



### Calendar of Events\*

Sat. Jan. 9	Buchclub: <i>Neujahr</i> by Julie Zeh, 1:30pm
Fri. Jan. 15	Friday Film Fest: <i>Der Fall Collini</i> , 6:30pm
Sat. Jan. 16	GSP Wellness: Wandern at the Willows, 11:00am
Sun. Jan. 31	"Wister and More!" presents EStrella Piano Duo, 3:00pm
Sun. Feb. 7	GSP Wellness: Gentle Yoga, 11:00am
Wed. Feb. 10	Konversationsabend: Zoom Carnival, 7:00pm
Sat. Feb. 13	Buchclub: <i>Austerlitz</i> by W. G. Sebald, 1:30pm
Fri. Feb. 19	Friday Film Fest: <i>Atlas</i> , 6:30pm
Sat. Feb. 20	GSP Wellness: Wandern at the Willows, 11:00am
Sat. Feb. 27	10th Annual Philly Bierfest, 2:00pm
Sun. Mar. 7	GSP Wellness: Gentle Yoga, 11:00am
Wed. Mar. 10	Konversationsabend: City Planning, 7:00pm
Sat. Mar. 13	Buchclub, 1:30pm
Fri. Mar. 19	Friday Film Fest: <i>Die Getriebenen</i> , 6:30pm
Sat. Mar. 20	GSP Wellness: Wandern at the Willows, 11:00am

\* Events are subject to cancellation and/or modification based on recommendations from health authorities due to concerns of the spread of COVID-19. We thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

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# Bösendorfer

## Youth Music Festival

### Calling all young musicians, vocalists, and ensembles!

Individual instrumental musicians, vocalists, and ensembles age 8-18 are invited to enter. Register and submit your YouTube audition video for a chance to perform in a final concert for the public, as well as a medal and a cash prize.

Registration will be open until February 7, 2021. Register at the following link:

<https://forms.gle/Rg12yfSVDcVFwAp46>

Questions? Call the GSP at 215-627-2332 or email [info@germansociety.org](mailto:info@germansociety.org).

# The German Society

## of Pennsylvania

Neuer Pennsylvanischer  
**Staatsbote**

CELEBRATING  
**250**  
YEARS OF  
**GERMAN  
HERITAGE**

Winter 2021

## Es gibt viel zu tun, packen wir es an!

Dear Members and Friends,

I hope that this newsletter finds you well. As we come to the end of a difficult year for each of us personally and for the German Society as a whole, I can still find much to be grateful for and optimistic about as we enter 2021. Far too many people have fallen ill and many have lost their lives to this terrible pandemic. We have been beset by political unrest and have seen the fight for racial equality playing out before us. But I do see lights appearing at the end of the tunnel. We now have a vaccine which may change the tide of this disease. We must not let our guard down yet, but it is encouraging to think that the holidays in 2021 will likely be very different from last year, and we will be able to celebrate in person again with our families and loved ones. The German Society was hit hard by the restrictions imposed due to COVID. We had to cancel nearly all events over the past 10 months and our rental business was essentially obliterated.

However, there have been bright spots – opportunities to find new ways to interact with each other and with the community, and I thank our staff, volunteers and members for their willingness to adapt, find creative workarounds and continue the mission of the German Society as fully as possible.

Having a bit more available time offered me an opportunity to review the long-term vision for the future of the German Society, and I took another look at the GSP Vision 2015 – 2050 that I drafted in 2009. Looking at the goals from back then, I believe that we have made significant progress in many areas that needed to be ad-

dressed, including improvements to our building. One of the primary goals presented in that document, was improved outreach into a younger segment of the German American population. Now I realize that that goal is not broad enough to ensure a successful future for the German Society.

During the past five years we have worked to extend our outreach to individuals without a German or German American background, including our neighboring communities as well as the general public with interest in the diverse facets of German culture, heritage and language while maintaining programs for our long-term core membership.

