

Calendar of Events*

- Wed. Apr. 14 Konversationsabend: "Blue Zones" - 9 Lessons for Healthy Aging, 7:00pm
- Fri. Apr. 16 Friday Film Fest: *Das perfekte Geheimnis*, 6:30pm
- Sat. Apr. 17 Wandern at the Willows, 11:00am
- Wed. Apr. 21 KA EXTRA: Library Roundtable Conversation, 7:00pm
- Sun. Apr. 25 "Wister and More!" presents Xiaopei Xu, 3:00pm
- Wed. Apr. 28 KA EXTRA: Holy Scriptures with Prof. Hartmut Zinser, 7:00pm
- Sun. May 2 Gentle Yoga, 11:00am
- Sat. May 8 Buchclub: *Nachtzug nach Lissabon* by Pascal Mercier , 1:30pm
- Wed. May 12 Konversationsabend: Summer Dreams, 7:00pm
- Sat. May 15 Wandern at the Willows, 11:00am
- Sat. May 15 Reflecting on German Heritage in the United States in the Twenty-First Century: A Panel Discussion with German Scholars, 2:00pm
- Sun. May 16 Bösendorfer Youth Music Festival Final Concert, 3:00pm
- Fri. May 21 Friday Film Fest: *Steig. Nicht. Aus!*, 6:30pm
- Sun. June 6 Annual Meeting and Elections of the Board of Directors, 3:00pm

*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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The German Society of Pennsylvania

Neuer Pennsylvanischer Staatsbote

CELEBRATING
1764 **250** 2014
YEARS OF
**GERMAN
HERITAGE**

Spring 2021

President's Report: Time Flies...

Dear Members and Friends,

I can't believe that its already been 13 years since I became a member of the German Society of Pennsylvania serving on the Board of Directors in various capacities. It has been a great experience despite the challenges of the past 12months.

I am glad that we can now look forward to an end to the restrictions that the pandemic and other challenges to our democracy have brought into our lives.

Many of us faced health challenges, economic uncertainties and significant limitations to our way of life, including most of our activities at the German Society. Although we are proud of the many ways in which we adapted some of our programs to an online format, the in-person communication has been sorely missed.

The program planning for the second half of 2021 has begun, and I hope that we will be able to meet in person on June 6th for our Annual Meeting.

As we move forward, we will continue our efforts to increase diversity in our organization and attract new members from various backgrounds.

Some of our officers and board members are not able to continue in their current positions (including myself) due to term limitations, but most will, hopefully, be given the opportunity to continue to serve in a different capacity on the new leadership team.

I am glad that the GSP Nomination Committee balanced the needs for progress as well as

continuity by presenting a slate of candidates, approved by the Board that will focus on the core values and the mission of the German Society for years to come.

Thank you for your support during the past six years as your president.

- Tony Michels



We had the biggest turnout ever for our Spring Clean-Up on Saturday, March 27. The dedicated group of members, pictured above enjoying a pizza lunch together after some hard work, assembled to tackle many maintenance tasks in and around our building on a beautiful spring day. We enjoyed seeing so many new faces and are grateful for the help! Thanks to the following members for their assistance: Lew and Hella Volgenau, Alberta Blum, Hardy and Gudrun von Auenmueller, Bill Hardham, Tony Michels and Patty Raine, Brian Norton, Jean Godsall-Myers, Frank and Ellie Klare, Karen Schoenewaldt, Ernie Weiler, and Kenneth Lambert.



Adopt a Brick for our Honor Walk!

The German Society is continuing to offer a personal way to support our mission. Our personalized brick campaign allows you to design a custom made brick for our Leidy Terrace entrance. The cost is **\$150.00** for a standard 4"x8" brick paver. Proceeds will support the German Society Recognition Fund, a fund dedicated to honoring our volunteers and members.

Donor Information

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Brick Design*:

Payment Options

Check (payable to "German Society of PA")
 Visa/MC/AmEx _____
 Exp. Date _____

*Due to space limitations, please limit text to 15 characters per line. You may use one, two, or three lines of text. The German Society will review and approve all brick designs prior to engraving and installation.

Development Report

As our readers may have noticed, we try to include an update or some information about our development activities in almost every issue of the Staatsbote.

We mention in the *In Memoriam* for Ulrich Both that in December of 2010, he provided a most generous donation of \$50,000 to start our first endowment fund in the long history of the German Society. We initiated this activity with a vision of a future where around 20% or even slightly more, of the operating funds will come from endowments, an important objective to secure the finances of the Society for generations to come. The fund will enable us to continue to offer cultural, social and educational programs in our beautiful and historically important building, all key elements of the overall mission. Clearly this is an ambitious goal, and we set ourselves an interim goal of \$2.00MM. As reported in the last issue of the Staatsbote, after ten years we are still just shy of \$1.5MM – but recent donations to this general endowment fund have been significantly slower than in prior years.

Over the past ten years we have repeatedly asked members and friends of the Society to consider a legacy gift! The term “legacy” does not relate to the size of a donation – rather it is an indication that the gift comes through estate plans or was part of a bequest in a will. In fact, if you ask development managers at major universities how important legacy gifts are to their overall programs, they will likely tell you that up to a third of their donations to endowments come through estate plans. So we hope that we will also receive some significant future gifts via wills or estate plans. As we reported in the *In Memoriam* for Ilona Erna Marie Bauer last quarter, Ms. Bauer provided for a donation of \$30,000 to the Society in her will, although as far as we know, she was not a recent member of the Society.

