

Calendar of Events

- Thurs. Apr. 21 Lecture by Rev. Dr. Deborah Rahn Clemens - The Slave in the Parsonage: An 18th Century Fight for Freedom, 6:00pm
- Fri. Apr. 22 Friday Film Fest: *Duell der Brüder*, 6:30pm
- Sat. Apr. 23 Library Treasure Tour - Home Life, City Life and the Nation: Encountering the German Ethnic Experience in the Horner Memorial Library", 2:00pm
- Sun. Apr. 24 "Wister and More!" presents the Karlsruher Konzert-Duo, 3:00pm
- Sun. May 1 Gentle Yoga, 11:00am
- Wed. May 4 KA EXTRA: War and Religion with Hartmut Zinser, 3:00pm
- Wed. May 11 Konversationsabend: The 251st Anniversary of Beethoven's Birthday, 6:00pm
- Sat. May 14 Buchclub: *Kleiner Mann, Was Nun?* by Hans Fallada, 1:30pm
- Sun. May 15 Classical Guitar meets Classic Wine, 3:00pm
- Thurs. May 19 German Script Workshop, 10:00am
- Fri. May 20 Friday Film Fest: *Trautmann*, 6:30pm
- Sat. May 21 Wandern at the Willows, 11:00am
- Sat. May 21 Library Treasure Tour - Mesmerism, Animal Magnetism, and Religious Healing: Early Pennsylvania Theories of the Body and Soul, 2:00pm
- Sun. June 5 Annual Members Meeting and Elections of the Board of Directors, 3:00pm

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The German Society of Pennsylvania

Neuer Pennsylvanischer
Staatsbote

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

Spring 2022

„Wer fremde Sprachen nicht kennt...

...weiß nichts von seiner eigenen.“ Goethe knew a thing or two about language. He recognized its importance – both the place of his own native German in building community, and the role of foreign language acquisition in shaping the mind.

The German language is a central pillar in the work of the German Society of Pennsylvania, as it is one key to understanding German heritage in the United States. It is no accident that the German Society takes its responsibility to care for and make available to scholars our historic library and archive of primarily German language materials spanning three centuries. You can learn about and handle some of this amazing collection by attending one of the **Library's Treasure Tours**.

Our interest in promoting the German language does not end with the past. German is an important building block in the bridges that connect this region to the German-speaking countries of Central Europe. It connects Americans directly to an interest in transatlantic politics, business, culture and exchange, and for a small but important number of us, it creates the opportunity for education, business, and life-long relationships.

For those reasons, the German Society invests in German language instruction today – through our scholarship program, our language program, and the creation of organizations like **PhillyKinder**, which provides German language engagement for children, many coming from German-speaking families now living in this region.

Still the reality is that the infrastructure for German language instruction has shrunk. It can be hard to accept that German – once one of the two premier modern languages taught in American schools – today faces cutbacks and even elimination at both the secondary and university level. Community-based organizations like the **Immanuel German School** and the German Society itself do good work but worry about reaching and meeting the needs of a smaller but very real market of potential German learners.

April 10 Language Summit

This spring the German Society's Language Committee organized an afternoon workshop to address this very issue. Together with the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG), we hosted 40 local German teachers from all levels of instruction and representatives from the German Embassy and the German Language School Conference (GLSC) to



AATG Executive Director Michael Shaughnessy addresses guests at the GSP. Photo by Mark McGuigan.

THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF PA AND
THE PHILADELPHIA CLASSICAL
GUITAR SOCIETY PRESENT

Classical Guitar meets Classic Wine

An in-person classical guitar salon featuring pairings of German, Austrian, and Italian wines

Sunday, May 15, 3:00pm
at the German Society
Tickets \$48
www.germansociety.org

consider the current state of local German instruction and think about how we can work together to expand and improve instruction in our region.

AATG Executive Director Mike Shaughnessy gave a data-driven talk on trends, challenges, and opportunities facing German programs nationally and pointed to places like Atlanta which are having success at expanding instruction. After his talk, participants met in small groups to brainstorm about opportunities for new approaches, resources, and ways to collaborate.

There was an outpouring of ideas ranging from organizing encounters between students of German and native speakers, connecting students to cultural and current events programming, and holding a national conference to learn what is being done around the country by others. Other suggestions included using the Goethe-Institut's SPARK program to provide German instruction in disadvantaged communities, providing high school guidance counselors with better information on opportunities with German, and developing coordinated marketing efforts for German programs in the region.