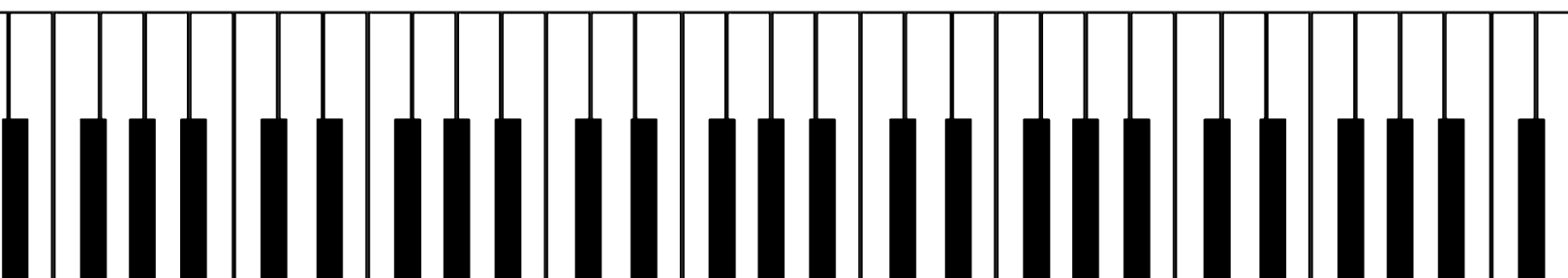
2020 also taught us that it is vital to improve our online capabilities and our administrative structure. Keeping our financial stability always in mind, we should continue through innovative programming and event planning to establish a more visible physical and cultural presence in this city.

2020 has reminded us of the importance of focusing on those things that unite rather than divide us, and I am confident that we can emerge from the year stronger and more compassionate.

Es gibt viel zu tun, packen wir es an!

Alles Gute für das Jahr 2021.

- Tony Michels





## State of the Library Report: Winter, 2021

What is a rare book worth? When you read this question, you may assume I am referring to the financial value of a precious volume that appears on the block at an exclusive auction house in New York or London, or is on display in a glass case at a distinguished antiquarian book shop. We on the Library Committee, however, have a different way of assessing the value of rare books, especially those in our collection: how *useful* the objects are, in terms of their research value, and their utility in connecting our community to German-American history, literature, culture, and a sense of fellowship around our spectacular library.

The purpose of the Horner Memorial Library and its Library Committee is to nurture the study of German-American history, literature, and culture, for the benefit of GSP members, scholars, and the general public. The library and committee do this by guaranteeing the physical *sustainability* of our collections, enhancing *discoverability* of our collections via cataloging and interpretation, and building a *community* equipped with the language abilities, paleography skills, research expertise, and enthusiasm for intellectual inquiry to make use of our holdings. Since June, the Library Committee has been meeting every month to organize our activities and undertakings around these three core values: *sustainability*, *discoverability*, and *community*.

The committee actualizes these values by devoting our time and resources to activities that help our collections serve GSP members and the wider public, even during a time of pandemic. During summer and fall, 2020, the library hosted four well-attended virtual lectures by noted scholars, each of which attracted between 50 and 75 attendees. Our "Transcription Tuesdays" group connects people across the miles to study and enjoy old German script. The group now includes participants from three US states and Germany. Our dedicated and talented library staff Bettina Hess and Lorena Boylan, along with a team of volunteers and interns, work hard to catalog

our books and process our archival holdings. The Fiction Cataloging Project, which began in April 2017 and is led by Lorena Boylan, is about half completed. The library's social media presence is expanding rapidly as we seek to build audiences in the digital realm. Please keep your eye out for more communications in the near future regarding exciting public programs that the Library Committee plans to unveil in 2021.

