

Calendar of Events

- Mon. Nov. 6 Book Talk by Lynne Breen: *Freedom at Niagara: German-American Activism in the Abolition of Slavery*, 7:00pm
- Wed. Nov. 8 Konversationsabend, 6:00pm
- Thu. Nov. 9 Book Talk by Antje Ulrike Mattheus: *Cresheim Farm: An American History of Conquest, Privilege and Struggles for Freedom and Equality*, 6:00pm
- Sat. Nov. 11 Buchclub: *Tod eines Kritikers* by Martin Walser, 1:30pm
- Sun. Nov. 12 Familiennachmittag und Laternenumzug mit PhillyKinder, 3:30pm
- Tue. Nov. 14 Library Zoom Lecture by Julius Wilm: "A German-American Revolutionary Takes Office: Carl Schurz and the Waning of African American and Indigenous Rights in 1870s America", 6:00pm
- Sat. Nov. 18 Wandern at the Willows, 11:00am
- Sun. Nov. 19 "Wister and More!" presents the Wister Quartet, 3:00pm
- Sat. Dec. 2 Christkindlmarkt, 12:00pm
- Sun. Dec. 3 Gentle Yoga, 11:00am
- Sun. Dec. 10 Familiennachmittag mit PhillyKinder, 3:00pm
- Wed. Dec. 13 Konversationsabend, 6:00pm
- Fri. Dec. 15 Winter Spirits, 7:00pm

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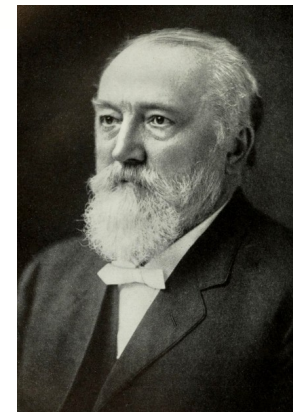
# The German Society of Pennsylvania

## Neuer Pennsylvanischer Staatsbote

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

Fall 2023

### Spotlight on Past Members: Philadelphia Mayor Blankenburg Remembered for Civil Service Reform, Transit Improvements



In December 1911, when **Rudolph Blankenburg** became mayor of Philadelphia, he inherited a deficit approaching five million dollars as well as alleged political corruption within City Hall. Blankenburg, however—known as the “Old War Horse of Reform”—won

election through the support of Republicans, Keystoners, and Democrats alike, all wishing to see integrity restored to the City of Brotherly Love. On learning of his win, nearly 5,000 well-wishers shook his hand.

Born in 1843 in what is now Lippe, North Rhine-Westphalia, Blankenburg emigrated to the United States in 1865 at age 22, working first as a salesman and later as a textile manufacturer. In 1867, he married Lucretia Longshore, a Quaker suffragist who became a well-known reform activist in her own right.

Blankenburg is said to have taken an interest in civic improvements as early as 1877. Having become a successful and wealthy businessman by 1905, he retired to become County Commissioner for Philadelphia, serving as a noted reformer from 1906 to 1909.

Nearly three years later, in his mayoral inaugural address, Blankenburg advocated for a merit-based civil service system; pledged that rational economic methods would be introduced in all departments; and called for harbor improvements and better transit facilities. He also

suggested floating temporary loans to satisfy the City’s creditors and promised that the tax rate would not be increased.

In reporting news of the inauguration, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* noted that Blankenburg’s speech was “punctuated by outbreaks of applause in which Republican, Keystone, and Democratic Party followers joined.” At the reception following, Blankenburg’s German heritage was highlighted with the harmonious voices of the United German Singers.

In addition to the improvements he instituted as mayor, Blankenburg also demonstrated his humanitarian sense during the Russian famine of 1891-1892. As part of American relief efforts, he traveled to Russia in 1892, bringing food and other necessities on behalf of the City of Philadelphia.

When he died at age 75, Blankenburg was lauded by *The New York Times*, which noted that his election as mayor of Philadelphia was the high point “of one of the greatest reform campaigns ever fought in this country.” More than 60,000 people attended his funeral. In 1925, a newly built elementary school in Philadelphia was named in his honor and, in 1988, was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

A lifetime member of German Society of Pennsylvania, Rudolph Blankenburg served as President from 1891 through 1893. He joined the Society in 1877 and, one year later, was elected to the Board of Directors.

- Lynne Breen

Experience the magic of the holiday season at our annual

## Christkindlmarkt

Saturday, December 2

12:00pm-4:00pm

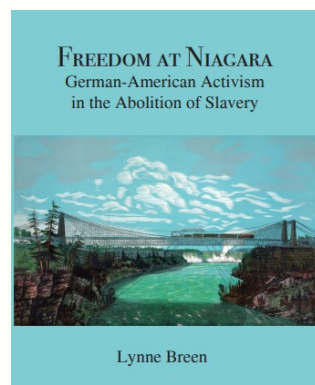
Enjoy holiday shopping, delicious meals, Kaffee & Kuchen, a carol sing-along, crafts for kids, and a visit from Santa!



