

# The German Society of Pennsylvania

## Neuer Pennsylvanischer Staatsbote

CELEBRATING

1764 **250** 2014

YEARS OF

**GERMAN  
HERITAGE**

Spring 2017

Calendar of Events	
Sat. Apr. 1	Hamburger Abend, 7:00pm
Wed. Apr. 5	Scott Kreilick Lecture: Conservation of Bronze Sculpture and Monuments, 3:00pm
Fri. Apr. 7	Friday Film Fest: <i>Der Staat gegen Fritz Bauer</i> , 6:30pm
Sat. Apr. 8	Buchclub: Maria Beig's <i>Hermine. Ein Tierleben/Hermine. An Animal Life</i> 1:30pm
Sat. Apr. 8	Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10:00am
Wed. Apr. 12	Konversationsabend: A Guided Tour through the Maze of German Grammar, 6:00pm
April 20-22	Symposium of the Society for German-American Studies
Sun. Apr. 23	"Wister and More!" presents the Wister Quartet, 3:00pm
Say. May 6	Women's Auxiliary Anniversary Luncheon, 12:00pm
Wed. May 10	Konversationsabend: Talent Show, 6:00pm
Sat. May 13	Buchclub, 1:30pm
Sun. May 14	"Wister and More!" presents American Virtuosi, 3:00pm
Fri. May 19	Friday Film Fest: <i>Stefan Zweig—Farewell to Europe</i> , 6:30pm
Sat. May 20	Frankfurt in May, 3:00pm
Sun. May 21	Library Anniversary Brunch, 10:00am
Wed. May 24	Konversationsabend EXTRA: Frankfurt Bürgerreise Group Meet & Greet, 6:00pm
Sat. June 3	Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10:00am

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### President's Message

Happy "New" Year 2017 to those that I have not had the opportunity of seeing during the past 9 weeks. I hope that everything in 2017 is going as you hoped so far. If not, we all have nine more months to make things happen, and I am personally looking forward to working together on our common goals.

For the first time since I have been part of the German Society, we have put in place a dependable heating system this winter that supplies nearly the entire building. Currently, we have seven zones that can be remotely operated and adjusted to the needs of our operation, providing reliable 24/7 temperature control. Next on the agenda is completing the ongoing process of humidity control in the main library and archive rooms (humidification in the winter and dehumidification in the summer). Hopefully this will be fully realized soon.

The improvement of other library and archive areas will be part of our next phase: creating a main cooling source for the entire building. As previously reported, we are considering two systems: a traditional cooling tower based supply or a geothermal well field, which could provide cooling capacity as well as heat for the building. The zoned system makes it possible to operate the building efficiently based on our day-to-day needs. For example, we can adjust to the limited requirements of office opening and language classes in two rooms, as well as to the larger events which are part of our annual calendar.

On February 25<sup>th</sup> we hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Bier-Fest with approximately 800 guests and volunteers (German Society, Temple University German Society, Philly Roller Derby, and many

more), and the building infrastructure was up to the task. Because of the unexpected spring-like weather, we were able to take advantage of our now completed Joseph Leidy Terrace. The outdoor seating, a fire pit to prepare marshmallows, vendors, and a special outdoor game, Baumstamm Nageln, attracted hundreds to enjoy their beer in the garden. The cooperation with our neighbors, the Philadelphia Society of Free Letts, makes it possible to host a large number of Pennsylvania breweries and importers of German Biers; present lots of music, dance, and other performances on two stages; and educate participants in a sit-down beer tasting in our library. We continued our cooperation with the Edgar Allen Poe house by decorating the "Edgar Allen Poe Cheese Cave and PA Cider Bar" in our Ratskeller, where a Poe impersonator performance was a great success.



