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New Steps in the Library's Mission

With the reopening celebration of the Library on November 5, 2006, the Society has taken another step in its redefinition of the Joseph Horner Memorial Library as a research collection. This redefinition started with the five-year Library Restoration and Cataloging Project of the 1990s that established parameters for the preservation and use of the collection. While the concept of *Volksbibliothek* helped the preservation of the Library in its original location on Spring Garden Street, its function as a reading collection cannot be compared with its status in earlier decades when Internet, amazon.com, TV series and other offerings did not absorb the interests of the members. What became painfully obvious in the 1990s is now an accepted fact: that historical libraries all over the world need to transform their mission in order to remain viable, either towards becoming centers of information and communication or special collections with a focus on documentation and scholarship.

There still seems to be enough interest among members of the Society to make use of the holdings of recent German novels, biographies and children's books, but this interest cannot sustain a full-fledged operation. The focus of the new part-time librarian William Lang who was introduced at the November 5 event, is on the maintenance of the research collection which includes the German-American Collection and the holdings up to 1917. The Library Committee that oversees the transformation is currently discussing the use – and

appeal – of volunteers in working on other facets of the Library. The renovation of the Carl Schurz Collection room adjacent to the Library Hall is well under way.



The members of the Society might be pleased to learn that the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collection Libraries (PACSCL), in accepting the Joseph Horner Memorial Library as an associate member, has recognized its redefinition as a special collection.

It is equally noteworthy that the long-time supporter of this transformation, the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C., strengthened the commitment to the scholarly use of the Library not only by commissioning Kevin Ostoyich's *Guide to Its Book and Manuscript Collection* (available at the GSP and soon linked to its web site) but also by co-sponsoring several short-term fellowships under international auspices, beginning in 2007. GHI Director Christof Mauch announced the establishment of the "GHI Fellowships at the Horner Library" at the November 5 event. The deadline for applications will be March 1 for research between June 1 and July 15, 2007.

—Dr. Frank Trommler

Holiday Greetings

As we approach the year-end holiday season, we reflect on the challenges and opportunities that the past year presented to us all. This Thanksgiving, we will celebrate the many good things that have come our way.

The US economy is doing well. Wall Street is booming, oil prices are not as high as they have been, and inflation appears to be under control despite record-breaking Federal deficits..., and so I hope all is well with you and your family.

At the German Society, we were blessed with an enormous outpouring of support from many friends and members of the Society who have volunteered their talents, time and treasure. Thanks to this gracious giving, we have been able to bring about a complete turnaround of the financial loss situa-

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tion that plagued our Society since it entered into the new century.

From the enclosed financial statements covering our fiscal year 2005/06, you will note that we finished the year with a surplus of \$95,000 of which \$80,000 was immediately put into a reserve fund. This is required as our contribution to the two most urgent building improvement projects—replacement of auditorium windows and installation of sprinkler system—for which we are seeking grant support from several funding sources.

Please know that the improved financial situation of our Society is a direct result of dedicated service rendered by many GSP officers and members alike, for which we are ever so grateful. The visible facelift of our building façade and the interior painting of the townhouse and main building hallways and stairs have been accomplished by our “alchemist trio”—**Bill Hardham, Lew Volgenau** and **Ernie Weiler**.

Our auditors, time and again, have praised the dedicated work of our Treasurer, **Doris Simon**, who also demonstrated her office management skills when the need arose in mid-2005. These few persons I single out for mention by name. Yet there were many others who quietly filled a myriad of vital services that the Society could never have afforded from commercial sources. Many thanks to each and every one of you, and also to those who responded so generously to our annual fund drive.

Anyone who attended our most recent social functions, be it the *Oktoberfest*, *Stiftungsfest* or Re-opening of our Library, will have felt an energy that speaks well for our Society. Both –fest celebrations, including a very successful Silent Auction, were supported by a

great number of volunteers—thirty in all—who worked under the direction of **Sonia Churchman, Bill Heintzelman** and **Hella** and **Lew Volgenau**. In fact Hella, whose “can-do” attitude is second to none, was awarded a Society medal during our *Stiftungsfest* in recognition of the hundreds of hours that she volunteered each year since she became a member seven years ago.

We have seen growth in our other programs as well. Enrollment in our German language program has almost doubled, now that we are offering Saturday classes to youngsters and providing instruction to select corporate clients. Our classical music program for the 2006/07 season has been expanded to ten concerts, and our film showings are attracting greater numbers thanks to the good soups and desserts provided by **Renate Genieser** and her wonderful helpers.

With newly introduced programs such as beer and wine tastings, the *Karnevalsparty*, and the St. Martin’s Day Parade, we are trying to reach out to younger members of the neighborhood communities.

The *Christkindlmarkt* of the Women’s Auxiliary, scheduled for Saturday, December 2nd, is likely to draw a huge crowd once more, with increased participation by people from all walks of life.

We have resumed our Library operations by hiring **Bill Lang** as a part-time Librarian to make available our vast collection of books to historians, researchers and GSP members on a restricted appointment basis.