## New Book Traces German-American Efforts to End U.S. Slavery

Lynne Breen, a fellow GSP member, has written a second book extolling the contributions that Germans and German-Americans have made to the United States. In October 2021, Lynne made a presentation to our membership on her just-published book, *How German Ingenuity Inspired America: More Fun, More Beauty, More Freedom*.

In her newest compendium — *Freedom at Niagara: German-American Activism in the Abolition of Slavery* — Lynne traces the history of slavery in America from 18th-century German scientists, who proved no intellectual difference among the races, to freedom-minded German émigrés who fled to the United States in the 1840s and 1850s.



These German-American settlers advanced the abolitionist cause through impassioned newspaper articles, fiery speeches, and volunteering to fight for the Union during the American Civil War.

German scientists **Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz** and **Johann Friedrich Blumenbach** are noted for their early renouncements of racism and slavery, and German naturalist and explorer **Alexander von Humboldt** for his appeal to end the enslavement of human beings.

Also acknowledged for their abolitionist efforts are “48er” journalists such as **Caspar Butz**, **Friedrich Kapp**, **Carl Daenzer**, and **George Schneider**. **Carl Schurz**, **Hubert Dilger**, **Adolph von Steinwehr**, **Alexander Schimmelfennig**, and **Franz Sigel** are cited as among the many German-Americans who volunteered to fight for the Union’s cause.

*Freedom at Niagara* draws its title from the German-born civil engineer who designed the first railway suspension bridge between the US and Canada, just north of Niagara Falls. **John Augustus Roebling** would later go down in history as builder of the Brooklyn Bridge.

The bridge he completed at Niagara Falls in 1855 was used by **Harriet Tubman** to shepherd escaped slaves to Canada. Together, their actions can be considered the capstone of the efforts of thousands of free blacks, abolitionists, and fugitive slaves themselves to rid the United States of slavery. The

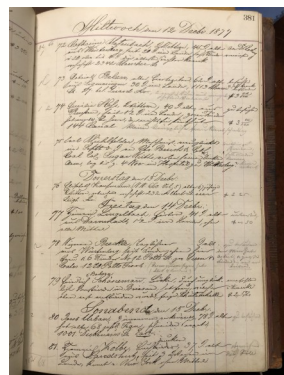
irony is that Roebling was viewed as a foreigner and Tubman had been denied American citizenship. A coffee table book with more than 70 photos, paintings, and maps, *Freedom at Niagara* is available in hard cover and paperback, as well as in e-book format, through online book sellers such as Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

- Hardy von Auenmueller

## The “Agentur” Collection: Digitization and Exhibition!

Many thanks to those who have already contributed to our latest **Adopt A Book** appeal! The response has been fantastic, and we have thus far been able to scan about half of the 72- volume “Agentur” Collection! We are still soliciting contributions of any size to continue scanning the remaining volumes.

The *Agentur Collection* consists of 72 leather-bound ledgers that record the tens of thousands of German-speaking immigrants who came to the German Society for assistance from the mid-19th century through the first half of the 20th century. This manuscript material is a largely untapped resource, and digitizing the volumes will be a critical first step to making the information they contain more easily accessible to researchers, especially those for whom it would be difficult to come to Philadelphia in person. Digitizing this collection will also make it easier for genealogists to take advantage of the biographical data contained in the collection.



In an exciting related bit of news: one of the *Agentur’s* Applicants’ Ledgers, which has already been digitized, will be loaned to the **Haus der Geschichte Baden-Württemberg** in Stuttgart as part of an exhibition titled, *American Dreams: Ein neues Leben in den USA*, which will run from November 17, 2023 through July 28, 2024.

- Bettina Hess, Librarian

## My Senior Project with PhillyKinder

Every year at Lower Merion High School, seniors are given the opportunity to spend three weeks in May devoted to fulfilling a “Senior Project.” These projects range from learning how to bake to interning at a courthouse, but most importantly, they allow each senior to explore an area that is of interest to them. Initially I struggled to think of a topic that I could see myself pursuing and enjoying, until I came up with an idea to incorporate PhillyKinder.

I have been a part of the PhillyKinder program since its creation, first as a participant, and then once I was old enough, I volunteered every Thursday. From my experience volunteering as an assistant teacher, I have gained a lot of practical first-hand knowledge about working with kids and effective ways to weave German into fun activities. Wanting to utilize this opportunity for my Senior Project, I brainstormed a few different ways I could combine the two. Eventually I decided that the best way to combine PhillyKinder and all the requirements of my Senior Project would be the PhillyKinder summer camp. Every August, PhillyKinder organizes a two-week long summer camp, where I have had a lot of fun volunteering for the past four years. However, last summer instead of just being a helper, I had to step in as a teacher at the last minute. As a result I was able to experience what it is like to be a teacher for a week and had a good time doing it as well.



