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Year-End Giving

While finalizing decisions about charitable giving, please remember that it offers certain tax advantages that are worth considering before year-end.

Cash donations, perhaps the simplest method of charitable giving, provide immediate funds to benefit the Society and allow the donor to take an income tax deduction. Gifts of appreciated securities, however, may be especially beneficial because the donor typically incurs no capital gains tax on the appreciation of securities held long-term, and may take a tax deduction on the fully appreciated value of the securities.

Additionally, the Pension Protection Act has created a new avenue for charitable giving for persons age 70 1/2 and older that also reduces the donor's tax burden. In the tax years of 2006 and 2007, eligible individuals can make tax-free gifts to charity from their mandatory IRA distributions up to \$100,000 per individual.

As always, donors should consult with their own tax advisors or accountants regarding the deductibility of gifts.

—Ernest Weiler

Happy Birthday, America - Who Gave You That Name? Season's Greetings

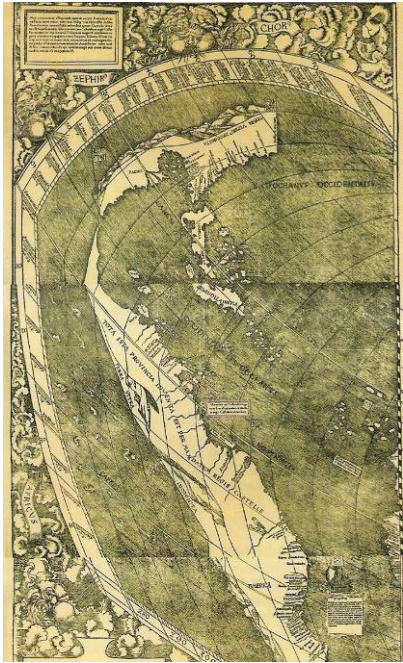
Whenever world leaders meet, they receive exhaustive press coverage these days. Often, there are more press than active participants in attendance at any given conference.

So, it is slightly disappointing that little media attention was given to the visit of Chancellor Angela Merkel to the Library of Congress earlier this year. She formally turned over to the United States a 500 year-old document which is occasionally referred to as "America's Birth Certificate".

The document in question is a 1507 map by the German cartographer Martin Waldseemueller (no relative of mine, although his forebears probably derived their name from a similar trade and locale) who was the first to name the new continent “America”.

Hence, Waldseemueller, rather than the Italian explorer, Amerigo Vespucci, could justifiably be called the “Godfather” of America. In fact, since Waldseemueller credited Vespucci with having discovered a separate continent unconnected to Asia, as Christopher Columbus believed he had done 15 years earlier, some have called his map America's first “declaration of independence.”►

During the April 30 ceremony, Merkel did not truly “turn over” this 12-panel Renaissance masterwork, because the Library of Congress had bought it in 2001 for ten million dollars, and had taken full title to it in 2003. However, since the map was on Germany's national culture list, there was a strict prohibition against exporting it.



Not surprisingly, the proposed sale triggered considerable opposition in Germany. But the federal government in Berlin granted an export license in recognition of the long-standing ties that bind Germany and the USA.

With Merkel's ceremonial presentation, the Waldseemueller map now officially belongs to the continent whose birth certificate it constitutes.

The year just ending has been full of challenges, for the Society and for me personally.

Thanks to the hard work of the Board, our office manager and quite a few volunteers, a lot has been accomplished. During our past fiscal year (which ended on June 30) a further growth in revenue of 40%, and holding the increase in operating expenses to less than 10%, continued the positive trend of the prior year, when a turn-around was accomplished. In addition, we benefited from the good investment climate on Wall Street. (For further details, please see the comparative financial data on the insert of this newsletter.)

These favorable developments produced a sizable surplus, which has strengthened our financial position so much that we are now proceeding with our most urgent capital improvement project: a sprinkler system to be installed throughout the basement area, auditorium, main hallway and the adjacent townhouse. Major funding support for it was secured from the

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William Penn Foundation.

We have also been able to set aside a portion of last year's surplus in order to meet the matching fund requirement of pending grant applications for our next major capital project, the much-needed window replacements in our auditorium and directors' room. At this stage, I also wish to acknowledge with sincere thanks a \$50,000 pledge—received a few months ago—from our Women's Auxiliary for these two capital undertakings. It is not often that an ethnic cultural institution like ours is the beneficiary of such largesse from a sister organization, which had been vilified only a few years earlier. Hence, we accept this gift with humility and deep appreciation.

