Calendar of Events

Sun. Sept. 25 “Wister and More!” presents Xiaopie Xu and Chi-Wei Lo, 3:00pm
Fri. Sept. 30 Lecture by Andrea Wulf: Magnificent Rebels. The First Romantics and the Invention of the Self, 6:00pm
Sun. Oct. 2 Gentle Yoga, 11:00am
Sat. Oct. 8 Buchclub: Der Untertanby Heinrich Mann, 1:30pm
Wed. Oct. 12 Konversationsabend, 6:00pm
Sat. Oct. 15 Wandeln at the Willows, 11:00am
Thu. Oct. 20 Book Talk by Friederike Baer: Hessians. German Soldiers in the American Revolutionary War, 6:30pm
Fri. Oct. 21 Friday Film Fest. The General, 6:30pm
Sun. Oct. 30 “Wister and More!” presents the Wister Quartet, 3:00pm
Sat. Nov. 5 258th Stiftungsfest, 6:00pm
We. Nov. 9 Konversationsabend, 6:00pm
Sat. Nov. 12 Buchclub, 1:30pm
Fri. Nov. 18 Friday Film Fest. Luther and T, 6:30pm
Sat. Nov. 19 Wandeln at the Willows, 11:00am
Sat. Nov. 19 Library Treasure Tour with Elliott Shore: The Mysteries (Secrets) of Philadelphia, 2:00pm
Sun. Nov. 20 “Wister and More!” presents Joyce Chen and Shelby Yammin, 3:00pm
Sat. Dec. 3 Christkindlmarkt, 12:00pm

Welcome to the Fall Season of the German Society!

The German Society of Pennsylvania is a home for many of us – a place of culture, connection and conversation. We are justifiably proud of our historic building, but programs are where the rubber meets the road.

A new member of our Programs/Marketing working group recently reviewed the list of our fall activities and exclaimed “Wow! I had no idea that the German Society offered so much. We need to spread the word!” And I couldn’t agree more.

This fall we have excellent speakers addressing heritage, literature, politics, social issues like immigration past and present. On September 30, Andrea Wulf – German international author and best seller who writes on topics such as gardening and Alexander von Humboldt - will be speaking at the Society and signing copies of her new book, “Magnificent Rebels. The First Romantics and the Invention of the Self.” We are thrilled to have her! You can also join in the online lecture on “Women Composing for Marian Anderson” on September 14, as well as Friederike Baer’s book talk on Hessian soldiers on October 20. The Library’s Treasure Tours return in November and December to reveal the gems of our Library and archive. And we are working with partners like the American Council on Germany to again bring current German journalists, business leaders, and politicians to talk about what’s going on right now in Europe and how it impacts us here. A new Ratskeller Speaker Series is being planned as a happy hour event with a small talk by interesting locals.

Other programs include our Friday Film Fest series of a light meal and German films (mostly with subtitles), and the excellent Wister & More classical music series. Do you speak German? Are you looking for connection through conversation? Then you can join die nette Runde at the topic-driven Konversationsabend or the new and more informal monthly Stammtisch in our Ratskeller, done together with Netzwerk Philadelphia. Need to learn German? Our German Instruction Program is just what you need. Looking to be more active? You can participate in Gentle Yoga or join in a Wandeln at the Willows.

The last two years have been difficult ones for us all – and at the Society we have needed to cancel many of our signature in-person programs. This Fall, many of those return including our 258th Stiftungsfest and the annual and much beloved Christkindlmarkt. Following the German tradition of “dancing into” a holiday, a dance party on the night before the Stiftungsfest will bring in a new generation to celebrate Society’s founding. There is even more, and all I can say here is – join us, join in, and look on our website for evolving information on all of these events!