Now going back to this May, I decided that my Senior Project would be to plan out and eventually execute the two weeks of the PhillyKinder summer camp in August. After getting the idea approved, I set off to find many engaging activities relating to the two themes of the week. The general structure of the camp was to be the same as past years; I would be responsible for coming up with about three hours’ worth of activities in the morning, and then there would be different crafts and games for the rest of the afternoon. For the first week the theme would be “Detectives”, and the theme for the second week would be “The Five Senses”. For both

themes I spent a lot of time researching websites for different activities and games and then testing them out. Once I had tested out a good number of the activities, I started to create a detailed lesson plan, where I wrote out descriptions for everything I had planned in German. This is what I presented as my Senior Project along with the photos of my trials and errors in testing everything.



During the summer camp itself, I was able to see my ideas finally come to fruition and the results of all my planning. The activities that worked the best were the ones where the participants did not want to stop. From the “Detective” week, the activity I had the most fun coming up with ended up being the most fun for the kids as well. It was a multiple step scavenger hunt with different riddles and puzzles and a worthwhile prize at the end. Seeing the work I put in and the enjoyment the kids had was a very rewarding experience. Something I learned from trying to plan everything so far in advance was that it is always a good idea to have a lot more activities prepared than you think you need, so there is always a fallback option. Also, not being afraid to abandon an idea if it is not working in real-time and to listening to the feedback from the kids are very crucial to creating an enjoyable environment. While the summer camp was at times stressful and tiring, I would definitely do it again.

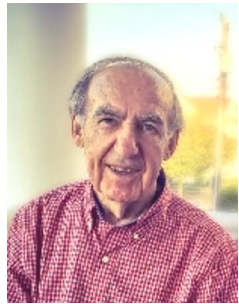
Overall, the summer camp and my Senior Project were a very positive experience, and I am very glad to have found this opportunity to combine my German-speaking ability with something I enjoy.

- Mia Hail



## In Memoriam

### Mr. Nikolaus Kampf



We were recently informed that **Mr. Nikolaus (Nick) Kampf** passed away on August 25 at his home in Ocean City, New Jersey. Nick was born in Deutsch Zerne, Austria on November 4, 1936. He lived in Vienna, Austria before immigrating to the United States in 1952. He was employed in the printing industry before attending Villanova University and graduating with a BS in Electrical Engineering in 1968. He also obtained an MBA from Temple University in 1972.

Nick was employed in the computer industry for 40 years, working for various local and international companies, including Accenture, IBM, Philco-Ford, Fisher & Porter, and Aydin Computer Systems.

He was proud of his German heritage and was a member of the German Society of Pennsylvania, Vereinigung Erzgebirge, Schlaraffia Filadelfia, and the Franklinville-Schwarzwald Männerchor.

We are grateful that the family included a notation in the obituary that in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made Nick's name to the German Society of Pennsylvania.

Our sympathy goes out to entire Kampf family.

### Mr. Albert (Al) Wurz



**Mr. Albert (Al) Wurz** passed away peacefully at his home on Marco Island, Florida on April 26, 2022 at the age of 90 after what can only be considered a full and rewarding life.

Al was born in 1931 in Dettingen an der Erms in southern Germany. He immigrated to the United States in 1952 at the age of 20. Within six months, he was drafted into the US Army and served his time at a base in Stuttgart, Germany, less than an hour from his hometown. Subsequently he obtained a BS in Electrical Engineering from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY.

Al was employed by Philco and General Atronics. He worked on the early versions of barcode scanners, for which his employer, General Atronics, did

not see an attractive future. Al seized the opportunity to purchase the six-person division using his entire savings, and in 1971, Accu-Sort Systems, Inc. was born. The innovation of the laser scanner opened up many new opportunities. And in the 1990s Accu-Sort was again at the forefront with the development of industrial camera-based barcode scanners, which are still widely used today. Under Al's leadership, Accu-Sort grew to over 500 employees worldwide.

Al was very proud of his German heritage - he was a lifetime honorary member of the German Society of Pennsylvania. He served on the Board of the German-American Heritage Foundation and was given the *Distinguished German-American of the Year Award* in 2004. His son David tells us that he enjoyed singing German folk songs and playing his concertina. He loved to make *Maultaschen* (meat-filled dumplings served in beef broth) and *Raumkuchen* (sour cream and onion pizza), and by the end of the meal there was always room for a shot or two of *Kirschwasser!*

Our sympathy goes out to Jane Wurz, his wife, as well as the entire family.