Researchers and visitors made substantial use of the Horner Memorial Library during 2020, despite the pandemic and the temporary suspension of in-person services it necessitated. As of early November, 2020, 32 in-person visitors made use of the library during 2020, and another 32 patrons were served via email reference services. Despite the pandemic shutdown, two of the library's three German Historical Institute (GHI) research fellows completed their fellowships. Maximilian Klose from Berlin used his stipend to pay for scans and research services provided by our intrepid librarian Bettina Hess. Michael Burri, of Bryn Mawr College, rescheduled his research for fall, 2020 and completed his work at the library in September and October.

I invite you to express your appreciation for the richness of our library collections by joining our community of rare book stewards through the Adopt a Rare Book Program. When you adopt a book, you pay for a deteriorated volume's restoration and support the long-term preservation of our collection for future researchers and visitors to enjoy. In addition to our usual adoption options, the Library Committee is thrilled to offer a new, group adoption opportunity, in which you can contribute a small amount of money toward the adoption of a single book with others. Alternatively, you can cover all expenses for the restoration of an entire volume! Please visit the latest rare book adoption catalogue at <https://www.germansociety.org/Adopt-a-Book-Catalogue-Fall-2020.pdf> for more information.



Adopted rare books from the Horner Memorial Library that have been restored and returned to library shelves.



As ever, the Library Committee thanks you for your support of our work. We look forward to seeing you at a virtual program soon!

- Alex L. Ames, Library Committee Chair

## GSP Wellness Initiative

Two months ago, we created the new GSP Wellness initiative for members and friends of the German Society of Pennsylvania. So far, we have two recurring programs, which take place once a month: "Gentle Yoga" and "Wandern at the Willows". These initiatives support the health and well-being of our members as well as that of the environment. Movement and exercise have been proven to make people happy and healthy, and those same things also make our planet healthy. During the current epidemic it has become clear that it is of utmost impor-

tance that people take good care of themselves and become proactive in improving their health and well-being.

GSP Wellness offers opportunities to be physically active with fellow members via Zoom and in-person. These events are free of charge to members, but you need to register with the German Society in advance.

1. "Gentle Yoga" for health and relaxation is led via Zoom by yoga instructor Dr. Selen Razon every first Sunday of the month 11am-12noon. Gentle yoga is a type of yoga that is accessible to everyone. It is suitable for those who want a smoother, easy-paced, and comforting practice. This type of yoga offers therapeutic modifications to traditional yoga poses and helps individuals' mental, physical, and spiritual needs. Most well-known health and wellness benefits of a regular yoga practice include increased strength, flexibility, balance, improved sleep, mindfulness, reduced stress, and weight loss. Gentle Yoga sessions can be practiced on a mat or chair – depending on the needs of the participants. A sneak preview video is posted on the GSP website.

2. "Wandern at the Willows" – Park in Radnor Township – is organized and led in person by Dr. Helga Halbfass and Dr. Karin Volkwein-Caplan, every third Saturday at 11am. The meeting place is at the Willows near the picnic benches by the lake. Twelve lovers of nature met in November for our first Winterwandertag and yoga in the park. Hikers enjoyed a picnic afterwards on a beautiful day. Great experience!

Educational lectures and workshops on wellness and healthy lifestyle will be included in the near future. We welcome any suggestions to further the GSP Wellness Initiative!

- Dr. Karin Volkwein-Caplan,  
Dr. Helga Halbfass, and Dr. Selen Razon



# Development Report

## Endowment Funds

It has been our practice to include an update on our efforts to build several endowment funds for the Society in most issues of the Staatsbote. We also update the Linden Society giving plaque, located very close to the entrance to the auditorium, each fall, typically ahead of the Stiftungsfest, which had to be cancelled this year because of COVID-19. The graph below illustrates where we are. However, it is important to remember what we are trying to achieve with each of the accounts.



