

Calendar of Events

The German Society's administrative office will be closed July 17-August 8. Normal business hours will resume on Monday, August 9. The Library will be open by appointment only during the period that the office is closed and will be closed August 3-August 19. Normal library hours will resume on Tuesday, August 24.

Email librarian@germansociety.org to make an appointment.

Sat. July 12	Buchclub: <i>Faserland</i> by Christian Kracht, 1:30pm
Fri. July 16	Friday Film Fest: <i>Helmut Schmidt. Lebensfragen</i> , 6:30pm
Fri. Aug. 13	Friday Film Fest: <i>Der Kuchenmacher</i> , 6:30pm
Sat. Sept. 11	Buchclub: <i>Unter der Drachenwand</i> by Arno Geiger, 1:30pm
Sun. Sept. 12	Library Treasure Tour with Dorothee Schneider, "Home Life, City Life and the Nation: Encountering the German Ethnic Experience in the Horner Memorial Library", 2:00pm
Wed. Sept. 15	Konversationsabend: Actualities, 7:00pm
Sat. Sept. 18	Dogadelphia, 12:00pm
Sun. Sept. 26	"Wister and More!" presents Pyxis Piano Trio, 3:00pm
Sat. Oct. 9	Buchclub, 1:30pm
Wed. Oct. 13	Konversationsabend: Favorite Books, 7:00pm
Fri. Oct. 15	Friday Film Fest: <i>Die göttliche Ordnung</i> , 6:30pm
Sun. Oct. 17	"Wister and More!" presents Elissa Lee Koljonen and Natalie Zhu, 3:00pm

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The German Society of Pennsylvania

Neuer Pennsylvanischer
Staatsbote

CELEBRATING
250
YEARS OF
**GERMAN
HERITAGE**

Summer 2021

What unites us is greater than what divides us

I hope this message today finds you well.

The pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on our organization to the extent that all in-person activities during the past 14 months had to be cancelled. We suffered significant limitations to our normal operation and did not achieve our goal of a balanced budget.

Our "normal" operation in 2019 seems a time long ago although not even 17 months have elapsed. But despite the disruptions to our anticipated calendar, there are many positive things that can be said about the German Society's year 2020/2021. Before Covid arrived, we completed a successful year of continuing events including our Annual Stiftungsfest, the Christkindmarkt, the BierFest and many other programs.

As a result of discussions and events in our immediate neighborhood and in the greater city of Philadelphia, we have begun to establish a broader level of outreach into the German American community and beyond, specifically into the neighborhoods surrounding the GSP.

Our first Dogadelphia event in 2019, created in cooperation with the National Park Service, the Philadelphia Police Department and a number of vendors, attracted hundreds of new visitors to the GSP and inspired many new members to join and our first full time presence at the Christmas Village Philadelphia, 2019 attracted a large audience interested in German culture and tradition.

When the City of Philadelphia made the decision to shut all non-essential businesses down, we, trusting the advice of scientists and other experts, put the necessary mechanisms in place to continue the operation of our organization and maintain many of our programs. We are lucky to have a dedicated full- and part-time staff of office employees, teachers, library workers, event chaper-

ones, and maintenance personnel whose willingness to be flexible and creative during this trying time has been crucial. I thank them sincerely, but our volunteers cannot handle the entire load by themselves.

To meet current and future demands, the Board of Directors decided to establish the position of Executive Director at the German Society. The position was offered to our current office manager, Liesl Jandrey, who has been the voice and face of the organization to the public for the past several years. She will assume the position on July 1, 2021. We are delighted with her appointment and confident that she will be a vital force in implementing new and existing programs for the benefit of the GSP.

It is with regret that I must report that the process of dissolving the Women's Auxiliary of the German Society was completed in 2020. The significant funds donated by the Women's Auxiliary to the German Society will be used as they have designated. I am optimistic that the remaining active members will continue to dedicate themselves to their work for the German Society and other important causes. I thank them for their many significant contributions to the organization.

I would like to recognize the achievements of our Board of Directors and committee members, who have continued to participate enthusiastically as their own outside responsibilities allowed. The meetings were packed with important ideas and topics regarding the future of the German Society, and I thank them for their advice and support.

I would also like to thank our solicitor and long-time member, Joseph DeMaria, whose council has been invaluable.

I am particularly delighted that, in addition to continuing their service as in previous years, several

Please join us for our

257th Stiftungsfest

Saturday, November 6, 2021 | 6:00pm

Champagne Reception, Dinner, Dancing, and Silent Auction

\$135/ person

Formal Attire Suggested

Please make your reservation by October 22.

50% of the price of each ticket is a tax-deductible contribution.

board members stepped up and took on additional responsibilities.

It is gratifying to note that our board of directors has become more diverse in the past years including more individuals with different backgrounds, perspectives, and ideas for our future, and my thanks go to all past and present members.

During the past six years as the GSP's President, I have had to focus much on the building related needs of the organization. There are many necessary maintenance and improvement projects to be done in and around the building – and a long overdue major overhaul is still ongoing.

Many building improvements are not in plain sight but are often more important than those which are more easily visible. I am proud that the Board of Directors approved a project in 2017 making it possible for the entire building to be heated and cooled all year long using a proven and innovative geothermal heat pump system.

The GSP House Committee took the lead. A strong long-term vision for the building development, strict project supervision and a significant amount of hands-on volunteer work helped to keep costs down, and I am happy to report that we spent only approximately 50% of the 2.6-million-dollar amount anticipated.

Earlier this year, the geothermal project was recognized by a number of organizations, and I became a founding member of Geodelphia, a group focused on the development of Geothermal energy in the city. As a result, the GSP is widely viewed as a successful example for the implementation of an HVAC system based on renewable energies in an historic building.