### Mrs. Irmgard Martino



**Mrs. Irmgard Martino** passed away peacefully on August 21 at *The Hill at Whitemarsh* in Lafayette Hill, Pennsylvania, where she was a resident for almost four years. She was 97 years old and had lived a rich and fulfilling life.

Over the years I was able to learn a bit about her life and what a generous person Irmgard was. Nuremberg, Bavaria was her hometown, and she loved to talk about her early years. Irmgard started to work when she was 13 years old, learning typing and shorthand and during the war. She was an apprentice in a printing house that published newspapers and books. She married Joseph Martino in 1946; he was a GI who worked in a US bank in Heidelberg for the Army. Once settled in the US, she worked for the Girard Bank, supervising 16 employees, followed by 17 years as an Executive Secretary with the Siemens Corporation in New Jersey; during her time there she saw the site grow from two employees to 260. In her 60s, still not ready to retire, she worked for the IRS for

the next 15 years and finally retired at the age of 78!

German causes and organizations were important to her. She was the president of the von Steuben Society of America, Pastorius Unit No. 38 in Philadelphia for many years; the group organized an annual commemorative event at the Friederich von Steuben statue in Valley Forge National Park. She was on the Board of the Vereinigung Erzgebirge and a member of the Cannstatter Volksfest-Verein and the German Society of Pennsylvania. She enjoyed many of the events at the Society; the annual Stiftungsfest Gala was probably her favorite.

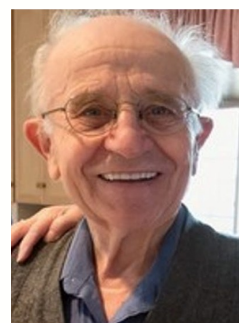
Throughout her life she also assisted various charitable organizations, including groups that provided support for domestic and wild animal welfare.

Irmgard was an early participant in our efforts to build a meaningful endowment for the Society; her personal preference was to purchase annuities which would ultimately benefit the Society. As special gifts she purchased four lifetime memberships for friends and family members. She was always looking out for the Society; about two months ago she was still trying to convince a medical aid at *The Hill* to visit the Society and consider a membership.

We lost one of our biggest silent supporters, and it has been a personal privilege to visit her at *The Hill* and meet several people who were important to her during her final years. We thank the family for noting in her obituary that in lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the German Society in her memory.

We extend our sympathy to the Martino family and friends close to Irmgard.

### Mr. Armin Ast



We learned that **Mr. Armin Ast** passed on April 30, 2023 at 91 years old. Armin was the beloved husband of 66 years to the late Ingeborg G. Ast, who passed on May 1, 2022.

Armin was born in Romania to German parents. The family immigrated to America, and with his brother Erich, Armin started the A&E Manufacturing Company in 1967. Erich served as President. The firm has 65 employees and focuses on fabricated metal specialized products.

Armin took pride in his German heritage. He and Ingeborg were longtime members of the Society and attended many events, especially during the 1990s. They contributed regularly to the Annual Fund Drive. Armin also served on our Board of Directors in the 1990s.

Our sympathy goes out to the extended Ast family.

### Rev. Reinhard Kruse



We recently learned that **Rev. Reinhard Kruse** passed away on November 11, 2022. Reinhard was born in Costa Rica to German parents. The war brought him and his family to Texas to an internment camp and from there back to Germany. In the early 1950s the family immigrated to

Texas. Reinhard attended college in Louisiana and had a divinity degree from Southern Methodist University, in Dallas, Texas. He served the North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church for twelve years before moving to the Eastern PA Conference, where he served the Juniata Park, Summerfield, and St. Philips & Tioga branches.

Reinhard was proud to be of German heritage. He and his wife Sue were longtime members of the Society and attended many events, especially our Wister & More Concert Series. They contributed regularly to the Annual Fund Drive and are Legacy members of the Linden Society. Reinhard often volunteered for maintenance and clean-up projects. Moreover, Reinhard served as a member of our Board of Directors from 2012 to 2015.

We extend our sympathy to Sue and the extended family.

- E. D. Weiler



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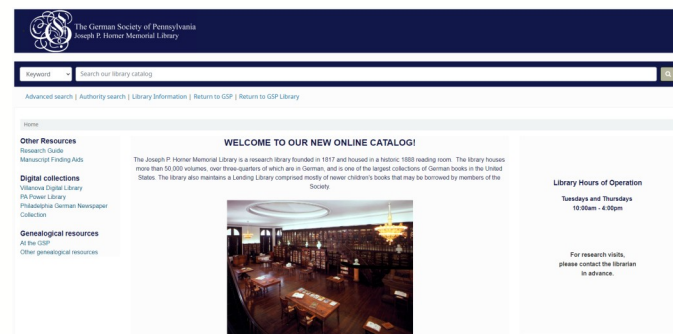
## New Library Catalog is Live!