^ General total includes funds from the Martino Fund  
" Library total includes funds provided by the Women's Auxiliary  
\* Scholarship total includes the Scholarship Fund, the Elsa Schweikert Scholarship Fund, and the Leon H. Volgenau Scholarship Fund

The General Endowment is designed to provide a steady predictable stream of income each year to offset operating expenses of the Society, hopefully for generations to come. We envision a future where around 20% of the costs will be covered by funds from the endowment. We set ourselves an interim goal of \$2.00MM and are still just shy of our target with \$1.5MM – donations to this fund have been significantly slower than in prior years. We expect some funds to come from estate plans and wills, but these are longer-term commitments.

The Horner Memorial Library Endowment has achieved and even surpassed its interim goal of \$600,000 with generous donations by three

foundations (Max Kade, Arcadia and Barthelmes Foundations), a significant gift by Women's Auxiliary of the Society, and finally, the Friends of the Library were also key contributors. We have started to take funds from this endowment to cover a significant part of the Library budget, but the Society, as expected, covers various overhead charges and also finds it necessary to supplement the annual budget, which we do gladly. Clearly a larger endowment would be required to cover all the Library related expenses.

The Scholarship Fund provides the award money for scholarships to worthy German language majors and minors, primarily attending universities and colleges in the tri-state area. As indicated on the graph, the combined fund balance has increased to slightly more than \$500,000, primarily because of two named funds, the Leon H. Volgenau and the Elsa Schweikert scholarship funds. Looking ahead, we expect to award up to \$20,000 in scholarships to qualified students selected in a competitive evaluation process.

As always, we hope that if some of you might be in a position to make a donation to any of the endowments now, please do so or contact us to discuss specifics. And most importantly, leaving some funds through your estate is a wonderful way to help secure the mission of the Society as well as the programs and the activities of this wonderful organization for future generations.

### A Tax-Free Gift from your IRA

Fortunately, several members of the Society have used a readily available tool to support the German Society through tax-free gifts from their IRA accounts. We have written about this giving option in prior years, but it is worth repeating just because it is attractive to donors and most helpful to beneficiaries. Because the standard deduction limits under the revised tax laws have increased fewer tax payers will now itemize their deductions and gifts from your

IRA remain an attractive option to consider, especially if you are 70 ½ or older. You can give up to \$100,000 each year from your IRA directly to a qualified organization such as the German Society. We would be happy to provide further details, but as always, we suggest you review your plans with your tax preparer and financial advisor.

Speaking of leveraging your donation, it is also good to remind our members and donors that some companies have matching programs for gifts designated for non-profit organizations. Be sure to check on this opportunity when you consider a gift to the annual fund or to one of our endowments. Some employers even offer this giving opportunity to retirees, although I know of a number of companies that have in recent years dropped this program for retirees.

### Lifetime Memberships

An active and engaged membership is the insurance policy for the Society to thrive for generations to come. Increasing our membership needs to be a goal all of us support. We certainly can't delegate this exclusively to the Membership Committee, although they have a very important role to play. We have also committed to the William Penn Foundation and others that have funded our capital programs over the past ten years that we intend to grow membership at a rate of 2-3% per annum, which is and will remain a challenge! If you have a friend or a family member interested in the Society, our programs or activities, you might consider a one-year membership subscription as special gift – an attractive option for Christmas!

At the Board of Directors Meeting on November 16, 2015 it was decided that all future lifetime membership fees would be added to the endowments since they represent a long-term commitment to the Society. Again, purchasing a lifetime membership for family members is one small way that you can help assure that the next generation of German-Americans is engaged in the life of the Society. It is also a

good investment! Fees are \$1,000 for a single person and \$1,500 for a couple, and their names will be added to the Linden Society with a special notation. Since October 1, 2019 the following individuals have become lifetime members of the Society – we thank and congratulate them:

*Members' names have been removed from online version for their privacy.*

### Shopping that Benefits the Society

Did you know that you can help the Society every time you shop with AmazonSmile? It is simple! Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), select the German Society of Pennsylvania as your preferred not-for-profit, and the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the Society. Why not sign up today – even small donations make a difference! In the past year we received \$22.11; again, we should be able to easily grow these donations by Amazon if we increase the number of participants.