Please Join Us

# FRANKFURT IN MAY

Celebrating Philadelphia's new Sister City

MAY 20th, 3PM | REGIONAL FOOD, WINE, MUSIC & FUN



Although the BierFest was a great event, we still need to extend our outreach into other areas of business and cooperation. A stronger relationship with the National Park Service (in such events as the Poe Arts Festival) might allow us to create opportunities in several areas that will increase our exposure to groups in Philadelphia who have not been aware of us in the past. The improvements in the past ten years, bringing our facility up to modern standards, give us the chance to host a wider range of events, and the administrative structure of the organization will be reviewed to adapt to the needs that will evolve from more activities.

The next big event in the German Society, the Hamburger Abend on April 1<sup>st</sup>, has already been advertized to our members. I recommend you make your reservations early and take advantage of our special pricing for members. We were one of the first to be involved in developing the new sister city relationship between Philadelphia and Frankfurt and will be repeating our "Frankfurt in May" event on May 20<sup>th</sup>. I participate in the Sister City Steering Committee of the City of Philadelphia, and the GSP will be welcoming the 2017 *Bürgerreise* participants from Frankfurt to the event on May 20<sup>th</sup>, as well as to a networking event in the German Society and a Konversationsabend EXTRA on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the German Society during the coming months. As always this time of the year, I am asking for your support for our Annual 2016/2017 fund drive. Please consider making a donation to the mission of the German Society. I am thankful for the donations that we already received, but would like to ask those who have not had the opportunity to participate early this year to review your ability to donate to the German Society. I am proud of the job we do currently and will continue to do in the coming years, but we are dependent on your financial support to thrive and grow.

- Anton Michels

## SGAS Symposium 2017

As mentioned in the previous issue of the Staatsbote, next month will feature a special opportunity to learn more about the German-American Experience: on April 21 and 22, the Society for German-American Studies will hold its 2017 Symposium at the German Society of Pennsylvania, under the topic of "The Protestant Reformation at 500: Its Legacy from Pennsylvania across German America". The German Society is delighted to provide the venue for this event, especially given the fact that SGAS has offered free registration to all German Society members who would like to attend the opening reception on Thursday, April 20, at the Wyndham Hotel in Old City, and/or the various presentations at the Society. You can find the complete Symposium program on their website (<http://sgas.org/symposium>), as well as the registration details. For planning purposes, we will have to require you to register in advance!

I would also like you to give special consideration to the Germantown excursion scheduled for the afternoon of Saturday, April 22. There



will be guided tours of the Mennonite Meeting House where Francis Daniel Pastorius presented his anti-slavery treatise in 1688, and of Grumblethorpe, the home of the Wister family, founding members of the German Society. Both properties are currently only open by appointment, so the tours will provide you the opportunity to get inside without going through the hassle of arranging for a tour yourself (please note that there is a \$20 fee for the tours). We will also try to incorporate a visit to Vernon Park with its Pastorius Monument - many of you might be familiar with the J. Otto Schweitzer model for a Pastorius Monument in the Horner Memorial Library, but have you ever seen the one that was actually built? This is your chance!

I hope to see many of you in April for this exciting chance to learn more about the impact of the Reformation on the New World!

- Maria Sturm

## Deutschland = Lutherland

If you travel through Germany this year, you will likely encounter the portrait of Martin Luther everywhere you go. With more than a thousand events in a hundred locations, the whole nation will be celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Luther's posting his 95 theses on the Castle Church door at Wittenberg. That set in motion a schism in Christianity that would irreversibly change not only Germany, but the entire Western world.

Luther's significance transcends theology. After generations of secularism, let alone decades of official atheism in the former GDR, Germans are not particularly religious any more. Protestants and Catholics respectively represent barely 30% each of the population. But the Reformation was not just about religion. It shaped the German language, mentality and way of life.

For centuries the country was riven by confessional strife and oppression, including a devastating war in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century that lasted 30 years. By the time of German unification in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Lutheranism had won the culture war. Christians, according to Luther, were guaranteed salvation through Jesus, but had a duty to live in such a manner as to deserve it. Ostentation was thus a disgraceful distraction from the self-denial required to examine one's conscience.

