

Calendar of Events

Sat. Jan. 14	Buchclub, 1:30pm
Sun. Jan. 15	German-Jewish Brewing Workshop at Rodeph Shalom, 10am
Thurs. Jan. 19	1700 Years of Jewish Life in German-Speaking Lands - Reception and Exhibit Opening, 7:00pm
Fri. Jan. 20	Friday Film Fest: <i>Contra</i> , 6:30pm
Sat. Jan. 21	Wandern at the Willows, 11:00am
Sun. Jan. 22	An Afternoon of Madrigals, 3:00pm
Fri. Jan. 27	Shabbat Service and Dinner at Rodeph Shalom, 6:00pm
Sun. Jan. 29	Lecture by Nora Krug, Author of <i>Heimat: ein deutsches Familienalbum / Belonging: A German Reckons with History and Home</i> , 3:00pm
Sun. Feb. 5	Gentle Yoga, 11:00am
Sun. Feb. 5	"Wister and More!" presents Claire Huangci, piano, 3:00pm
Sat. Feb. 11	Buchclub, 1:30pm
Sun. Feb. 12	Youth Chamber Music Showcase, 3:00pm
Fri. Feb. 17	Friday Film Fest: <i>Narziss und Goldmund</i> , 6:30pm
Sat. Feb. 18	Wandern at the Willows, 11:00am
Sat. Feb. 18	Karneval Party, 8:00pm
Sun. Feb. 19	"Wister and More!" presents EStrella Piano Duo, 3:00pm
Sat. Feb. 25	10th Annual Philly Bierfest, 2:30pm
Sun. Mar. 5	Gentle Yoga, 11:00am
Sat. Mar. 11	Buchclub, 1:30pm

In this issue...

GSP Fall Season	1	Music Notes	4
In Memoriam	2	Saving the Liberty Bell	5
Youth Chamber Music Showcase	2	Development Report	5
Library Research Projects	3	PhillyKinder - Good to be Back (to Normal)	6

Bösendorfer

Youth Music Festival

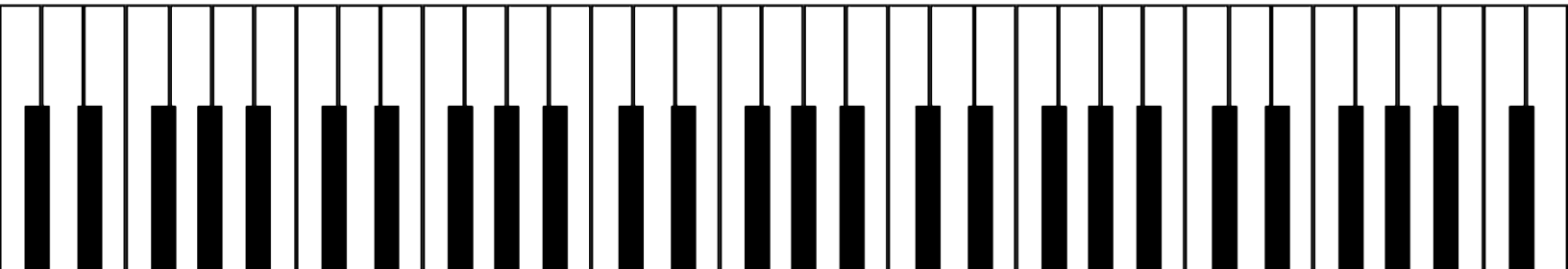
Calling all young musicians, vocalists, and ensembles!

Individual instrumental musicians, vocalists, and ensembles grade 1-12 are invited to enter our 3rd Annual Bösendorfer Youth Music Festival!

Register and submit your YouTube audition video for a chance to perform in a final concert for the public.

Registration will be open from January 9, 2022 until 5:00pm on February 24, 2022.

Questions? Call the GSP at 215-627-2332 or email info@germansociety.org.