Families and relatives most often come first when considering beneficiaries in an individual or a family will. However, it is also an opportunity to remember your favorite charities, and of

course, we hope that the Society is on this important list. Even a modest gift will help us grow our endowment funds – of course a slightly larger gift will get us to our overall goal more quickly!

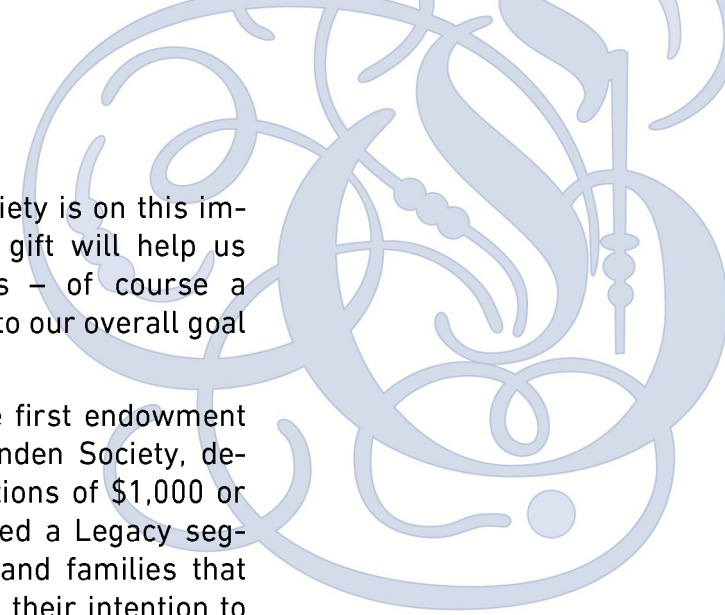
Shortly after establishing the first endowment fund, we also formed the Linden Society, designed to recognize all donations of \$1,000 or more to any fund. We included a Legacy segment, which list individuals and families that have indicated to us that it is their intention to leave a legacy gift to the Society – we have not asked them to specify the amounts of a future bequest. The current list of Legacy members follows.

And most importantly, if it is your intention to include the Society in your estate plans, we would like to know and include your name in the Linden Society under the Legacy heading. A longer list is also helpful while soliciting donations from members and friends of the Society. There are some simple ways to designate legacy gifts: you can list the Society as a beneficiary, even as a partial beneficiary of a life insurance policy or an IRA account. You can even include specific instructions and/or amounts in your will as Ilona Bauer did. We always suggest you talk to an accountant or an attorney to be sure you are using the most cost effective tool to make a donation that will greatly benefit the Society. And as always, we would be very happy to talk to you in person – just call the office and we will contact you directly.

Linden Society – Legacy Gifts

The GSP is grateful to the following individuals who have included the Society in their estate plans.

Legacy donors' names have been removed from online version for their privacy.



Children's Books in the Horner Memorial Library

The Horner Library recently received a donation of over 100 children's books! All are relatively recent publications and great for elementary school-aged children.

Included are some series with multiple titles such as:

Die fabelhaften Zauberfeen
Pippi Langstrumpf
Mariella Meermädchen
Enid Blyton's Fünf Freunde
Janosch



These books still need to be cataloged but will soon be added to our collection of around 2,000 children's books which can be borrowed by GSP members. You can browse our lending library catalog at:

<https://www.librarycat.org/lib/GSPLibrary>

Feel free to email librarian@germansociety.org with any questions!

- Bettina Hess, Librarian



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- E. D. Weiler

Annual Members Meeting and Board Elections

On Sunday, June 6, 2021 at 3:00pm, the German Society will hold its 2021 Annual Meeting and Elections for Directors. Members must be in good standing to be eligible to vote, i.e. current on dues no later than end of business on Friday, June 4, 2021. Members wishing to vote must be present at the meeting; there is no provision for absentee ballots or proxy voting under the Society's By-laws. If you have a question about your membership status, please contact the office.

Vision statements of the slate of the candidates can be found on the following pages. There are five openings for Directors on the Board in the class of 2024 and one opening in the class of 2022. There are six candidates running for these positions. Six Officer positions are also up for election: President, Secretary, VP of Advancement, VP of Operations, VP of Project Oversight, and VP of Strategic Planning.

Candidates for Officers

President: Mark McGuigan



For the last 16 years, my working life has been dedicated to building enduring relationships between Germans and Americans. My personal ties to Germany go back 40 years to my high school year abroad in Berlin, and my family ties reach back to 1850 when my great-grandfather Francis Bittner arrived here, setting deep roots in the Philadelphia region.

Professionally, I have served as Executive Director of the German Society, launched a social network for local German-speakers (Netzwerk Philadelphia), and for 8 years served as US Program Director for Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste – a German voluntary service organization. In that time, I oversaw the placement and educational programming for approximately 200 young German volunteers doing a year of service here – managing a network of approximately 20 partner organizations in 11 cities, organizing special events and running summer camps.

As President of the German Society, I would use this experience and my passion for connecting Philadelphians and Germans to build on the strong

foundations laid over the last decades by the GSP leadership. This would include expanding programming that brings new audiences to the Society and builds new membership – while creating networks that increase the Society's reach and enhance its reputation. I would be honored to have the opportunity to contribute to this important work.

