

Calendar of Events

Sun. Jan. 7	Gentle Yoga, 11:00am
Wed. Jan. 10	Konversationsabend, 6:00pm
Sat. Jan. 13	Buchclub: <i>Königliche Hoheit</i> by Thomas Mann, 1:30pm
Fri. Jan. 19	Friday Film Fest: <i>Wunderschön</i> , 6:30pm
Sat. Jan. 20	Wandern at the Willows, 11:00am
Sun. Jan. 21	"Wister and More!" presents Baritone Grant Youngblood and Pianist Marvin Mills, 3:00pm
Sat. Feb. 3	Jeckadelphia Dance Party, 8:00pm
Sun. Feb. 4	Gentle Yoga, 11:00am
Sat. Feb. 10	Buchclub, 1:30pm
Sun. Feb. 11	PhillyKinder Familiennachmittag, 3:00pm
Wed. Feb. 14	Konversationsabend, 6:00pm
Fri. Feb. 16	Friday Film Fest: <i>Die Glasbläserin</i> , 6:30pm
Sat. Feb. 17	Wandern at the Willows, 11:00am
Sun. Feb. 18	"Wister and More!" presents Rachell Ellen Wong and David Belkovski, 3:00pm
Sat. Feb. 24	11th Annual Philly Bierfest, 2:00pm
Sun. Mar. 3	Gentle Yoga, 11:00am
Sat. Mar. 9	Bösendorfer Youth Music Festival Concert, 3:00pm
Wed. Mar. 13	Konversationsabend, 6:00pm
Fri. Mar. 15	Friday Film Fest: <i>Das Lehrerzimmer</i> , 6:30pm

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ELEVENTH ANNUAL  
**Bierfest**  
SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 24 | 2<sup>PM</sup> - 5:30<sup>PM</sup>



GSP Member discounts available. For tickets or more information, call 215.627.2332

The German Society  
of Pennsylvania

Neuer Pennsylvanischer  
**Staatsbote**

CELEBRATING  
**250**  
YEARS OF  
**GERMAN  
HERITAGE**

Winter 2024

**Bösendorfer Youth Music Festival Returns for a Fourth Year**

The resonance of classical melodies will soon fill the air as the German Society of Pennsylvania once again opens registration for the **4th Annual Bösendorfer Youth Music Festival!** Geared towards young musicians aged 6-18, this event is a celebration of musical prowess, an opportunity for emerging talents to shine, and a testament to the enduring beauty of classical music.

Musicians will be categorized into four age groups for purposes of evaluation: Elementary (grades 1-5), Junior (grades 6-8), and Senior (grades 9-12), as well as Mixed Age Ensembles. The focus is squarely on classical music, with performers tasked to deliver their performances within an eight-minute timeframe in their audition videos. In the past, we have received entries on piano, violin, classical guitar, cello, marimba, recorder, and more!

Our distinguished judges, including accomplished musicians in the areas of piano, guitar, strings, percussion, and other categories as needed, scrutinize each performance and select Gold, Silver, and Bronze winners from each age group and instrument category. The accolades don't end there—medalists earn the opportunity to perform in a concert on **Saturday, March 9, 2024 at 3:00pm**, gracing the stage of the GSP's historic Barthelmes Auditorium in front of an audience of parents, music teachers, and friends, as well as the general public.

The Barthelmes Auditorium, known for its exceptional acoustics, provides the perfect backdrop for these budding musicians. Equipped with a Bösendorfer grand piano on stage, this room has hosted classical concerts from many

renowned musicians, and now it awaits the rising stars of this year's Bösendorfer Youth Music Festival.

As mentioned previously, medals will be awarded to the winners, a tangible recognition of their dedication and talent. However, the spirit of inclusivity extends to all participants, who will receive certificates in recognition of their accomplishments to date and their dedication to the study of music.

We hope parents and friends of young musicians and residents of the Philadelphia region will be a part of this musical celebration. We encourage you to share news of the festival with any music students in your lives, and to mark your calendars to join us at the final concert on March 9.