The German Society

of Pennsylvania

Neuer Pennsylvanischer
Staatsbote

CELEBRATING

1764 250 2014

YEARS OF

GERMAN
HERITAGE

Winter 2023

German Jewish Heritage Series at the German Society

About a year ago, I received an invitation to the German Ambassador's Residence in Washington to view a small exhibit produced by the noted German Jewish historical organization, the **Leo Baeck Institute (LBI)**. The exhibit, entitled "1700 Years of Jewish Life in the German-speaking Lands" consisted of 12 large free-standing panels that used photos of select artifacts and text to describe the intertwined histories of Jews and non-Jews in Germany.

This history is understandably overwhelmed by the reality of the Holocaust – an event whose shadow obscures the centrality of German Jews to the shared heritage of all Germans and the impact of German culture on Jews and Judaism. Already in 1930s, events in Germany contributed to a break between German Jews and other Germans in the United States – including here in Philadelphia and at the German Society, as documented in a history of the Society, "Ethnicity Matters" (German Historical Institute, 2005).

The LBI exhibit seemed like a golden opportunity to highlight German Jewish heritage as a critical part of German identity. We reached out to **Congregation Rodeph Shalom** – the first synagogue (1794) in Philadelphia to embrace the German form of worship. Not only is Rodeph Shalom a neighbor, but our own archives show its German-trained Rabbis speaking at the Society in the 19th century.

Sometimes the right moment arrives. We were welcomed warmly by Rabbi Eli Freedman of Rodeph Shalom and by Rabbi David Strauss of

the **Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC)**. Together, we agreed to bring the LBI exhibit to Philadelphia and launch a series of programs that explore the shared heritage of Jewish and non-Jewish Germans and reflects on how this has continued to evolve in the post-Holocaust era both here and in Germany.

From **January 19-29**, the German Society will host the exhibit "1700 Years of Jewish Life in the German-speaking Lands". An opening reception and talk by LBI Executive Director, **Dr. Markus Krah**, launches our series on **Thursday, January 19**. On **Friday, January 27**, Rodeph Shalom will host us at a special **Shabbat Service and Dinner**. The service will showcase German Jewish liturgical music and tours of their own **Obermeyer Collection**. With us will be the young German volunteers with **Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste/Action Reconciliation Service for Peace** to talk about their service here and work in German/Jewish dialogue.

Finally, on **Sunday, January 29**, a closing reception will be held with a very special speaker: author **Nora Krug**, author of *Heimat: Ein deutsches Familienalbum / Belonging, A German Reckons with History*. In her graphic novel, this Karlsruhe native explores what it means to be German in the post-Holocaust era and reflects on the truth her own family's stories from the Nazi period as well as on her encounter with the Jews and Jewish communities in her professional and personal life.

More programs are being planned for the

winter and spring of 2023; as a start, Rodeph Shalom will host a small demonstration and talk on the topic of **German Jewish beer brewing on Sunday, January 8**. More information the January 2023 events will shortly be available on our website.

We are grateful to our partners but also to our sponsors: **Allianz of America** and the **Consulate General New York**, whose financial support makes all this possible. And we look forward to seeing many of you at this exciting and groundbreaking series!

- Mark McGuigan, President

In Memoriam: Victor P. Myloradowycz



We recently learned from Jane Miloradovich that her husband Victor passed away suddenly on October 10, following a brief illness. Victor was born in Salzburg, Austria and came to the United States as a child. After college he had a long, established career in procurement and engineering.

He was member of the German Society of Pennsylvania and very much enjoyed practicing his native language. He was an active member of two small groups that meet regularly and conduct their meetings in the German – the Buchclub and the Konversationsabend. He was always an active participant with many original ideas. His friends in these two groups will miss his many contributions.

Our sympathy goes out to Jane, his wife of 38 years, his son Michael, as well as the Miloradovich family.

- E. D. Weiler

Calling All High School Chamber Music Groups Performance Opportunity!

On February 12, 2023 at 3 PM the German Society of Pennsylvania will host the 2023 Youth Chamber Music Showcase. Any ensemble formation, such as a string trio or quartet, an ensemble with piano, a wind, brass, or percussion group, etc. can sign up by February 1, 2023 to perform about 10-15 minutes from their repertoire. The final program will be chosen by February 6, and at that time the program order and time allotted for each group will be set. Before the concert each group will be assigned a brief warm-up period to get used to the stage.