Furthermore, we wish to apologize in advance for any inconvenience that these construction projects will impose upon our members and friends when attending any programs or activities over the next few months. Hopefully, by early next spring, this new fire suppression system will be fully operational. Soon after that, we will enjoy the splendor of a newly painted auditorium.

After all, 2008 is likely to be an important year for all German-Americans in the Delaware Valley. We plan to become the focal point for a city-wide celebration of the 325th Anniversary, commemorating the establishment of the first German settlement in nearby Germantown. We take encouragement from the evident success of this year's trial run in early October, when we attracted over 1000 people to our premises under the slogan "Making Philadelphia a German Town."

More that 80% of those who came to

our location over said three-day weekend were non-members! They feasted in our newly re-opened *Biergarten*, *Unter den Linden* on various types of bratwurst, pretzels and sauerkraut—all expertly prepared by Thomas Bauer, an enterprising young fellow imported from Nuremberg, Germany. Due to the unusually warm weather, enormous amounts of water, sodas and a variety of German beers, some of which were donated by the Paulaner Brewery, were consumed.

The ten events hosted by us—several as joint ventures with other local organizations—were a tall order indeed, for our Society. However, here as well our most reliable volunteer force, the Women's Auxiliary, lead by Christel Tillmann—with continuous support by husband and son—came to our rescue! What would we ever do, without them, or, for that matter, Sharan Knoell, who enlisted her Mom and Dad when the going was getting tough.

And this year's *Christkindlmarkt* (or should we call it "Christels *Kindermarkt*"?) drew such crowds to our building on December 1 that the line for our midday meal extended halfway around the auditorium. We would like to thank all those who waited patiently for their servings of *Kasseler* and frankfurters, while our volunteer kitchen staff strove to handle the unexpected volume of business. We also appreciated the added beer and wine consumption, which helped to overcome the lack of steam heat that our aged boiler refused to generate.

In mid September, we celebrated our (early) *Oktoberfest* in the *Ratskeller*—a new venue for this event. The space had been decorated in a Bavarian *Bierzelt* fashion, and the smell of sauerkraut

wafted throughout the area. It, too, attracted a record crowd who dined on a slow roasted pig, potato salad and various kinds of wursts.

A few weeks later, we enjoyed a most successful *Stiftungsfest*, while in between our facility was successfully rented out for various types of celebrations, such as weddings, birthday parties, fashion shows and poetry readings.

Also, our language program has become more diversified. In addition to our regular evening adult classes, we are now offering German language instruction to three different youth levels on Saturday mornings, while—at the same time—our library is again available to the public. Our custom-made, on-site language courses are likewise finding great acceptance with corporate clients, as does our tutoring service.

The Society's music offerings have also been expanded, and are being marketed under the label of "Wister and More" concert series , with free cultural listings in various local papers, radio stations and, of late, by the commercial web service TicketLeap which supports online bookings. This service organization is run by a recent language student and GSP member, Chris Stanchak. For more details on all our programs and activities, please check the calendar of events on page seven of this newsletter or our new web site.

We are encouraged by the growing participation in the various Society events and programs described above, since it appears to bear out our philosophy of broadening the scope of offerings, to both our membership and the public at large. (See pictorial display in centerfold of this publication.)

Calendar of Upcoming Events

December 2007

Wed. Dec. 12 *Konversationsabend*—Traditional Advent Celebration at the von Auenmuellers, 7:00pm
The business office will be closed from 12/22/07—1/1/08, reopening on 1/2/08.

January 2008

Sat. Jan. 5 Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10:00am
Sat. Jan. 5 Studi-VZ New Year's Party in the Ratskeller, 7:00pm
Mon. Jan. 7 German Language Classes—Winter Semester for Adults Begins
Fri. Jan. 11 Friday Film Fest, "Alles auf Zucker", 6:30pm
A journalist of Jewish descent in Berlin feels that he is a loser of the political changes in Germany after 1989. When his mother dies, he has to meet his brother to whom he has not talked for years. But during the preparations for the funeral, he plays a snooker-cup to try and win the money to pay his debts, and many things mix up.
Sat. Jan. 12 German Language Classes—Winter Semester for Kids (ages 4-15) Begins
Sun. Jan. 20 "Wister and More!" presents The Frankfurter Kammertrio, 3:00pm,
Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and Brahms
Mon. Jan. 21 *Konversationsabend*: "Review of Germany's Present Political and Socio-Economic Status", 7:00pm
with Hardy von Auenmueller