All of these ideas are worth further consideration as we begin to re-think how to collaborate to provide quality German instruction in Greater Philadelphia. A great thanks to our Language Committee and our friends at the AATG. We are looking forward to continuing the conversation in the coming year.

- Mark McGuigan, President

Classical Guitar meets Classic Wine

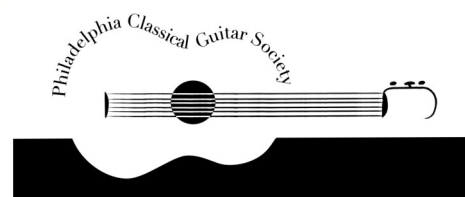
Please join us on Sunday, May 15 at 3:00 PM, in the Barthelmes Auditorium at the German Society of Pennsylvania, for an afternoon of classical guitar music and classic wines.

Germany has a long tradition of great classical music composers, a thriving classical guitar culture, as well as a history of building fine classical guitars, like the Munich-based Hauser family, now in its third generation. And Germany also makes some excellent wines. In this unique format, we have partnered with the Philadelphia Classical Guitar Society to pair live classical guitar pieces from Germany, Austria, and Italy with specific wines from those regions. Participants will be invited to appreciate the wine while listening to curated live music. Exploring themes of classical composers, such as Johann Sebastian Bach, within the context of a classic wine opens up a magical opportunity for celebrating your culinary and auditory senses, and appreciating the complexity of the depth, notes, and harmonies between the two mediums. As such, the relationship between music and wine can serve as a catalyst for enlightenment and conversation, and of course fun!

The afternoon will end with a virtuoso classic guitar presentation. Some of the best classical guitar performers will be appearing, including John Marcel Williams, a Peabody Conservatory and Curtis Institute of Music alumnus, and Alejo de los Reyes, from Buenos Aires, Argentina, among others. There will also be a sommelier present to introduce and discuss the wines.

Great classical guitar music, fine classic wines, and wonderful company, a match made in heaven. See you on May 15!

- Eric Zillmer



Annual Members Meeting and Board Elections

On **Sunday, June 5, 2022 at 3:00pm**, the German Society will hold its **2022 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 3, 2022**. 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. Please be reminded that members at the Associate level (\$30/year) are not eligible to vote in our elections; if you an Associate member and would like to vote, please contact the Society's office to upgrade your membership to a higher level. If you have any questions about your current membership status, please contact the office.

Vision statements of the slate of approved candidates can be found on the following pages. There are five openings for Directors on the Board in the class of 2025 and one opening in the class of 2023. There are seven candidates running for these positions. Two Officer positions are also up for election: Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.

Candidates for Officers

Treasurer: Lewis Volgenau



For the past eleven years, I have been your Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer and have also served as the Vice President of Finance.

It is our vision to be recognized as the premier German ethnic Society in the United States. To accomplish this, it is vital that we manage our finances. I will continue to work with the Executive and Finance Committees to provide balanced budgets and prudent investments. We also need to continue our capital improvement projects to maintain our library and

building. We are grateful for the support of our members for their donations and continued membership. I look forward to serving the financial needs of the Society for another 2 year term.

Assistant Treasurer: Tim Rausch



Tim is an attorney and Certified Public Accountant who has previously served as the German Society's Treasurer for two years. Tim is presently employed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Human Resources as an auditor, and he also has a private accounting, tax and legal practice. He is a life-long resident of Philadelphia.

Tim has served as waiter for the Women's Auxiliary Annual Luncheon for several years, volunteers at various functions, and promotes the Society's reputation and unique historical circumstances whenever and to whomever he believes may have an interest. Tim is a candidate for the office of Assistant Treasurer so as to lend his legal, business and accounting expertise in support of the Treasurer in guiding the Society's future operational and financial success.

Candidates for Directors

Eric Zillmer



I am very excited to be chosen to run for a Board seat at the German Society of Philadelphia. I am a GSP life member and bilingual in German and English having lived in Germany for 18 years during my formal schooling and university studies (Abitur, 1966-76 Werdenfels-Gymnasium, Garmisch Parten-

kirchen; Physik studium, 1976-78 Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich). My family has a strong connection to German-speaking Europe and Germany itself. My sister "Bibi" was a three-time German champion in the sport of figure skating and represented Germany in the 1968 Olympics in Grenoble, France. Bibi is a German citizen, and I hold an unlimited German residency permit. My father, David Zillmer, a USMA West Point alum, earned a MA in German language from the University of Heidelberg, and together with my mother, who was born in Vienna, we all spoke mostly German at home.