- Ernie Weiler



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## In Memoriam

### Margot Martha Louise Sawicki



Margot was by vocation and avocation a nurse; thus her caring and helpful nature was part of everything she did. She was an active member of the Women's Auxiliary for nearly 40 years and served as Financial Secretary for 15 of those years. She was part of a core group of volunteers of the Auxiliary who participated in every phase of the activities and events. Margot was born in Bremerhaven and cherished her German heritage. She passed away on September 12, 2020.

As is typical in an obituary, family members are listed, but also remembered are 'the dear friends and members of the German Society of Pennsylvania'. Furthermore, the family requested that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made in her memory to the Parkinson Foundation or the German Society. With contributions from the family and her friends at the German Society, we have included her in our Linden Society with a notation: ***In memory of Margot Sawicki***. The Linden Society was established to recognize gifts of \$1,000 or more to any endowment fund. Moreover, an inscribed brick has been purchased and will be included in our *Honor Walk*, leading to entrance to the elevator. It will include a notation: ***In memory of Margot Sawicki*** as well as key dates.

- Doris MacPherson and Ernie Weiler

### Ilona Erna Marie Bauer



We were informed this summer that Ilona Bauer made a generous charitable bequest under her will to the German Society of Pennsylvania. She was proud of her German heritage and according to her obituary: "she loved travelling to Europe and Germany and visiting her family there. Ilona had a very charitable heart, and supported numerous charitable organizations, including St. Jude's Hospital for Children and Shriners Hospital in Philadelphia." Of course we are delighted that she also remembered the Society in her estate plans. We had no idea we were included in the will; she was not a recent member of the Society.

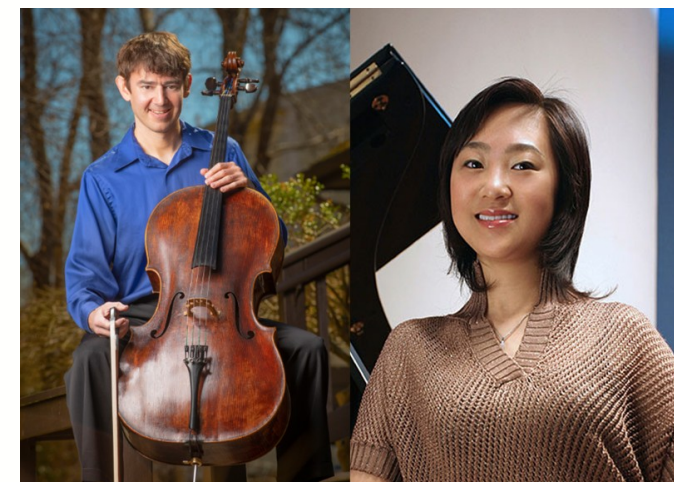
The executor of the estate tells us that the funds from the estate will most likely be distributed in 2021 and we plan to transfer these to the General Endowment of the Society, designed to provide ongoing support to the Society, hopefully for generations to come. Her name will be included in the Linden Society summary in the appropriate giving category with the following special notation: The Ilona E. Bauer Memorial Fund. The Linden Society was established to recognize any gift of \$1,000 or more to any of our endowments. Since she passed away in February of this year, we thought we should include the memoriam now, rather than waiting.

- Ernie Weiler

## Music Notes - In Person and Virtual

This summer the German Society hosted a recording session of the Kingston Chamber Music Festival under the aegis of Natalie Zhu, Artistic Director Andreas K. Meyer of Meyer Media produced masterful recordings of several chamber music performances. The string ensembles sat in the center of the Barthelmes Auditorium which provided excellent resonance. Perhaps the GSP can envision concerts in the round next season. The Kingston Festival reported that the virtual concerts had been accessed 52,000 times by November 18, 2020 – an astounding figure.