February 2008

Sat. Feb. 2 *Karnevalsparty* in the Ratskeller—a joint venture with Netzwerk Philadelphia, 7:00pm
Fri. Feb. 8 Friday Film Fest, "Nirgendwo in Afrika", 6:30pm
Shortly before WWII, a Jewish family in Germany emigrates to Kenya to start running a farm, but not all family members come to an arrangement with their new life. Shortly after their departure, things in Germany change very quickly and turning back seems impossible. So, everyone has to adapt to life in a new continent.
Sun. Feb. 10 "Wister and More!" presents The Wister Quartet, 3:00pm, Schubert, Mozart, and Brahms
Thurs. Feb. 21 *Konversationsabend*: Slide Presentation on Elbe River Trip with Georg Simon, 7:00pm

March 2008

Sun. March 9 "Wister and More!" presents Duo Parisienne, 3:00pm, Schubert, Tchaikovsky, Debussy, and Spohr
Fri. March 14 Friday Film Fest, "Effie Briest", 6:30pm
Set in the closed, repressive Prussian society of the Bismarck era, the film tells the story of Effie Briest , a young woman who seeks to escape her stifling marriage to a much older man by having an affair with a charming soldier. Six years later, her husband discovers her affair with tragic consequences.
Mon. March 17 German Society Board of Directors Meeting, 7:00pm
Fri. March 28 *Konversationsabend*: The comedy "Der zerbrochene Krug" by Heinrich von Kleist will be performed by the theater group of the Elmshorn High School from Germany
Sun. March 30 "Wister and More!" presents The Tokito-Oka-Uhlig Trio, 3:00pm
CPE Bach, Haydn, and Moszkowski

The Library is now open to members and the public on Saturdays from 9:30am—12:30pm.

Thanksgiving Eve

This year on the eve of Thanksgiving, approximately 70 people gathered in the Horner Memorial Library to participate in a small fun(d)raising party in support of its operating budget.

Long time friend and supporter of the Society, Walter Staib, expertly prepared a good selection of wines, champagne, and a wonderful buffet.

Since the last guests stayed beyond midnight—dancing to the well-known tunes of the Kauriga Orchestra—the attendees proved it was, indeed, an enjoyable affair.

Perhaps you may recall, we re-opened our Library last fall. Shortly thereafter, Dr. Friederike Baer was hired as our part-time librarian. A handful of scholars have since done research under her guidance, and she has been instrumental in making our Library available again to members and the public.

As of this writing, \$3,000 have been received from the following members and friends of the Society:

Hans and Cherry Bombeck, Dr, Ed Cohen, Ray Dietrich, Frank and Renate Genieser, Dr. John and Martha Haas, Dr. Helga Halbfass, Folkert and Helga Herlyn, Tordis Hollenbach, Susan K. Holyfield, Bill and Diana Knoell, Neil Leonard, Margarete Preusser, Dr. Victor and Helen Schutz, Doris Simon, Ron and Christel Tillmann, Hardy and Gudrun von Auenmueller, Drs. Ernest and Jutta Weiler

Your generosity is greatly appreciated!
—Sharan Knoell

German-American Day 2007 — Old Zion Lutheran Church

Abridged Address by Prof. Dr. Karlfried Fröhlich, Princeton
Every year since 1983, October 6 is proclaimed as German American Day by the President of the United States. On that day in 1683, Francis Daniel Pastorius greeted the Krefelders arriving in Philadelphia on the sail ship “Concord,” and soon “Germantown,” the settlement six miles northwest of Philadelphia, was no longer a dream but a reality. These people were brave and daring. They had in fact crossed the threshold between the Old and New World. Looking back, they left behind a harrowing past: A devastating thirty-year War had ravaged central Europe, famine and pestilence had decimated the population, religious persecution and poverty were rampant. Looking forward, all was hope and expectation: Hope for peace, for bodily sustenance, for freedom of religion, for prosperity. Of course, not all hopes would come true, not all expectations would be fulfilled, but those thirteen families were a paradigm for the significant German contribution to the very fabric of American society.

The Krefelders were the avant-garde of waves after waves of German immigrants over three centuries. In the census of 2000, nearly 43 million Americans (15%) listed German as their primary family heritage.

It was a contribution of skills and crafts. Germans filled scores of homesteads in the rural mid-West with their well-run farms. Most of the Krefelders practiced the craft of their hometown. They were linen weavers, and the products of their looms soon showed up in Philadelphia, in New York and Boston. Trades like brewing, baking, watch-

and cabinet-making in the early years owed much to German immigrants, and many an emerging industry received its main impulses from German engineers and inventors.