- Mark McGuigan, President

Experience the magic of the holiday season at our annual Christkindlmarkt
Saturday, December 3
12:00pm-4:00pm
Enjoy holiday shopping, delicious meals, Kaffee & Kuchen, a carol sing-along, crafts for kids, and a visit from Santa!
2022-2023 Friday Film Fest Program

**The General (2015)**
October 21, 2022 | 6:30pm
German with English subtitles

Germany, 1957. The Attorney General of the state of Hessen, Fritz Bauer, receives crucial evidence on the whereabouts of SS-Obersturmbannführer Adolf Eichmann. Eichmann, who is responsible for the mass deportation of Jews during World War II, is allegedly hiding in Buenos Aires. Bauer, himself Jewish, has been trying to take Nazi criminals to court ever since his return from Danish exile. Since the German government under Konrad Adenauer is not interested in a trial against Eichmann in Germany, Fritz Bauer contacts the Mossad (the Israeli Secret Service). In doing so, he opens himself up to a charge of treason. A dangerous game ensues in this riveting political thriller.

**Luther and I (2017)**
November 18, 2022 | 6:30pm
German with English subtitles

This movie chronicles the story of Katharina von Bora, the woman behind Martin Luther. Ahead of her time, she battled personal fears, laws, and conventions to lead a self-determined life. Her remarkable story begins in the cloister which had been her home since the age of six. But as a young woman, emboldened by Luther’s writings, she dares to break her religious vow and flees with some sisters in search of a better life. She meets Martin Luther in Wittenberg. Their wedding marks the beginning of an entirely new journey as a wife, a successful businesswoman, and the mother of six children. The release of this movie in 2017 commemorated the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation.

**Contra (2020)**
January 20, 2023 | 6:30pm
German with English subtitles

Frankfurt University law professor Richard Pohl is threatened with expulsion from the university after he racially insulted female migrant law student Naima Hamid. When the video goes viral, university president Alexander Lambrecht gives his old friend Pohl a last chance to redeem himself. Being rhetorically highly talented, he is assigned to tutor Hamid for a national debate competition. Pohl and Hamid are equally shocked at this proposal but slowly adjust to each other and achieve some success until Richard becomes aware of the true reason for their “Multi-Kulti” experiment. Sönke Wortmann’s latest work is a fascinating complement to his two previous successful comedies: Der Vorname and Frau Müller muss weg.

**Narziss und Goldmund (2020)**
February 17, 2023 | 6:30pm
German with German subtitles

This movie is an adaptation of the famous novel by Hermann Hesse that was published in 1930. When young Goldmund is sent to the medieval Mariabronn monastery by his father to be educated, he meets the devout Klosterschüler Narziss, who has dedicated himself to the ascetic life of a monk. While they develop a close friendship, Goldmund soon recognizes that this lifestyle conflicts with his desire to pursue a free and unrestrained life. With the encouragement of Narziss he leaves the monastery and embarks on a journey that is filled with adventure, love, and an equal complement of pain and suffering. He discovers his true calling as an artist, and after many years of wandering, returns to Mariabronn having been rescued from death by his old friend Narziss.

**Bekenntnisse des Hochstaplers Felix Krull (2021)**
March 17, 2023 | 6:30pm
German with English subtitles

This is the latest adaptation of Thomas Mann’s unfinished novel. It tells the story of the charming Hochstapler Felix Krull. After he dodges the military draft thanks to his acting abilities, he starts his con man career in the prestigious Saint James Albany Hotel in Paris. There he gets promoted quickly and draws the attention of several female guests, especially the rich Madame Houplit, who is happy to let him take her jewelry as part of her Liebeswunsch. Soon he travels the world pretending to be the noble Marquis de Venosta. His trip takes him to Lisbon, where he makes the acquaintance of Professor Kuckuck and his wife and daughter. While the novel ends abruptly with the passionate encounter between Krull and Kuckuck’s wife, the movie opts for a denouement akin to a fairy tale, aka a happy ending.