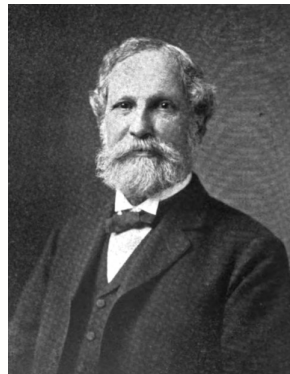
**Bösendorfer**  
*Youth Music Festival*

For those eager to be part of this musical endeavor, registration details can be found at [www.germansociety.org/bosendorfer-youth-music-festival/](http://www.germansociety.org/bosendorfer-youth-music-festival/) or by reaching out to the German Society at [info@germansociety.org](mailto:info@germansociety.org) or 215-627-2332. Applications must be received by **February 1, 2024**. We hope you'll join us in celebrating these young talents and supporting the future of music education in the Philadelphia area.

- Liesl Jandrey



## Spotlight on Past Members: Joseph Rosengarten's Discerning Attentiveness to Community Issues Was of Benefit to All



If the first rule of being a gentleman is to show respect, then **Joseph G. Rosengarten** was the consummate gentleman. Born in Philadelphia in 1835 to German immigrant parents, Rosengarten demonstrated reverence for all that he touched. He was known for his love of scholarship and for having a rare gift for friendship. Indeed, during his lifetime, he came to know Charles Darwin, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and Ralph Waldo Emerson — and met every U.S. president from James Buchanan to Woodrow Wilson.

A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Rosengarten earned a master's degree, then studied law in the office of one of the leaders of the Philadelphia Bar. He was admitted to practice in 1856. Five years later, at the outbreak of the Civil War, Rosengarten joined a company of volunteers and later was assigned to a regiment charged with guarding Washington, D.C. and fighting in armed conflicts in Virginia.

Rosengarten distinguished himself at the Battle of Fredericksburg, where he picked up the Union colors after four sergeants had been injured, whom he carried to safety. For this act of bravery, he was offered the post of Ordnance Officer and became a member of Major General John F. Reynolds' staff. When General Reynolds was mortally wounded at the Battle of Gettysburg, Rosengarten was given the honor of bringing the body of the fallen hero to Lancaster, and, in 1889, he was asked to deliver the address at the dedication of the monument to Reynolds at Gettysburg.

Rosengarten demonstrated his abiding love for the University of Pennsylvania from his entering as a freshman in 1848 until his resignation as a trustee in 1918. The American Philosophical Society, of which he was a steadfast mem-

ber, noted: "There is literally no department of the university which does not bear evidence of his interest and his generosity." In 1907, his alma mater conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

Rosengarten also took a dedicated interest in the newly founded Drexel Institute in 1892, serving on the college's board until 1909. Another notable achievement was Rosengarten's involvement with the Free Library, established in 1891. He served as president of the institution for ten years — from 1899 until 1909 — and it has been said that, largely through his efforts, Andrew Carnegie awarded \$1.5 million for the establishment of 30 branches.

Rosengarten's humanitarian sensibility was made evident by his close relationship with the Philadelphia House of Refuge, where he held the posts of board member, vice president, and president from 1878 until 1914. Again, largely through his efforts, a change in the treatment of juvenile offenders was accomplished through the move from the city to the country, where the facility became known as Glen Mills Schools. In this rural setting, children were placed in homes organized on the cottage system and given greater opportunities for education, exercise, and meaningful work experience.

His passion for scholarship prompted Rosengarten — throughout his lifetime — to write for respected journals of the day, including *The North American* and *The Penn Monthly*, as well as for the *New York Tribune* and the *Philadelphia Public Ledger*. He was particularly interested in the influence of German and French immigrants on America, and in this regard authored *The German Soldier in the Wars of the United States* (1886) and *French Colonists and Exiles in the United States* (1907).