I have worked at Drexel University for over 30 years as a professor and its past Athletic Director. As a resident and participant of Philadelphia's arts, sports, and tourism infrastructure, I have a finger on the emotional pulse of our city's cultural and civic community. In addition, I have experience in fundraising, programming, the arts, and in partnering and collaborating with other organizations around the city. I also have a love for German culture. For example, I am curating a unique program at GSP entitled *Classical Guitar meets Classic Wine*, which is scheduled for May 15, and which features German, Austrian, and Italian wines that will be paired with classical guitar music, including Johann Sebastian Bach.

If elected, I would be very motivated in moving the Society forward to ensure that it is a celebrated, inclusive, and proud cultural icon for decades to come.

Jackie Binstead



For most of my career, I've worked in nonprofit accounting. The most important part of my job has always been to make sure that everything we did furthered the nonprofit's mission. I would be honored to be part of the GSP's Board and to work to increase awareness and understanding of the German and German-American cul-

ture and contributions.

There are many ways to help support the GSP's mission. A few of the key ones I would like to focus on are:

- Increasing revenue to provide resources for current and future programs and services
- Continuing to improve the building's beauty, usefulness, safety, and efficiency (for future revenue and programs)
- Further development of relationships with other German groups and with other cultural/historic groups

Thank you for considering me as a candidate for the Board of Directors.

Ralf D. Wiedemann



Thank you for considering my candidacy. For the past 21 years I have been an immigration attorney, helping foreigners from around the world obtain U.S. visas, green cards, and citizenship. This work involves advocacy on behalf of individual and corporate clients before U.S. administrative agencies and U.S. consulates. From this I have gained skills in fact-gathering, analysis, seeing issues from multiple sides, advising clients on preferred options, and persuading decision makers by making cogent arguments.

In the earlier part of my career I worked for large and medium-sized law firms. From that I learned how to function in organizations with diverse populations and interests. During the past five years I have been a solo practitioner. From this I have learned skills in self-sufficiency and what it takes to run a small business.

For the past 10 years I have concurrently served as honorary consul of Germany in Philadelphia. In this role I assist German citizens with matters such as passport applications, registrations of births, and signature certifica-

tions on legal documents. I also meet with diplomatic and business delegations, and regularly interact with colleagues at the German consulate general in New York and the German embassy in Washington, DC. From this I have gained skills in giving careful explanations, diplomacy, time management, and above all, patience.

Both of my parents emigrated from Germany in the 1960s, and I am a first generation American born in the U.S. I am also a citizen of Germany thanks to the circumstances of having been born to a German parent. For the same reason, my children are citizens of both the U.S. and Germany.

Should I be selected to serve on the board, I look forward to utilizing my skills and experience in the service of the German Society of Pennsylvania.

Karin Volkwein-Caplan



Growing up in Germany, I came to the US to pursue a PhD at the University of Tennessee in Sport Philosophy in 1984. When I was hired at West Chester University in 1992, I joined the German Society and have served on the GSP board since 2019, seeking re-election for a second term. Over the last 30 years I have witnessed major changes and improvements at the GSP, not only with our beautiful building but also with the addition of new programs and change in membership; the GSP has become a more dynamic place to visit. "Wunderbar Together" is the slogan that represents the German-American heritage not only in the past but projects what we aspire for the future as well. Holding dual citizenship, I am interested in furthering the relationship between our two countries.

My academic career as professor of Cultural Studies has provided many opportunities to support relationships between our two countries through social, political, cultural and edu-

cational issues and exchanges. I have led several student trips from Pennsylvania to Germany, and I have realized exchange programs between WCU with German universities, including Kassel, Heidelberg, Freiburg, Berlin, German Sport University Cologne. I have collaborated with German colleagues in research, publications, and education. My vision includes fostering more cultural exchange programs and supporting a better understanding, while preserving our German-American culture and heritage.

My passion includes supporting wellness and exercise programs that bring our members together, keep them fit and healthy, and provide ample opportunity to foster *Kameradschaft*. I have started these programs with support of Dr. Helga Halbfass (Wandern) and Dr. Selen Razon (Gentle Yoga) during COVID-times. As times are ever-changing, I am looking forward to new and varied opportunities to foster intercultural understandings through human movement.