This can be seen in the modest dress, office decor and eating habits of Angela Merkel, the daughter of a Lutheran pastor, and of Joachim Gauck, a former pastor himself. Luther shared his distaste for visual ornaments with other Protestant reformers, but he differed in the role he saw for music. Both John Calvin and Ulrich Zwingli viewed music as a sensual temptation, but for Luther, music was a divinely inspired weapon against the devil.

He wanted believers to sing together, in church and at home, and with instruments accompanying them. Today, Germany has 130 publicly financed orchestras, more than any other country. And concerts are still attended with rever-

ence like church services. Luther's legacy can also be seen in the fact that Germany has the second largest book market in the world, after America. With his translation of the Bible into German, he wanted everyone, male or female, rich or poor, to read it.

Finally, a familiar thesis links Luther to German attitudes towards money. Protestants see saving as a moral imperative. This argument has a familiar ring to leaders in southern European countries (largely Catholic or Orthodox) where the Euro crisis occurred, since they had to endure lectures of austerity from Wolfgang Schäuble, Germany's Lutheran finance minister.

Yet on money, Luther also differed from other reformers. Calvin viewed an individual's ability to get rich as evidence that God had predestined him to be saved. From Luther's point of view, Christians were already saved, so wealth was suspect. Instead of amassing it, Christians should work for their community, not for themselves. Work (*Beruf*) thus became a calling (*Berufung*). This Lutheran socialism finds secular expression in the welfare states of Scandinavia and Germany.

The above observations were gleaned from an article which appeared in *The Economist*, an English weekly magazine. It resonated well with me, because my *nth* great grandfather was an early follower and compatriot of Luther. He sent his grandson to the University of Jena to study theology. After his lifelong service as a Lutheran pastor, he was murdered by papal forces on the steps of his church in 1634. Many other family members of subsequent generations heeded the same pastoral calling. The last of those baptized me in 1938. His church in Dresden was bombed to rubble in 1945, which I observed as a child.

- Hardy von Auenmueller

PS: Incidentally, those of you joining me on the **Heritage Travel through Germany** late in May will see the historically most important Lutheran sites, as we travel from Berlin to Munich. Registration deadline is March 30.

## Annual Fund Donors

Donors' names have been removed from online version for their privacy.

## Reformation and the Bible

Many readers will know some history of the Reformation era, including the fact that Martin Luther translated the Old and New Testaments into the variation of German he commanded so well. Others had produced translations before Luther - even into German - and certainly there were translations of the Bible long after the Reformation era came to a close.

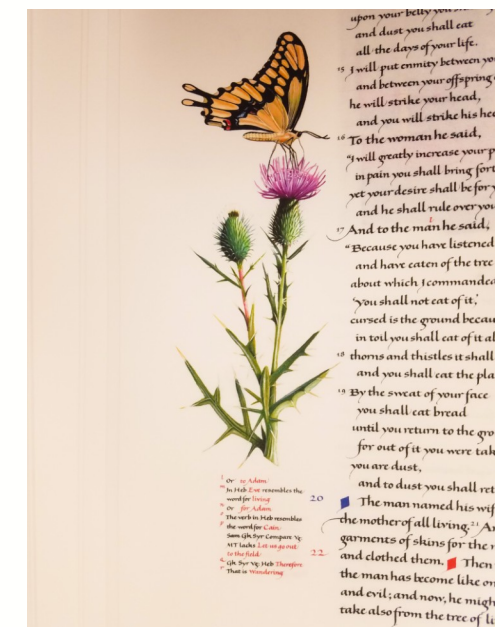
Fewer readers may be aware that interest in versions of the Bible continues into our era. One expression of that interest is the version known as the St John's Bible, the calligraphy and art work of which was commissioned by the St. John's Abbey (Minnesota) beginning in 1998 and completed in 2011. Subsequent work included 299 smaller copies known as the Heritage Editions. St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia owns copy #60, and it is this text which German Society members were able to see, guided by Mr. Christopher Dixon, Archival Research Librarian. He first put the St John's Bible project into context, using video clips and websites, and then our group gathered around the tables where he carefully turned the pages (about a yard long and 15 inches wide). As he explained different technical aspects of, and some theological insights into, the art work, our members were able to ask questions, share comments with each other, take pictures, and reflect on this wonderful treasure.