On October 4, 2020, a limited audience heard a thrilling concert by Natalie Zhu, piano and Clancy Newman, cello. I was moved by my first live concert since March, and the excitement of other audience members was palpable as we gathered outside during the intermission. The Samuel Barber cello sonata which he wrote while a student at Curtis had the unmistakable influence of the Brahms' *Cello Sonata in E minor* at the end of the program. The duo played both with perfect phrasing, well-balanced dynamics, and a fearless disregard for speed or danger! The recording which was made available afterwards substituted a slightly more staid version of the last movement of the Brahms, but all of the other pieces were recorded as performed live. It was a thrill to relive the lovely sounds of the Lukas Foss *Capriccio* and the third movement of the Kenji Bunch *Broken Music for Cello and Piano* which was commissioned for Mr. Newman.



The Karlsruher Konzert-Duo was unable to travel to the US so they prepared a virtual concert. The pieces recorded in Schloss Karlsruhe included a beautifully produced recording of the Beethoven *Cello Sonata, No. 3 in A, Opus 69*. The cello and piano were exquisitely balanced in sound and volume, allowing Reinhard Armleder's cello pizzicato to resound over Dagmar Hartmann's piano. I am always stunned by Ms. Hartmann's incredible piano technique and strength, especially in the fancy finger work required in the Chopin *Grande Polonaise Brillante in E-flat Major, Opus 22*. The pieces recorded in the German Embassy in Malta were lovely – but the high quality production of the Karlsruhe recording was startlingly beautiful.

By the time the Casimir Trio played on November 15, 2020, I watched the video prepared by Ed Cohen rather than attend in person. I feel sure the live performance of the Brahms *Trio in E minor, Opus 101* would have been more exciting, but the video provided ample evidence of the splendid pianism of Marcantonio Barone. The trio arrangement of the Beethoven *Symphony No. 2 in D, Opus 36* was a lot of fun. Lloyd Smith's arrangement of the Fritz Kreisler *Rondino on a theme by Beethoven* added a cello part to the familiar piano and violin duo.

As I write this on November 29, 2020, no events may be held indoors in Philadelphia. Natalie Zhu and Clancy Newman recorded another concert at the GSP for the Kingston Chamber Music Festival ([www.kingstonchambermusic.org](http://www.kingstonchambermusic.org)) which features the entire four movements of the Kenji Bunch *Broken Music for Cello and Piano*. Andreas Meyer's production made it possible to hear the *flautando* effect that Mr. Newman used to evoke a sound like a Japanese flute.

Even when the German Society cannot hold in-person events, Tony Michels has made the venue available for high quality recordings. It made me (and at least 52,000 other listeners) appreciate the excellent acoustics of the Barthelmes Auditorium.

- Margaret Darby



## PhillyKinder Moving Forward in 2020

Back on May 19, 2020, after two months of being home 24/7 and of helping my daughter with online school, I sat down at my computer and started a new Word document. My intent was to write an article that would be appropriate for the *Staatsbote*. I didn't know if I would ever submit the article for consideration, but I was upset, and I felt that writing the article would be a stress-reliever. The original title of my article was "HOW COVID-19 HAS DISRUPTED MY BILINGUAL HOME". I was angry at how our new situation had disrupted my perfect plan of my daughter learning French and English at school, while I concentrated on her German at home. All of a sudden, I was her French teacher and her English teacher, in addition to continuing my full-time job, and these duties left me little time or energy to do anything with my daughter in German. While my husband was working from home, his work hours only increased in the first few months of the lockdown, so my daughter wasn't getting much German from him either. Although I was distressed at the situation, I quickly abandoned my article. I figured with all the fear, anger, worry, and hurt we were all experiencing, my complaint about the disruption of our bilingual routine seemed rather insignificant.

