this coming summer, and you can find details in an upcoming issue of this newsletter.

The Winter Session will start the week of January 4, 2010. Adult classes, from beginner to advanced, will take place on weeknights, and **our Youth Session will begin again on January 9th.** Kids of all abilities, ages 3-12, are welcome.

For a complete schedule, including a placement test and downloadable application, please feel free to visit us on the web at:

www.germansociety.org/courses.html. In addition to students, we are also seeking qualified teachers for our program. If you are a native speaker, or have a background in teaching German, and would like to teach our evening classes, Saturday kids' classes, or private tutoring students, please contact me at info@germansociety.org. We have a curriculum to follow and other experienced teachers who can offer help or advice if needed.

Your support of this program is much appreciated.

Should you have any other questions regarding our language program, I look forward to hearing from you!

—Sharan Knoell

My life here in the States also changed as a result of the Fall of the Berlin Wall! Having just experienced the traumatic affects of a major earth quake in the San Francisco Bay area, where I was working as a management consultant, I could barely fathom that the Iron Curtain had been lifted, and that I was free to return to my *Heimat* in Saxony after an absence of over 40 years.

So, over the Thanksgiving holidays, I took a flight to Berlin, and then travelled by train to Leipzig. As I approached the area I could see, smell and taste the noxious industrial pollution. The pristine agricultural countryside of my boyhood days had been reduced to a moonscape.

What struck me most, was finding out that the largest coal-fired electric power plant of East Germany (DDR a.k.a. *Die Dreckige Republik*) had been built on the very land which the Russians had confiscated from my family after WWII. That facility in Thierbach was spewing more than 1500 tons of sulfur dioxide into the atmosphere per day, blighting the area and harming the health of the local population. I sensed an inner calling to do something about it. I quit my highly lucrative job, and over the next 12 years, I commuted on a monthly basis to Eastern Germany, working on many different projects, mostly on a *pro bono* basis.

It was that volunteering spirit which encouraged me to offer my services to the German Society after we moved to Philadelphia to be near our grandchildren.

I wish you all the best for the coming holy days and a happy New Year!

—Hardy von Auenmueller

New Members

We extend a cordial welcome to all new members. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events.

Monthly Movie Nights

For those of you who are fans of our Friday Film Fests, please note that we will be experimenting with moving the Movie Nights to various other weeknights of the month, beginning in February.

We acknowledge it is difficult for some of you to make it from work to the German Society on a Friday during rush hour. Therefore, please be guided by our Calendar of Events on page 11 for the varying dates.

Upcoming Schedule of Films:

January: "Buddenbrooks"

Set in the *Hanseatic* trade city of Lübeck during the mid-19th century, "Buddenbrooks" traces the family's decline as Tony and Thomas approach the age of marriage, powerfully conveying the trauma of living in a crumbling dynasty at the end of an era.

Feb.: "The Baader-Meinhof Complex"

A look at Germany's terrorist group, The Red Army Faction (RAF), which organized bombings, robberies, kidnappings and assassinations in the late 1960s and '70s.

March: "Hilde"

A biography of Hildegard Knef, one of Germany's biggest post-war stars.

If you have seen a German language movie that you would like to suggest we screen at one of our monthly film evenings, please feel free to contact the GSP office.

We aim for a balance of the old and new, light and serious,...all among good friends and much appreciated *Suppenküche*.

Please do come out and support our film showings!

—Sharan Knoell

Konversationsabend - A German Discussion Forum

Now that the first decade of the 21st century is coming to a close, it's a good time to review what has been accomplished, where we stand now, and how do we wish to proceed from hereon forward.

As you know, the *Konversationsabend* (KA) is the only remaining program within our Society—besides our formal language courses—where the German language is still being spoken and used as a regular means of communication.

Shortly after I joined the German Society ten years ago, I was asked by the then-Executive Director whether I would be willing to share—at one of the monthly KA gatherings—my experiences, from my personal engagement in eastern Germany over the course of the preceding decade.

Based on the enthusiastic response of the handful of people attending that presentation, and with the encouragement of the Society's administration, I agreed to serve as the leader for this important cultural program. I've been doing so ever since.

If my math is correct, we've discussed close to 100 different subjects—ranging from book discussions to the arts, sports to politics, reviews of historic events and hiking trips in and around the Philadelphia area. How much more diverse can we get?

And then there is always the seasonal *Adventsfeier* (pictured above) at this time of the year—with readings of

poems and Christmas stories plus singing of traditional carols and hymns. Since the event is a true potluck affair, one never knows what to expect.

The attendance has varied greatly over the years, from a low of five to a high of 80, yet most of the time, the participation hovered around 20 to 30 members, and from time to time the question is raised as to what subject is of special interest to the group or any individual taking part in the discussion.



Furthermore, in order not to show any favoritism for a specific day of the week which may constrain someone from attending because of other personal commitments for that day, it was long ago agreed upon to pick a *jour fixe* for the first and second half of the year.