It will still take a few years, but we will continue to follow a master plan that takes into account the foreseeable needs of the building for generations to come.

A major objective of my tenure has been to develop a platform for events that highlights the diversity of German culture, thereby attracting more young people and individuals with no German heritage while continuing to serve our membership and the broader public.

I believe we are on the right path. My personal goal has been to not just maintain what has been

left to us by our predecessors, but to find out how to be a significant and vital part of people's lives 30 years from now. Through strategic planning and by reviewing and renewing our mission, I believe we will reach that goal.

I congratulate our new president, Mark McGuigan, who I believe will continue the path that we have pursued for the past years and is, from my point of view, dedicated and highly qualified to lead the organization into its next phase of development.

In my new position as VP of Operations, I will continue to organize the day-to-day business, be responsible for building projects, and will work to develop a sustainable maintenance system. I am very much looking forward to having more time to be involved in telling the story of the history and present state of the friendship between Germany and the United States.

I have learned a lot during the past 13 years, and I am grateful for the support I have received and for the friendships I have formed here. I believe good relationships work best on an open eye-to-eye basis in an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect. I hope that the German Society will have your continued support, maybe not without some differences of opinion, but united in working for our mutual goals.

There is more that unites us than sets us apart.

I believe that the difficulties we have faced in our operation this year as a result of the COVID 19 crisis pose some questions about how the German Society can engage in current topics in American society. For example, how can we contribute to our Spring Garden community where many people face serious challenges? How can we be a positive and proactive part of the ecosystem "Earth" – certainly the pandemic has taught us that ignorance and an attempt to dominate nature are not successful strategies for long-term survival.

In closing, thank you for allowing me to serve as your President for the past six years. It has been a tremendously gratifying experience for me, and I hope to see you all well and in person during our events this year.

- Tony Michels

Horner Fellows Examine German and Austrian Relief Projects in Philadelphia

COVID-19 did not bring everything to a standstill. Our fellowship program with the German Historical Institute in Washington was impeded in 2020 but not interrupted, thanks to the flexibility of Bettina Hess, our Research Collection librarian, and a certain lessening of official restrictions last September. For Maximilian Klose in Berlin who was unable to visit Horner in person, Bettina produced scans of material he planned to study, while Michael Burri, a local resident, was able to examine the planned material in person at Horner. Charlotte Faucher, living in Cambridge, United Kingdom, had to postpone her stay in Philadelphia to 2021, but we hope she will be allowed to travel in September 2021.

Both Klose and Burri converge in the topics of their projects, though with a different focus. Both Horner fellows pursued research in an area that for a long time determined the mission of the German Society of Pennsylvania: charity. At the founding of the Society in 1764 as well as in the centuries afterward material and legal relief for German immigrants was at the center of its activities, later reinvigorated by the widespread activities of the Women's Auxiliary, founded in 1900. As the immigration came to a halt and the devastations of World War I brought a new awareness of sufferings in the countries in Central Europe, the emphasis shifted from German-speaking immigrants to the countries of their origin.

In the following reports both fellows provide short summaries of their research. Burri, who teaches German language and literature at Bryn Mawr College, provides insights into the sense of separateness that many immigrants from the Habsburg monarchy maintained towards the German empire during World War I. The official American policy towards German speakers after the declaration of war against the German empire intensified this differentiation. This provides relevant context for the course of action that the Austro-American Re-

lief Society adopted after 1918. Klose, a dissertation student at the Freie Universität Berlin, concentrates on the collaboration of the GSP with the CARE organization after World War II.

We look forward to welcoming this year's Horner fellows and hope that they can pursue their studies as planned at Horner: Timothy Grieve-Carlson (Rice University) with "American Aurora: Environment and Apocalypse in Early Pennsylvania" [with a focus on Kelpius]; Sebastian Willert (TU Berlin) with "Die 'Peters-Hilbrecht-Kontroverse' an der University of Pennsylvania: Eine Geschichte transatlantischer Rivalität und ihre Auswirkungen auf die deutsch-amerikanische Öffentlichkeit zwischen 1889 und 1911"; Ariane Fichtl (Lille/Augsburg) with "The Declaration of the Rights of Man and Its Reception within the Democratic-Republican Societies of Philadelphia (1790-1800)."

- Frank Trommler

The Austro-American Relief Society and Humanitarian Relief to Central Europe after 1918

My research concerned the Austro Hungarian American Relief Society ("the Relief Society"), a Philadelphia-based humanitarian relief organization, active roughly between 1917 to 1927. Many of its records are deposited at the Horner Library.

Research activities were devoted to two principal tasks: 1) understanding the broader local context for the Relief Society; 2) collecting as much archival material about the Relief Society as possible. With respect to the first task, two findings merit mention. First, it seems clear that an Austrian-Hungarian consciousness among German-language speakers in Philadelphia after 1900 has been underestimated. Indeed, associations ranging from the *Banater Arbeiterverein* to *Wiener Gemütlichkeit* and a local *Tirolerbund* all held regular meetings and events in quarters dedicated to that purpose.

Second, the First World War greatly boosted the expression of Austrian-Hungarian identity. That is primarily because when the United States declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917, German-born individuals living in the U.S. became “enemy aliens.” They were henceforth subject to highly restrictive requirements, including registration at the local post office, an obligation to carry registration cards at all times, and specific prohibitions regarding their movement. These requirements did not apply to those born in Austria-Hungary, and thus, in April 1917, being Austrian-Hungarian acquired a very tangible value. Indeed, it was between April 1917 and December 7, 1917, when the U.S. finally declared war on Austria-Hungary, that not only the AARS, but other Pennsylvania Austrian groups such as the Coplay Saengerbund (“America’s oldest Austrian club,” in the Lehigh Valley) moved quickly to organize themselves.