The 3 PM concert on February 12 will be free and open to the public.

The German Society is located in an historic building at 611 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123. More info at www.germansociety.org.

The Society's beautiful Auditorium features outstanding acoustics where guest artists perform in an annual concert series. There is a Bösendorfer grand piano on stage. The concert will be recorded, and each group will be able to receive an audio recording of its performance.

The German Society of Pennsylvania is proud and pleased to invite student musicians, their parents and friends, and our fellow residents of the Philadelphia region to this exciting musical event!

- Chuck Holdeman, showcase coordinator
Email: chholdeman@yahoo.com
Cell: 302 559 9812



The German Society
of Pennsylvania
611 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123
215-627-2332
info@germansociety.org
www.germansociety.org

Research Projects at the Horner Library

The library may seem like a quiet space, but many people make use of its wealth of resources without ever setting foot in the building. Outside of the German Historical Institute-sponsored fellows who visit the library every summer, I receive regular emails from people wanting to make use of the Horner Library for both personal and academic research. Researchers who want to access information on German and German-American history find out about our holdings through many different avenues. **WorldCat**, the international database where our catalog records can be found, is often the first access point to our holdings. **The Philadelphia Area Archives Research Portal** hosts the finding aids to our archival collections, which can also be accessed through **ArchiveGrid**. And of course, library users can also view our catalog and Research Guide on the GSP website.

Many people, especially since the pandemic began, are not able to travel to Philadelphia, but can still make use of our resources by emailing their inquiries and asking for assistance. Sometimes this entails scanning documents (for a fee) or finding information in a particular book. Sometimes, people need help deciphering personal records because they are written in the old German script. The variety of queries I receive is wide-ranging and always interesting.

Here are a few examples of research questions I received in the past several months:

- A university student from Germany writing his thesis on Heinrich Keppele, first president of the German Society, used digitized copies of Keppele's manuscript "Geburtsregister" and "Familienbuch" along with a transcription of the latter in his research.
- An individual writing an article for an academic journal on the history of the German Reformed Church in Philadelphia was able to make use of the transcription of the German Society's first minute book, dating to 1764, as well as information from Oswald

Seidensticker's history of the German Society. The transcription of the *Protokollbuch* was recently completed after two years of diligent work by the library's Transcription Tuesday group, and has made the earliest GSP records accessible to people who can not read the old handwriting.

- A researcher from Austria compiling a comprehensive bibliography of German theater journals, to be published in December 2022, included several items from our German American Collection, including a 19th century souvenir program of the Germania Theater in Philadelphia.
- A physician from Mt. Sinai Hospital was researching a 19th century doctor at the hospital's predecessor, the Jewish Hospital of the City of New York. He contacted me for help deciphering an 1866 letter written to the doctor, which turned out to be from a prominent rabbi in Prague, written during the Austro-Prussian War.
- An individual inherited an oil painting labeled "Emile Roesler," but had no other information. Through our Research Guide, he found out about the Gustav Adolf Roesler Collection, which contains papers of Roesler, a 48er who emigrated to the US after escaping from Hohenalpsberg Prison, along with other family members. I was able to confirm that the painting was of Gustav's brother, Ludwig Emil Roesler, by comparing it to a small portrait of him in our Roesler collection, as well as sending him some additional family information.



Ludwig Emil
Roesler

These are just a few examples of the varied research queries I receive, which make being librarian of this wonderful library so interesting!

