

Annual Members Meeting and Board Elections

On Sunday, June 4, 2023 at 3:00pm, the German Society will hold its 2023 Annual Meeting and Elections for Directors and Officers.

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 2, 2023. 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. Members at the Associate level (\$30/year) are not eligible to vote in our elections; if you an Associate member and would like to upgrade your membership, or if you have any other questions about your membership status, please contact our office.

Vision statements of the slate of candidates can be found on the following pages. There are five openings for Directors on the Board in the class of 2026 and one opening in the class of 2025. There are six candidates running for these positions. The following Officer positions are also up for election: President, Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, VP of Advancement, VP of Operations, and VP of Strategic Planning.

This year, members will also be asked to vote on several By-Law amendments and the GSP's Investment Policy, which are included in this mailing as a separate document. The amendments are separated into two groups:

- Those drafted by the Governance Committee in 2022 and approved by the Board, but not submitted to the members for last year's Annual Meeting, and
- A more recent group that were approved by the Board earlier this year.

Officer Candidates



President: Mark McGuigan

For the last two years I have had the honor to serve as President of the German Society of Pennsylvania with a great team of officers, board members, volunteers, and staff. This year, we have returned to holding in-person signature events like the Wister Concert Series, the Stiftungsfest and Bierfest. At the same time, we have created a host of new programs like the German Jewish Heritage Series, gatherings to support German instructors in the region, the upcoming event honoring German Consul General David Gill, and more informal events like our PartyAG dance parties. New programs have meant new partners, new audiences, and new members for the Society.

Building relationships that support our mission, expands our programs, enhances our reputation, and increases our reach are core goals. After 18 years of working in German heritage, language, culture, and transatlantic bridge building, I am grateful to have the opportunity to continue to this work at the Society.



Secretary: Bill Hardham

Although my surname is English, my genealogical research shows that I am 13% German, so part of my interest in things German has a genetic basis. Also, in 1961, I spent a year doing chemical research in a Max Planck Institute in Germany and developed an appreciation for German science and culture. Since joining GSP nearly 30 years ago, I have volunteered by serving food at Christmas bazaars, painting the interior and exterior (including the roof a few years ago!) of our treasured building. As a 14-year Board member, I have served on the Nominating and Children's Programs committees, helped to

lead efforts to create our endowment and annual strategic plans for each committee, and a 5-year Capital Spending Plan. Most recently, I have carried on these planning tasks as a VP and served as Secretary and am happy to stand again for Secretary. I have taken and promptly published minutes for numerous organizations that I have served; it just comes naturally! As a GSP officer, I will do my best to further the understanding of German and German American contributions to the growth of American history and culture.



Assistant Treasurer: Jackie Binstead

I have worked in nonprofit accounting for most of my career. I would be honored to use my experience to help continue the excellent accounting and financial work which the Finance Committee does, in order to help support the mission and programs of the German Society.



VP of Strategic Planning: Harold Glass

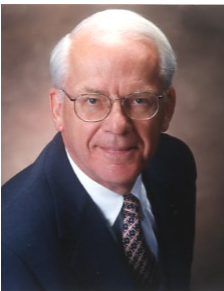
I am currently VP of Strategic Planning and am running for a second term. I have worked and published in the areas of econometrics and strategic planning.

My focus during my time on the board has been on strategic planning and financial matters. I am also a member of the finance committee.

I have started and sold two companies to NY stock exchange companies and certainly learned the strategic and operational importance of sound planning and management.

During my academic career I held several positions in the US and Europe. I am retired

now as Dean's Professor at the University of the Sciences. My graduate work was at the London School of Economics (MSc.Econ.) and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Ph.D.



VP of Advancement: Ernie Weiler

My activity will focus on funding capital projects and endowments of the Society. Our vision is to support 20% of the budget from endowments. This is a compelling objective needed to secure cultural, social, and educational programs for generations to come.

Financially it is a stretch goal, especially since our Board established longer range targets of \$4.00MM for the General Endowment and \$1.5MM for the Library Endowment, respectively.

The current balances are close to \$2.00MM and \$1.0MM for the two endowments. Furthermore, we hope that members and friends of the Society consider

legacy gifts. Moreover, we will work with the foundations that provided most of the funds required for recent capital improvements. Renovation of the façade is probably the last remaining major project – this multi-year project will likely cost \$1.00MM.



VP of Operations: Tony Michels

I am honored that you have given me the opportunity to serve as President of the GSP from 2015 till 2021. I am proud of what we have accomplished together, and I am asking

for your support in allowing me to continue to serve the German Society in the role of Vice President of Operations for the next two years.