The Heritage Edition of the Bible is a mix of technology, i.e., the computer was used to calculate spacing for the calligraphy of the lines of scripture and art. The Royal British calligrapher Donald Jackson directed the team of artists from diverse religious backgrounds and artistic traditions. The Society members marveled at the flora, fauna, and insects from several continents; the combination of images from historic and modern day life, including the Twin Towers of New York City and shots from the Hubble space photos; the use of words and symbols from Judaism, Christianity, and Islam; and bold portrayal of biblical characters and scenes.

While the Society members were diverse in familiarity with this project, all agreed that the Heritage Edition is a document that can draw together viewers from many faith backgrounds and varied life experiences.

2017 will include other events at the German Society which are designed to lead members and friends to consider the impact of the Reformation in modern times. Please watch the Society website for future announcements or contact the office for further formation.

- Jean E. Godsall-Myers





## Mein Volontariat bei den PhillyKindern

Ich heiße Judith Bauknecht, bin 24 Jahre alt, und komme aus dem schönen Kraichgau in der Nähe von Heidelberg. Nach Beendigung meines Bachelor-Studiums in Kindheitspädagogik (mit den Schwerpunkten mathematische und künstlerische Entwicklung beim Kinde) wollte ich mir endlich den Traum, das Leben in den USA zu schnuppern, erfüllen. Dazu gehört, dort zu arbeiten, dachte ich mir, und am besten kann ich dabei noch etwas für mein späteres Berufsleben mitnehmen.

Unter den vielen Bildungsangeboten entlang der Ostküste fielen mir die PhillyKinder besonders auf. Sprachschulen gibt es unzählige. Aber das sind eben meist verschulte Lernangebote, die ich bereits kenne. Die Webseite der PhillyKinder verspricht ein verspieltes und gerade nicht schulähnliches Setting, in dem es neben dem Spracherwerb auch um das Knüpfen deutschsprachiger Freundschaften, sowie das tatsächliche Erleben der deutschen Kultur gehen soll.

Dieses Nachmittagsprogramm darf ich nun 5 Monate begleiten und unterstützen. Meine Aufgabe dabei war es zunächst, die doch so unterschiedlichen (Alters-)Gruppen zu besuchen, um einen allgemeinen Eindruck über das Programm zu gewinnen. Anschließend durfte ich einige Angebote, meist aus dem mathematischen bzw. künstlerischen Bereich, selbstständig mit den Kindern durchführen.

Was ich dabei erlebt und gelernt habe, möchte ich gerne mit den Lesern des Staatsboten teilen.

Auch wenn es ein, im Gegensatz zur Schule, lockereres Lernangebot sein soll, bei dem die Kinder ungezwungener verstehen und begreifen können sollen, weiß die Organisation der PhillyKinder um die Bedeutung eines einheitlichen Konzepts, einer Struktur. Der Grundaufbau eines Donnerstagnachmittags ist daher recht simpel, aber doch durchdacht: Die 90 Minuten werden in zwei ungefähr gleichen Blöcken durchgeführt und durch eine Pause, verbunden mit einem Snack, voneinander

getrennt. Zusätzlich haben die Lehrkräfte meist noch gruppenabhängig unterschiedliche Rituale, die den Kindern mehr Struktur und Sicherheit im Ablauf geben. Darunter kann man sich ein Begrüßungslied, eine kurze Geschichte während des Snacks, usw. vorstellen. Je nach Anlass wird einer der zwei Blöcke genutzt, um gruppenübergreifend aktuelle Gepflogenheiten aus Deutschland, wie den Laternenumzug am St. Martinstag oder Fasching/Fastnacht, zu feiern. Selbstverständlich wird untereinander konsequent nur deutsch gesprochen.