VP of Advancement: Ernest D. Weiler



Much of my activity will focus on funding the endowments of the Society. Our vision is to support at least 20% of the annual operating budget from endowments. This is a compelling objective needed to secure cultural, social and educational programs for generations to come. Financially it is a stretch goal and therefore we set an interim target of \$2.00MM. After ten years we are just shy of \$1.5MM, but recent donations to the general endowment have slowed considerably. Furthermore, we are hopeful that additional members and friends of the Society consider a legacy gift to the Society. Assuring that the various endowments are properly invested and used for the designated purposes will remain an ongoing activity shared with the Finance Committee.

Moreover, I will continue to work with the four or five foundations that in recent years provided most of the funds required for our capital improvements. Renovation of the façade is probably the last remaining major project. This multiyear effort will require substantial funds, probably at least \$500,000. The project will include window replacements in the Library, substantial brick pointing, and solutions for the deteriorating metal sheeting on the main building and the sagging cornices. Numerous funding sources will be required and we will likely form a team to help prepare a series of applications.

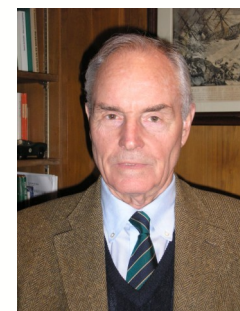
I plan to support various initiatives of the Society and offer to co-lead two efforts to bring new programs to the Society. Bringing our building up to modern standards is great, but we also need to build our membership and offer new and attractive programs at the Society. I plan to be part of this effort.

Secretary: Bill Hardham



Although my surname is English, my genealogical research shows that I am 13% German, so part of my interest in things German has a genetic basis. Also, as a newly minted PhD chemist in 1961, I spent a year doing research in a Max Planck Institute in Germany and developed an appreciation for German science and culture (and beer and wine too!). Since joining GSP about 25 years ago, I have volunteered by serving food at Christmas bazaars, painting the interior and exterior (including the roof last summer!) of our treasured building, and chaperoning events. As a Board member, I have served on the Nominating and Children's Programs committees, helped to lead efforts to create our endowment and annual strategic plans for each committee, and a 5-year Capital Spending Plan. Most recently, I have carried on the planning tasks as a VP, and filled in as Board and Executive Committee secretary as needed. Because I believe that for organizations like the GSP to prosper, members must give their work, wealth and wisdom, I accept the invitation to stand for Secretary. It so happens that I have taken and promptly published minutes for most of the committees I have served; it is something that comes naturally! As a GSP officer, I will do my best to further the understanding of German and German American contributions to the growth of American history and culture

VP of Project Oversight: Hans Mueller



I have served on the Executive Committee as VP Capital Projects for the last six years and wish to continue to help the Society with "Project Oversight" for major building projects. The purpose of this function is to free Tony Michels to focus on the hands-on aspects of project initiation and implementation, and on the development of a sustainable concept for the future care and maintenance of our historic building. I will focus on the planning, budgeting, progress monitoring and reporting of major projects that are part of the Society's strategic plan. On top of that list are the completion of the new German American Col-

lection storage room, the restoration of the building façade, and the renovation of the first-floor kitchen.

I do not have a magic formula to solve all the challenges encountered with the implementation of major projects. I ask for your support and help to improve our processes to plan, initiate, and implement these projects. I believe that a well maintained and inviting building is essential to accomplish our vision and to attract new members, programs, and visitors.

I grew up in Dresden, studied at the Technical University there and in Aachen, and came to the USA for Graduate School at Caltech. I am an engineer by training and spent my whole working career with the DuPont Company in Wilmington, Delaware. My wife Harriett and I have been members of the Society for more than 30 years.

VP of Operations: Tony Michels



I am honored that you have given me the opportunity to serve as President of the GSP for the last six years. I am proud of what we have accomplished together and I am asking for your support in allowing me to continue to serve the German Society in the role of Vice President of Operations for the next two years.

For those who have known me during the past 13 years, it is certainly no surprise that I have a clear vision for my work here at the German Society of Pennsylvania. In the German Society, I found a home away from home and many people with whom I share common goals for the future of the organization. As President, as well as in my former role as Executive Vice President between 2009 and 2015, I was fortunate to be able to spend significant time involved in organizing the day-to-day business, focusing on the development of the organization including outreach and preparing our building to serve our needs for the years to come.

That said, I still have many ideas for the continued development of the GSP that need to be initiated and nurtured. Improving the visibility of the GSP in Philadelphia and beyond should continue to be one of our top priorities. In addition, I wish to continue to focus on the development of more events that appeal to a wide range of people interested in Ger-

man culture – building on the new relationships that have been established. Although much progress has been made in improving our building, I still see problem areas need to be addressed and look forward to finding creative solutions to those challenges.

Many thanks to the Board, to the active members and especially to my wife for their continued support.

VP of Strategic Planning: Harold Glass



I am currently a board member and am standing for election as VP of Strategic Planning. I have worked and published in the areas of economics and strategic planning.

My focus during my time on the board has been on financial matters. A recent additional area of concentration of mine at the German Society is in the area of increasing our contacts with organizations having a science and research focus. For example we have begun a program to expand contacts with secondary school programs which have an interest in both science and Germany.