After many months of planning, we are excited to announce that we have a new library catalog! You can find it on the German Society's website in the same place as before, under the Library tab. The new url is: <https://gsp.kohacatalog.com/>

Through the library's membership in PACSCL (Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries), we had the opportunity two years ago to join a sub-group comprised of The Library Company, The Rosenbach Museum & Library, The Wagner Free Institute of Science, The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, and The Philadelphia Museum of Art - a group of organizations looking to migrate their catalogs from an old system dating back to the 1990s that was no longer being supported. The new catalog is based on Koha, an open-source library system. Over the past several months, we have been working with Equinox, the company that is helping us migrate our data, to get our records into the new catalog and configured properly. This has been a huge effort with a lot of work going on behind the scenes. Project catalogers Lorena Boylan and Mark Darby have been using their decades of cataloging experience to make this process go smoothly.

On the user side, you will notice that our two catalogs have been merged into one. The Lending Library, which consists mainly of the Children's Collection, is now part of the same catalog as the Research Collection, although each can be searched separately. Several new features include the ability to track circulation, the ability to notify borrowers of due dates and renewals, the ability to create lists, and the ability to add and modify records in real time, instead of having to wait for quarterly updates. The new system also enables users worldwide to view our catalog, which was not always the case with our old system.

We hope you will take a look at our new catalog. It will be a work in progress over the coming months



as we continue to fine tune things, but overall, it is a big step forward making the library's holdings more easily discoverable.

- Bettina Hess, Librarian

## GSP Supports Students of German After Program Cut

This past June, the German Society's Scholarship Committee was contacted by one of our members who knew of several rising 9th grade students interested in taking a German 1 class at their high school. Unfortunately, their German 1 class had been cut due to low enrollment. Six of these students refused to give up, however; they identified and engaged a tutor and completed the German 1 course over the summer! Now they must pass the German 1 final exam to be eligible to enroll in German 2 in September.

The six students were absolutely delighted and extremely grateful when they learned that the German Society had awarded them each a scholarship to cover the costs of their summer work - and then also granted each family a one-year membership to the Society.

All six students are very dedicated, and student each has their own reasons for wanting to learn German. One has a particular interest in German history, and another started learning German independently during their 8th grade year. The next would like to learn German because they find it similar to English. Another chose German because of their German heritage. One student was inspired by their experience of hosting a German exchange student and by their mother who studied German. The next chose to follow in the footsteps of a sibling who studies German, and the last student is a polyglot - she's fluent in two languages already and started learning German more than a year ago all by herself!

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to these six new members as they continue their journey to become fluent in the German language! The German Society was their "Lichtlein" during a time when they had lost every opportunity to learn German.

- Tony Michels

## Reports of the GHI-GSP Summer Fellows 2023

In June nearly twenty members of the German Society got a first-hand view of the research that has been going on in the Horner Library during the summer months for many years. This year the Brown Bag Seminar, featuring two GHI-GSP Fellows from Germany, was successfully restored to the Ratskeller on June 15. The participants were not disappointed as they heard about the origins of "our" Academy of Music, where the Philadelphia Orchestra used to play before it relocated to the Verizon Hall in the Kimmel Center. Lars Laurenz, a doctoral candidate in Architecture at the Leibniz Universität Hannover, presented the work of the Bremen architect Gustav Runge, who co-designed the Academy as a building that was supposed to be even grander than it is today. The other presentation took us to a totally different area of study - eighteenth-century children's literature - for which Sebastian Lange, a PhD student from the University of Münster, found equally valuable materials in the Horner Library, thanks to the services of Bettina Hess, our Special Collections Librarian. Sebastian found further evidence that slavery was appropriately criticized in early German and German-American children's literature, usually following Robison Crusoe's "Robinsonade". Both presentations generated a lively discussion.

- Frank Trommler

### Slavery and the Slave Trade in Enlightenment-Era Children's Literature

During my stay in Philadelphia as a GHI-GSP Fellow from June 7-22, 2023, I made extensive use of the holdings of the Horner Memorial Library at the German Society of Pennsylvania, the Library Company, and the Free Library. I was able to expand on my two-year research about the depiction of slavery and the slave trade in German children's and juvenile literature of the eighteenth century. There have been numerous books for children in which the slave trade and slavery are sharply criticized since the early eighteenth century. Increasingly since the 1770 the focus turned to the shipment of countless African people to America by Europeans and forced labor on plantations. The misery of the deportation and the conditions on the ships and plantations is presented relentlessly and sometimes very drastically in the texts and pictures to young readers. Recent research has shown that the transatlantic slave trade was not only discussed and criticized

publicly in England and France, but was also picked up in numerous magazines, pamphlets, and plays in the German states. The fact that the topic was also taken up in German children's books had been overlooked until now.