Marnie Old



I am a wine and beer author and Philadelphia's leading expert in my field. I serve as director of vinlightenment for Boisset Collection, France's largest family-owned wine company. I also write, teach and consult independently on drinks, hospitality, service and marketing, as well as organizing events locally and acting as an expert speaker on wine and beer topics around the country. I am best known in Philadelphia as the wine columnist for the Philadelphia Inquirer's Thursday Food Section, but German Society members know me as the mind behind our annual Bierfest, one of the largest and most successful events on our calendar. I may not be of German heritage or speak the language, but German wines and beers have long been my personal favorites and causes I champion within the wine and beer trades. I have

partnered with the GSP to promote them in a number of ways over the years, including the recent national lecture tour undertaken through the efforts of Hardy von Auenmueller to secure funding from the Goethe-Institut's Deutschlandjahr project, titled "500 Years of Lager Brewing: The German Ideal & The American Dream". With the growing enthusiasm of Americans for cultural exploration through gastronomy, I see great potential within my field for the German Society to leverage Pennsylvania's uniquely German heritage in order to meet its future goals. I believe that further diversifying programming centered on German brewing, German winemaking and German cuisine can increase our organization's visibility, expand our outreach and hopefully also increase membership, especially among younger audiences.

Daniel Lippard



I grew up in Lansdowne. Pop's side was Alsatian, Mom's Saxon. After boyhood were Duke, Naval, Security Group, and Vanderbilt. Thereafter, I've been practicing law in Media for 47 years, with a focus on estate and real estate matters.

Though not as much as I could or should, I have tried to be a helpful participant in a variety of Society matters. I did, with the gracious cooperation of Tony and Liesl, facilitate in getting out to the membership an online Pennsylvania-conforming Healthcare Power of Attorney/Living Will at the beginning of the pandemic. I've made a presentation on estate planning to members as well as our Latvian neighbors. I've also provided a presentation and tour for those interested in doing genealogical research at the County Courthouse. I was also scheduled to represent the Society as a speaker on deeds as genealogical resources to the Pennsylvania Historical Society, although this event was also an early Covid casualty.

Goodness should be a product and not just an accolade, and I learned that from Pop and Mom too.

Brian Norton



I would like to present myself to the Membership and ask that you support me in my desire to serve you, the Members and the Society as I have for the past two years in my role as VP of Finance.

During the six years that I have served the Society and its Members while on the Finance Committee, as a Board Member and most recently, officer. I am eager in this term to continue to expand my understanding and participation in the Society's other committees and step back from specific finance duties.

As someone who came to the Society looking for a hobby and finding a community, I feel committed to serving as board member representing Philadelphia and the very long relationship that the community has had with the Society. I feel that as an organization founded to serve an immigrant community, we offer a path and an example to America and that this represents a unique opportunity for us to continue to forge a path of diversity and the proverbial melting pot that has made Philadelphia and the German community so strong.

Should anyone have any questions for me, I would be happy to address them at the Annual Meeting.