Fortunately, not long after the false start with my article, it was time to get back to business with PhillyKinder. In May, the founding President of PhillyKinder Maria Sturm stepped aside, and I was elected the new President of the PhillyKinder Board of Directors. While I was excited about my new role, taking the reins of an organization during a pandemic is intimidating to say the least. In May and June it seemed nearly impossible to plan for anything, but our fearless Administrative Team and our dedicated Board of Directors got to work. After a quick switch to online learning in late March, we decided to offer an online 6-week summer class, something we had never offered before. We reasoned that a lot of our community members, who would usually go to Germany in the summer, would be staying put in Philadelphia

and would be interested in a program to help them keep up their children's German language skills. We also figured that a well-planned course that was designed for online learning would be good practice for our teachers and our organization, in case we had to go fully online in the fall. Our summer offering was a success, but the bad news kept coming. We would not be able to offer our Sommerlager camp or our fall in-person course offering.

While it was already increasingly clear that we would have to offer most of our classes online, we had hoped to have an in-person offering for our youngest children. Alas, in-person instruction was not meant to be for the rest of 2020. At that point our biggest concern was how could we keep our community together, while we were forced to go online? We wanted not only to offer classes in German but also to lend support to all our families. We were prepared to offer our online classes, but we wanted to find ways for our families to get together in small groups (taking COVID precautions, of course!). We also spent a lot of time wondering if our families would sign their children up for our online class, when their children would already be spending hours a day online for their regular school. Would we be able to keep our community together? Would PhillyKinder be able to weather the COVID storm?

I am pleased to report that our families showed up big! While our online program did not work for all of our students from last year, we were able to retain the majority of our students. We even have new students that live too far away to attend our Thursday classes and former students that had moved out of state rejoining us, thanks to the magic of Zoom! The PhillyKinder teachers have done an amazing job keeping all of our children engaged online and we are so grateful for their efforts!

In addition to our course offerings, we had been able to organize several small get-togethers. Our monthly *Kaffeeklatsch* has morphed into a *Spielplatztreffen*, our *Märchenstunde* at the GSP has returned, and we hosted a *Buchver-*

*kauf* in October at our Overbrook location.

While we wish we could get back to our regular in-person Thursday classes in Overbrook and Tuesday classes in Center City, we are doing the best that we can for now. Although our Administrative Team and our Board continue to worry about whether or not we are doing enough for our community, we need to remember that we are doing our best under extraordinary circumstances, just like everyone else around the globe.

We hope that the next school year will be somewhat back-to-normal, but regardless of the what the future holds, we at PhillyKinder will be there for our families, and we have seen that our families will be there for us!



My family's bilingual routine has changed as a result of the pandemic, but we have found a new balance that we can live with. My husband's schedule has become less demanding in the past few months, so after I do homework with my daughter in French and in English, she plays either soccer or video games with her father, while speaking in German. I am sometimes disappointed that my German connection with my daughter has diminished this year, but I have to remember what I tell everyone else. "We shouldn't be so hard on ourselves, as we are all doing the best that we can!"

In closing, I would like to thank all of our PhillyKinder families for their support over the years. PhillyKinder is a great organization because of you! I would also like to thank the Ger-

man Society of Pennsylvania for helping us get the Center City *Märchenstunde* going again. We appreciate the collaboration, as it is helping us to keep our community together!

- Adrienne Frangakis, PhillyKinder Parent

\*This article is an example of the activities of a German Society affiliate. PhillyKinder is a separate PA 501(c)(3) corporation and not a component of the German Society of Pennsylvania.

## Introducing the Bösendorfer Youth Music Festival

This Spring, the German Society will play host to the first ever **Bösendorfer Youth Music Festival**, a competitive showcase for young Philadelphia-area musicians.