**Und der Zukunft zugewandt (2018)**
April 21, 2023 | 6:30pm
German with English Subtitles

The year is 1952 in East Germany. Three women are returning to their home country from over ten years in Soviet incarceration. All three, young communists, had moved to the Soviet Union in the 1930s to participate in building a new political future, but got caught up in Stalin’s infamous arbitrary Stalperunen and were sentenced to long years in harsh gulag prison camps without knowing why. Upon their return to the GDR they are greeted warmly and receive the necessary material support, but are confronted with the demand by a high party official that they remain silent about their experience in the Soviet Union. They reluctantly agree to sign a Schweigegelöbnisse which damps or destroys their beliefs and hopes for the future of socialism in East Germany, since the reality of their past and the political reality in the GDR are utterly irreconcilable. This fictional movie is based on reports and interviews with several eyewitnesses and real events.

**Schachnovelle (2022)**
May 19, 2023 | 6:30pm
German with German subtitles

This Austrian movie is the latest adaptation of the novel by Austrian novelist, playwright, and journalist Stefan Zweig, who wrote this story in 1941, one year before he and his wife died by suicide in exile in Brazil (Vor der Morgenröte) When Austria becomes occupied (or „angeschlossen“) by the Nazi regime in 1938, lawyer Dr. Jossef Bartok is brought to the Gestapo headquarters in Vienna before he and his wife Anna can escape to the United States. Bartok refuses to cooperate with the Nazi officials and provide the access codes to foreign holdings of Austrian monasteries that his law firm manages. When he is put into solitary confinement, he obtains a chess book by chance that helps him to survive his captivity and overcome the mental suffering inflicted upon him.

~ Karl Moehlmann
The Legacy of the Language of the Rights of Man For the Abolitionist Movement in Antebellum America

I began my research by looking at the so-called Democratic Republican Societies in the early American Republic of the 1790s, and their propa- ganda of the Rights of Man. The fact that these rights were not extended to women and the enslaved by most members of these societies, the focus of my project has moved to the contra- diction between universalist propagation and ex- clusivist practice.

Further research conducted prior to my arrival in Philadelphia has shifted my focus to the concept of natural rights held by the members of the De- mocratic Republican Societies. The members fol- lowed a “rights-based” view that was highly property-centered, according to the English com- monwealth tradition. Since the enslaved and (to a lesser degree) women were perceived as prop- erty, members of the societies found it accept- able to exclude these two groups from a claim to natural rights.

In opposition to the “rights-based” view, there existed a “duty-based” perception of natural rights that became highly influential in abolition- ist circles during the time of the Second Great Awakening and the so-called “immediatist” movement. Women played a central role in this movement, especially in Britain and the United States. The duty-based discourse on natural rights questioned the untouchable nature of property if that property was human and poten- tially endowed with virtues. This perception of natural rights has been influenced by a dissent- ing tradition in Pennsylvania that can be traced back to William Penn.

Among the most important sources for my pro- ject at Horner Library was material related to the early German settlers in seventeenth-century Pennsylvania, especially to Francis D. Pastorius’ writings and the Germantown Quakers’ opposi- tion to slavery on the basis of the preeminence of liberty of conscience and liberty of body. The con- cept of liberty of body and the importance of consent are of great timeliness due to current politi- cal and societal debates on matters such as the right to choose, the Me Too and LGBTQ move- ments, etc. My project will therefore engage with how the right to the liberty of body was reflected in abolitionist writings in the eighteenth and nine- teenth centuries.

In the course of the eighteenth century, slavery became more acceptable to Germans living in Pennsylvania, although they continued to define it as a foreign (English) institution, their cultural amalgamation led to a greater degree of tolera- tion of that institution. Pennsylvania Quakers, however, who, due to their unwillingness to serve in the revolutionary militias, lost considerable influence politically, turned to the cause of anti- slavery. Gradual emancipation through manumis- sion was the most common way for the enslaved to achieve freedom. However, this freedom was unprotected by rights, and could therefore be easily infringed upon. The logic of immediacy that was so central to the dissenting tradition, on the other hand, built upon the granting of rights before duties.