Perhaps the most fascinating aspect of Rosengarten's admirable life was his bearing witness to John Brown's famous raid at Harper's Ferry,

## PhillyKinder: Lanterns and Light

Many cultures celebrate festivals of light in the dark months of the year. In November, children in Germany celebrate the legend of St. Martin with lantern parades. Songs about the guiding light of stars, the sun, and the moon, e.g. "*Ich gehe mit meiner Laterne*", "*Laterne, Laterne, Sonne Mond und Sterne*" are among the repertoire with which children in Germany grow up. Naturally, they also become part of the songs students at PhillyKinder learn and sing every year in November. Our teachers enjoy this time of the year to create colorful lanterns with their students. Crafting projects like these give ample opportunity to learn and practice German vocabulary and following instructions, but also simply to chat in German. Once they are completed and lit, the children are very proud of their lanterns.

At PhillyKinder we celebrate our own lantern festival. This year, on November 9, Susanna Ding and her second graders, the *ABC Schützen 2*, performed a shadow theater about the legend of St. Martin and a non-traditional song, "*Ich hab einen gelben Mond*" for all the students and their parents to enjoy. The lantern parade followed with beautifully illuminated lanterns, accompanied by the traditional songs students sang during the parade with support of our wonderful musicians, Jessica Tremblay

(voice) and Christopher Sullivan (guitar). The parade concluded at the playground with time to socialize over soft pretzels and warm apple cider.

At the German Society, the cooperative *St.-Martin*-themed PhillyKinder and *Familien-nachmittag* event, led by Adrienne Frangakis and Moritz Ritter, took place on November 12, 2023. This year about 80 people attended. Lantern crafting, story time, time for free play, and *Kaffee und Kuchen* are the staples at these family-friendly events. The lantern parade and the bonfire on the Leidy Terrace concluded this wonderful afternoon.

If you missed the first in this series of four *Familiennachmittage* at the German Society, be on the lookout for three more Sunday dates: December 10 (Advent/Christmas), February 11 (Fastnacht), and April 7 (Easter). The *Familien-nachmittag* is a great opportunity to meet new families and to get to know the German Society and PhillyKinder at the same time. We would love to see you there in the future.

To friendship, light, and peace on earth in the new year.

- For PhillyKinder, Birgit Splitt





## Marianne Haug Honored by German Language School Conference

We are pleased to inform our readers that longtime friend of the GSP and member of the Women's Auxiliary, Marianne Haug, co-founder of Philadelphia's Immanuel German School, was recently honored with the prestigious Merit Award of the German Language School Conference. The award was presented on November 11 during the Conference's 43rd Annual Meeting in New York City.

Marianne and her late husband, the Reverend Dr. Hans R. Haug, founded the *Immanuel Sprachschule* (Immanuel German School) forty-nine years ago to bring German language and culture to the children of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Philadelphia. Over time, the school reached into neighboring New Jersey for its students and included adults as well. A teacher at the school, Marianne was named principal in 1980, yet continued to teach classes until the first year of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In 2003, having outgrown the space available in the church, the school was relocated to Lower Moreland High School in Huntingdon Valley. Marianne continues to serve as Chair of the Immanuel German School Committee. She was also honored in 2022, when the Immanuel German School named its newly formed chapter of the National German Honor Society the "Marianne Haug Chapter of Delta Epsilon Phi."



Photograph taken on the 40th anniversary of the Immanuel German School

Left to right: John Scholtz, Treasurer; Dr. Jeanette Hausman, Head of School; Dr. Del Hausman, Principal; Marianne Haug, Co-founder Immanuel Sprachschule

In addition, in 1990, Marianne was presented with the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany (*Bundesverdienstkreuz*), that country's only federal decoration, which was established in 1951 by *Bundespräsident* Theodor Heuss and awarded to individuals "for achievements that served the rebuilding of the country in the fields of political, socio-economic, and intellectual activity."

President Ronald Reagan — who in 1987 would designate October 6 as German-American Day — congratulated the Immanuel German School in 1985 for its "commitment to the fundamentals of education enriched by a broader understanding of our heritage from Europe."