Once claimed, this Austrian-Hungarian sense of autonomy was not quickly relinquished. After the Philadelphia consulate for Austria-Hungary closed in December 1917, for example, diplomatic activities were transferred to the consulate of neutral Sweden, where they remained into the 1920s. My research does show that the Relief Society accomplished much during the postwar humanitarian crisis in Austria. But its origins are not entirely grounded in that crisis.

Research has enabled me to place the Relief Society more skillfully in its local context. In fact, little has been written about German Society of Pennsylvania (GSP) postwar relief activities, in contrast to its wartime activities, and the standard GSP history, *Ethnicity Matters*, devotes only two paragraphs to this subject. To be sure, postwar fundraising activities often mimicked similar wartime efforts. Thus, when the United (German) Singers, performed a benefit concert for postwar relief on December 13, 1920, at the (Philadelphia) Metropolitan opera, that event mimicked the United Singers wartime performance at the Philadelphia Convention on October 30, 1915, a benefit concert

not only attended by German-born Philadelphia mayor Rudolph Blankenburg, but which featured over 2100 male, female, and children singers. Still, if GSP wartime relief efforts underscored the common cause of German and Austrian-Hungarian suffering, postwar benefit events highlighted the centrality of “Germanness” (*Deutschtum*). As the *Philadelphia Tageblatt* observed, “With this (1920) concert of the United Singers, Germanness once again appears for the first time since the war before our city.” Likewise, at the December 1920 GSP bazaar led by the provisional United Relief Fund, President Otto Hanzmann connected the urgency of the relief effort with an expression of “Germanness.”

My research suggests that the Relief Society positioned itself against this “German” approach and sought to mobilize a multinational constituency, or as it sometimes called them, our “*Landsleute*,” for relief work. Indeed, among the records of the Relief Society, which purchased its own separate building in 1917, is preserved an abbreviation sheet that indicates eleven languages in which correspondence should be conducted with its members -- where D stood for Deutsch, E for English, P for Polish, I for Italian, and so forth, while some bank correspondence in Hungarian has been preserved in the files. Meanwhile, the fact that the group also used the Habsburg motto, *viribus unitis* on its stationery speaks to the Relief Society attempt to forge postwar emotional alliances with an imaginary Austria-Hungary.

Contributions to individual civilian organizations in both Austria and Hungary were numerous. What distinguishes these funds from GSP work, however, is the fact that the GSP worked almost exclusively through the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) -- the GSP Foreign Relief Committee, for example, made expenditures in 1920 of \$10,440, where \$8,775.00 of that was passed through the AFSC. By contrast, the AARS more often directed its support to particular relief organizations. In addition, GSP relief efforts continued intermittently through the 1920s, especially

from 1922 to 1924, at a time when the AARS, and indeed American relief to Austria, more generally, had ceased.

- Michael Burri, Bryn Mawr College

Why They Gave: CARE, the American Public, and US-German Relations after World War II

The Horner Library holds several collections that were potentially relevant for a case study within my dissertation project. In the project tentatively titled *Why They Gave: CARE, the American public, and US-German relations after World War II* I investigate the massive humanitarian endeavor between the United States and both East and West Germany between 1946 and 1963. More specifically, the project focuses on the work of the humanitarian organization Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe (CARE), and investigates individuals, interest groups, and social clubs that used CARE to send relief goods to Germany.

As Americans of German descent constituted one of CARE’s largest donor groups, one case study of the dissertation is dedicated to this ethnic community and to individuals and groups within it who used CARE to come to the rescue of their ancestral home. While this at first suggests an obvious motivation grounded in kinship, a closer look reveals far more nuanced debates on ethnic identity and public participation. German Americans resorted to humanitarian aid as a form of “symbolic ethnicity” in which they debated and confirmed their status as citizens with a dual allegiance, caught between loyalty to their American homeland and nativist sentiments towards the country of their forefathers. Humanitarian aid, though outbound and directed at those suffering overseas, thus became an act of self-affirmation to engage in internal and individual debates on identity.

In my application for the fellowship, I had identified three collections of potential interest.

1. The *German Society of Pennsylvania institu-*

tional records

2. The records of the *Women's Auxiliary of the German Society of Pennsylvania (Frauen-Hilfsverein)*
3. The *Conrad J. and Marian Linke papers* provide the only personal, non-organizational account of German-American giving. Conrad J. Linke was a Philadelphia-based painter and illustrator who engaged in political and charitable activities towards Germany between 1917 and the early 1950s. He and his wife Marian were active members of several social clubs and interest groups, including the GSP and the Steuben Society of America. Marian engaged in relief work for the Women’s International League and, most importantly, she was President of the GSP’s Women’s Auxiliary between 1951 and 1954, thus serving at the intersection between private and organizational relief work.

Unfortunately, the *GSP institutional records* and the *Women's Auxiliary records* produced very few results as both organizations resorted to aid agencies other than CARE in their humanitarian endeavors to Germany.

However, every historian knows that finding nothing can be at least as useful as finding something, as the GSP and the Women’s Auxiliary had their reason *not* to donate through CARE. This reason lay in CARE’s institutional profile. Unlike other organizations, CARE did not provide anonymized aid that they distributed on the basis of need, but through CARE donors could send relief packages directly to a specific recipient of their choice. This approach did not correspond with the self-understanding of German immigrant organizations whose heritage preservation aimed not at individual Germans but at a larger idea of Germanness and the German nation. However, the uncatalogued material that Bettina Hess was able to locate revealed that the GSP started donating through CARE in the mid-1950s, after the organization began offering mass relief that was not directed at specific recipients. The GSP now

had a justification to engage in CARE as it no longer violated their self-ascribed purposes. This insight now forms a vital part of my analysis on German-American identity as it shows how diversely German immigrants used humanitarian aid to debate and express their ancestral self-understanding.