- Bettina Hess, Librarian

Music Notes

Three wonderful concerts launch the 2022-2023 Wister series

Xiaopei Xu and Chi-Wei Lo gave an exuberant season opening concert on September 25. Chi-Wei Lo is a doctoral candidate at the New England Conservatory majoring in contemporary piano improvisation. He proved his skills by “taking the top” off and spinning it for the Giachino Rossini *William Tell Overture* arranged for four hands by Louis Moreau Gottschalk. Xiaopei Xu has also stepped into the improvisatory ring and added a few new twists to the Mozart *Sonata in D Major, K381*. The duo’s youth and expressiveness made the performance exhilarating. They ended the concert with the fancy fireworks of *Kaburaya* as performed by Cateen and Keichen (which you can find on YouTube). Cateen, who composed the piece, is a phenomenally talented classical pianist from Japan who performs Chopin under his real name, Hayato Sumino, but *Kaburaya* is untamed frenzy.

On Sunday, October 30, 2022, the Wister Quartet played Mozart’s “*Dissonant*” *Quartet No. 19 in C major* and Beethoven’s *Quartet in A Major, Opus 18, No. 5* with their new second violinist, Meichen Liao-Barnes, the Associate Concertmaster of the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia. (If you heard their concert at AVA this fall, you would know that she is settling well in the quartet). I particularly enjoyed Lloyd Smith’s *Quartet in A Minor, Opus 24* which was a five-movement piece he had been working on for eight years. He incorporated some themes from his “Young Composers Project” in the



The Wister Quartet
Photo by Hardy von Auenmueller

fourth movement. It is a very moving piece which he used to express the shock of the pandemic and his students’ horror at mass shootings. The quartet played an encore of Brahms’ *Hungarian Dance No. 4* – a fun finale.

On Sunday, November 20, 2022, Joyce Chen brought a harpsichord she had made herself. She and Shelby Yamin, baroque violin, played a concert of Baroque music which they called “All the Wild Things” because the repertoire imitates the sounds of the nightingale, the cuckoo, frogs, cock and hen, quail, cats, canaries, bees, and butterflies – and they did not hold back in making their instruments crow, croak, and cat around. It was both amusing and showed off their prodigious talents. Ms. Yamin, who has researched and records lesser-known eighteenth century repertoire, also breathes life into them in her performances. Dr. Chen has a PhD in Harpsichord Performance from Stony Brook University and is writing a dissertation for her second doctorate from Princeton University.

There are so many musical events coming up at the German Society! Pyxis Piano Trio will perform Schumann and Dvořák on December 11 at 3 pm, Claire Huangci will give a concert including Gershwin, Schubert, and Rachmaninov on February 5, 2023, and the Estrella Piano Duo will return on February 19 with a special musical salute to composers from Ukraine and Russia – so inextricably entwined in culture yet divided in war.

On February 12, 2023 the German Society of Pennsylvania will host the 2023 Youth Chamber Music Showcase. The 3 PM concert on February 12 will be free and open to the public. Please let any music teachers and students you know about the performance opportunity. They need to sign up by February 1, 2023. For more information, contact the showcase coordinator Chuck Holdeman at chholdeman@yahoo.com or 302.599.9812.

– Margaret Darby

Saving the Liberty Bell

Philadelphians can go to bed each night, confident that the nation’s beloved Liberty Bell — entrusted to the City of Brotherly Love since it arrived from England in 1752 — is safely ensconced at Independence National Historical Park.

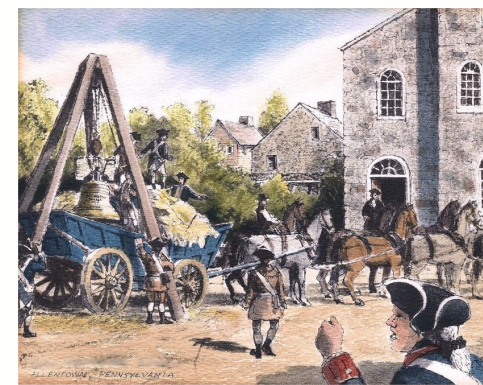
But for those who lived in Philadelphia during the Revolutionary War, the iconic symbol of freedom was thought to be in peril. After General George Washington’s defeat at the Battle of Brandywine on September 11, 1777, the city found itself defenseless against the British.