Marianne was actively involved in the German Language School Conference (GLSC) almost since its inception in 1978. The GLSC is a national organization that assists in establishing new language schools and links member schools with a central body for information and support. She served on its Board of Trustees for many years. Marianne's late husband, Dr. Haug, was one of the founders of the GLSC. He also served as pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church from 1958 until his untimely passing in 1980.

Inspired by the US Bicentennial Celebration in 1976, Dr. Haug was the driving force in establishing the United German-American Committee, chartered in 1977. He became its first president. The organization later changed its name to the German-American Heritage Foundation (GAHF) and moved its headquarters and museum to Washington, D.C.

An ardent believer in the importance of highlighting the role German-Americans have played throughout the history of the United States, Dr. Haug served as Chairman of the Ethnic Committee of the City of Philadelphia's Bicentennial Commission. For his longtime efforts on behalf of German-American interests, Dr. Haug was also recognized with the *Bundesverdienstkreuz* in 1977.

- Lynne Breen

Virginia, in which the famed abolitionist attempted to strip the federal arsenal of its guns and ammunition. The American Philosophical Society described the scene: "The train [on which Rosengarten was a passenger] stopped at Harper's Ferry and there Mr. Rosengarten saw the attack made by the soldiery on the engine house in which John Brown had taken refuge. He saw John Brown lying wounded."

A member of the German Society of Pennsylvania since 1863, Rosengarten passed away in 1921 and is buried at Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia.

- Lynne Breen

## WunderbarTogether.net Offers Platform for Publicity of German Events in Tri-State Area

Over the past four years, the member organizations of the German-American Committee of Philadelphia and Vicinity have encountered various obstacles, navigating the ever-evolving landscape of membership structures, economic dynamics, and business models.

As the representative of the German Society of Pennsylvania within our committee for several years, I have had the privilege of engaging in discussions about the future of our program and event marketing strategies. Our beloved German American Calendar of Events, which evolved from the humble "Golden Rod" flyer to a comprehensive booklet, served us well until the challenges of 2020 prompted a reevaluation of our outreach methods.

Recognizing the need to embrace modern communication methods, I saw an opportunity to leverage digital platforms and contemporary marketing strategies to showcase our remarkable events, programs, and activities to a wider audience. While many member organizations have established websites to promote their activities to their membership and the public, I firmly believe that a combined representation

of our diverse offerings will amplify our impact and attract a broader spectrum of participants.

This realization led to the development of a new platform designed to bridge the gap between our rich cultural heritage and the social media habits of today's population. Introducing **WunderbarTogether.net**, a dynamic space where the vibrant tapestry of our German-American culture comes to life.

Understanding that a platform named *German American Calendar of Events* might limit its appeal, I sought the expertise of creative minds to craft a catchy and inclusive name. Drawing inspiration from the successful campaign by the German government, *Wunderbar Together – The Year of German-American Friendship – Deutschlandjahr in den USA*, which ran from 2017 to 2019, I secured the trademark for "wunderbartogether" and officially named our new platform.



The test version of WunderbarTogether.net is already live, and I invite each of you to sign up for our mailing list. By doing so, you will stay updated on all German and German-American events, programs, and activities in the tri-state area, fostering a stronger sense of community and shared experiences.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your continuous support. Together, let us embark on this digital journey, connecting our community to a broader audience and showcasing the beauty of German-American culture.

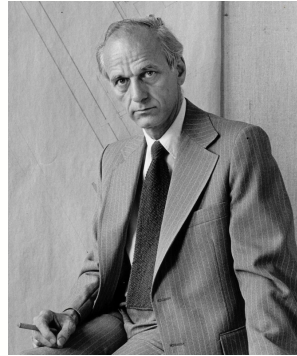
Thank you for being a part of this exciting chapter in our committee's history.

- Tony Michels, President, German-American Committee of Philadelphia and Vicinity



## In Memoriam

### Otto Reichert-Facilides



We learned that **Otto Reichert-Facilides** passed away on October 23, 2023. He was 98. He was born in Görlitz, Germany and attended the local gymnasium, and as was typical for young men in Germany in the 1940s, he was drafted into the army. Otto saw action on the Eastern front and survived three machine gun bullets.