It was a contribution of culture, not just of the fine arts and of music. Germantown was home to the Rittenhouse paper mill, and Christoph Saur printed the first Bible on American soil at Germantown in 1743 – a German Bible. It is no secret that German-born scholars, writers, playwrights and film-makers have filled the honor rolls of American institutions since the early times of the Republic.

Last, but not least, it was a contribution of religion and spiritual values. While continuing the fragmentation of Christian confessions in Continental Europe, even early Germantown became a microcosm of religious pluralism where Quakers, Mennonites, Baptist Brethren, Reformed and Lutherans, and soon Catholics and Jews, had to live, and did live, together in peace, as an ecumenical community. Fervent religiosity was the hallmark of many groups settling in the New World, and it was frequently their religion that encouraged German immigrants to take on responsibilities for the sake of the common wealth in government, education, and the promotion of social causes. It was Pastorius and several Germantown citizens who drafted the first public protest against slavery in the American colonies -- a unified Christian witness later echoed by many diverse voices.

Unity in diversity – this is also the watchword of much of the ecumenical movement today.

And next year's celebration of the 325th German-American jubilee in Philadelphia gives rise to further optimism. In late January, we will start with an historic symposium to be hosted by Dr. Juergen Ruettggers, Governor of North-Rhine Westphalia (NRW), who recently initiated a state-to-state partnership with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. (Details of this event are still to be worked out with the NRW representative in Washington.) This is an appropriate beginning since the very first settlers in Germantown (1683) hailed from that German state.

Right after Easter, we hope to present another German play by the theatre group from Elmshorn which early last year delighted us with "Die Spanische Fliege". This time it is the classic comedy "Der zerbrochene Krug" by Heinrich von Kleist. And later that year, on German-Americian Day, October 6th, we plan to bring the *Landesjugendorchester Rheinland-Pfalz* for a full orchestra performance (or two) to our Society. The young musicians will be here in Philadelphia for that week-end, and we hope to place them with families for the duration of their stay.

As you can see, these are new and exciting plans for our Society on which I have been working for several months now. I am grateful, indeed, that my eyesight has been restored, and other health issues are reasonably under control. I was able to return from my sabbatical earlier than anticipated, and have since agreed to serve the Society again as its President after Kile Smith resigned from his interim position at the end of the summer.

Wishing you all the best for the Advent and Hanukah season and a Happy New Year,
Hardy von Auenmueller

Welcome New Members

We are pleased to extend a warm greeting to all of you:

GoodShop Your Holiday Gifts This Year

According to ComScore, a global internet information provider, a total increase in holiday e-commerce is predicted at 20% over last year, and they are forecasting that close to \$30 billion will be spent online between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

This year, while you are doing your online holiday shopping, take a few extra seconds and visit www.goodshop.com before you make your purchase.

Designate the “German Society of Pennsylvania” as your charity, and then select your store from over one hundred merchants. Click on the logo of the store where you wish to shop, and that’s it! Participating online stores include ebay, Barnes & Noble, Overstock, Best Buy, HSN, Macy’s, Sears, Target, Hallmark, 1-800-flowers.com, giftbaskets.com, and many more.

Each store lists what percentage of your sale will be sent to the German Society. You can even see how much money has been raised by clicking on the yellow Amount Raised button.

And please don’t forget to use www.goodsearch.com for all your internet searches. Each query you submit earns the German Society another penny.

The money each nonprofit receives at the end of the calendar year is generated by the merchants and advertisers you see on the page.

So, go ahead and buy your family members those luxuriously expensive gifts this holiday season...just remember to visit GoodShop first!

—Sharan Knoell



◀ Newly painted German Society building



▲ Marnie Old demonstrates the principles of beer brewing during the German-American Weekend

Area high school students take advantage of the warm weather and tasty food prepared in our garden during the German-American Weekend ▶



Families participating in our St. Martin's Parade gather in the Ratskeller on 11/11/07 ▼



◀ The designs of Melani von Alexandria, one of the numerous fashion shows held at the German Society



▲ Guests at the 243rd Annual Stiftungsfest - dancing in the ballroom/auditorium of the German Society on October 13, 2007



◀ Volunteers from the Temple University German Club standing in front of their painted wall

The Civil War era Philadelphia Beck Band performing during the German-American Weekend ▶