During my research in Philadelphia I was able to examine a total of about seventy mostly German titles from the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries: ABC books, travelogues, biographies for children, historical-geographical school books, novels, picture books, and pamphlets. Surprisingly often I came across some important and very successful German books that were either imported, republished in the United States, or translated into English. For example, the Horner Library owns the famous Picture-Bible by Johann Hübner, published in Harrisburg in 1826, as well as numerous editions of the works of the educator and writer Joachim Heinrich Campe (1746-1818).

As a result of this investigation, I am now able to add numerous books with passages and chapters that refer to the slave trade to my source materials, expanding and accentuating my previous research results.

Among other issues I learned to understand the importance of the so-called "Robinsonanden" for the popularization of the criticism of slavery. Already in Daniel Defoe's original *Robinson Crusoe* (1719), the slave trade of that time occupies a central, but often overlooked, position. After leaving London and a number of adventures, Robinson comes into possession of a plantation in Brazil. When he tries to sail to West Africa to buy slaves for the plantation, he is shipwrecked and settles on an island. In the very successful children's adaptation of the story in Campe's *Robinson der Jüngere* (1779) there is an additional episode in which, after a few years on the island, Robinson finds a stranded ship and is able to identify it as a slave ship. On this occasion, Campe points out to young readers the injustices of the contemporary slave trade. Numerous other variants for children of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries are based on Defoe and Campe. Generations of children were entertained by the story of Robinson. This supports the assumption that most children in Europe and the United States in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries who had access to books were informed about the European involvement in the transatlantic slave trade.

Examining the many editions of the original, the sequels and translations of Campe's *Robinson* at the Horner Library and the Library Company will be very helpful for the next steps of my project. My upcoming publication *Sklaverei und Sklavenhandel in den Bilderbüchern der Aufklärung. Ein kommentierter Quellenband* is announced for November 2023 and will be published by Jürgen Overhoff and myself in the Wehrhahnverlag Hannover.

- Sebastian Lange, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, Münster

### Gustav Runge. A German Architect in Philadelphia

My project explored the work of the German-American architect Gustav Runge, who was active in Philadelphia between 1848 and 1859. Despite his relative obscurity in the city's architectural history, he was one of the most important architects of the 1850s in Pennsylvania, working on well-known commissions and for the most prominent clients.

Runge, originally from Bremen, was a carpenter by trade before he went on to study architecture in Karlsruhe and Berlin. After finishing his education, he made the decision to move to Philadelphia in 1848 to escape the general economic situation and possible unemployment. There he teamed up with the already established architect Napoleon LeBrun and began working in his office. Due to his academic training as an architect – something that did not yet exist in the States – he had a far superior knowledge regarding construction methods and more advanced drawing skills than his American colleagues. Therefore, after a short time, he was able to set up his own practice and built, among other commercial buildings, the first office building for the famous banker Anthony Joseph Drexel on 34 S. 3rd St., which, according to the *Public Ledger*, was "one of the most imposing business edifices in the flourishing part of the city" that also set new standards for ventilation, lighting, fire safety, and building technology.

When Runge heard about the competition for a proposed Musical Academy in Philadelphia in 1854, he once again teamed up with LeBrun, and the two were awarded the first prize in 1855. However, the plans had to be simplified due to the Musical Society's dire financial situation, and therefore a greatly reduced building was finished in 1857. In the end, the developers even lacked the funds to pay him in

full. Disappointed by these professional encounters in the US, he returned to his hometown of Bremen in 1859. Nevertheless, upon his return he brought back with him some architectural ideas from the US which he applied during his career in Bremen, for example the use of modern glass roof structures, more generous American floor plans, and knowledge of new fire-retardant-materials. Therefore, he not only introduced America to new style ideas from Germany, but also transferred modern construction methods and materials from the US to Bremen.

During my stay in Philadelphia, I discovered that Runge himself was a member of the German Society from 1853 onwards and was very popular in the German community, particularly because of his love of music and his gentle character. The stay also brought to light a lot of new sources and information about Runge's works in Philadelphia. In previously unknown archival materials, images of all the known buildings by Runge in Philadelphia could be found, along with corresponding contemporary articles in local newspapers praising his work. In addition to the Horner Library, I visited a wide variety of research institutions in Philadelphia, including the Athenaeum of Philadelphia, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Architectural Archives of UPenn, the Musical Academy Archives at UPenn's Kislak Center, and various departments of the Parkway Central Library.

Beyond the search for archival materials, it was also possible to visit all the sites where buildings by the hand of Runge had once stood and to photograph the works that still exist. The only preserved building, besides the Musical Academy, is a five-story commercial building for the Bunn & Raiguel company, a dry goods merchant at 135 N. 3rd St. Runge appears to have just started his own practice when he received this major commission, which started his solo career. The building, attributed to Runge in a June 1851 newspaper article, was extensively restored to its former glory in 2013.