These findings also helped me to contextualize the material I gathered from the *Conrad and Marian Linke papers*. The Linke's were both of German origin – Conrad was a first- and Marian a second-generation American – and both were active members of the GSP. During the Second World War, they frequently advocated for US neutrality after the German attack on Poland and drafted open statements for the impeachment of President Roosevelt, whose policies they perceived as increasingly pro-British. Conrad Linke also frequently voiced anti-British and also anti-Semitic opinions to justify the doings of the Nazi regime. After the war, both actively engaged in relief aid to Germany but deliberately chose other agencies over CARE. This echoed the preferences of the German-American organizations both Linkes served.

Privately, however, the Linkes donated via CARE to aid their direct relatives overseas. In the fall of 1946, they started sending CARE packages to Conrad's cousin Anna Ullmann. Anna, like Conrad's parents, was a Sudeten German and was therefore among the roughly three million expellees who had to leave their homes in Czechoslovakia after the defeat of the Third Reich. She now lived in the Soviet Zone of Germany. This form of engagement was not surprising as CARE offered a convenient way to direct aid specifically at Conrad's overseas relative. What is surprising, however, is that the Linkes seem to have had no prior contact with Anna Ullmann. They only reached out to her after the war and the Nazi atrocities which they had relativized during the 1930s had put their understanding of Germany and thus their own heritage on trial. Aiding Anna Ullmann through CARE was therefore a form of romanticized ethnic reconnection, as Anna's fate as an expellee confirmed the Linkes' belief in the vic-

timhood of the German people. The case shows how diversely segments of the German-American community expressed their private and public adherences to their country of origin through relief aid.

The findings at the Horner Library allowed me to dedicate an entire chapter of my dissertation to the case study on humanitarian giving by German Americans. I would therefore again like to express my gratitude to both the GHI and the GSP for their support that made a tremendous contribution to my research project.

- Maximilian Klose, Freie Universität Berlin

2021 Annual Meeting and Election Results

On Sunday, June 6, the German Society held its second virtual Annual Members Meeting and Elections of the Board of Directors via Zoom. This year, six candidates ran for six open Board positions: one in the class of 2022, and five in the class of 2024. The officer positions of President, VP of Advancement, Secretary, VP of Project Oversight, VP of Operations, and VP of Strategic Planning were also up for election.

The following candidates were elected to the open officer positions: President: **Mark McGuigan**; VP of Advancement: **Ernest Weiler**; Secretary: **Bill Hardham**; VP of Project Oversight: **Hans Mueller**; VP of Operations: **Tony Michels**; VP of Strategic Planning: **Harold Glass**.

Three of our current Directors were reelected to serve in the Class of 2024: **Barbara Afanasiev**, **Edward Cattell**, and **Hardy von Auenmueller**. They will be joined by new board members **Monika Moyrer** and **Stephanie Vogel**. **Hajo Oltmanns** will fill the vacancy in the class of 2022.

Congratulations to our new board members, and thank you to the outgoing members of the Class of 2021 for your service to the German Society!

- Liesl Jandrey

Music Notes

Although the group was not terribly large, it was a very appreciative crowd in attendance for the March 21, 2021 concert by the Duo Parisienne at the German Society. Nancy Bean played both violin and Pellegrina viola, together with Anne Sullivan on harp. The dark and powerful sound of the Pellegrina viola was a great choice for the Marin Marais Suite, 'L'agréable' with the rich drone evoking bagpipes in *La Musette*. Ms. Sullivan's version of Albert Heinrich Zabel's *Am Springbrunnen* was impressive, but the harp/violin version of *Clair de Lune* was irresistible.



Xiaopei Xu

Xiaopei Xu returned to the Barthelmes Auditorium on April 25. She played a Liszt/Bach Fantasy and Fugue which was quite impressive, but the highlight was her jazzy yet technically controlled *Virtuoso Etudes on Gershwin Songs* from the sets by Earl Wild. She played *Fascinating Rhythm* with melodic freedom and superbly controlled rhythm. Her colleague, Chi-Wei Lo, who has collaborated with Ms. Xu in four-hand piano performances, was present for her playing of his piece *Paraphrase of Florence Price's Resignation*. A thrilling performance was Ms. Xu's encore, Fats Waller's "Viper's Drag" from *Ain't Misbehavin'*. Having a classical pianist play so freely and giving such a lively interpretation of Fats Waller was so much fun. Since that concert, Ms. Xu has been awarded her doctoral degree.

The Bösendorfer Youth Music Festival 2021 Winners Recital program was made available on May 16. All of the students were accomplished, but I was particularly impressed with the performances of Grace Opong, who played *Romanian Folk Dances for Violin and Piano* by Béla Bartók, and Mariacristina Calcagno, who played the Prelude and Fugue in D minor, BWV

851. Preston and Petrina Steimel's performance of the original piano duo version of *Rhapsodie Espagnole* was an absolute knockout.