Soweit mein Überblick über die Struktur der Arbeit.

Aber ich möchte mich gar nicht lange mit dem groben Konzept aufhalten, sondern lieber gleich zu den Punkten kommen, die mir während meines Volontariats aufgefallen sind.

Was mich sehr begeistert ist, dass die engagierten Lehrkräfte der PhillyKinder es auch tatsächlich schaffen, eine Atmosphäre des eher spielerischen Lernens aufzubauen, so dass die Kinder nicht das Gefühl haben, sich wie manchmal in der Schule mühsam Lerninhalten widmen zu müssen. Als ich die unterschiedlichen Gruppen besuchte, erwischte ich mich oft dabei, den sprachlichen Aspekt gar nicht mehr im Blick zu behalten, da meine Aufmerksamkeit dem gemeinsamen Nachspielen von Geschichten, dem Basteln von Laternen, einer hitzigen Diskussion über Farben oder dem Spielen von Instrumenten galt. Es fühlt sich eher wie ein Unterhaltungsprogramm an, bei dem wie selbstverständlich nebenbei Deutsch gesprochen und gelernt wird.

Eine weitere meiner Aufgaben war es, als Neuzuwachs eine konstruktive, kritische Haltung einzunehmen, um am Ende ein Feedback über das Konzept und die Durchführung geben zu können. Im Verhältnis zu anderen Sprachprogrammen sind die PhillyKinder eine doch recht junge Organisation, die sich noch stetig entwickelt. Die Haltung der Lehrkräfte spiegelt dies definitiv wieder. Denn obwohl ich gerade erst frisch aus dem Pädagogik-Studium

komme, habe ich bislang immer erfahren, dass die Lehrkräfte offen und interessiert nach meinem Eindruck oder auch meinen Ideen zur Verbesserung gefragt haben.

Auch habe ich den Eindruck, dass die Lehrkräfte ihre Schäfchen schon sehr gut kennen, und die Schwächen ihrer Gruppen, oder einzelner, durch deren Stärken auszugleichen wissen, und auch stets bemüht sind jeden mitzunehmen.

Während meinen eigenen Angeboten habe ich erlebt, dass dies je nach Gruppe auch mal mehr oder weniger schwierig sein kann, da sich die Kinder, trotz gleicher Altersspanne, manchmal auf einem sprachlich doch sehr unterschiedlichen Niveau befinden und nicht zu unterschätzen ist, dass sie nach einem langen Schultag mit der Konzentration zu kämpfen haben. Doch letztendlich kommen die Kinder, nach meinem Empfinden, mit echtem Interesse auf das aktuelle Thema in ihre Gruppen.

Abschließend möchte ich noch das mir persönlich, aber auch professionell wichtigste Fazit mit Ihnen teilen.

In meinem Studium habe ich gelernt, dass es bei dem Erwerb zweier Sprachen besonders wichtig ist, dass mindestens eine Bezugsperson konsequent die Zweitsprache spricht. Umso besser wenn dies durch Lehrkräfte wiederholt erfahren wird.

Was ich aber in keiner Studie gelernt habe: wie wichtig es ist, einer Sprache Leben einzuhauchen.

Wenn die Sprache nicht gemeinsam mit anderen und ihrer Kultur gelebt wird, was unterscheidet dann das Lernen von Deutsch von dem Gefühl, das man hat 'Latein', aka eine „tote Sprache“ zu lernen? Und wie erklärt man einem Kind, es solle sich etwas aneignen, was man doch gar nicht im Alltag braucht.