In the early nineteenth century it was female Quakers and their transatlantic anti-slavery ac- tivism that promoted this principle the fiercest, before it was taken up by William Lloyd Garrison. My verdict on the Democratic Republican Socie- ties’ contribution to anti-slavery is that their rhetoric, which relied intensively on the denun- ciation of political as opposed to chattel slavery, enabled a later connection between the two in the nineteenth-century discourse of immediate aboli- tionism. Nineteenth-century American abolition- ists, female as well as male, referred to the Decl- aration of Independence, the Rights of Man, and the “Founders,” especially to George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, who were both holding people in bondage, in order to argue against the paternalism toward of southern slaveholders. In their minds, the Founders’ articulation of slavery was nothing other than chattel slavery. Democ- racy, on the other hand, became a negative term due to its association with southern slave power, and the impression it made on those German immi- grants, who arrived in 1848. Slavery stood opposed to the rights of the free laborer.

The Democratic Republican Societies of the 1790s forged a change in the political environ- ment of late eighteenth-century Northern Amer- ica. Many of these societies, including the Demo- cратic Society of Philadelphia that counted mem- bers of the German Society of Pennsylvania, such as Henry Kammerer and Michael Leib, amongst its members, would be revived in the early nine- teenth century under the name “Constitution so- ciety,” upholding the princi- ples of the Declaration of In- dependence, which were fur- ther promoted within and be- yond abolitionist circles.

- Dr. Ariane Viktoria Irmgard Fichtl, Università degli studi di Torino

The Rise of European Cultural Diplomacy: Expatriate Communities, Nationalism and Transnationalism from the 1880s through the Interwar Period

In April 2022, I had the privilege to spend three weeks at the Joseph Horner Memorial Library in Philadelphia thanks to a fellowship awarded by the German Historical Institute, Washington. This research trip was postponed many times owing to the pandemic and the inability for most travel- ers from the EU and the UK to visit the US until November 2021. I’d like to thank Bettina Hess, Frank Trommler, and Bryan Hart for their pa- tience and support in making this fellowship hap- pen.

The purpose of my fellowship was to study cul- tural diplomacy conducted by German Americans and US Germanophiles in the period 1870-1940. This line of enquiry contributes to a broad, book-length project titled “The Rise of European Cul- tural Diplomacy: Expatriate Communities, Nation- alism and Transnationalism from the 1880s through the Interwar Period”. It aims to study the history of European cultural diplomacy in a trans- national perspective, with specific focus on Ger- many, France, and Britain. The project outputs will consist in multiple academic publications in- cluding a monograph provisionally entitled The Rise of European Cultural Diplomacy in Europe and the US. 1870-1940. The resources of the German Society of Pennsyl- vania were invaluable in helping me appreciate
the multiple schemes which German migrants, American Germans, and US Germanophiles designed to spread different images and messages about Germany in Pennsylvania and beyond. During my stay, I read a large number of reports, institutional histories, and pamphlets produced by German clubs and associations, such as the History of Germania Club of Baltimore City (PAM AE 7085). This society, set up by German migrants in 1840 and whose membership peaked in the 1880s and 1890s, had its program of events on cultural and literary productions, mostly in German, but also in English. Certainly, most of its activities targeted the local German population, as was the case of many similar German societies on the East coast. Nonetheless, there was also a real effort on the part of these groups to speak to non-German nationals and individuals with no German family background.