I have started and sold two companies to NY stock exchange companies and certainly learned the importance of sound management. During my academic career I held several positions in the US and Europe. I am retired now as Dean's Professor at the University of the Sciences. My graduate work was at the London School of Economics (MSc.Econ.) and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Ph.D.

Candidates for Directors

Barbara Afanassiev



For the past three years, it has been my pleasure to serve on the Board of The German Society of Pennsylvania (GSP), as well as on several committees, i.e. the Stiftungsfest Committee, the Frankfurt in Mai Committee and the Personnel Committee. Even though, in 2020, a number of events and activities could not take place due to

the pandemic, I continued to meet and work with the members of the Board and the Committees to reach the best decisions for the GSP membership and the organization as a whole.

As a native of Munich, I have always been active in promoting German heritage, culture and language. Throughout my career, I have held positions with bilingual / bicultural corporations and/or conglomerates. As co-founder and President of The German-American Chamber of Commerce – Philadelphia, as well as the Honorary Consul of Germany, I have served the German-American Community in the Tri-State area for many years. Since my retirement, I am once again teaching German at the Immanuel German Language School.

Now, looking forward, I would very much like to continue in the capacities mentioned above and assist in restoring some of the favorite GSP events and programs, introducing new ideas, as well as upholding the interests of the membership and conserving the mission of the Society.

Monika Moyrer



Charles Darwin once said that "Nothing in the history of life is more constant than change." I truly believe that not only organisms and people but organizations, cultures, and ideas similarly are subject to change with the caveat that one should stay true to oneself.

I come from the German minority in Transylvania that had preserved its language and heritage for centuries and I grew up in a Cold War atmosphere behind the Iron Curtain. The (violent) 20th century forced deep transformations all over Europe. Accordingly, my family moved to Germany in 1984. Out of a sense of adventure and a passion for learning—like many of you—I arrived in the US 21 years ago. First, I completed my education and earned a PhD at the University of Minnesota; then, I taught German language, literature, and culture at various universities.

Today, I work for Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste e.V. (ASF) in Philadelphia. ASF engages with populations harmed by Germany during the National Socialist dictatorship, fights discrimination, and stands up for democratic values. In my capac-

ity as the US program director, I accompany incredibly idealistic people to serve as volunteers. Upon their arrival, I meet shy and friendly high-school graduates and when they leave, adults who have developed new life goals and a deep commitment to social justice.

I mentioned the importance of embracing change while remaining true to oneself. If I had to name my core goals for which I would advocate on the Board of GSP as well: reaching out and networking with people and organizations with similar aspirations; advocating for broader educational opportunities; and inspiring young people to develop life goals and a commitment for others.

Stephanie Vogel



It would be my honor to serve our Society as a member of the Board of Directors. Having served as a Board Member of CarolinaKinder (North Carolina) for six years, I am confident I would enjoy the experience and feel well-prepared for the responsibilities.

In my current work, as Director of Programs for Citizen Diplomacy International, I support the Sister City relationship between Philadelphia and Frankfurt, Germany and liaise regularly with partners across the region. In addition, I volunteer for Philadelphia's German American Chamber of Commerce to facilitate connections between German and American business interests. As a mother, I am raising my children to be bilingual in German and English and am always looking for ways to support their and all children's opportunities to connect with international groups like the GSP.

Through my board service, I hope to build support for the German Society of Pennsylvania among like minded organizations and diplomatic offices to develop synergies and programming that will grow our youth membership and raise the profile of our organization. I welcome programming about German-speaking culture and history, as well as programming that is driven by the interests of our local communities. Most of all, I hope to learn from my fellow members what your priorities and interests are as we navigate this next chapter of the German Society.

Hardy von Auenmueller



After a twenty-five year career in the American chemical processing industry, I ventured out on my own – becoming a restructuring specialist of faltering enterprises in the US and – following the fall of the Berlin Wall – in Eastern Germany.

Twenty years ago, my wife and I moved to Philadelphia for my retirement. Upon becoming a German Society member, I recognized an opportunity to apply my trade as a turn-around specialist at this venerable institution. My first attempt to join the Board failed, but one year later, I was successful..., and soon thereafter, I was elected President, then Chairman, Senior Vice President and, for an interim period, Treasurer.

Due to other professional commitments – for a Rostock based shipbuilding company, and as President or Treasurer of the German-American Heritage Foundation in Washington, DC – I thought it prudent to resign as an officer of the German Society, but wish to continue my service at the Board level, for as long as my health and age permits me to do so.

I am currently co-chair of the Music Committee, serve on the Finance, Nominating and Scholarship Committees, and have joyfully participated in the octogenarian clean-up crew of our premises, in recent years.

Edward Cattell



My name is Edward Cattell. I am currently on the Board. I have been active in organizing the Christkindlmarkt, and on the Finance Committee. While last year we had to cancel Christkindlmarkt, we look forward this year to an even bigger and better event, with continuing outreach to our neighboring community. Our planning begins in earnest in September.

On the Finance Committee I have been involved in consideration of a new Investment Manager for our funds. A number of questions have emerged in that context, some of a legal nature, and I feel that I have been able to contribute to the solutions con-

sidered. I hope to continue this work. I am a continuing student in our Sprachkurse, seeking to improve my command of our common language. I ask for your support for reelection to the Board.