Die PhillyKinder bieten meiner Meinung nach eine erste Möglichkeit, die deutsche Sprache in den Alltag der Kinder zu integrieren. Haben sich darüber hinaus dann deutschsprachige Freundschaften entwickelt, oder der Wunsch

nach dem Weiterführen deutscher kultureller Ereignisse ergeben, wurde eine der großen Hürden des Zweitspracherwerbs genommen.

- Judith Bauknecht

## Welcome New Members!

Members' names have been removed from online version for their privacy.

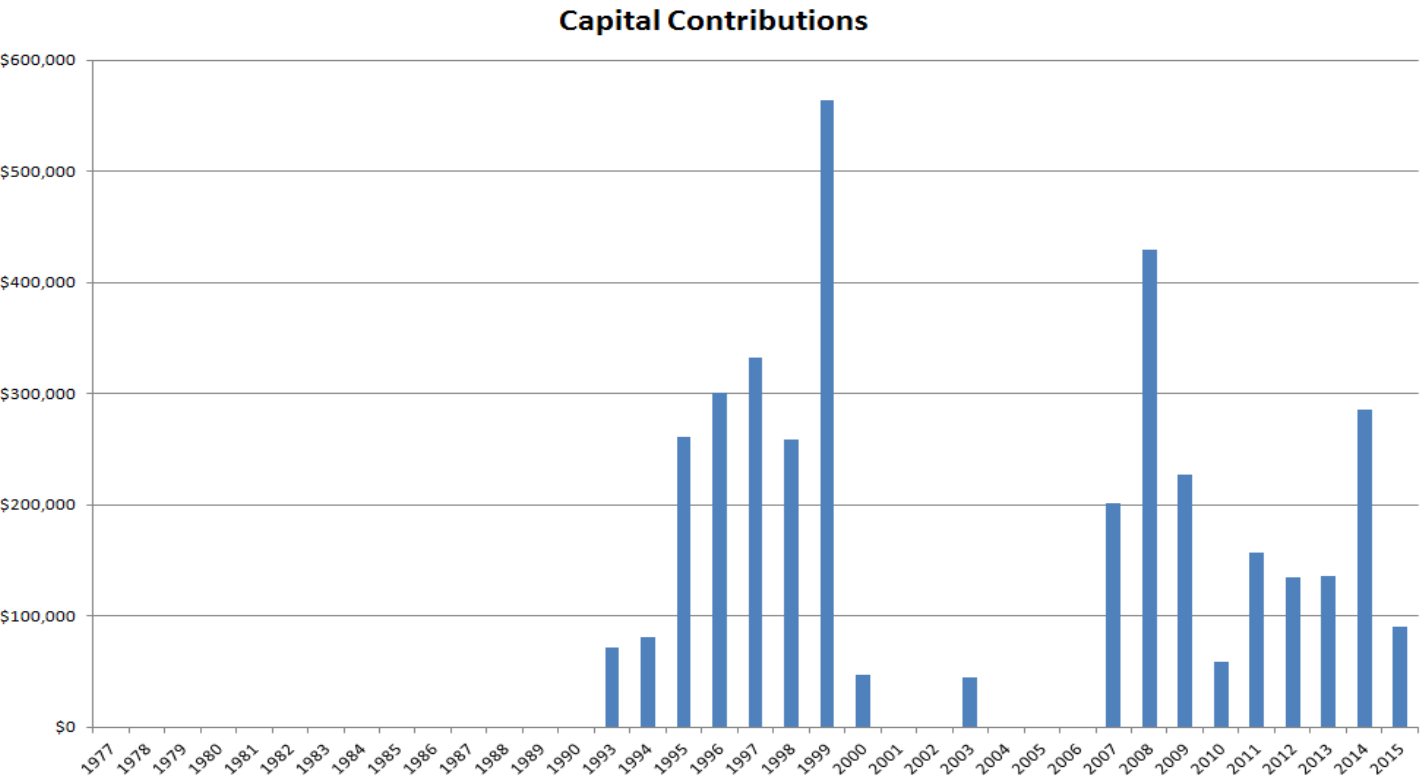
# Back to the Future

“Money is only a tool. It will take you wherever you wish, but it will not replace you as the driver.”