Cultural initiatives such as book tours, exhibitions, and lectures were opportunities for German Americans, or Germanophiles, to reflect on strategies about how to best connect with the wider American public. Several pamphlets analyzed, authors were also at pain to identify the hurdles faced when individuals and communities attempt to disseminate positive images of Germany. For example, James Taft Hatfield, the American philologist and professor at Northwestern University (where he was head of the German department), claimed that German literature had previously had little influence in and around New England, in part because German authors were unable to promote their works in English, or because few Americans were able to speak German. For Hatfield, one key to improving the reputation of Germany was for German Americans and Germans living temporarily in the US to develop their level of English. He noted for example that “An ambassador or Consul-General who cannot, for the life of him, utter the sound ‘th’ makes a sorry impression on superficial persons: his being a Geheimerat, or even an Exzellenz, won’t save him: the average man, who is notoriously stupid, will regard him as an incomplete.”

German Americans or German scholars touring the US also paid careful attention to the influence of other nations in the US, and how these national groups compared with German influence. Various German observers often focused on the same few foreign national groups. James Taft Hatfield considered that Irish migrants had far more influence over the East Coast than Germans (p.69). German music, as historian Jessica Gienow-Hecht has shown was certainly the strongest tool of German cultural diplomacy, yet for Taft Hatfield, the efforts of Italians, French, and Russians in that field ought not to be underestimated by German migrants (p.63).

As I go back to the hundreds of copies that I made during the archive trip, I know I will be able to engage more in depth with these questions of cultural competition, and perhaps cooperation among nations.

— Dr. Charlotte Faucher, Marie Sklodowska-Curie fellow, Université Paris 3 Sorbonne Nouvelle

Partners in Reconciliation: West German-American Cultural Diplomacy, 1945-1965

My research covers the cultural and intellectual reconciliation between the American and West German peoples in the early Cold War period and the exchange of citizens in the first two decades after the Second World War. The United States government recognized that rehabilitation in Germany was not simply political and economic process, but a cultural one as well. German-American organizations on both sides of the Atlantic were critical to this process of rapprochement. In the postwar era, groups such as the German Society of Pennsylvania recommitted themselves to enhancing understanding between the United States and West Germany and supported the shared goal of cultural reconciliation and the transatlantic exchange of citizens. The exchange of ordinary Americans and West Germans served as a crucial diplomatic tool that helped to significantly normalized relations between the erstwhile enemies on a person-to-person basis.

In a recent edition of Staatsbote, GSP President Mark McGuigan said that “connection between people is at the heart of what we do at the German Society,” and I could not agree more. This statement gets at the core of my research project, which is about the importance of networks and person-to-person relationships in fostering transatlantic cooperation, understanding, and reconciliation. While the First and Second World Wars aroused significant suspicion towards German Americans, West German and American citizens highlighted the long historical connections between the German and American peoples and the deep roots of German culture in U.S. history and politics. It is much of the American public that Germans were capable of being rehabilitated just years after public debates where many wondered if Germany could even be permitted to exist at all.

The German Society of Pennsylvania, which was founded over a decade before the start of the American Revolution, is a testament to how deep and enduring these transnational connections go and how their remembrance could be used to help foster a peaceful postwar world. Members of the GSP and other organizations were vital in lobbying the U.S. government to allow for humanitarian efforts to those suffering in Germany. The GSP became an engine of reconciliation by hosting or sponsoring German visitors in the United States (including students and even the Stuttgarter Kickers soccer team), providing material and moral support for immigrants (a central aspect of the GSP going back to its founding), and promoting events celebrating German culture in the Philadelphia area. The German Society was an important part in the history of “the German element” in the United States and helped to form German Americans into a rich cultural and democratic tradition that preexisted and could outlast the Third Reich.

Along these and other lines, my fellowship at the Horner Library opened up significant avenues of research that benefited my writing significantly and even changed the direction and scope of my proposed dissertation. It included the actions and efforts not only of the German Society, but of other organizations such as the Steuben Society of America, Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation, the Red Cross, American Relief for Central Europe, American Friends Service Committee and the Women’s International League to alleviate the suffering of the Population of Central Europe after the end of the war and to contribute to its cultural flourishing after 1947. I am excited the directions opened up by this fellowship.