Hajo Oltmanns



The German Society of Pennsylvania has a long, proud history of achievements and impact. Our mission and vision have served us well and support important activities. We need to continue to adjust to a changing environment just as the Society has during its over 250-year history. - during the COVID crisis we have seen how quickly change can happen. We have the opportunity to attract new members, refine our areas of focus and activity, strengthen our mission and vision, and collaborate even more with other organizations. This will reinforce the foundation for the next 250 years.

I joined the Society shortly after relocating to Philadelphia in 2009 for professional reasons. I grew up in Germany where I still have family. My spouse, Anne, is from Cincinnati and our three young boys were each born in a different city (Chicago, Amsterdam, and Philadelphia). We speak German and English at home. In our family, it is very important to be multi-lingual and to be aware of our cultural heritage. We celebrate both our German and American background. I strongly believe the Society has an important role in the life of families like ours and helps us connect our children with their background. Professionally, I work as a senior executive for Adatalem Global Education, home-based in Ardmore, PA.

I am very honored to be running for the election to a second term on the board. As Board member, I would be committed to and focused on evolving the Society to capture the opportunities we have in our changing environment -- including language education. I would bring to the board strong business acumen, a successful track record in strategy, business development, partnerships and collaborations, as well as experience in bi-lingual education. I would like to ask you for your support in the election.

State of the Library Report, Spring 2021

The coronavirus pandemic continues to shape the contours of our lives, but rest assured that your Library Committee is hard at work, caring for the Horner Memorial Library's wonderful collections, and dreaming up new ways to make our rare books and manuscripts come to life and reveal their secrets. The spring, 2021 rare book adoption catalogue has recently debuted, with ten fascinating volumes up for adoption. You may find it here: <https://www.germansociety.org/adopt-a-rare-book/>. Library Committee members had a fun time selecting these titles for you to consider, so we hope that you will find a book in the catalogue that speaks to your heart. Please contact me or Librarian Bettina Hess if you would like to adopt one of these precious artifacts.



Librarian Bettina Hess and Library Committee member Christopher Malone work on the spring, 2021 rare book adoption catalogue.

The Committee has some very exciting news to share with the Society's membership. We soon plan to unveil a brand-new, and very unique, public program series: *Library Treasure Tours*, which will welcome Society members and the general public into our historic reading room for hands-on tours and discussions under the direction of gifted teachers and recognized experts in the fields of German literature, history, and culture. Each tour will feature an expertly-curated selection of rare treasures from our collection, which attendees can handle and study with the presenter and other program

participants. Confirmed presenters for our inaugural *Treasure Tours* season include Prof. Dr. Frank Trommler, retired professor from the University of Pennsylvania's Germanic Languages and Literatures Department and formerly the chair of the Library Committee; Prof. Dr. Dorothee Schneider, a retired professor from the University of Illinois's History Department and a Library Committee member; Prof. Dr. Harry Liebersohn, a retired professor from the University of Illinois's History Department; and Ms. Jehnna Lewis, our current Library archival processing intern and an experienced instructor of German language and literature. Topics to be covered in our first season of *Treasure Tours* include the history of travel, the history of the German-American experience, the life and work of Francis Daniel Pastorius as revealed in a rare manuscript, and the connections between the German Society and the University of Pennsylvania that have long shaped the fortunes of both organizations. We plan to launch the *Treasure Tours* only when the Library Committee deems it safe to gather in small groups in the reading room. Watch future communications and the German Society's website for more information and pricing as our plans continue to take form.

When you explore the new adoption catalogue, you will see that we are making a special offer for prospective donors: if you adopt a book from the spring catalogue, we will reserve a free seat for you in one of our first *Treasure Tours*. Don't miss out on this special opportunity for VIP access to our new program series!

The Horner Memorial Library truly makes a difference in the lives of our visitors. Many of you may recall the wonderful virtual lecture delivered by Library researcher Professor Patricia Simpson in November, 2020. Dr. Simpson has shared some reflections about the Library and our rare book adoption program, which I quote in full below. I hope that her comments inspire you to share your own Library stories with the Committee and participate in our upcoming programs.

"As a literary scholar, I cherish books—and the libraries and archives that house them. I have had the privilege of doing research in archives from Buenos Aires to Berlin—and Philadelphia. As I write this, I am remembering taking a short break in the Horner Library and, uncharacteristically, looking up from the pages. I had been reading a manual for women, published in the early 19th century, a text that became central for my own work on the play world. The steamy humidity of a Philadelphia summer seemed quite distant from the world in which mothers were learning clear lessons about how to deal with drafts in the children's room. I remember thinking, 'This is my happy place.'

"In the age of digitized books, I also feel deep gratitude to those who make otherwise inaccessible sources from the past available for posterity. I feel equally grateful to those who preserve the books themselves, the pages that have not yet found their way to the scanner. When I sat in the library with the books before me, I read the inscriptions and imagine these objects as gifts given a century ago and the light by which the pages were read; or the voices raised in song from hymnals that carried the cadences of faith across the Atlantic. I'm neither a particularly sentimental nor religious person, but for the scholar in me, the words on the page opened aperçus into lives I can only imagine more vividly for having read them.