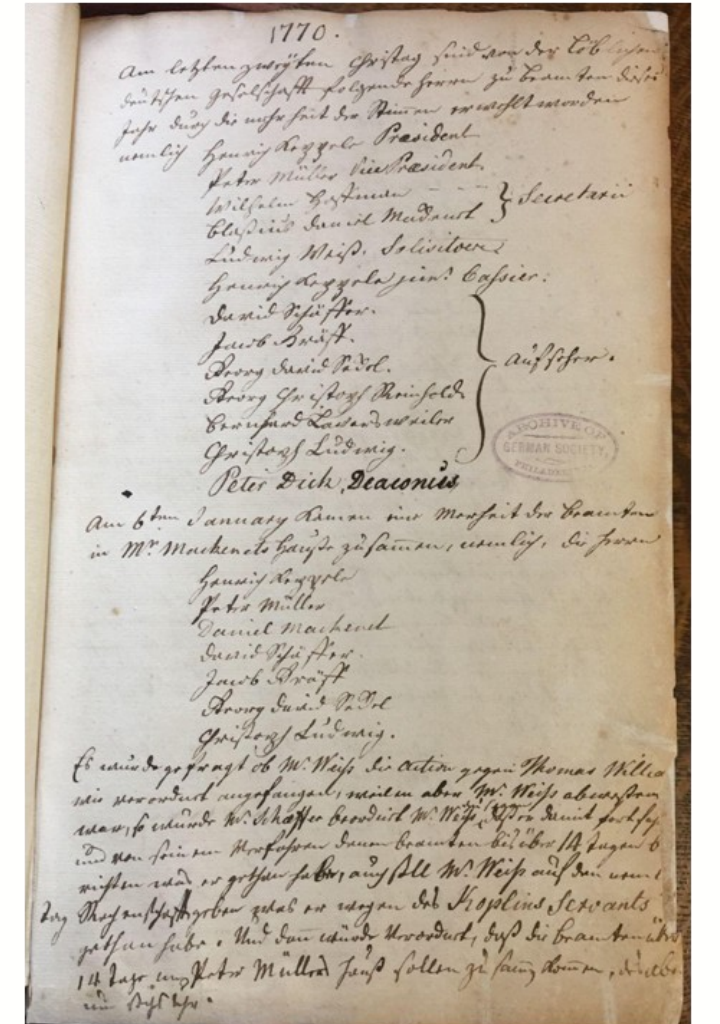
Transcription Tuesdays

In the fall of 2019, and shortly before the global pandemic shut down in-person events in the library, we began a weekly transcription group to work on deciphering some manuscripts from our German American Collection. The Horner library has an extensive archive of materials documenting the Society's own history from its founding, as well as records of other German Americans and German American organizations. A major barrier to the use of these materials is the old *Kurrent* script in which they are written. Even most native German speakers cannot read this old script because it is very different from modern German handwriting. Learning how to read it is like cracking a code, and an endeavor that works best by working in small groups.

One of the first projects we started in 2019 was transcribing the German Society's first Board of Directors minute book, which begins with the election of Henry Keppele as President of the German Society on December 26, 1769. It has taken over two years, and a switch from in person meetings to Zoom, but our group of dedicated transcription volunteers, now totaling about a dozen participants from the Saarland to Seattle, has finished transcribing the first minute book, **Protokoll der Beamten der Deutschen Gesellschaft, 1769-1802** (Ms.Coll 1, volume 1).

In the course of this transcription project, we have read about individual cases in which the newly established German Society aided German immigrants who arrived in Philadelphia without resources or English language skills. In some instances they brought food or money to immigrants who were being held on board ships or in prison because they could not pay their passage. In others, indentured servants needed protection from abusive bosses, and the German Society provided legal assistance. The book also documents the Society's petition of the General Assembly to pass laws improving conditions on ships and increasing the rights of new immigrants. It has been a fascinating window into the substantive immigrant

aid that the German Society undertook in its early days.



The full transcription of this minute book is available as a [PDF](#) on the German Society's Library webpage. Please email Bettina Hess at librarian@germansociety.org if you would like more information.

- Bettina Hess

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Preservation and Modernization

Now that the renovation of the German American Collection Room is completed, it is time to turn our attention to new challenges.

During my past 14 years as a volunteer here at the German Society, much of my work has centered around the maintenance and modernization of our building. I have said many times in the past how important I believe it is to still own a physical structure in which we can celebrate German culture and heritage, support our programs, and host our library, making our collection accessible for to researchers, members, and friends.

A fresh layer of paint could not cover up the wear and tear of 130 years of exposure to the elements. Deficiencies had to be addressed that had a serious impact on how we use the building to support our mission.



Halle der Deutschen Gesellschaft von Pennsylvania, circa 1907.

I recently had the opportunity to show our building to a group of approximately 40 members of the Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia. At this gathering I highlighted the fact we, as an organization, are not in the business of merely preserving our building as an historical monument; rather, we are eager to modernize it to meet current and future needs. This means that we cannot simply replace things as they were in 1888. Obviously, much progress has been made since then, and material choices and building techniques that may have seemed like a good idea back then are no longer the best options for current repair and/or replacement. We have been quite successful in finding mutually agreed upon compromises on the outside appearance of the building that are agreeable to the Historic Commission of the City of Philadelphia while still allowing for a

modernization of the interior. A primary example of this blend of preservation and modernization was the transition of our heating and cooling systems from traditional sources to reliance on a geothermal vertical loop field. The German Society is now recognized as an example of what the modernization of an historic building can look like.

We are now moving onto our next big project, the GSP Façade Renovation Project, which is scheduled to be completed in 2023 – 2025. Multiple problems on both the Townhouse and Main Building will be addressed in three phases. We will start with the Townhouse East façade where significant brick repair is on the agenda, as well as window replacements and the restoration of the upper cornice and the adjoining part of the roof, alleviating water intrusion into the second and third floors of our library and office areas. At the same time, we are going to deconstruct a section of the decorative columns and elements on the Main Building's third floor between the upper and the bottom cornices. In the original construction, galvanized sheet metal painted to represent sandstone was used. In the years since, multiple layers of paint are peeling off, the metal is rusting and the structural support is deteriorating. In preparation for a repair or replacement with a different material, we will remove a section of decorative elements adjoining the Townhouse to determine what needs to be done to renovate decorative elements during phase 2 (Main Building Eastside) and phase 3 (Main Building Southside). Phases 2 and 3 will also include brick and sandstone repairs and the replacement of the main reading room windows.

