The German Society of Pennsylvania

Founded in 1764
Celebrating its 246th Anniversary

Stiftungsfest Gala Dinner
Saturday, November 6, 2010
Dear Members and Friends of the German Society,

As we celebrate our 246th Stiftungsfest with our Founders’ Ball, it is appropriate to recall a bit of history which led to the birth of the German Society in 1764.

The significant number of German settlers in America in the 1700s could only occur because of what is known as the redemptioner system. Free passage was offered to America in exchange for servitude with a master for a number of years without pay. In return, the master would reimburse the cost of the passage to the ship captain. The system was often called ‘white slavery’ and various history journals tell of frightening stories about this early form of contractual work.

A German schoolmaster described the system as follows: “Every day English, Dutch and German persons come from the city of Philadelphia and other places to enter the newly-arrived ship which has brought from Europe those who are put up for sale. They seek out amongst the healthy persons the best suited for their business and bargain as to how long they will serve in return for the sea passage. Once the terms have been agreed upon, adult persons sign a contract to serve for three, four, five or six years, according to their strength and age, and the size of the debt. The very young persons from ten to fifteen years of age, however, serve until they are 21 years old.”

Historians tell us that during periods of mass migration in the 1750s the redemptioner system simply collapsed. Ships were often overloaded and conditions were simply horrible. Hunger and epidemics killed many before they arrived in Philadelphia or elsewhere. Most importantly, because of the abundance of immigrants, they were forced into very unfavorable service contracts. Observers started to protest against the inhuman travel conditions and the immigration process. These protests, in fact, lead to the birth of the German Society in Philadelphia on December 26, 1764. Petition by the Society helped bring the redemptioner trade under state control and helped remove some of the most severe excesses.

It has been estimated that approximately 50,000 to 60,000 poor German immigrants entered America as redemptioners over a hundred year period starting in approximately 1720. It is interesting to note that the redemptioner system did not end until 1820 when laws protecting the passage of immigrants finally came into force.

Ernest D. Weiler
President

Source: Germans in America 1683-1983
Wir gratulieren
der Deutschen Gesellschaft
zu 246 Jahren Dienst an den
deutsch-amerikanischen Bürgern
in Pennsylvanien

KEOUGH ELECTRIC
Philadelphia, PA
215-334-4444

On the occasion of the
246th Anniversary (1764–2010)
of
The German Society of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
we extend

“Herzliche Glückwünsche und Gutes Gelingen!”

The Women’s Auxiliary of
The German Society of Pennsylvania
611 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123
Christel Tillmann, President
(215) 355-4228

Program

Champagne Reception
In the Joseph Horner Memorial Library
6:00pm - 7:00pm

Master of Ceremonies: Joseph DeMaria
Welcome Address: Dr. Ernest Weiler, President

Dinner, Silent Auction and Dancing
In the Albert and Hete Barthelmes Auditorium
7:15pm - 11:00pm

Invocation: Rev. Soenke Schmidt-Lange
The National Anthems
Toast: Frank Klare

Dinner Menu
Mixed Field Greens Salad with Grilled Fennel, Roasted Peppers, Goat Cheese, and Light Herb Vinaigrette
Grilled Petit Beef Tenderloin with Red Wine Demi Glaze and Chilean Sea Bass with Champagne Mustard With Green Beans and Cashews and Roasted Red Bliss Potatoes
Assorted Rolls and Butter
Apple Strudel with Vanilla Ice Cream
Coffee and Tea

Music by the Kauriga Orchestra
Silent Auction (7:15 - 10:30)

1. Three Days B&B Service in Country Home near Charlottesville, VA  
   Nancy McAdams
2. Philadelphia Belle Dinner Cruise for Two
3. Commemorative Coin and Two Tickets to Philadelphia Union Match, 2011  
   Mark Kleckner
4. Lithographic Prints
5. Gift Certificate: Otto’s Restaurant, Horsham, PA  
   Maria Sturm
   Maria Sturm
7. Crystal Bowl  
   Christel Tillmann
8. Two Tickets to “Cunning Little Vixen” for March 6, 2011  
   Lew and Hella Volgenau
9. MJ Hummel Mini Tea Set  
   Herta Toneatto
10. Rare Hand Blown Sandwich Cologne Bottle  
    Mary Catherine Baur
11. Four Tickets to Wilmington Blue Rocks Game, 2011 Season  
12. Four Tickets to Brandywine River Museum
13. Table Runner  
    Lew and Hella Volgenau
14. Night Before Christmas Train Set  
    Ed Winter, Jr.
15. Thomas the Tank Engine Train Set with Annie and Clarabel  
    Ed Winter, Jr.
16. Youth Lederhosen  
    Hardy von Auenmueller
17. Basket of Select German Wines  
    Lew and hella Volgenau
18. One Night Stay at the Radisson Hotel, Philadelphia, PA
19. Advent Calendar: Basilica San Marco
20. Advent Calendar: National Gallery of Art in Washington
The Wister Quartet greets you on the occasion of the German Society of Pennsylvania’s 246th Anniversary Stiftungsfest and wish that we could be present with you to join in the festivities. As always, we invite you to enjoy our concerts and the entire chamber music series in the coming season.