The 2021/2022 Wister and More Concert Series will consist of eight concerts. On September 26, the Pyxis Piano Trio will perform Brahms and Beethoven. Elissa Lee Koljonen and Natalie Zhu will return on October 17 to play Saint Saëns and Tartini/Kreisler. On November 14, the Wister Quartet will play Borodin and Farago and will also play a piece by German Society member Chuck Holdeman — a quintet with the composer playing the bassoon part. On December



Filament



Trio Montage

12, Filament, a chamber group, will give a trio concert with Evan Few, Elena Smith, and John Walthausen. Claire Huangci will return on January 2, 2022 with Beethoven/Liszt and Schubert. The Estrella Piano Duo will return on February 20 with Schumann, Mendelssohn, Mozart and Beethoven. Trio Montage (Nancy Bean, violin/viola, Anne Sullivan, harp, and Lloyd Smith, cello) will play *Rachmaninoff*, *Squire*, *Dussek*, and *Ibert* on March 20, 2022. The final concert of the series will be by the Karlsruher Konzert-Duo on April 24, performing pieces by Schumann, Strauss, Gershwin and Liszt.

- Margaret Darby

Development Report

Moving our Endowment Funds

After more than ten years with the Philadelphia Foundation (PF), at the recommendation of the Finance Committee and with the approval by the Board of Directors, we have chosen to withdraw our endowed funds and have elected the Haverford Trust Company as a management company. The primary reason is an ongoing and unresolved issue around the lack of timely financial reports.

Over the years, members have purchased annuities from the PF to benefit the German Society. These will continue uninterrupted and at a future date the residuum will benefit the Society as indicated in the different contracts. In fact the PF continuous to offer annuities to anyone who might be interested in this giving opportunity.

The Haverford Trust Company manages accounts for over 200 not-for-profits with the majority located in the tri-state area. These organizations have more than \$3.00B in assets with Haverford. The overall portfolio managed by Haverford tops \$11.0B.

The historical returns achieved by Haverford during the past 10 years have been higher than those realized at the Philadelphia Foundation; there is also more flexibility in terms of investment options and withdrawals. In fact each account can be managed individually. They also offer hands-on guidance as well as some financial support to their not-for-profit clients.

As part of this change, we have tried very hard to document the wishes of donors for each of the named accounts by preparing a policy statement that will govern our investments with Haverford. It was approved at the May Board Meeting. It includes strong provisions that this policy document can't be easily altered by future boards; this includes amending the fund purposes or the withdrawal specifications associated with the various accounts. We considered establishing trust accounts but concluded that this would become cost prohibitive

and very complex to manage – especially for the relatively small amounts in some of the seven accounts. We have been assured that these arrangements are almost equivalent to trusts.

The summary balances of the funds are as follows:

Category I: As of 12/31/2020 – \$1,722,000

1. The German Society of Pennsylvania General Endowment (GER I-1)
2. The German Society of Pennsylvania Irmgard Martino Endowment (GER I-2)

Category II: As of 12/31/2020 – \$951,000

1. The German Society of Pennsylvania Horner Memorial Library Endowment (GER II-3)
2. The German Society of Pennsylvania WAUX Library Endowment (GER II-4)

Category III: As of 12/31/2020 – \$615,000

1. The German Society of Pennsylvania Scholarship Fund (GER III-5)
2. The German Society of Pennsylvania Leon H. Volgenau Scholarship Fund (GER III-6)
3. The German Society of Pennsylvania Elsa Schweikert Scholarship Fund (GER III-7)

Our long term vision remains that 20% of our operation expenses, plus some funds dedicated to capital projects, will come from our endowments. Moreover, the Board decided not to withdraw any funds from the General Endowment until an account balance of \$2.0MM is realized. We are getting closer to this interim goal and sure could use a few more donations. We are taking withdrawals to support the Library budget and fund yearly scholarships – these are offered through a competitive process.

Giving Opportunities

Over the years, we have repeatedly reported on giving opportunities that benefit the Society and/or help build our endowments. For example, several of our members, over 70 ½ years old, use a portion of the mandated yearly withdrawals from their IRAs to benefit the Society

and thereby realize tax savings. Of course all cash donations are tax deductible for donors that itemize their donations. Appreciated assets such as stocks make an excellent gift because they may offer substantial tax savings.

Even shopping at AmazonSmile benefits the Society, as long as you first select the German Society as the not-for-profit of your choice; a small percentage of the eligible purchase costs will come to the Society.

We recently benefitted from the generosity of a donor, not a member of the Society, who used his Thrivent Choice® dollars as an honorarium for services provided by the Library Transcription Group. This volunteer group helped translate a number of documents in the old German script and their work will benefit readers that typically would not be able to read these papers.

So what are Thrivent Choice® dollars? Thrivent is a Fortune 500 not-for-profit financial services organization founded in 1902 by Lutherans. As a member-owned fraternal benefit society, it operates under a chapter system, serving nearly 2.3 million members. We suspect that some members as well as friends of the German Society are also serviced by Thrivent. Each year, Thrivent distributes Choice® dollars that are allocated on the basis of account balances. These can be donated by any member of Thrivent to a not-for-profit registered with Thrivent. The amount distributed in fiscal year 2020 was \$20.00MM. The good news is that we are now registered with Thrivent as an eligible not-for-profit and therefore are well positioned to receive future Choice® dollars. We are hoping that members and friends of the German Society, who are also members of Thrivent, will seriously consider this unique giving opportunity to support our need for annual funds or help us build the endowments.