All these positive developments, plus a sizeable bequest from the estate of Arleen Pogue and a concerted and suc-

cessful effort to rent out our facilities for weddings, birthday parties and company functions helped our “bottom line.” Let’s see if we can do still better in the current fiscal year, since the challenges in our venerable institution are never-ending.

Incidentally, I have learned recently that many members of the Society made substantial contributions to the renovation project of our Library back in the late 1990s. I did not know that a promise was made at that time, to inscribe the names of all donors who contributed \$1,000 or more into a Donor Recognition plaque which was to be located immediately outside the Library entrance. That promise has yet to be fulfilled!

We will undertake to correct this omission. To do it properly, we want to make sure that we have a complete listing of the donors. Would you therefore please check the listing of names shown on the back page and advise us immediately if your name or that of your loved one has been inadvertently omitted. Thank you for bearing with us. Your understanding and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

In our centerfold you will see some pictures that highlight various programs and events of the past year. If you have not been to the Society recently, please come and see for yourself what changes (physical and otherwise) have taken place during the past eighteen months.

I wish you all the best for the upcoming holiday season—Thanksgiving, Hanukkah and Christmas. May the spirit of the season be with you, your family and friends throughout the New Year.

With warm regards,
Hardy von Auenmueller

Calendar of Upcoming Events

December 2006

- Fri. Dec. 1

Sat. Dec. 2

Fri. Dec. 8

Sun. Dec. 10

Wed. Dec. 13

Sun. Dec. 31
- Skatabend* with Frank, John and Hardy, 6:30pm

Christmas Bazaar hosted by the Women’s Auxiliary, 12:00 noon

Friday Film Fest, 6:30pm, “*Der Tanz auf dem Vulkan*” with Gustaf Gründgens

Wister and More! Concert Series — Birgit Gruetzner and Andreas Greger, 3:00pm
Brahms, Beethoven and others

Konversationsabend — Traditional Advent Celebration at the Auenmuellers, 7:00pm

Sylvesterabend — International Buffet and Open Bar with the Women’s Auxiliary, 9:00pm

January 2007

- Fri. Jan. 5

Sat. Jan. 6

Mon. Jan. 8

Fri. Jan. 12

Sat. Jan. 13

Fri. Jan. 19

Sun. Jan. 21

Tues. Jan. 23
- Skatabend* with Frank, John and Hardy, 6:30pm

Women’s Auxiliary Meeting, 11:00am

Adult German Language Program — Twelve-Week Winter Session Begins

Wister and More! Concert Series — Night and Day: The Best of Cole Porter, 7:00pm

Youth German Language Program — Twelve-Week Winter Session Begins

Friday Film Fest, “*Der Teufels General*”, 6:30pm

Wister and More! Concert Series — Philadelphia Trio, Mozart, Danielpour, Brahms, 3:00pm

Konversationsabend — “*Beim Häuten der Zwiebel*” Autobiography of Günter Grass, 7:00pm

February 2007

- Sat. Feb. 3

Sun. Feb. 4

Fri. Feb. 9

Sat. Feb. 10

Fri. Feb. 16

Sat. Feb. 17

Fri. Feb. 27
- Women’s Auxiliary Meeting, 10:00am

Wister and More! Concert Series — The Wister Quartet, 3:00pm
Paganini, Beethoven, Brahms

Skatabend with Frank, John and Hardy, 6:30pm

Tasting of Wines from Germany and Austria with Marnie Old, 3:00pm

Friday Film Fest, “*Einer kam durch*”, 6:30pm

Karnevalsparty—A Joint Venture with Netzwerk Philadelphia, 8:00pm

Konversationsabend — Action Reconciliation-Service for Peace with Dr. John Haas, 7:00pm

March 2007

- Sat. March 3

Sun. March 11

Fri. March 16

Fri. March 23

Sun. March 25
- Women’s Auxiliary Meeting, 10:00am

Wister and More! Concert Series — The Wister Quartet, 3:00pm
Haydn, Smith and Ravel

Friday Film Fest, “*Mein Name ist Bach*”, 6:30pm

Konversationsabend — Topic TBA, 7:00pm

Wister and More! Concert Series — Mezzo-Soprano, Barbara Dever, 3:00pm

Friends of the Library

Donations by the following members and friends of the Society to the Library fund are greatly appreciated.
Names removed from WEB Version to preserve privacy

Wachovia

Wachovia Bank was not named for an Indian tribe, as many people suppose. It stems back to Germany—and derives from a region known as *Die Wachau*. That was the location of the ancestral lands of **Count Nicholas von Zinzendorf** (b. 1700). His family had been the landlords there for centuries.
In 1722, he allowed a group of Pietist dissidents from Moravia, to found the *Herrenhut* settlement on his lands. That community, headed by Zinzendorf, formed the nucleus of a missionary movement, which founded many settlements, including Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, after a sojourn in Philadelphia.
Zinzendorf's deputy, **Bishop August Gottlieb Spangenberg**, became the prime representative of the Moravian Church in the American colonies. In 1753, under his guidance the church settled a large tract in the North Carolina Piedmont—called Wachovia—after the Wachau Valley along the Danube.
In 1833, a young man named Heinrich Schaffner arrived in Salem, North Carolina—the largest town in the Wachau tract. Among his descendents is Henry Fries Shaffner (b. 1867). (The family had dropped the “c.”) In 1893, he became a co-founder of The Wachovia Bank, on the main street of Winston-Salem, in a building that had been a Chinese laundry. It grew into a mighty, multi-state bank. His great-grandson, **Henry Shaffner**, is one of the authors of this piece and a ready volunteer of the Society when needed.