Many thanks to the individuals and corporations below and on the following pages for their advertising support to the German Society and Stiftungsfest.

Contribution

We gratefully acknowledge further contributions received from the following members and friends of the Society:

Roy Bernat
Bill Hardham
Al and Cheryl Krumm
Reinhard Kruse

Tony Michels and Patricia Raine
Edward Utthe
Hardy von Auenmueller

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Compliments of

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Edgar “Topper” Brick, President

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21. Advent Calendar: Gaudi House in Barcelona
22. Advent Calendar: Waldspirale
23. Advent Calendar: Rothenburg ob der Tauber
24. Advent Calendar: Weihnachtsstall
25. Advent Calendar: Schloss Neuschwanstein
26. Advent Calendar: Frauenkirche, Dresden
27. Advent Calendar: St. Martini Organ
28. Cat Tapestry and Bell Pull

Lew and Hella Volgenau

29. Two Bell Pulls

Lew and Hella Volgenau

30. Three Unframed Nature Paintings

Martin Knappe

31. Two Framed Nature Paintings
32. Framed Heidelberg Picture, 1826-86
33. The White Pebble Print, 2000

Ernest and Jutta Weiler

34. Consider the Lilies Print, 2008

Ernest and Jutta Weiler

35. Garden Centerpiece Candles

Ernest and Jutta Weiler

36. Travel Bag

Ernest and Jutta Weiler

37. Philadelphia Sports Teams Autographed Photos: Royal Ivey, Asante Samuel, and Victor Abiamiri

38. Four Old Masters Prints
39. Two Garden Pencil Drawings
40. Four Nature and Building Framed Paintings
41. Unframed Mary and Francis Wister Studios Painting by James Lang
42. Framed Pear Plant Print

Bill and Diana Knoell

43. Framed Berlin Picture
44. “Hunt Breakfast” Framed Picture

Ernest and Jutta Weiler
45. Framed Mountain Painting
46. Eight (8) Wulfling Porcelain Collectors Plates
47. Unframed Autographed Cole Hamels Painting
    Henry and Bobbie Shaffner
48. Dinner for Six in their Center City Home
    Hardy and Gudrun von Auenmueller
49. One Week at Ocean Front Apartment in Ocean City, NJ, June 4-11, 2011
    Desiree and Herta Toneatto
50. Two Tickets for Philadelphia Phillies Game in Hall of Fame Section, July or August 2011
    Morgan and Sonia Churchman
51. Four Tickets for Philadelphia Phillies Game in Hall of Fame Section, July or August 2011
    Morgan and Sonia Churchman
52. Tommy Hilfiger Women’s Tote Bag
    Denise Dahlhof
53. Laptop Bag with Wharton Logo
    Denise Dahlhof
54. Scarf from Metropolitan Museum of Art
    Denise Dahlhof
55. Three Winter Silk Hats
    Denise Dahlhof
56. Red Gerry Weber Purse
    Denise Dahlhof
    Denise Dahlhof
58. One Day of Sailing on Sailboat from Rockhall to Annapolis and Back
    Ernest and Jutta Weiler
59. Gift Certificate: Spring House Tavern, Spring House, PA
60. Gift Certificate: Bocelli, Gwynedd Valley, PA
    Ernest and Jutta Weiler
61. Alexander Seidel Tea Pot
    Ernest and Jutta Weiler
62. Alexander Seidel Serving Tray
    Ernest and Jutta Weiler
63. Selection of German Beers
    Shawn and Carol Terkhorn
64. One Session (12-week course) of German Language Classes
65. Eight-Concert Subscription to “Wister and More!” 2010/11 Season
66. Framed Water Color Painting by Beata Szpura
    Beata Szpura
67. Hand-Stitched Pillowcase Pair, Cornflower
    Kathryn Olson
68. Hand-Stitched Pillowcase Pair, Hydrangea
    Kathryn Olson
69. Fax Machine
    Hardy von Auenmueller
70. Stoneware Winter Bowl
    Julia Catini
71. Lou Williams Autographed Philadelphia 76ers Basketball
72. One Week Stay at Shore Condominium
    Ron and Donna Both
73. One Week Stay at Shore House
    Ron and Donna Both

Volunteers

Many volunteers and friends of the Society have worked very hard in the preparation of our 246th Stiftungsfest of the German Society, as well as during our Oktoberfest on Saturday, September 25. In recognition of their tremendous efforts, we express our appreciation to:

Annemarie Colborn       Larissa Klein       Helen Schutz
Paul Coyne              Sharan Knoell      Shawn Terkhorn
David Fingerle          Tony Michels       Christel Tillmann
Ingrid Greim            Maria Neitzel      Tim Urschel
Elizabeth Klare         Lou Oschmann       Sascha Vogel
Frank Klare             Andrew Payne       Hella Volgenau
Mark Kleckner           Patricia Raine     Lew Volgenau