The German Society and Horner Library are staffed with an incredible team. I would be remiss if I did not emphasize that my research is indebted to Bettina Hess, who was indispensable in helping me to maximize my time during this fellowship. With her help, this summer was more productive than I could have hoped.

— Brandon Kinney, PhD Candidate in History, Temple University, Philadelphia

New Adopt A Book Catalog

A new Adopt A Book catalog has been released and is available on our website! This latest (Fall 2022) edition features books from the Horner Library’s popular science section. Last year, one of our GH summer fellows, Tim Grieve-Carson, “discovered” this collection while conducting research, and was amazed at the number of rare volumes our library holds on mesmerism, somnambulism, and other pseudo-scientific topics that were the subject of serious inquiry in the 19th century. Tim gave a fascinating Treasure Tour based on some of these materials last spring, but we discovered that many of the volumes are in need of repair. We have selected a few particularly interesting titles for our latest book adoption opportunity. You can find the full catalog on the website: http://germansociety.org/Adopt-a-Book-Catalogue-Fall-2022.pdf

When you adopt a book from our collection, you will receive a special Certificate of Adoption, and a “digital bookplate” will appear in the catalog record. You can also adopt a book on behalf of a friend or loved one. Adopted books make great gifts for the bibliophile in your life.

— Bettina Hess
PhillyKinder Sommerlager
1. – 12. August 2022

Nach einer COVID bedingten Zwangspause von zwei Jahren, konnte unser Deutsches Sommerlager in Overbrook diesen Sommer endlich wieder stattfinden.

Für die Vormittage hatten die Lehrerinnen ein interessantes und kreatives Programm vorbereitet. Vor dem gemeinsamen Mittagessen spielten wir lustige Gruppenspiele und nach der Mittagspause waren angeleitete Aktivitäten wie: Wettläufe, Basteln, Origami, Wasserspiele oder freies Spielen angesagt.

Das Leiter/Helferteam war sich einig, dass das kleinere Lager mit nur zwei Gruppen ein voller Erfolg war. Insbesondere das gemeinsame Mittagessen, die gruppenübergreifenden Aktivitäten und vor allem das freie Spielen haben dazu beigetragen, dass die Kinder schnell neue Freundschaften schliessen konnten und ein schönes Gemeinschaftsgefühl entstanden ist.

Am letzten Tag haben wir die Kinder noch gefragt, was ihnen am Sommerlager am besten gefallen hat. Hier sind die Antworten.

- Emil, 10: die Schnitzeljagd, Brettspiel, Wasserspiele
- Matilda, 10: Wasserspiele
- Ella, 9: Charlotte, 9: Wasserspiele, Basteln
- Till, 8, Yann, 6: Fußball spielen, Flugzeuge und Raketen basteln, Schnitzeljagd

Für das Sommerlagerteam (Manuela, Susanna, Ines, Antje, Maya, Mia, Lukas)

-Claudia Hail

Jasper, 7: Raketen- und Flugzeuge fliegen lassen
Nick, 7: Raketen, Gruppenspiele
Neil, 8: Wasserspiele, McDonalds spielen in der Sandkiste
Sierra, 6: Neue Kinder kennenlernen und neue Freunde finden
Zoe, 10: Basteln, McDonalds spielen, eigentlich alles
Sigrid, 8: Pizza machen, Brettspiel, Gruppenspiele
Julie, 10: Pizza und Kekse backen, Basteln und Spielen
Kai, 10: Im Sommerlager hat man immer Pause und man kann endlich wieder einmal richtig schön Spielen.

Liesel, 8: Spielen, Wasserspiele
Lina, 8: Mittagessen, Feen Garten, Raketen basteln
Maya, 16: Interaktive Experimente, Gruppenspiele, Lesen und Spielen mit den Kindern
Mia, 17: Pizza und Kekse backen und danach gemeinsames Essen mit den Kindern

Das diesjährige PhillyKinder Sommerlager hat uns allen ganz viel Spaß gemacht und wir freuen uns schon auf nächsten Sommer!