"Few things make my heart sing more than a book that has been cared for. I've had the experience of turning a brittle, yellowed page, and no matter how gingerly I do so, sometimes with literally baited breath, the paper disintegrates between my gloved fingers. Sometimes a book comes to me with a delicate ribbon tied around it to keep the binding together. No matter how gently I might rest the book between the supporting sponges, bits of the book's spine break off. All the while, I remain cognizant of the fact that as a reader, I am privileged. Adopting books, for me, is just one small way of paying that privilege forward."

- Dr. Alex L. Ames, Library Committee Chair

Ein Jahr nach dem Covid-Lockdown – Bestandsaufnahme bei den PhillyKindern

Vor ein wenig über einem Jahr sahen wir uns bei den PhillyKindern sprichwörtlich gezwungen, über Nacht unsere Klassen abzusagen. Innerhalb kürzester Zeit befand sich ganz Pennsylvania im *Lockdown* und wir mussten nicht nur unseren Alltag, sondern auch unser PhillyKinder Programm völlig neu ordnen und uns ein Stück weit neu erfinden. Ein Jahr später leben wir weiterhin mit der Pandemie und unterrichten nach wie vor nicht in Person. Es war ein langes Jahr mit vielen Herausforderungen. Dennoch schätzen wir uns sehr glücklich, dass sowohl unser Lehrerteam als auch unsere Familien dem Programm die Treue gehalten und mit uns den Sprung in das Online-Unterrichtszeitalter gewagt haben.

Die Anfänge waren zart und zunächst als Trostpflaster während des *Lockdowns* im Frühjahr 2020 gedacht. Es wurde viel ausprobiert, einiges lief besser als anderes, mit der Zeit stieg jedoch unser Selbstvertrauen im Umgang mit der Zoom Plattform und dem virtuellen Unterrichten an sich.

Wir beschlossen auf unsere ersten Erfahrungen aufzubauen und im Frühsommer ein 6-wöchiges Sommer Online-Programm anzubieten. Über die 34 Anmeldungen, die alle Altersgruppen vom Kindergarten-Alter bis zur *Middle School* umfassten, waren wir dankbar und froh und fühlten uns bestärkt darin mit dem Online-Format fortzufahren. Bei den Kindergartenkindern ging es um „Alles, was sich bewegt – fahren, tanzen, schwimmen etc.“, die Grundschüler gingen zum einen auf „Reiseabenteuer zu den Piraten & Meerjungfrauen, dem Land der Einhörner und Drachen, dem Weltall etc.“ und zum anderen besuchten sie auf ihrer „Tierischen Weltreise“ verschiedene Kontinente, während die Ältesten sich auf eine „Virtuelle Weltreise“ u.a. nach Barcelona, Kenia, Mumbai und Singapur begaben.

Im Laufe des Sommers wurde leider klar, dass unser Sommerlager in Overbrook abgesagt werden musste, und je länger sich der Sommer

zog desto mehr mussten wir der Realität ins Auge blicken und feststellen, dass unser Programm im Herbst nur Online verantwortlich war. Es bestand einige Unsicherheit, weil nicht wirklich absehbar war wie viele „unserer“ ca. 120 Kinder wir dadurch möglicherweise verlieren würden. Insgesamt meldete sich die stolze Zahl von 75 Kindern für das Schuljahr an. Zehn Lehrkräfte unterrichten seit Ende September 15 Gruppen, die mit Bedacht im Schnitt nur vier bis sechs Kinder stark sind. Je kleiner die Klassen Online sind, desto effektiver lässt sich der Unterricht gestalten und desto größer ist die Schülerbeteiligung. Den größten Rückgang an Schülern verzeichneten wir bei den Kleinkindern und im Kindergarten Alter, für die der Online-Unterricht verständlicherweise nicht ohne Weiteres geeignet ist. Nichtsdestotrotz gibt es auch im Schuljahr 2020/21 Jahr eine Eltern-Kind Gruppe und drei Gruppen mit Kindern im Vorschulalter.

Unsere Umfrage zum Halbjahr hat außerdem ergeben, dass die überwältigende Mehrheit unserer PhillyKinder „gerne“ bzw. „sehr gerne“ zum Online-Unterricht kommen. Dieses Ergebnis reflektiert direkt das großartige Engagement unserer Lehrkräfte, die u.a. als „engaged, great, awesome, creative, fun, changing the format“ beschrieben wurden. Als positiver Nebeneffekt des Online-Angebots hat sich herausgestellt, dass Kinder, die über den Sommer umgezogen sind, weiterhin am Unterricht teilnehmen und ihre Freunde sehen können. Einige unserer neuen Teilnehmer wohnen zu weit entfernt, um es ansonsten nach Overbrook bzw. Center City zu schaffen. Diesen Familien, aber auch anderen, für die Online einfacher mit dem Alltag zu vereinbaren ist, hoffen wir auch zukünftig ein Online-Programm anbieten zu können.

Das Fazit nach einem Jahr Online-Unterricht bei den PhillyKindern ist also durchaus ein Positives. Der direkte Kontakt zu den Kindern und Familien fehlt natürlich, doch haben wir in den

letzten Monaten gelernt, dass es uns auch Online möglich ist neue Beziehungen mit Kindern aufzubauen, zu lernen und Spaß zu haben. Wir blicken gespannt auf die zweite Jahreshälfte und sind darum bemüht, dass unser Sommerlager vom 2.-13. August in Person stattfinden kann. Wie es im Herbst genau weitergeht bleibt abzuwarten. Doch sind wir guter Dinge und hoffen zumindest einen Teil unserer Klassen wieder in Person unterrichten zu können.