And this practice will be continued in 2010, for which the following schedule is being posted herewith:

Jan. 19: **Action Reconciliation Service for Peace.** A presentation by

Magdalena Scharf, Executive Director of said organization, which for the past 40 years has annually brought 25 young Germans to the US for voluntary service in various social projects. (Incidentally, ARSP was also our partner in a panel discussion held on the 20th Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall a few weeks ago. That event drew a crowd that filled our library!)

Feb. 19: **Discussion on the next Cultural Trip to Germany planned for late April/early May.** The tentative schedule calls for visits of the metropolitan areas of Munich, Berlin, Hamburg and Cologne (see story on the back page).

Mar. 19: **Climate Change - Past, Present and Future,** a lecture by Prof. Hermann Pfefferkorn of U. Penn, who has been a long time member of the German Society.

Apr. 19: **Globalization - Challenges for Germany and the United States,** a presentation by Dr. Charles Borowsky, President of the International Institute, Baltimore, MD.

May 19: **German South West,** a book discussion with the author, Katie Thieck, who has lived for many years in that former German colony in Africa, now known as Namibia.

Jun. 19: **Wandertag,** our traditional hiking tour before the summer break—somewhere in the Greater Philadelphia area—with starting time and location still to be determined.

Your comments are invited!
—Hardy von Auenmueller

looking forward to an eventual “camerata” of 16 instrumentalists including the Wister Quartet.

This season, the Wister series has included a concert in collaboration with the Delius Society, offering some of the composer's German songs with piano, sung by mezzo soprano Suzanne Du Plantis, an old friend, who performed with the Wister in Ravel's “Chansons Madecasses.”

Eschenbach played with the quartet at the Society twice during his five years with the Orchestra; Sawallisch included a concert with them in every year of his decade at the Orchestra's helm. Both conductor-pianists received honorary lifetime memberships in the Society. Smith tells how they “got” Maestro Sawallisch: “Nancy walked up to him, asked if he was interested in playing chamber music with ‘this quartet we have at the German Society’; he was amenable right away, and we signed him up! It was wonderful from the very beginning. At the end of the first concert, after we'd maneuvered down the lethal stairs from the stage to the ‘green room’—actually the Society's Board Room—he turned to us and asked: ‘What's for next year?’ and that was it!”

In the course of that decade, the Sawallisch-Wister concerts were a guaranteed sellout, as they offered all the major piano quintets in the repertoire “until we ran out of them,” explains Smith, “so we did piano quartets and Maestro Sawallisch played four-hand works with Davyd.” For the record, Booth is as fine a pianist as he is a violinist, and even played the accordion in a 2006 concert. Smith continues:

“Maestro played the Brahms Piano

Quintet — his favorite — with so much feeling for it, it almost took your head off. When we talked with him about it a few years later, and Nancy suggested we repeat it, you could see from his face that he had been hoping we'd say that: his look said ‘Ah, yes!’ and that was typical of him, often not using a lot of words, but conveying so much with facial expression. Of course, the repeat performance was marvelous for all of us.”

This season also brought back the Keystone State Boychoir in a joint concert with the *Heidelberger Jugendchor* on October 25; the Wister/Delius event on November 15, and Duo Parisienne on December 13. January offers two concerts: pianist Claire Huangci on the 10th and the Kreutzer Trio, back by popular demand the 31st. The Invencia Piano Duo appears February 21st, and the American Virtuosi Trio (the Borowsky siblings), here last season, returns May 16th. In between are three Wister Quartet afternoons: March 7th, March 28th, and April 18th. As always, all concerts are Sunday at 3:00 PM. —Susan Gould



Claire Huangci



Kreutzer Trio



Invencia Piano Duo



Keystone State Boychoir
Heidelberger Jugendchor



American Virtuosi

Music at the German Society of Pennsylvania (abridged)

The German Society has had its concert series in place and growing for over twenty years. It was established and initially funded by then-board member of the Society (and active member for decades) Dr. William Sunderman, a prosperous pathologist and serious amateur violinist who had an extensive collection of chamber music as well as a network of music-loving and -performing friends. This remarkable gentleman died in 2003, just short of age 105, playing the violin almost to the end.

Through a close relationship with the cultural offices of the German government, the Society keeps abreast of young German musicians as well as others who would be ideal guests here. Among these have been pianist Rudiger Steinfatt, an authority on the compositions of his legendary colleague Wilhelm Kempff, the Württemberg Chamber Orchestra, violinist Arabella Steinbacher, and young pianist Birgit Gruetzner, first as a soloist and then with her *Frankfurter Kammertrio* (clarinet, cello, and piano). The 100 exceptionally talented youngsters of the *Landesjugendorchester Rheinland-Pfalz* gave two concerts last October as part of the German-American Week commemorations of 325 years of Germans in Philadelphia.

But the concert offerings are far from limited to those by German artists. Among the others have been Philadelphia Orchestra Principal Harpist Elizabeth Hainen, mezzo soprano Barbara Deaver, the Philadelphia Trio, the Eph-

rata Cloister Chorus, the Keystone State Boy Choir, and the medieval-music group Quidditas.