- Ayn Rand

It is not surprising, considering the age of the Society buildings, that there is almost a constant need for infrastructure repairs. This column looks at contributions made for capital projects. These come about in two ways. In some instances, donors recognize the need for a specific improvement and provide funds for that purpose. Examples are the Beichl Tower elevator project, with initial funding provided by Ulrich Both and Hans Trustorf, the Spring Garden Street entrance door and foyer financed by the Tillmanns, and the Leidy Terrace donated by the Churchmans. To complete these projects, significant funds were added by many donors and from the Society budget.

The more usual route is that there is a recognized need for a capital project, potential donors are contacted, and if the need is compelling and funds are available, we receive grants or donations. Here is the record of our capital project contributions:



We received donations from the Barthelmes and Haas foundations prior to 1993, but this money was used for scholarships and library projects.

From 1993 to 2000, we obtained about \$1.7 million in funding for what were characterized as the “Library Project” and the “Building Project.” About \$330,000 in donations were reported from the Federal Republic of Germany for the Library Project, with \$100,000 coming from the Krupp Foundation. Other major donors were: the Barthelmes Foundation, Carole Haas, Morgan Churchman, the Huberti estate, John Muller, and the William Penn Foundation. The library received a new roof, ceiling, HVAC system, and wiring for phones and data.

The Director’s Room was refurbished and a building fire alarm system installed. The townhouse building also got a new roof, and the German-American collection room was provided with climate control. Other projects on the list such as a sprinkler system, elevator, and air conditioning for the rest of the

building were dropped when the funds ran out.

In 2003, donations from Daimler-Chrysler and Max Kade helped to pay for renovation of the Ratskeller kitchen. This was a more typical capital project in that the principal donors did the “heavy lifting”, i.e., provided the major funds to get the project started. However, it was the many donations from members and friends that provided the additional money to take the project to completion.

From 2007 to the present can be characterized as “the era of Ernie”. It was largely through the efforts of Ernie Weiler, who aggressively pursued and lobbied many foundations and potential donors for funds, that we achieved significant success, with approximately \$2 million collected. The projects done included the installation of a sprinkler system, the elevator, new windows, interior and exterior painting, bathroom renovations, prevention of water intrusion for most of the basement, construction of a cistern, repair of the sewer line, a new front door, vestibule renovation, repair of the front steps, the Leidy Terrace, a new emergency exit, and the purchase of our concert piano. Principal donors other than those already cited included the William Penn Foundation, Canstatter Foundation Inc., the German Society of New York City, the Max Kade Foundation, Philadelphia City Capital Funds, the Women’s Auxiliary, and the Arcadia Foundation.

We now have a dozen capital projects in progress, the most significant being the HVAC systems. Replacement of the two failing boilers and the installation of fan coil units are complete for the heating phase of this project. Proposals for humidity control and air conditioning of the library spaces are being reviewed for the most cost effective solution. While we have garnered significant funding for this project, we are unlikely to have the entire cost covered.

Our learning experience is that capital projects consistently take longer and cost more than initially anticipated. Things fall apart, and they tend to do so unexpectedly. Our goal is to have a capital reserve fund for these events which

would come from our endowment fund. We recognize the need for continued pursuit of support from foundations, as well as calling upon our members and friends when necessary. Our thanks go out to the latter, who continue to make the many building improvements possible and who have donated to the endowment fund.

- Lew Volgenau



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## Report by the VP of Development and VP of Culture and Heritage

As reported in the prior issue of the Staatsbote, we started a separate endowment to support the needs of the Horner Memorial Library. An interim goal of \$600,000 was established, and we believe it is important that our readers fully understand the background for this initiative.