Highlights aus dem Jahr, die uns neben dem Unterricht erfreut, motiviert, unterhalten und nicht zuletzt als Gemeinschaft zusammengebracht haben:

- Zoom Frühlingssingen mit Jessica Tremblay
- Zoom Abschlussfeier mit *guest star Findus* (Susanna Ding)



- Spielplatztreffen mit Maria Sturm im Herbst
- Herbstliche Familiennachmittage auf der Leidy Terrasse der German Society mit Ines Aßmann, Susanna Ding und Moritz Ritter
- Bücherbasar in Overbrook im November mit vielen helfenden Händen
- Zoom-Laternenfest mit Theater-Videoproduktion von Sonja Srama-Souders Schlaun Füchsen zur Martinsgeschichte und Gesangsvideos der PhillyKinder und *Findus* (Susanna Ding)
- Virtueller Adventskalender mit Beiträgen der PhillyKinder Familien (erstellt von Susanna Ding)
- Zoom-Adventssingen mit Jessica Tremblay,

winterliche Gedichtvideos aus den PhillyKinder Klassen und (Video & Live) Gesangsbeiträgen unserer PhillyKinder

- Zoom-Erzählnachmittag mit Katharina Ritter (München) und vielen PhillyKindern

- Birgit Splitt

unterrichtet die ABC Schützen & ist eine der PhillyKinder Programm Direktorinnen

*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.

Vorteile des Online-Unterrichts aus der Sicht einer PhillyKinder Lehrerin

Wie wahrscheinlich die meisten Lehrer, kann ich es kaum erwarten, bis ich endlich wieder vor Ort unterrichten kann. Ich freue mich auf den persönlichen Kontakt mit den Kindern, das gemeinsame Basteln und Singen, das Herumtollen auf dem Spielplatz und vieles mehr.

Der Online-Unterricht hat für mich aber auch ein paar gute Seiten. Ich finde es unter anderem sehr schön, dass man einen gewissen Einblick in das Familienleben der Kinder bekommt. Zum Beispiel schauen am Anfang meiner Stunden manchmal ein paar der älteren Geschwister vorbei, um schnell Hallo zu sagen, oder die Kinder halten ihre kleinen Brüder oder Schwestern vor die Kamera, damit sie mir zuwinken können. Die meisten Geschwister und einige der Haustiere kenne ich inzwischen schon beim Namen. Die Kinder zeigen mir aber auch sonst immer gerne Sachen aus ihrem Alltag, wie z.B. das Zimmer, ihren Geburtstagskuchen, aufgebaute Legos, Bastelarbeiten und Lieblingsbücher oder den Schneemann, den sie draussen gebaut haben. Trotz der räumlichen Distanz kommt so auch eine gewisse Nähe auf.

Den grössten Vorteil von Zoom sehe ich aber darin, dass die Kinder viel mehr Deutsch sprechen als im regulären Unterricht. Da sie ja (leider) keinen direkten Kontakt mit den ande-

ren Kindern haben, kommen sie meistens gar nicht auf die Idee, miteinander Englisch zu sprechen. Ich finde auch, dass die Spracharbeit mit dem *Screen Sharing* ganz gut klappt. Die Kinder können die Bilder und den Text eines Buches sehr gut sehen, manche Kinder wollen dann auch selber ein paar Sätze vorlesen, andere lesen leise mit. Man kann auf dem Bildschirm auch wunderbar mit Wimmelbildern oder Rätseln arbeiten und die Kinder lieben es, Online-Memory zu spielen. Ein weiterer Pluspunkt: Es gibt während meinem Zoom-Unterricht sozusagen keine Disziplinprobleme. Klar schaltet das eine oder andere Kind mal die Kamera oder das Mikrophon aus oder jemand spielt mit dem Hintergrund, aber das sind kleine Unannehmlichkeiten, die den Unterricht kaum beeinträchtigen.

Abschliessend kann ich sagen, dass der Online-Unterricht für mich tatsächlich gewisse Vorteile hat, ich denke aber nicht, dass er als gleichwertiger Ersatz zum persönlichen Unterricht gesehen werden kann, vor allem nicht für kleinere Kinder. Eine Umarmung oder den Schoss einer Lehrerin oder Helferin kann durch nichts ersetzt werden.

- Claudia Hail

unterrichtet die Jungen Entdecker 3, die ABC Schützen 1 und die Anfängerklasse bei den PhillyKindern

„Für mich sind die Highlights beim virtuellen Unterrichten, dass die meisten Kinder beim Zoom Spaß zu haben scheinen. Eine Mutter meinte, ihr Sohn freut sich immer total auf PhillyKinder und das ist natürlich schön zu hören. Mir macht es auch echt Spaß und ich freu mich immer auf die Kinder.“

- Susanna Ding

unterrichtet die ABC Schützen 2 bei den PhillyKindern

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In Memoriam

Ulrich A. Both



On January 20, 2021, we lost a long-term friend of the Society and a very proud German-American, Ulrich A. Both. His story is one of extra ordinary drive and success. He comes from Johannesburg, East Prussia, now Kaliningrad, Russia. At the age of 11 moved to Hamburg and worked as a tool and die maker apprentice. He would use this skill set in the 1950s to establish a series of manufacturing companies in the Philadelphia area. One of them was Turbo Machine, in partnership with Hans Trustorff, a lifelong friend. These companies were successful and the last one was sold in 1998.