Honor Walk

Tony Michels, as part of the Leidy Terrace project a few years ago, donated and installed the bricks on the **Honor Walk** that is a part of the terrace entrance. For a modest \$150 a customized brick can be purchased in memory of a

friend or family member. The proceeds have been used to recognize volunteers that have serviced the Society and may normally not be able to attend one of our special functions. The names that follow are currently or will soon be inscribed bricks on the Honor Walk:

Heinz and Christina Bartling; George and Isabella Beichl; Carl and Lottie Brod; Ethel K. Brown; Joan Detz; John William Dickey; E. Ermentraut; Guenter Finke; The Frangakis-Redemann Family; Minnie Hartenstine; Robert P. Hartenstine; Lori Brod Haworth; The Kadel Family; Clara Klemm Klotz; Gustav-Ida Klotz; George F. Koch, Jr.; Bob and Paula Koerner; Eva Kollat; Daniel Lippard; Irmgard Martino; Randall Miller; Hans K. and Harriett Mueller; Henry Oschmann; Patricia Raine and Anton Michels; Dr. Teresa C. and Jeffrey N. Rupert; Christiane Schmidt; Dr. Frauke Schnell; Siri Süchting; Elaine J. Volgenau; Leon H. Volgenau; Miriam Katarina Volgenau; Dr. Nikolaus H. and Marianne Volgenau; Dr. Robert H. and Rose M. Volgenau; Robert and Zoe Volgenau; Margarete Volkwein; Agnes M. Weiler; Paul D. Welde; William George Young, Sr. and Dorothy Thomas Young

New Lifetime Members

A vibrant and an expanding membership base is essential to our long term growth and prosperity as the German Society. We are delighted to welcome **ten new lifetime members** since the prior listing in the spring 2021 issue of the Staatsbote.

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

- E. D. Weiler

Waldkindergarten Gruppe bereichert das PhillyKinder Programm

Nach einem langen Jahr in relativer Isolation und mangelnden Kontakten bot der Frühling die ideale Chance Kindergartenkinder (Pre-K & K) durch ein Pilot-Waldkindergartenprojekt in relativer Sicherheit wieder zusammenzuführen. Kristina Eaddy, die in der Vergangenheit sowohl als Lehrkraft bei den PhillyKindern tätig war als auch am *Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education* die Waldkindergruppe leitete, entwickelte ein 6-wöchiges PhillyKinder Waldkindergarten Programm für drei bis fünf Jährige Kinder.

Das Waldkindergartenkonzept wurde von unseren Familien dankbar angenommen und bot ihnen einen sanften Wiedereinstieg in eine Gruppenaktivität an. Begleitet von Kristina verbrachten so acht Kinder mit je einer erwachsenen Begleitperson sechs Samstagvormittage im Wald des *Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education*. Jeder Samstag stand unter einem neuen Thema mit ähnlichem Ablauf: Begrüßung im Morgenkreis und Themeneinführung, gefolgt von einer Wanderung an das jeweilige Ziel des Tages und freies Spiel. Abschließend wurde gemeinsam der Zeckentanz und das Abschiedslied gesungen.

Programm:

1. Kennenlernen & Naturbingo
2. Frühblüher & Wildblumen
3. Bäume & Käfer
4. Teich & Kaulquappen
5. Steine & Steinbruch
6. Bach: Frösche, Flusskrebse & Schnappschildkröte

Ziel des Waldkindergartenprojektes ist die deutsche Sprachentwicklung unserer Kinder zu fördern, während wir zusammen als Gruppe die Natur entdecken. Durch die Verbalisierung von Entdeckungen und Beobachtungen wie z.B. von Käfern, Schnecken, Kaulquappen etc. wird das Vokabular erweitert und über diese Beobachtungen lassen sich auf natürliche Weise Gespräche entwickeln. Der Aufenthalt in der

Natur kommt außerdem nicht nur dem kindlichen Bewegungsdrang entgegen, sondern dient auch als idealer Spielraum den angeborenen Sinn fürs Entdecken und Erforschen mit allen Sinnen auszuleben. Bewegung und Lernen gehen Hand in Hand. Nicht zuletzt ist es wunderbar die ständig wechselnde Natur zu beobachten, die immer wieder neue Lernanlässe bietet.

Das Entdecken von Kaulquappen und Fröschen am Teich und das Beobachten von Rollasseln, unter Baumstämmen waren zwei Höhepunkte unseres Programms im Frühjahr. Auf einer Wanderung konnte an einem Teich außerdem eine Schnappschildkröte beobachtet werden.

Wir hoffen dieses Programm im Spätjahr 2021 und Frühling 2022 erneut anzubieten. Es war sehr schön mitzuerleben wie die Kinder miteinander Freundschaften schlossen und ihr deutsches Vokabular und Verständnis für den Lebensraum Wald durch das praktische Erfahren in der Natur erweitert haben.

- Kristina Eaddy & Birgit Splitt

Fazit der Eltern

Der PhillyKinder Waldkindergarten war für uns eine fantastische Ergänzung zum Online Programm in diesem Jahr. Mit Freunden die Natur entdecken und viel Spaß haben. Kristina hat uns mit ihrem fachkundigen Wissen und Erfahrung als Erzieherin viele Aspekte des Waldes kindgerecht nähergebracht. Wo unsere Dreijährige am Anfang noch etwas ängstlich und zögerlich unbekannten Insekten und Herausforderungen gegenüberstand, waren schon bald die Vorfreude und Neugier größer. Jetzt weiß sie wie aus Kaulquappen Frösche werden, warum manche Bäume einen pelzigen „Affenschwanz“ haben, und man aus essbaren Wildblumen auch schöne Armbänder zaubern kann. Danke liebe PhillyKinder für diese Bereicherung!

- Anne Spiller

Das Waldkindergarten Programm war ganz toll, aus mehreren Gründen. Zum einen war es schön, mit dem Stadtkind H. den im Frühling

erwachenden Wald zu erkunden, der jede Woche grüner wurde. Zum anderen hat es ihm so gutgetan, andere deutschsprachige Menschen und vor allem Kinder zu sehen und kennenzulernen, vor allem nachdem wir ja ein Jahr ohne PhillyKinder in Person hatten.