--Henry and Bobbie (Caplan) Shaffner

New Members

Willkommen! We would love to see you at many of our events and hope that you will take advantage of all activities and programs we have to offer.

Names removed to preserve Privacy

Reopening Celebration of Horner Memorial Library

Sunday afternoon, November 5, marked the official reopening of the Joseph P. Horner Memorial Library. Just under one hundred members and guests gathered for this festive event and a Champagne Reception in the Library. **President Hardy von Auenmueller** greeted the assembled guests while **Dr. Frank Trommler**, Prof. of German at the University of Pennsylvania, introduced the main speakers, **Dr. Hans-Juergen Heimsoeth**, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in New York, and **Prof. Dr. Christof Mauch**, Director of the German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C. Dr. Heimsoeth's address was entitled, “Pennsylvania and the German-American Heritage,” and Dr. Mauch's speech was “In Search of the German Americans.” At the conclusion of his talk, Dr. Mauch announced the German Historical Institute's decision to offer a number of fellowships to short-term residential scholars seeking to conduct research at the Horner Library and Archives, starting in the summer of 2007. This is viewed by both our organizations as an important partnership in opening the doors to our unique and rare collections.
Dr. Trommler then introduced **Dr. Birte Pfleger**, Asst. Prof. of History at California State University, Los Angeles, and author of the book, “Ethnicity Matters, A History of The German Society of Pennsylvania,” as well as **Dr. Kevin Ostoyich**, Asst. Professor of History at Valparaiso University, Indiana, who authored “The German Society of Pennsylvania: A Guide to Its Book and

Manuscript Collections.” Both spoke briefly to their work, underwritten by the German Historical Institute.
Then Hardy von Auenmueller asked **Mrs. Lidy Pohl** to come forward. This remarkable and delightful 100 year old member of the Society (active since 1928) had been the Society's Librarian for 25 years, starting in 1952. She still likes to reminisce fondly on her work..



Subsequently, two more “historic” persons were recognized for their decade long service to the Society, **Dr. George Beichl**, former President and initiator of the Library Renovation Project in the early 90s, and **Frank Genieser**, Vice President of Culture and Heritage, who made it his task to “revive” our Library.
The reception in the Library was followed by a wonderful German *Lieder* Recital in the Barthelmes Auditorium, which commemorated the 150th Anniversaries of the deaths of Heinrich Heine and Robert Schumann. This fine presentation by **Jacqueline Smith**, soprano, **Lawrence Indik**, baritone, accompanied by **Marvin Keenze** on the piano, found a most appreciative audience and was a fitting conclusion to a memorable occasion.
—Renate Genieser

Corporate
Acknowledgements

This past year, we have received the following goods, services or funds which we appreciate very much:
Paint from **MAB**
Six faucets from **Delta Faucet**
Polycarbonate sheets for the front door and signs from **Bayer**
\$3,000 Gift Card from **Home Depot**
Light fixtures and installation in Ratskeller stairway by Society member Dennis Keough from **Keough Electric**
Beer from **Spaten Brewery**

Charitable Giving

Mr. Edgar Brick, a financial advisor who offered an educational program at the Society earlier this year, reminds us that new provisions for the Pension Protection Act of 2006 permit tax-free distributions from IRA accounts for 2006 and 2007.
This is of special interest to those 70 1/2 and older who need to meet the Required Minimum Distribution from the IRAs. The new law permits qualified tax-free charitable donations up to \$100,000 from IRA accounts made before January 1, 2008. Donations of that type satisfy yearly distribution requirements. The German Society qualifies for this special provision.
Donations of stocks and bonds are also a welcome contribution to our Annual Fund Drive.
For more information, please call our office at 215-627-2332.
—Ernie Weiler



▼ A Bavarian Beer Tasting with
Marnie Old in our Ratskeller



▼ Celebrating the 80th Birthday of Society
Board Member, **Ray Dietrich**
pictured with long-time Business Manager,
Elfriede Sonnenberg



▲ Saturday Morning Youth German Classes
"Simon sagt" with Rosemont College senior, Frau **Elsina Amedova**



Photos
courtesy of:
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Iris Richardson, Helen Schutz
and Sharan Knoell

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◀ An
Afternoon of
Fun, Food and
Fellowship at
the
German
Society's
Oktoberfest



◀ Dedicated volunteer,
Hella Volgenau
receiving a medal
acknowledging her many
hours of GSP service



► Women's Auxiliary President,
Christel Tillmann, presenting a size-
able donation to GSP President,
Hardy v. Auenmueller

The 242nd annual
Stiftungsfest
celebration on
October 14, 2006