Das PhillyKinder Programm inkl. Sommerlager, wurde von Eltern aufgebaut, die ein Programm in dieser Art für ihre Kinder gesucht haben. Auch nach 10 lebt unser Programm weiterhin vom aktiven Einbringen vieler Eltern. Wer Zeit und Lust hat sich bei uns Einzubringen – auch ohne pädagogischem Hintergrund – sollte sich zunächst bei uns per Email an phillykinder@gmail.com melden oder in Overbrook mit uns ins Gespräch kommen.

Recommende Corner
Magnificent Rebels: The First Romantics and the Invention of the Self
Fri. Sep. 30, 2022 – 6:00pm
At the German Society of Pennsylvania

Join us for a special talk by New York Times best-selling author Andrea Wulf who comes with an exhilarating story about a remarkable group of rebels who changed the way we think about ourselves and the world.

The Jena Set included poets and playwrights (Goethe, Schiller, and Novalis), philosophers (Fichte, Schelling, and Hegel), literary critics (the contentious Schlegel brothers) and scientists (Alexander von Humboldt), and at their heart – the formidable and free-spirited Caroline Schlegel. The first Romantics, their unconventional lives were laboratories for their radical ideas – about the creative power of the self, the aspirations of art and science, nature and the true meaning of freedom. In Magnificent Rebels, Andrea Wulf takes us on a vivid journey through their adventures and misadventures, passionate love affairs and epic quarrels, successes and heartbreak. We are still empowered today by their daring leap into the self.

German-British historian Andrea Wulf is an award-winning author of several books, including The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt's New World, a New York Times bestseller and winner of fifteen international literary awards. For more information see www.andrewwulf.com.

Buchclub: Das Parfum: Eine Geschichte eines Mörders by Patrick Süskind

Looking for a good read from a current German writer? Our Buchclub is reading the 1985 bestseller, later turned into the internationally acclaimed movie. This literary historical fantasy novel by Patrick Süskind is also available in English under the title: Perfume: Story of a Murderer and explores the sense of smell and its relationship with the emotional meanings of scent. Viel Spaß beim Lesen!

-Mark McGuigan
Music Notes - Old, new, borrowed, and blue  
A marriage of styles and repertoire

It has always been my desire to hear something old (Baroque music), something new (Lloyd Smith’s Quartet No. 3 and the Cateen and Kiechan Karabay), something borrowed (Tico Tico no Fuba), and something blue (Duke Ellington/Billy Strayhorn’s ‘Tone in music programming, and I am happy to say that the 2022–23 Wister Series fulfilled my wish.

Xiaopei Xu and Chi-Wei Lo will play Mozart, Smetana, and Billy Strayhorn/Duke Ellington on Sunday, September 25. Their program includes the Rossini William Tell Overture arranged for four hands by L. M. Gottschalk, Tico Tico no Fuba, a tune which all of you dancers will know, and the wildest piece ever for four hands called Kaburaya.

On Sunday, October 30, 2022, the Wister Quartet will play Mozart’s “Dissonant” Quartet No. 19 in C Major. Mozart’s dissonance will not shock a concertgoer of our era, but it is intriguing to think that Mozart wrote what in his day would have been wildly experimental harmonic explorations. They will also play two Beethoven quartets and Quartet No. 3 by cellist member Lloyd Smith.

Joyce Chen is a gifted harpsichordist, harpsichord builder, and an able producer of her own online concert for the German Society. This time she will perform with Shelby Yamin. Ms. Yamin was the winner of the Julliard Historical Performance Concerto Competition and an active performer on both modern and baroque violin. Teleman, Schmelzer, and Couperin are on the program, but I would not be surprised if they introduce an unfamiliar eighteenth-century female composer.