The discoveries made in situ were presented to the audience of the GSP at a Brown Bag meeting on June 15, where they were met with great interest and a lively scholarly discussion. Ultimately the new findings about Runge will complement my

study under the working title *German-American Architectural Relations 1789-1871. Emigrants, Re-Emigrants and Travelers*. Thanks to the Horner Fellowship provided by the GHI and GSP, I had a wonderful and productive two-week stay in Philadelphia and felt the tremendous support of Frank Trommler, Bettina Hess, and Maria Sturm. All in all, this was a significant boost for the project, and I am grateful to everyone involved in the process.

- Lars Laurenz, Leibniz Universität Hannover

## Christkindlmarkt Returns December 2

It's almost that time of year again! Keeping with German traditions, we will be hosting our annual **Christkindlmarkt on Saturday, December 2**. To help us make this year a repeat success, we are looking for enthusiastic volunteers. What would this mean? Helping us staff booths, tables, and the hospitality areas. We are also looking for volunteers to help with set-up on November 30 and December 1, and with teardown on December 4.

We are calling on all makers to share your talents. What are we looking for? Embroideries such as tablecloths, napkins, handkerchiefs, or pillowcases; home decorations; knitwear for children and adults; and baked goods. You will have the opportunity to receive a donation receipt for your crafts or reimbursement for material costs.

Another way you can help is to purchase chocolates or German Christmas sweets if you have any upcoming trip to Germany. You will be reimbursed for your expenditures.

Please call or email the office if you are interested in helping out or donating. As always, we appreciate the help and generosity of our members.

- The Christkindlmarkt Committee



## Development Report

As our readers may have noticed, we try to include an update or some information about our development activities in almost every issue of the *Staatsbote*.

One of our strategic goals is to build our membership ranks, and lifetime members are especially important to the Society. In 2016, the Board of Directors made a decision to add lifetime membership fees of \$1,000 for a single person and \$1,500 for a couple to the General Endowment Fund.

We have found that a number of members converted their regular memberships to lifetime status. It is really a bargain! And furthermore, many members of the Society have purchased lifetime membership for a family member or a friend. What a wonderful idea! If you are looking for a special gift this holiday season, please consider this giving option.

The following is a listing of lifetime members who have joined the Society since 2016:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Holger Baeuerle and<br>Lauren Bell         | Robert and Tina LoBue<br>Sonya Longo       |
| Thomas Bauer and Katrin<br>Bauer-Gerhäuser | Fran and Alma Martino, Sr.<br>Pat Meller   |
| Brigitte Baumann and<br>Michael Farner     | George Mueller<br>William and Mary Mueller |
| Paul H. Beck                               | Angela L. Nadeau                           |
| Isabel Beichl                              | Stefan Neubig                              |
| John Blickensderfer                        | James and Beata Niessen                    |
| Maria Bradley                              | Brian Norton                               |
| Betty and Topper Brick                     | Lya Pfeifer                                |
| Ethel K. Brown                             | Sieglinde Pylypchuk                        |
| Elaine Burgess                             | Cynthia and Dennis Retter                  |
| Dennis Daly                                | Michael Rissinger                          |
| Joseph De Maria                            | Teresa C. and Jeffrey<br>Rupert            |
| Philip Farber                              | Matthew Schrader                           |
| Andrea Fleegle                             | Manfred Schurer                            |
| Kurt and Donna Froehlich                   | Frank Trommler                             |
| Lars Genieser                              | Nikolaus H. and Marianne<br>Volgenau       |
| John and Martha Haas                       | Karin Volkwein-Caplan                      |
| Ricky Huynh                                | Erika Weiler-Timmins                       |
| Stefan Jochum                              | C. Chris Weth                              |
| Paul H. Kircher, III                       | Marianne Wokeck                            |
| Mark Kleckner, Jr.                         | Thomas and Sigrid Young                    |
| Goerge Koerner                             | William G. Young, Jr.                      |
| Rev. Dr. Karl Krueger                      | Eric A. Zillmer                            |
| Michael E. Kunz                            | Ingrid zu Solms-Wildenfels                 |
| Charles W. Lentz                           |  |
| Steven Lindstedt                           |  |

- E. D. Weiler

## 2023/2024 Friday Film Fest Schedule

### Im Westen nichts Neues (2022)

September 15, 2023 | 6:30pm  
German with English Subtitles

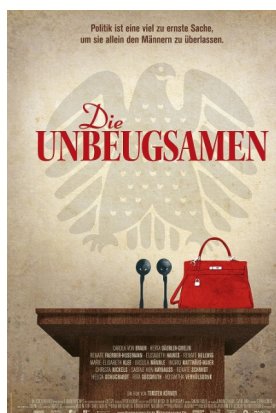


This third adaptation of Erich Maria Remarque's 1929 classic antiwar novel won four Oscars at this year's award show. These included Best International Feature Film, Best Original Score, Best Cinematography, and Best Production Design. No German film has ever won more Oscars

than this one, and it is only the fourth German movie to win in the Best International category after *Das Leben der Anderen* (2007), *Nirgendwo in Afrika* (2003), and *Die Blechtrommel* (1980). Set during World War I, it follows the life of the idealistic young German soldier Paul Bäumer as he faces the horrors of trench warfare on the Western Front. By portraying the armistice negotiations to end the war, this movie adds a parallel storyline not found in the book or in previous adaptations.