Otto earned a degree in architecture from a university in Karlsruhe and was subsequently awarded a Fulbright scholarship to Columbia University. Otto met his wife, Nury Reichert (née: Vandellos) in New York, and they married in 1955. Otto took a position as the City Planning Director of Offenbach, Germany. However, America kept calling, and he and Nury returned to the U.S. Otto proceeded to earn a Master's Degree in Architecture from Harvard University. He then worked for Stonorov & Haws and subsequently for the Walker & Murray architectural firm in Philadelphia. Then, Otto opened his own one-man firm, which he ran until 1990. His largest and most well-known project was the development of Academy House, a majestic 576-unit condominium complex at 1420 Locust St.

Otto was our go-to architect at the German Society for many years, and he was very generous with his time. He developed comprehensive assessments, including likely costs, of what projects needed to be done to maintain or upgrade our historically important building, which was constructed in 1888 and is always in need of attention. He collaborated with Richard Thom, a fellow architect, and Tom Unkefer to undertake a major renovation project during the 1990s, which included an air conditioning system for the Horner Memorial Library, replacement of the Library windows, and new roofs over the main building and the townhouse. A parallel effort during the same time period focused on book restorations in the Library.

We have fond memories of his willingness to provide professional guidance. He served on our Board of Directors and was a longtime member. Our sympathy goes out to his wife of 68 years, Nury, and the entire Reichert family.

### Dr. Victor K. Schutz



**Dr. Victor K. Schutz**, 88, of Wynnewood, PA died peacefully at home on October 15, 2023. He is survived by his wife, Helen, to whom he has been married for 65 years, and their son Douglas, as well as others. Victor was a German/Austrian World War II refugee born in an area that is now part of the Czech Republic. Victor was fortunate to earn an American Field Service (AFS) international exchange scholarship to attend Lansdowne (PA) High School in the United States. That is where his American journey began. He subsequently earned a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania. He was the Founding Chair of the Department of Electrical Engineering at Temple, he organized many engineering education conferences, and he was widely recognized for his many professional accomplishments.

Victor was proud of his German heritage. He served on the Society's Board of Directors during the 1990s and was a dynamic and engaging speaker at several Stiftungsfest events. He and Helen supported the Society financially with gifts to the Annual Fund Drives and to the newly established General Endowment. Both enjoyed attending GSP events and were annual season ticket holders at our "Wister and More" concert series. It is also appropriate to note that Helen was a dedicated volunteer in the office for a good number of years.

Our sympathy goes out to the Douglas Schutz as well as the extended Schutz family.

- E. D. Weiler

## Development Report

The end of each year is an opportunity to celebrate with family and friends, to enjoy Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, the dawning of a New Year, and other holidays. But it may also be good time to review your estate plans. Have you updated your will in recent years, selected an executor, or considered who will have medical power of attorney? For many of us, these are topics we too often choose to ignore or delay. We can recommend estate attorneys who would be pleased to discuss your particular situation.

We established two endowment funds, the General Endowment and the Horner Library Fund, with the overall objective to secure funding for German Society's programs and activities for generations to come. On an operational level, the goal is to secure 20 or even 25% of our yearly financial needs. In the past thirteen years, we have made remarkable progress and have reached the halfway mark of our goals. We continue to believe that legacy gifts through estate plans are a key component of any development plan and likely a key to our success.

There are many attractive giving options, such as 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.

If you have an IRA account and are 70 1/2 years or older, you are required to take a mandated yearly withdrawal. You have the option to use a portion, or if your situation allows, most of the withdrawal as a donation to benefit the Society. There are no taxes due on the appreciated assets, and it remains one of the most effective giving tools under IRS rules.

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.

And finally, let me join my colleagues at the German Society in wishing all of you the best in 2024, especially good health. Whether you donate to the Annual Fund Drive or make arrangements for a legacy gift, your financial generosity is very much appreciated, and we thank you!

- E. D. Weiler

## Annual Fund Donors

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