Es war super, wie jeden Samstag H. es gar nicht erwarten konnte, in den Wald zu fahren. Kristina hat es auch ganz toll gemacht und sich jede Woche was anderes ausgedacht, was für die Kinder neu war, z.B. einen Stock zu dekorieren oder Käfer durch eine Lupe anzugucken.

- Antje Williams

Uns hat es im Waldkindergarten hervorragend gefallen und wir würden im Herbst auf jeden Fall wieder gerne dabei sein. Kristina hat sich sehr viel Mühe gegeben das ganze Programm interaktiv und positiv zu gestalten. Von den Wanderungen bis hin zum Frösche fangen war alles gut geplant und hat mit den ganzen Dingen, die am Anfang jeder Stunde ausgeteilt wurden, z.B. Kescher, Eimer, Vogelfutter, etc. besonders gut gefallen :-)

Für mich war es wichtig, dass M. andere Leute Deutsch sprechen hört, und ihr Vokabular hat sich auf jeden Fall stark verbessert. Sie fand es schön, mit anderen Kindern zu spielen, die auch Deutsch verstehen.

- Vera Jahnle

Der Waldkindergarten war super. Mein Sohn hatte viel Spaß im Wald rumzulaufen, einen Bach zu erkunden und über Steine und Bäume zu klettern. Wir haben beide über die Pflanzen aus der Gegend gelernt und [er] hat jetzt mehr Interesse an deutschen Büchern zu Hause.

- Mirko Heinle

Beiden Jungs hat der Waldkindergarten Spaß gemacht, und nicht nur, weil es danach entweder Schokocroissants oder Crêpes gab. Gerade für unseren Jüngeren, der seit Beginn der Pandemie nicht mehr in der KiTa war, kam das Programm gerade zur rechten Zeit. [...] Wir waren schon seit dem Winter regelmäßig samstags zu dritt in den Wald gefahren und dort ge-



wandert. Für ihn war es so ein guter Weg, über die Gewohnheit wieder die Gemeinschaft mit anderen Kindern zu erleben, die über Zoom gerade in seinem Alter (er ist gerade 3 geworden) so nicht zu erfahren ist. Er ist in den zwei Monaten wirklich gewachsen und während er am Anfang etwas zögerlich war, lief er die letzten Male begeistert mit. T., der sich mittlerweile mehr für die Natur als für Bagger interessiert, war auch mit großem Interesse dabei und hat auch im Morgenkreis auf der Wiese stets gut mitgemacht. Zu guter Letzt war auch der Ort super - der Wald ist schön, und es war schön nach dem Ende des offiziellen Programms noch mit einigen auf dem Waldspielplatz zu verweilen.

- Thorsten Drautzburg

The Waldkindergarten was a great opportunity for the kids (and parents) to interact with each other in a safe setting after spending much of

the past year locked up. The kids were able to play outdoors and to explore nature together, all while practicing their German. Our son excitedly looked forward to our outing into the forest each week.

- Moritz Ritter



*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.

An Unexpected but Most Welcome Grant

We were notified that on May 28th the Philadelphia Foundation approved an interfund transfer of \$12,000 from an Anonymous Fund, managed by the Foundation, to the German Society for the purposes of general operating support. This is a most welcome donation, especially as the result of the pandemic we will incur a significant operation loss in the current fiscal year and this grant reduces the deficit. We should also note that in the past ten years we received two additional grants from the Foundation each for \$10,000 to provide operating support.

- E. D. Weiler

Scholarship Awards for German Language Students

As a long-time and currently most senior board member of the German Society, I have been greatly enjoying my participation in the annual selection process of our scholarship awards. We have been able to fund these awards through the generosity of several German Society members, past and present.

Our Scholarship Fund was established in the late 1990s thanks to a sizable bequest of **Conrad J. Linke** (1892-1995), which he dedicated in its entirety for this purpose. It should also be noted that his wife, **Marian Linke**, who passed away in 1985, had been president of our Women's Auxiliary during the early 1950s. This was a time when both were heavily involved in WWII relief efforts.

In recent years, two additional scholarships were funded by current members of our Society to honor the lives of **Leon H. Volgenau** and **Elsa Schweikert**, respectively.

Our most prestigious **George Beichl** scholarship, which had been funded for many years by the Women's Auxiliary prior to its dissolution in 2019, needed special support this year, because our annual *Christkindlmarkt* had to be cancelled in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. I am pleased to report that the following long-time members of our Society, who revered Dr. Beichl for his stalwart leadership of our organization over a period of 20 years, joined me in supporting this award: Frank and Renate Genieser, Allen Krumm, Doris MacPherson, and Christiane Schmidt.

Irrespective thereof, the selection of this year's scholarship recipients again presented quite a challenge, as we had nine highly qualified applicants - high school graduates as well as college students - and following the pattern of prior years, all of them female, but one! In spite of these odds, our choice for the George Beichl prize fell on **Noah Fisher**, a 17-year old high school chap from Lancaster, PA. He will be pursuing a double major in German and Mechanical Engineering at Valparaiso University in Indiana.

Julia Oborna, a first-year student at Temple University, is the recipient of the Leon H. Volgenau award. Julia received our top award last year, after graduating with honors from the Immanuel Sprachschule (passing Sprachdiplom level II) and receiving a full scholarship in the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange program. **Hannah Appelhans**, currently enrolled at Bryn Mawr College, has been awarded the Elsa Schweikert prize.

The other six award recipients are: **Madison Chambers** (West Chester University), **Alysse Danyi** (Franklin & Marshall College), **Clarice Helfand** (University of Pennsylvania), **Lauren Pash** (Kutztown University), **Abigail Pincus** (Downingtown High School, heading for West Chester University), and **Ali Robinson** (West Chester University).