Since 1991, the superb Wister Quartet has been the official resident ensemble, increasing its concerts from one in the early seasons to four or five. For twelve years, theirs was the main, or in some seasons, the entire concert series at the Society. As Hardy von Auenmueller was delighted to point out: “When we first started the concerts,



not much else musical was happening on Sunday afternoons in Philadelphia. Now there are Sunday performances everywhere!” Guests of the Wister have included guitarist Allen Krantz and (as pianists) Philadelphia Orchestra Music Directors Wolfgang Sawalisch and Christoph Eschenbach. In 2006, the “Classical Concert Series” was named “Wister and More!”

It was Dr. Sunderman who brought the Wister Quartet to the German Society; having heard the group at Swarthmore College and approaching them to set up their first concert for 1991. As Wister cellist Lloyd Smith tells it: “He wanted to expand the Society’s cultural activities, liked the quartet, and

saw potential for a regular concert series. It came at a very good time for us, since we had more available time because the Orchestra was recording less, not only to perform but also to rehearse more as a quartet.”

The Wister performed with Dr. Sunderman for his 95th birthday, after which he began studying with their second violinist, Davyd Booth. Smith recalls with a smile: “We’d been a bit worried the first time, but he played tastefully. He had studied with Jascha Brodsky for 30 years, but only off and on; Davyd took him more seriously. When we heard Dr. Sunderman on his 100th birthday, he’d improved enormously, with good expression and intonation — at 100!”

The choice of repertoire is left to the quartet, and along with the greatest works of chamber music, they have added some unusual touches, such as the programs “It Takes Four to Tango” in 2003; “Tango and Fandango” in 2005, the latter with guests Krantz and Orchestra concertmaster David Kim; and “Latin Passions” in 2007—inspired by a trip to Argentina by Smith and his wife Nancy Bean, Wister first chair. Bean, in turn, playing Pellegrina viola as well as violin, has formed the Duo Parisienne with harpist Anne Sullivan, playing works (not only French) that are heard less often or, in this combination, almost never, elsewhere. Spaeth describes the duo as one of the unique combinations that the Society wants to continue creating and promoting,

Three Medal Winners

On November 7th the German Society celebrated its 245th *Stiftungsfest*.

We were pleased to honor three volunteers who have donated their time and talents to the Society.

Doris MacPherson, who served as President of the Women’s Auxiliary for ten years, has been a loyal German Society volunteer for more than a decade. She can often be found “behind the scenes” at events and is a member of our Arts Committee. Her hard work and cheerful presence is evident throughout the building.

Helen Schutz has been a member of the German Society and active volunteer for many, many years. She currently contributes her volunteer time to the business office and assists with filing, mailings, and more, on a regular basis. She is a member of the Scholarship and *Stiftungsfest* Committees and can be seen helping in many different capacities at Society events.

Dr. Frank Trommler, our current VP of Culture and Heritage, has dedicated many hours and resources to the German Society. He leads our Library Committee and provides professional guidance to our Librarian, Dr. Violet Lutz. He has served as a panelist and moderator for seminars at the Society and facilitates the German Historical Institute Fellowship program at the Society each summer.

Each of the three individuals received a medal as a token of the German Society’s appreciation for their dedication. We offer another wonderful “thank you” to them and look forward to honoring a different group of volunteers at next year’s *Stiftungsfest* on November 6th. —Sharan Knoell

Honoring a Former President

Also at the *Stiftungsfest*, we were pleased to honor Hardy von Auenmueller for his years of service as President of the German Society. He was presented with a plaque—the text of which you can find below. Congratulations to Hardy and a most sincere “thank you” for all he has accomplished during his years as President.

The Board of Directors and Members of
The German Society of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

express their heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation to

Hardy von Auenmueller

for serving the Society as President from 2005 to 2009.

During his term in office, Hardy inspired all with his enthusiasm, tenacity and drive to achieve the “almost impossible” by devoting uncountable hours to the business of the Society and breathing new life into many of its activities. Some of his notable accomplishments as a true “turn-around specialist” are:

- Putting the Society back on a firm financial footing
- Reshaping the business model of the Society
- Reestablishing the relationship with The Women’s Auxiliary
- Broadening the Society’s visibility and appeal beyond its own constituency
- Reopening the Joseph Horner Memorial Library in 2006
- Revitalizing events such as the *Stiftungsfest* and the *Konversationsabend*
- Providing leadership in improving the physical appearance of the Society
- Guiding the design of the mural and the historical marker
- Managing the elevator construction project

*Was du ererbt von deinen Vätern hast,
Erwirb es, um es zu besitzen. -Goethe*



← Newly-refurbished GSP Auditorium setup for the annual *Christkindlmarkt* on Saturday, December 5th



← Reception in the Library at the 245th annual *Stiftungsfest* celebration on Saturday, November 7th



← Awards Ceremony in our Joseph Horner Memorial Library during this year's *Stiftungsfest*

The German Society of Pennsylvania

Photos by Sharan Knoell, Lou Minadeo Iris Richardson, and Doris Simon

→ Annual St. Martin's Lantern Parade for Families on Saturday, November 14th



➤ First Annual Summer Camp for Kids in August 2009 with GSP member Christa Farnon playing her dulcimer



↓ Yearly *Oktoberfest* celebration in our Ratskeller on October 3rd