For those who have known me during the past 15 years, it is certainly no surprise that I have a clear vision for my work here at the German Society of Pennsylvania. In the German Society, I found a home away from home and many people with whom I share common

goals for the future of the organization. As President, as well as in my former role as Executive Vice President (2009-2015), I was fortunate to be able to spend significant time involved in organizing the day-

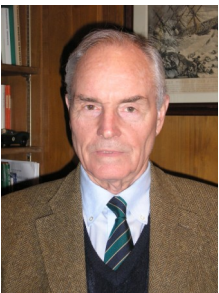
to-day business, focusing on the development of the organization including outreach, preparing our building to serve our needs for the years to come, and establishing a professional administration.

Director Candidates



Christina Frei

Christina Frei currently serves as the Executive Director of Language Instruction for the School of Arts & Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania, as well as Academic Director of the Penn Language Center and Adjunct Associate Professor for Penn's Graduate School of Education. In her professional life, she specializes in constructivist curriculum design, intercultural communication, and diverse applications of technology for teaching and learning world languages and cultures. She co-authored a textbook for introductory/intermediate German language and culture: *Augenblicke German through Film, Media and Texts*, 2021. She brings with her a passion for second language acquisition, curriculum design, and digital pedagogy.



Hans K. Mueller

I have seen many changes and much progress during my more than 40 years of GSP membership, including 15 years as a member of the Board and Executive Committee. We have come a long way. It has not always been smooth and uncontentious, but much has been accomplished. I am thinking of the elevator, Leidy Terrace, geothermal utility system, and GAC storage room to just name a few examples. I would like to help the Board maintain momentum and strengthen the position of the Society.

I am an engineer by training. I grew up in Dresden, studied there and in Aachen, and then went to Caltech in CA for a PhD in Aeronautical Engineering. We live in Wilmington, where I retired after working 40 years for the DuPont Company.



Helga Halbfass

I have been a member of the Board of Directors for more than 14 years and was asked to apply for re-election. In those years I participated in numerous volunteer activities. For 12 years I organized the Konversationsabend program (KA) with its three branches: the KA itself, the KA Extra, and the KA Contact. I also joined the GSP Wellness program as leader of the Wandern in the Willows subdivision. I would continue to work for increased cooperation and transparency between committees and projects, and engage actively in the ongoing process of defining and re-defining the objectives of the Society (membership questions, publicity, hospitality, outreach activities) as my part in making the German Society significant for friends and members, and for the life of the City.

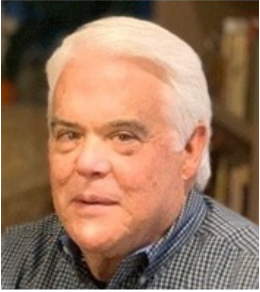


Christine Stenner

My name is Christine Stenner, and I am honored to express my interest in joining the board of the German Society of Pennsylvania.

I am a German/American lawyer with 30 years of experience. I earned my law degree in Germany and my Master of Laws (LL.M) from Temple University, Philadelphia. I remain an active member of the German bar and am also admitted to practice law in Pennsylvania as a foreign legal consultant, focusing on German citizenship and contract law. Besides my legal practice, I founded Steuben Consulting LLC, which provides strategy consulting for apprenticeship career pathways and change in the workforce. In addition, I teach International Law at a university in Germany.

I am passionate about bringing people and cultures together and see myself as a bridge-builder and catalyst in creating opportunities for connections. I aim to preserve and promote German culture and language in our region and foster connections and Gemeinschaft between old and new German immigrants and expats.



Del Hausman

I believe that the German Society of Pennsylvania is uniquely positioned to serve as a hub for all things German throughout Greater Philadelphia. The Delaware Valley remains home to a rich, but dwindling array of German clubs and organizations, and it is my firm belief that we would all benefit from much closer cooperation and mutual support (here, I prefer the German word *Zusammenarbeit*, i.e., working together).

One example of this *Zusammenarbeit* in action would be last April's German Language Summit held at the German Society, which brought together area teachers of German from middle and high schools, heritage language schools as well as colleges and universities and enjoyed the support and participation of the national office of the American Association of Teachers of German as well as the German Embassy. As a cultural hub for all things German, the German Society should strive to promote its programs to members of all the other organizations, schools, churches, clubs, etc., and at the same time should endeavor to share information regarding programs of other institutions. Let's infuse new meaning into the slogan *Wunderbar together!*



Jim Niessen

I'm an historian of Eastern Europe (PhD Indiana) and librarian at Rutgers-New Brunswick (MLIS Texas) with paternal German roots in the Rhineland, Mosel, and Black Forest. For the potential renewal of my service on our board I would bring a continued interest in the preservation of its library resources and varied cultural programming. Among the GSP's recent initiatives, I enthusiastically support the Library Treasure Tours, Jewish programming, and outreach efforts to institutions and people in Germany. Although my parents grew up in Philly (and some family members lived within

blocks of the GSP), I live in NYC—in a part of Queens that for several decades was largely German. Today German New York is fading away, making the GSP all the more a regional stalwart of German heritage in its many forms.