One of the greatest concerns was the safety of the Liberty Bell — known then as the Pennsylvania State House Bell — for it was feared the British would melt it down to make arms for their soldiers. A plan was thus devised to hasten the bell out of the city, secreted in a cart amongst a jumble of hay and compost.

Traveling nearly fifty miles northward from Philadelphia, the horse-drawn cart arrived in Allentown on September 24. The village had been founded just fifteen years earlier, in 1762, and was home to the High German Evangelical Reformed Church.

Hoisting the 2,080-pound bell from the wagon, German-born farmer Frederick Leaser and his workmates hid the great symbol under the floorboards of the church. There it remained for nine months, until the British left Philadelphia on June 18, 1778.

– Lynne Breen



A watercolor sketch by Davis Gray of the arrival of the Liberty Bell at the High German Evangelical Reformed Church on September 24, 1777.

Development Report

For the past 13 years, we have worked diligently to establish several endowments to help assure the long-term viability of the German Society with the objective that 20-22% of our annual funding needs, in addition to \$50,000 per year for capital projects, will be met from endowed investments. During this time we received \$1.44MM in donations, and the current account balance for the General Endowment Fund is \$1.76MM. After reaching the interim goal of \$2.00MM in December 2021, we set long-term goals of \$4.00MM for the General Endowment Fund and \$1.5MM for the Horner Memorial Library Endowment Fund, respectively. We are far from these new goals, and it will likely take us some time to reach them. And as market results have shown us in 2022, economic conditions can have both positive and negative impacts on our financial holdings.

Many institutions look toward legacy gifts to achieve their funding goals. These gifts are not predictable and may not come to the institution for some time. In the past 13 years we have received one legacy gift in the amount of \$25,000. Nevertheless, these gifts are an important tool in efforts to grow an endowment.

Thirty-one GSP members have informed us of their intention to include the Society in their estate plans; their names are listed under the Legacy section of the Linden Society.

If you plan to include the Society in your estate plans – and we encourage you to seriously consider this option – we ask that you complete the pledge form, included in this mailing of the *Staatsbote*, and return it to the office. The amount does not need to be specified. For some individuals, listing the Society as the beneficiary of a retirement account or life insurance policy is an easy option which does not require a codicil to a will. This option also allows for many organizations or family members to benefit from the same investments. As always, we would be delighted to discuss specific questions you might have.

– E. D. Weiler

PhillyKinder – It's good to be back (to normal)

Our PhillyKinder program is in full swing, and on Thursday afternoons the church building in Overbrook is humming with life and German chatter. After the first few weeks of orientation, most have settled into their (new) Thursday afternoon routine and are making progress in either rekindling friendships or forging new bonds.

This year, which is PhillyKinder's 11th year, 64 students participate in our in-person classes in Overbrook including new and returning students. Our Wednesday *Online Classes* are doing well also, with students from 1st through 12th grade attending these; some of the older students only recently made the switch from the in-person to the online program. The continued interest in our *Online AP Prep Plus Class* is encouraging and a great opportunity for our students to prepare for an exam that supports their college applications. There continue to be two *Einsteiger - German for Beginners* classes, one for younger and one for older students. Both classes are offered online on Tuesday afternoons. A total of 33 students are currently enrolled in our virtual programs. Eight *Waldkindergarten* families roamed the beautiful woods of the Schuylkill Center for Environ-



mental Education for eight weeks on Saturday mornings. One of the highlights was a Halloween inspired magical day in the woods where magic wands and stars were crafted, and the group went on a hunt through the forest to find the lost dragon of the witch.

While the pandemic allowed us to branch out into online teaching and we have been able to continue connecting with students as far as Florida this year, we are truly enjoying (re-) forming bonds in person in our classes in Overbrook. The 2021/22 school year was a first step back to 'a new normal', but our class sizes were kept deliberately small, capping groups at eight students. A masking policy for all was en-

forced, and strict Covid guidelines were implemented. Throughout the year, the youngest did not have access to vaccinations, and the ever-changing Covid-related policies kept us on our toes. In the end, a great part of the year and of our energy was invested in providing as many classes for as many of our participants as possible on any given Thursday! As a result, our classes became 'pods', and there was little to no interaction within the program. Events we typically celebrated together as a community, like the *Martinsumzug*, *Adventssingen*, *Karneval*, and the *Abschlussfeier*, were for the most part only celebrated within each group. These yearly, traditional events are among the highlights of the year for students, teachers, and parents alike. There were positives to celebrating in a small and cozy atmosphere, but at the same time, it became clear, especially after a very positive and successful summer camp, how starved everybody was for community (events).