We will be sharing more planning details with you in the next edition of the *Staatsbote*. As with past projects, we will work to minimize any negative impact on our day-to-day operation, and I am looking forward to sharing our progress with you as we move forward.

- Tony Michels

Music Notes - Wister Performances, Virtual and Live

Filament gave a live concert at the German Society on December 12, 2021. This period instrument chamber ensemble, formed in 2019, featured Evan Few on violin, John Walthausen on the harpsichord, and Elena Smith on viola da gamba. The repertoire was Buxtehude and Bach, but the Bach had several twists that I found intriguing. They performed an early version of the Bach *Violin Sonata in G Major* and the *Gamba Sonata in G major* as trios. Mr. Walthausen played an unsigned harpsichord which he told me was made by Willard Martin of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. In the past, you may have seen Mr. Martin tuning harpsichords at German Society concerts or at the spring concerts of the Bach Festival Orchestra.



Filament. Photo by Ed Cohen.

After mid-December, with infection rates soaring and schedules upturned, the EStrella Piano Duo created a polished professional video which provided an exciting home concert for January 9. They had a wide-ranging program which included a work by Marie Jaëll (1846-1925), a child prodigy and prize-winning pianist whose music I had never heard before. EStrella played four waltzes from Jaëll's *Twelve Waltzes and Finale, Opus 8*. Also on the program were pieces by two other French female composers: Mélanie Bonis (1858-1937) and Cécile Chaminade (1857-1944). The EStrella Duo's presentations, historical background information, and the art shown in their video really made the performance more than just a 'music video'.

The most recent concert in the Wister Series at



Claire Huangci. Photo by Ed Cohen.

the German Society was the return engagement of Claire Huangci on Monday, February 21, 2022. She gave her first Wister Series performance in November 2007. She went to study in Hannover, Germany. In 2018 she won first prize at the Geza Anda piano competition. Ms. Huangci has a successful performance career and has made several records. After hearing her perform the Bach *Tocatta and Fugue in D minor, BWV 565* arranged for piano by Ferruccio Busoni, it seems she might achieve a speed record for octaves as well. Ms. Huangci's voicings, both in the Bach *Tocatta in D Major, BWV 912* and the Beethoven *Symphony No. 6, Opus 68* arranged by Franz Liszt, demonstrated her ability to maintain total control, commanding her right and left hand to play as independent voices.

As I write this for a March 1, 2022 deadline, infection rates are going down, and the GSP has two more *Wister and More!* concerts this season: Trio Montage (Nancy Bean, Lloyd Smith, and Anne Sullivan) on Sunday, March 20, 2022, and the Karlsruher Konzert-Duo will return to perform on Sunday, April 24.

- Margaret Darby

Development Report

We were pleased to report in the last issue of the Staatsbote that we reached our interim goal for the General Endowment Fund. It took us ten years to achieve this \$2,000,000 milestone; it is the first endowment established in the long and illustrious history of the German Society! Our long-term vision remains to fund 20 or 25% of the operating costs from endowments and to also provide \$40,000 to \$50,000 per year in support for capital projects. The yearly budget is approaching \$500,000, and unfortunately a \$2,000,000 fund yielding \$80,000 of spendable income per year is not sufficient to achieve the stated funding goals.

What to do? The Finance Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that we establish a follow-up goal of \$4,000,000, recognizing that it will take us a significant number of years to achieve this new target. The Finance Committee's recommendation was approved by the Board of Directors at its January 24, 2022 meeting.

Similarly, even though the Horner Memorial Library Endowment Fund has achieved its interim goal and the end-of-year balance was \$1,099,000, there are still significant unmet needs in our Library operations. Based on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, in concurrence with Library Committee, the Board established follow-up goal of \$1,500,000.

And finally, the Finance Committee recommended and the Board approved a \$1,000,000 target for our scholarship accounts. The combined balance for the Leon H. Volgenau, Elsa Schweikert, and GSP Scholarship accounts at the end of the year was \$713,000. For the pending scholarship funding cycle, we will target \$25,000 in college scholarships for students that major or minor in German. The students receiving these awards are enrolled at regional universities or colleges. Because of increasing college costs, we would very much like to be a position to offer larger awards to the six to eight students receiving an annual scholarship. The winners are selected through a competitive assessment process.

It might be fair to ask how we will achieve the new goals for the endowments, which are designed to ensure the long-term financial viability of the Society and allow us to offer meaningful cultural and educational programs for generations to come. We believe that donors will remain generous and consider gifts to our endowment funds. Furthermore, we urge members and friends of the Society to consider the needs of the organization as they contemplate future gifts through estate plans and thereby become legacy members of the Society. It is a wonderful way to be generous to your favorite charity, while also providing support for your families and heirs. If it is your intention to leave a gift to the Society, please let us know as we would very much like to add your name to the legacy portion of the Linden Society.