Any individual youth musician or student ensemble age 8-18 is invited to enter. Participants will be asked to submit an audition video via YouTube or another video hosting platform. The videos will be reviewed by a panel of professional judges, who will select three winners from each age group. The winners will go on to perform in a concert for the public in the German Society's beautiful Barthelmes Auditorium, which features a Bösendorfer grand piano. Hopefully we will be able to host an in-person concert in April; in the event that gatherings are still limited at that time, the concert will be live-streamed. Winners will receive a medal and a modest cash prize.

The competition is open to individual instrumental musicians and vocalists, as well as ensembles. The registration period will last from January 7 to February 7, 2021, and the judges will make their final decisions by March 14. To enter, fill out the form at the following link: <https://forms.gle/R912yfSVDcVFwAp46>.

We encourage our readers to share the news of this event with friends, family, and any young musicians in their lives. Questions may be directed to the German Society's office at [info@germansociety.org](mailto:info@germansociety.org) or 215-627-2332.

- Liesl Jandrey



## Sixteenth Century Applesauce A Recipe from the Society for Creative Anachronism

The Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) is a nonprofit educational organization devoted to research and re-creation of pre-seventeenth century arts, skills, and more, with chapters all over the world. The Philadelphia chapter of the SCA has held several events at the lovely German Society where we've worn clothing copied from pre-seventeenth century illustrations and where we've prepared and eaten feasts of foods based on medieval and Renaissance recipes. Several German cookbooks from this time still exist, and it's fun to try to recreate the tastes of an earlier era. One of the dishes we've enjoyed is a sixteenth century "applesauce".

A recipe from Das Kochbuch der Sabina Welserin (1553)

### **Ain brielin mitt epffel zú machen jber wilbret vnnd klaine vegellen**

Nempt gút epffel vnnd schelts vnnd stosts an ainem  
riebeissen vnnd thiet ain wenig schmaltz jn ainer pfannen  
jber vnnd lasts haíß werden vnnd thiet die epffel darein  
vnnd lasts darin resten, thiet darnach gúten wein daran,  
zúcker, relach, saffera, ain wenig jmber vnnd lands ain weil  
aninander sieden, so jst es gemacht, man soll die klaine  
vegellen vor sieden vnnd darnach jn ainem schmaltz resten.

English translation by Valoise Armstrong

### **To make a sauce with apples for game and small birds**

Take good apples and peel them and grate them with a grater and put a little fat in a pan over [the fire] and let it become hot and put the apples in it and let them roast therein. After that put good wine thereon, sugar, cinnamon, saffron and some ginger and let it cook together for a while, then it is ready. One should boil the small birds first and then roast them in fat.

Modern interpretation by SCA cooks

### **Applesauce to serve with poultry**

6 apples  
2 tbsp. butter  
1/2 c. white wine  
1/4 c. sugar  
1/8 tsp. cinnamon  
4 threads of saffron  
3 inches of fresh ginger root

Peel, core, and grate the apples. Peel and mince the ginger. Simmer the grated apples in the butter until the apples become soft. Add the wine, sugar, cinnamon, saffron, and ginger. Cook until desired consistency, stirring occasionally. Serve warm with chicken or other poultry dish.

For more information about the Society for Creative Anachronism, please visit our website at <https://www.sca.org/>.



*Yule 2018, Photo by Rowen Stuffer*

\*This article is an example of the activities of a German Society affiliate. The Society for Creative Anachronism is a separate PA 501(c)(3) corporation and not a component of the German Society of Pennsylvania.

## Annual Fund Donors

*Donors' names have been removed from online version for their privacy.*

## Konversationsabend and KA Contact

Just to let you know - we had a good second semester on Zoom, actualities in September, favorite paintings in October, famous quotations in November, and the yearly Christmas party in December was festive and fun thanks to the creativity of the 19 attendants. There is more to come in Spring!

The weekly **KA Contact** meetings have turned into a wonderful social platform with free and liberal discussions in English, open to everyone and everything. Join us.

- Helga Halbfass