On December 11, the Pyxis Piano Trio will play the Schumann Phantasiestücke, Opus 88, which is lovely bonbon from the Romantic era. They are also performing the Dvořák Piano Trio in F minor, Opus 81, and they frequently play some South American music, too.

Claire Huangci will give the first concert of 2023 on February 5, playing the Schubert Piano Sonata in B-flat major, D 960, Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue version for piano solo, and a selection of Rachmaninov Preludes.

It is very exciting that the wonderful Estrella Piano Duo are going introduce us to both Ukrainian composers Mykola Vitaliyvych Lysenko of Kiev and Nikolai Kapustin, a Ukrainian-born Russian whose Burlesque the Karlsruher Konzert-Duo played at the GSP in 2019, and Russian composer Sergei Bortkiewicz on February 9. The pianists who are now bona fide Chicagoans were raised and trained in Russia and Ukraine. The German Society is coordinating with Ukrainian churches and organizations from the area to present this special concert.

The Casimir Trio will play on March 26, 2023. Their program includes the W. H. Squire Tarantella and Danze Rustique, the Ralph Vaughan Williams Violin Sonata in A minor, and the Piano Trio in D minor by British composer and female activist, Dame Ethel Smith.

The season will be completed with a spring concert by the Karlsruher Konzert-Duo on April 16, 2023. They will play Schumann’s Fünf Stücke im Volksston, Opus 102, Elegy by Franz Liszt, and the formidable Sonata for Cello and Piano by Claude Debussy.

- Margaret Darby

Development Report

In preparation for this issue of the Staatsbote I googled the word “philanthropy” and found the following definition for the noun: the desire to promote the welfare of others, expressed especially by the generous donation of money to good causes; “he acquired a considerable fortune and was noted for his philanthropy.” Yes, this definition might apply to Bill Gates, John D. Rockefeller, Andrew Mellon, and many others. But it can also apply to any of us who are not part of America’s super-rich families. We are philanthropic or just plain generous when we donate to our favorite charities, including the German Society of Pennsylvania, through annual fund donations, special gifts to support events, donations to the Horner Memorial Library, and legacy gifts, large or small, through our estate plans.

Legacy gifts can be provided for by designating the Society a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or an IRA account. You can direct the executor of your will to make a donation to the Society in your name or to donate appreciated assets which will likely benefit estate tax liabilities. Please consult with your accountant or attorney to explore what might be an attractive option for you.

If it is your intention to include the Society in your estate plans, please let us know — we would like to include your name in our Linden Society under the Legacy Gift category. We would also be happy to talk to you about specific options. Please contact the office and we will set up a meeting or a phone conversation.

- E. D. Weiler

In Memoriam: Barbara Pfefferkorn

We recently learned that Barbara Pfefferkorn passed away on June 11, 2022 at the Quadrangle in Haverford, Pa. Barbara was born in a small village in Thuringia, Germany. She grew up in Borken, Westphalia, West Germany, with her parents and three siblings Franziska, Karolina, and Raif. She studied English literature and history at the University of Muenster in West Germany, where she met her husband, Hermann. She received her master’s degree in English literature from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

The Pfefferkorns lived in Urbana, Muenster, Philadelphia, and Heidelberg; with most of their life spent in Philadelphia. As the children grew older, Barbara worked closely with her husband as his editor and assistant. They traveled the world together visiting various geologic field research sites, including many in Peru and China.

We remember Barbara as a kind and caring person with a wonderful sense of humor. She was active in the Women’s Auxiliary of the German Society for many years and was a member of the International Women’s Club of Philadelphia and the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church. Hermann and Barbara participated actively in our Conversationsabend and presented interesting observations from their research trips to China and elsewhere.

Our sympathy goes out to Barbara’s husband Hermann of 53 years, as well as the Pfefferkorn family.

- E. D. Weiler