With the beginning of the 2022/23 school year, we allowed our class sizes to increase to 10-12 students once again. We were very happy to see several students return to the in-person program, either after participating online for the past two years or after having taken a break. We also welcomed several new families and are especially happy to report that enrollment in our preschool-aged groups – which was always a strong pillar of our program – is back to pre-pandemic numbers.

Going back to 'normal' has revitalized our efforts to take up projects once again that we enjoyed greatly before the pandemic. The 5th graders of *Schlaue Füchse 1* group with Sonja Srama-Souder already produced a delightful *Kasperletheater* and performed it for all of the



younger students in Overbrook. The 3rd graders of the *ABC Schützen 2* from Claudia Hail have reignited a tradition of buddy reading. They visited the *Junge Entdecker* classes of preschoolers and Kindergarteners and read to them. And our oldest students in Overbrook, the 7th graders, are developing a *Schnitzeljagd* for the 4th and 5th graders to enjoy later on in the year.

In other news, on November 10, we were delighted to bring back our tradition of celebrating the *Martinsfest* and lantern parade in Overbrook. All *Schlaue Füchse* students and the *ABC Schützen 1* contributed to the success of the evening by performing a modernized adaptation of the Sankt Martin story and introducing everybody to the song "Ich hab einen gelben Mond".

Susanna Ding expertly planned the events, and we are thankful to Jessica Tremblay and Christopher Sullivan for coming out on a cold night to support us musically. The evening concluded on the playground with hot apple cider and soft pretzels. Thanks to our amazing teachers, all students created wonderful lanterns in the lessons leading up to the event, which shone colorful and bright at the lantern parade. It was a great new beginning of celebrating together once again in Overbrook.



On November 13, several PhillyKinder Board Members and teachers led the effort to revive the PhillyKinder *Märchenstunde*, a family afternoon at the German Society with storytelling, crafts, and *Kaffee und Kuchen*. The theme for the event was *Martinstag*. The children decorated paper lanterns and learned about the story of Sankt Martin, before everybody set out on a lantern parade around the neighborhood. More than 30 families participated in this event, many of whom were new to the GSP and PhillyKinder. The event was well received and

concluded with hot apple cider and pretzels by a bonfire on the Leidy Terrace. Many thanks to Mark McGuigan for helping with the logistics of this event. PhillyKinder hopes to resume the *Märchenstunde* in 2023 in cooperation with the German Society.



The next highlight of the year is already well underway. The winter choir started rehearsals back in October and is performing once again at the German Society's *Christkindlmarkt* and the Christmas Village in Philadelphia. Nearly 20 singers as young as seven years old have stayed after their PhillyKinder classes and diligently worked with Jessica Tremblay on Thursday nights. This year's program will be a mix of songs to celebrate the holidays of Christmas and Hanukkah, the winter season, and peace on earth. The PhillyKinder community *Adventssingen* is always a particularly festive way to conclude the calendar year before winter break. Congregating around cozy lights and through the sound of music, paired with the opportunity to socialize over delightful seasonal treats to ring out the year – adults and children have all missed this special occasion. We are delighted to bring it back, and the meaning of creating new memories for our younger generation of PhillyKinder has never rung more true.

May 2023 bring us and the readership of *Der Staatsbote* many more celebratory moments that are meaningful and important for our communities.

Wir wünschen allen Familien und Freunden der PhillyKinder sowie den Mitgliedern der German Society ein erlebnisreiches und gutes neues Jahr.

- Birgit Splitt und das
PhillyKinder Team