- E. D. Weiler

In Memoriam

Gertrude Hoehne



We recently learned that **Gertrude Hoehne** passed away peacefully on December 17, 2021. We extend our sympathy to her sister, Mrs. Hilde Marschalek, in New Jersey, a sister and a nephew in Vienna, Austria, and her other family members. Gertrude was proud of her Austrian heritage and taught German in the Moorestown Schools for over 30 years.

I first met Gertrude in her lovely home in Cherry Hill, NJ, in 2015. Peter, her husband, had died two years earlier. She told me that they traveled extensively, especially to visit her family in Vienna. She had very fond memories of German Society. She and Peter came to numerous events over several decades, and she enjoyed our music program – at the time of our

meeting she still occasionally played the baby grand piano in her living room. She also liked our Library.

Gertrude met Peter at the German Society during one of our social events. She made a significant donation to our General Endowment Fund in memory of her husband. In fact, she was one of the early donors as we established this fund. She was a lifetime member of the Society, and we are thankful for her friendship and generosity.

Fred H. Greim



We recently lost a good friend and a long-time member of the German Society. **Fred H. Greim** passed away on January 29, 2022 at the age of 89.

Fred and his wife Ingrid became members of the German Society in 1982, a few years before Ingrid was elected Vice President of the Women's Auxiliary. Fred supported the Auxiliary and the Society at many functions and became the indispensable "go-to" person when something went wrong or needed fixing. Fred helped before, during, and after events such as the *Weihnachtsmarkt* – setting up the Christmas tree, assembling the booths, and lugging chairs up and down the German Society's four stories – before there was an elevator! In addition to setting up and cleaning up he took up other tasks as well.

Fred with Frank Genieser and Jim MacPherson, all engineers, often labored together trying to fix tricky problems, such as the glitches in the parking gate operating system. Whenever they were successful, Fred would shake hands with his compatriots and exclaim: "The A-Team did it again!" Fred and Ingrid loved to dance at the various social events. We will miss Fred's friendly smile and his good sense of humor.

We are grateful for his contributions. The fam-

ily indicated in the obituary that donations can be made to the German Society in memory of Fred H. Greim; these gifts will be added to our General Endowment Fund.

Our sympathy goes out to Ingrid and the entire Greim family.

Dr. Wolfgang H. Vogel



Dr. Wolfgang H. Vogel recently passed away at the age of 91 in Florida, where he spent his retirement years with his wife, Ursula. He was a native of Dresden, where he received his schooling to the *Abitur*. With his family, he was fortunate to survive the "fire storm" bombing of Dresden. He desired to study medicine, but as the son of a capitalist, the East German Communist regime denied his request. As he told it, his mother came to his rescue by securing a rare pass to West Germany – in exchange for two pounds of butter, a highly valued commodity. With this pass in hand, he crossed the border and reached Bonn, beginning his studies there. He received his Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from the University of Stuttgart. He worked for Hoechst AG, the University of Illinois, and the National Heart Institute.

In 1965 he accepted a faculty position at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, where he remained until he retired as Professor of Pharmacology. Among his many awards, he treasured the Humboldt Research Award he received in 1975. He very much enjoyed coming to German Society events and was a regular user of the Horner Memorial Library; some of the materials were useful for one of his scientific publications. His wife, Ursula, was an active member of the Women's Auxiliary.

Our sympathy goes out to Ursula and Vogel family.

- E. D. Weiler

10 Jahre PhillyKinder – Sprache verbindet: Spiel, Spaß und viel Sprechen im alljährlichen PhillyKinder Sommerlager

Unser Programm steht dieses Jahr unter dem Motto *10 Jahre PhillyKinder – Sprache verbindet*. Wir lassen die vielfältigen Aktivitäten und Projekte Revue passieren, die wir Eltern und Lehrer in dieser Zeit ins Leben gerufen haben. Davon ist unser alljährliches PhillyKinder Sommerlager zum festen und beliebten Bestandteil geworden.



Um den Kindern auch im Sommer Deutsch in gelassener Atmosphäre und mit viel Spiel und Spaß beizubringen und ihnen die Möglichkeit zu geben Freundschaften zu vertiefen, entstand **2014 das Pilotprojekt** von erst einer Woche - und dann mit wachsender Nachfrage später zwei Wochen - PhillyKinder Programm im **Sommer**.