Due to the prevailing coronavirus restrictions, the personal interviews were conducted via Zoom. Since all of the applicants were rather proficient in German — which could be discerned from their written essays — we conversed mostly in German, and thus were able to discern who had received third party help.

It is always a pleasure for members of our Scholarship Committee to observe the progress which some of the students make over the years, and we are consistently impressed by their talent and dedication. With this in mind, we would like to share Noah Fisher's scholarship application essay, printed below.

- Hardy von Auenmueller

Wenn ich mein ganzes Leben in den Vereinigten Staaten verbracht hätte, hätte ich vielleicht nie viel Zeit oder Energie für das Erlernen der Fremdsprachen aufgewendet. Letztendlich wurde ich dazu gezwungen, weil mein Vater einen Jobtransfer verdient hatte. Unsere Familie zog nach Europa und ich wurde zum ersten Mal als 11-Jähriger in einen Französischkurs versetzt. Die anderen Schüler hatten schon seit einem Jahr Französisch gelernt und ich war im Rückstand, also habe ich mich besonders bemüht, um in der Klasse zu überleben und aufzuholen. Ich merkte schnell, dass ich in

Fremdsprachen begabt war und mehr lernen wollte. Ich fing an, Spanisch zu lernen, weil es von praktischem Wert war, weil ich wusste, dass ich irgendwann wieder in den USA leben würde, wo Spanisch weit verbreitet ist. Trotzdem hatte ich die Sprache, die ich liebte, nicht gefunden und ich beschloss, Deutsch zu lernen. Mir wurde klar, dass dies die Sprache war, die für mich klickte. Drei Fremdsprachen zu lernen war keine leichte Aufgabe, aber Deutsch war eine Leidenschaft, die ich nicht aufgeben wollte.

Nach sechs Jahren des Lernens habe ich vor, weiter zu machen und Deutsch zu einem Teil meiner lebenslangen Karriere zu machen. Ich plane ein internationales Ingenieurstudium mit einem Doppelstudium in Deutsch und Maschinenbau. Ich hoffe, ein Jahr an einer deutschen Universität zu verbringen, um in Deutschland zu lernen und zu arbeiten, damit ich fließend werden kann und besser über die deutsche Geschichte und Kultur informiert bin, bevor ich nach Amerika zurückkehre, um dort zu leben und zu arbeiten. Ich habe größten Respekt vor dem deutschen Ingenieurwesen, aber für mich geht es beim Erlernen der Sprache nicht nur um den Job. Ich schätze die deutsche Kultur und hatte das Glück, kurze Reisen nach Deutschland und Österreich zu unternehmen. Einige meiner Lieblingserinnerungen waren der Besuch der deutschen Weihnachtsmärkte und des Schlosses Schönbrunn. Selbst nach meiner Rückkehr in die USA hatte ich das Glück, mich in Lancaster County niederzulassen, wo die deutschen Traditionen geschätzt werden, was bedeutet, dass ich sie nicht zurücklassen musste.

Wenn ich jetzt mein Leben betrachte, ist Deutsch genauso ein Teil von mir wie meine Gitarre, meine Zauberwürfel oder das Auto, das ich liebe. Es gehört zu meinem Alltag. Ich bin einen unerwarteten Weg gegangen, um hierher zu kommen, aber Deutsch ist meine Fremdsprache fürs Leben.

- Noah Fisher

State of the Library Report, Summer, 2021

As the summer months arrive, the Library Committee at the German Society of Pennsylvania continues to focus its efforts on pursuing projects and activities organized around its three core values of *Sustainability*, *Discoverability*, and *Community*.

In April, Society Librarian Bettina Hess, Project Cataloger Lorena Boylan, and I participated in a very enjoyable KA Extra hosted by GSP board member Helga Halbfass. We gave a brief presentation titled “Honoring the Past, Creating the Future,” which was followed by an engaging conversation with members of our community. The three of us were incredibly inspired by, and grateful for, the opportunity to learn from GSP members and our broader community about the importance of the Horner Memorial Library to the cultural fabric of the Society, the city of Philadelphia, and the scholarly world of German-American studies. We gleaned many useful ideas and insights from the discussion, which we have since carried back to the rest of the Library Committee.

Another exciting outcome of the virtual roundtable discussion was the adoption of four rare books by event attendees. We found it very gratifying to know that our focus on preservation and stewardship is so ardently supported by the community. Those of you who attended the program may recall that, at one point in her comments, Bettina mentioned that the Library was in need of a new laptop, to facilitate collections-processing work that will be undertaken by an intern over the summer. Just days after the presentation, a member of the audience contacted us and offered to purchase us a new laptop—for which we are so deeply grateful. This kind of support means so much to those of us who devote our time and energy to the work of the Library.

The Library’s virtual programs continue to find success in reaching wide audiences and delivering innovative content to participants from all over the nation and world. Library Committee member Jana Keck and Librarian Bettina Hess recently facilitated a transatlantic virtual

scholar panel titled “Reflecting on German Heritage in the United States in the Twenty-First Century.” The Committee is already developing exciting virtual lectures for the autumn, along with our new onsite *Library Treasure Tours*. Please watch GSP communications for further information about these offerings as more details become available.

Many members of our community have expressed interest in the process by which our adopted rare books are restored, so I have included two photos in this report taken by The Book Restorer, Ruth Scott Blackson, in her workshop. These behind-the-scenes glimpses should give you a sense of how out deteriorated rare books are repaired for further use by Library patrons. For more information about the rare book adoption program, please visit <https://www.germansociety.org/adopt-a-rare-book/>.

– Dr. Alexander L. Ames



Adopted books from the Horner Memorial Library collection undergoing restoration by The Book Restorer. Photos courtesy of Ruth Scott Blackson.



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