Ulrich was very proud of his German heritage, and he and Hans Trustorff generously provided most of the funds that allowed the construction of a five-stop elevator to have easy access to the Horner Memorial Library. In 2010 Ulrich again showed his largess and provided the seed funds for us to establish the first endowment fund in the long history of the German Society. In subsequent years, I would visit him regularly at Ann's Choice located in Warminster, Pa. He was always interested in activities at the Society and concerned whether we were making progress on our construction projects and our efforts to establish a meaningful endowment. In his obituary, his family listed other philanthropic activities, but specifically noted the importance of the German Society to Ulrich and requested that in lieu of flowers, donations should be made to the Society - a gesture we very much appreciate.

Werner D. Carrieri



We were recently informed that Werner D. Carrieri passed on January 22, 2021 in Philadelphia due to complications from Parkinson's disease. He was 60 years old and proud of his Italian and German heritage. He was a member of the German Society and volunteered as a waiter for many of the Women's Auxiliary May luncheons, always passing out the meals, coffee and dessert with a big smile. Moreover, he was also an active member of our Membership Committee.

George F. Koch



We recently learned that long-term member of the German Society passed on March 1, 2020. According to Tony DiDonato, his long time friend and devoted caretaker during his long struggle with esophageal cancer, George was an insurance company executive, a member of the Union League and Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion, 2110 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

He was proud of his German heritage and attended many functions at the German Society; he also donated to the Annual Fund Drive. He often attended events sponsored by various German-American groups in the Delaware Valley. We heard that he rarely complained about his health issues and kept active taking walks through his beloved neighborhood. He lived in Hopkinson House on Washing Square and was active in this community as well.

Gabriele Windeck Lee



On January 18, 2021, we lost our good friend and colleague Gabriele Windeck Lee when she lost her long and valiant battle with cancer. She hailed from Paderborn, Germany, immigrated to New York, and subsequently moved to Philadelphia. Gabriele was an interior designer by profession and taught interior design at Drexel University. She was supportive of arts and culture programs and organizations in Philadelphia and served on several Boards, such as the "Collab" design group at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Philadelphia Opera, the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts, and the German Society of Pennsylvania.

For over forty years Gabriele was closely associated with the German Society of Pennsylvania as a member and a contributor to many causes, including our endowment fund; she also served as a member our Board. She helped us with the design of the Ratskeller kitchen, the refurbishment of our Auditorium, and our interaction with Mural Arts Philadelphia to facilitate the painting of the German Society's mural, which depicts three generations of German immigration to the US.

- E. D. Weiler

Music Notes - Back to Virtual

The winter season at the German Society included virtual concerts which were recorded by musicians who rented the hall at the German Society. *Mélomanie*, a group from Wilmington who have performed in the Wister Series in years past and their producer, Andreas K. Meyer (Meyer Media), recorded performances for virtual broadcast for December 12, 2020 and January 9, 2021. The group specializes in what they call 'provocative pairings' of early music and classical period music and commissioned pieces by contemporary composers. It is a feather in the cap of the German Society to have producers choose the Barthelmes Auditorium for recording sessions.



Mélomanie in the German Society's Auditorium

As audiences were once again prohibited in Philadelphia, the rest of the Wister Series was broadcast rather than played before an audience. For the December 13, 2020 concert, *Musica Capricciosa* presented recordings of Elena



Musica Capricciosa

Smith playing the *Bach Cello Suite No. 2 in D minor, BWV 1009*, and a piece with Benjamin Katz, harpsichord. Joyce Chen accompanied countertenor Augustine Mercante on harpsichord, and had an astoundingly good recording of herself on various harpsichords: a French instrument by Willard Martin, and several Zuckermann harpsichords. Ms. Chen is working for Zuckermann after completing a two-month internship.

She made the videos by herself, using an iPhone 7, tripod, and a Zoom H4n recorder and also used two different editing applications. The result was excellent sound quality and filmography.

Unfortunately, my computer connections did not produce a quality rendition of Claire Huangci's January 3, 2021 performance of the Beethoven Waldstein Sonata, No. 21 in C major, Opus 53, so I must confess to listening to a YouTube recording of her playing for a master-class, which was excellent, although it was not her most recent.



Estrella Piano Duo

For the Estrella Duo's concert of January 31, Svetlana Belsky prepared the voiceover for a series of introductions to each piece, including art, history, and entertaining information about the composers. Dr. Belsky and Dr. Doubovitskaya played Schubert's *Four Polonaises, D599*, impressive arrangements for four hands of Mozart's *Magic Flute* and Franz Schubert's *Erlkönig* by a young composer named Greg Anderson, who is also a concert pianist. The duo's film included their recording the Mozart Concerto for two pianos with orchestra –an opportunity we would not have had if this were an in-person concert at the GSP. It was also a thrill to have Russian pianists performing Modest Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*. The incredible virtuosity of the Rachmaninov Suite No. 2, Opus 17, which the great master premiered with his cousin, was stunning. There are only a handful of piano duo teams who could play such a difficult piece as smoothly as Svetlana Belsky and Elena Doubovitskaya, and seeing their hands with camera close-ups added to the thrill.

- Margaret Darby

Annual Fund Donors

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