Ausgelassene Spielplatzzeit mit Wasserspritzen und Gruppenspielen sollten besonders den Jüngsten (unseren 4-7 Jährigen) den Ein-



druck vermitteln, sich in einer anderen, komplett deutsch-sprachigen Welt, zu befinden.

Für die 8-10 Jährigen organisierten wir in den ersten Jahren mit dem Fechtmeister Mark Masters von der Fencing Academy of Philadelphia ein halbtägiges Fechtsportlager, *Einführung ins Fechten auf Deutsch*, gekoppelt mit traditionellen Spielen, Bastelprojekten und sprachfördernden Aktivitäten am Nachmittag. Beim Fechtsport trainierten die jungen Athleten nicht nur Ausdauer und Koordinationsvermögen, sondern wurden auch an bislang wenig bekanntes Vokabular herangeführt, was gelegentlich am Nachmittag mit gezielten Lesübungen vertieft wurde.



Während am Anfang für uns der ganztägige Umgang auf Deutsch in gelassener Atmosphäre und beim gemeinsamen Sport und Spiel im Vordergrund stand, ergänzten wir das Programm allmählich mit vertiefenden sprachbereichernden Projekten.



Im dritten Jahr wurden unsere Theaterprojekte, die das deutliche und ausdrucksvolle

Sprechen fördern, und bei denen sich die Kinder kreativ bei Bühnenkulisse und Theaterrequisiten einbringen von Groß und Klein mit Begeisterung aufgenommen.

Wir erinnern uns an Aufführungen wie das von Anna Watson und den 5. Klässlern inszenierte und choreografierte Liedtheater *„Pippi Langstrumpf“* auf dem Spielplatz in Overbrook. Die Kinder gestalteten hierfür Masken und Requisiten und erarbeiteten die Choreographie für die Tanz- und Musikeinlagen. Die jüngsten Gruppen wohnten der Freilichtaufführung auf dem Spielplatz mit heller Begeisterung bei.

PhillyKinder hat das große Glück, die vielfältig engagierten professionellen Talente unter unseren Eltern ins Programm mit einfließen zu lassen. Dafür gilt den engagierten Eltern unter uns nicht nur besonderer Dank, sondern wir sind zutiefst überzeugt davon, dass hauptsächlich durch dieses freiwillige Einbringen unserer Eltern, das PhillyKinder Programm eine lebendige und schöpferisch produktive Gemeinschaft für unsere Kinder bietet.



Die Bühne als Bretter der Märchenwelt stand auch in den letzten Jahren vor der Pandemie als Motto für fast alle Altersgruppen. In Kooperation mit dem Galli Theater zählten die Inszenierungen von *Aladin* bei den 12 Jährigen und *Arielle* in der nächstjüngeren Gruppe zu genussvollen Höhepunkten. Auch *Die Drei Kleinen Schweinchen* und *Die Sieben Zwerge* wurden mit viel Eifer für kleine und große Zuschauer vorbereitet und aufgeführt.

Als Ausgleich zur darstellenden Kunst bieten wir zusätzlich bereichernde Projekte, die viel Bewegungs- und Koordinationsspiele beinhalten, an. Beispiele dafür sind unser Olympiade-

tag, unser Fußballtag und andere diverse eingebaute Ball- und Gruppenspiele. Dabei gehen uns unsere Jugendhelfer und auch manchmal ballbegeisterte Eltern tatkräftig zur Hand.



Auch Bastel- und Malarbeiten, sowie das freie Spielen mit Ritterburgen, Bausteinen, Brettspielen und traditionellem Spielzeug kommen im PhillyKinder Sommerlager nicht zu kurz. Die Mittagspause mit anschließender Freispielphase bringt die Gruppen zusammen, Geschwisterkinder sehen sich und Leiterinnen und Jugendhelfer mischen sich unter die Kinder. Es entsteht ein buntes, kreatives Treiben in diesem täglich eingebauten Ritual.

Wir sind unseren vielen Mitarbeitern, Helfern und engagierten Eltern für die Treue und das Engagement dankbar, das Ihr uns über all die Jahre erwiesen habt! Und nach pandemiebedingter Pause freuen wir uns ganz besonders auf ein Wiedersehen in diesem Sommer!

- Manuela Sieber-Messick, PhillyKinder Lehrerin und Gründungsmitglied, Gruppenleiterin und Direktorin des PhillyKinder Sommerlagers

Infos für das diesjährige Sommerlager vom 1. bis 12. August 2022 erhältlich auf www.phillykinder.com.

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