### Die Unbeugsamen (2021)

October 20, 2023 | 6:30pm  
German with English Subtitles



This documentary tells the story of women who participated in the Bonn Republic from the early days in the 1950s until the election of Angela Merkel in 2005 as they struggle for acceptance and equal inclusion in the democratic process. The journalist and filmmaker

Torsten Körner interviewed many of the female politicians from various parties who were active during this period. He includes jolting archival material that shows how these women had to deal with prejudice, entrenched protective behavior by their male counterparts, and

outright sexual discrimination to achieve equality in political participation. It ends with data that shows a recent decline of women in the parliament to 31% and a warning by Annemirl Bauer from 1988: "*Frauen, wenn wir heute nichts tun, dann leben wir morgen wie vorgestern.*"

### Wunderschön (2022)

January 19, 2024 | 6:30pm  
German with English Subtitles



In this film, director Karoline Herfurth explores the intertwined lives of five women of varying ages who struggle with issues of body image, complex relationships, failing marriages, and societal expectations. Frauke, in her 50s, feels undesirable and ignored by her

husband. Her daughter Julie wants to pursue a modeling career and tries desperately to comply with the *Schönheitsideal* of the business. Leyla, the daughter of Julie's manager, struggles with weight problems, while Sonja, Julie's sister-in-law, slips into a crisis after two pregnancies. And then there is Vicky, Sonja's best friend - a teacher who tries to enlighten her students about the value of character, inner beauty, and self-confidence apart from their bodily *Äußerlichkeiten*.

### Die Glasbläserin (2016)

February 16, 2024 | 6:30pm  
German with No Subtitles

This made-for-television movie is the literary adaptation of the first part of the bestselling trilogy by Petra Durst-Bennings. Set in Lauscha in the forest of Thuringia in 1891, it tells the story of two sisters, Johanna and Marie Steinmann, who try to continue their family-owned glass blowing business after the death of their widowed father. They encounter great resistance since women are not allowed to own



these type of businesses in this male-dominated world. Sexual insults and attacks on both sisters test their resilience as they strive to carve out a living with more artistic designs, including the invention of the Christmas ornament, the "*Weihnachtskugel*". The two sisters were and are role models for female entrepreneurs everywhere.

### Das Lehrerzimmer (2023)

March 15, 2024 | 6:30pm  
German with German Subtitles



The young Carla Nowak is a new teacher for Math and Physical Education in a Grade 7 class at a Gymnasium in Hamburg. After a series of unresolved burglaries, the atmosphere at the school becomes increasingly tense. Carla witnesses how several of her own students become suspects and are investigated by the school leadership who pursue a zero tolerance policy. After their suspicions cannot be verified, Carla starts her own investigation, which leads to the long-serving secretary Friederike Kuhn. But Mrs. Kuhn is the mother of her most gifted math students. A complex pursuit to find the truth ensues amid enraged parents, obstinate teachers, and aggressive students.

### Die Spionin (2019)

April 20, 2024 | 6:30pm  
German with English Subtitles

During World War II, Sonja Wigert of Sweden is the biggest film star in Scandinavia and is courted by the Germans for propaganda purposes. When she does not comply with an invitation from Joseph Goebbels, her father is kid-



napped to put pressure on her. After Sonja agrees to become a spy with the Swedish Secret Service, she becomes acquainted with Joseph Terboven, the German High Commissioner of occupied Norway, and starts to collect vital information about the German war plans in Scandinavia. But when Terboven sends Sonja as his own spy to Stockholm, she finds herself thrust inadvertently into the dangerous role of a double agent.

### Einfach mal was Schönes (2022)

May 18, 2024 | 6:30pm  
German with English Subtitles



Karoline Herfurth directs, produces, and plays the part of the leading female protagonist in this movie. Karla, a radio moderator, is in her late 30s and desperately wants to start a family, yet she cannot find a suitable man. So she decides to go it alone and use a sperm donor to have a baby. Then she meets Ole, a hospital nurse to whom she is strongly attracted. But Ole is only 28 years old and does not want to have kids yet. With Karla's biological clock ticking ever louder, this romantic comedy oscillates between *Torschlusspanik*, horror dates, and a beautiful love story. It includes slapstick comedic moments during a dream wedding and a hospital stay that lead to a thoughtful ending with a creative solution to the interpersonal conflicts.

- Karl Moehlmann