Founded in 1817, the Horner Memorial Library is among the oldest libraries in Philadelphia - only the collections of the Library Company, the American Philosophical Society, the University of Pennsylvania, the College of Physicians, and the Athenaeum are older. This is a point of pride, but also poses special challenges. Many of the library's holdings date back to the 18th and early 19th centuries and are in need of preservation, which today means a truly reliable HVAC system. Proper humidity and temperature control are most important. The other libraries mentioned are part of larger institutions or have already established endowments to support their operations, and they have one other advantage the German Society's library does not have: they can appeal to a much wider base of potential supporters, because their holdings are mostly in English, whereas the opposite is true of our library. It is unique: no other German Society in the United States has built up a collection like ours; but it can be used to its full potential only by those who are fluent in German. This was an important aspect in soliciting support from Germany for the Library Renovation Project of the 1990s, and it continues with the summer fellowships at the library financed by the German Historical Institute in Washington DC since 2007. But we cannot expect money from Germany for an endowment,

and only a few American foundations are willing to provide funds for this purpose. We have been successful in raising funds from US foundations for cataloging and capital projects, but the daily costs of operating the library are the responsibility of the Society.

The growing size of the library was a major reason for the move in 1888 from 7th Street to our current location on Spring Garden. The library was planned with the same attention to detail as the auditorium below, signaling to the outside world that books and lectures were just as important as music and social gatherings. When the German Society received its biggest bequest ever, Philadelphia Orchestra member Joseph Horner singled out the library as the area where the money should go, and the library was named in his honor in 1964.

Until the 1980s, the Society bore the costs for the acquisition of new books and the salary of a part-time librarian without much questioning, but then the decline in both membership and knowledge of German set in motion a process of reducing the immediate importance of the Horner Memorial Library for the members of the German Society. This is part of a larger trend in the US and throughout the world: libraries that began as *Volksbibliotheken* are now recognized as irreplaceable treasures that have become essential sources of research and pride for the communities that they have served so faithfully and so well.

The Horner Memorial Library's importance grew for the scholarly community in large part due to the Library Renovation Project of the 1990s, which led to the online cataloging of the collection, thus making it visible to the outside world. Recognizing the relevance of our collections beyond the purview of the German Society itself is behind the funding for the capital and cataloging projects we are receiving from the William Penn Foundation and the Max Kade Foundation. But this does not mean that we can do without support from within the German Society's membership, nor without the help of those who appreciate the contributions of Ger-

man-Americans to the history of the United States - even if they are not themselves German speakers or of German ancestry.

It cannot be emphasized enough that your financial contributions will go to a unique library and will serve a unique purpose - keeping alive this manifestation of German-American history, and allowing researchers from all over the world to keep exploring and quite literally translating it for future generations. We do not want to be a museum, so we need to have a part-time librarian and money to pay for online cataloging services and professional membership fees. Moreover, we need funds to preserve not only the books and manuscripts, but also the built environment, much like the collections of Philadelphia's Wagner Free Institute of Science are enhanced by still being displayed the way William Wagner and Dr. Joseph Leidy envisioned them. Today, when you step into our reading room your experience is virtually unchanged from what Oswald Seidensticker and his colleagues on the Building Committee intended you to see back in 1888, when the current building opened.

But we need your help in continuing this tradition of having the Horner Memorial Library at the German Society! A substantial endowment will guarantee that there will always be a librarian, as well as a preservation budget to carry on the work started in the 1990s, but suspended for lack of funds. We would also like to continue to offer lectures, exhibitions and workshops, and we plan to enlarge our holdings of recent German literature and children's books, the two areas where the library still functions as a resource for the Society's membership. These activities have been possible recently only due to individual donations and designated funds from the Women's Auxiliary.

Please consider helping us to carry on the work begun in 1817. We would be honored if your contributions would allow us to keep the library going both as a research institution and as a center for the community, whether German Americans, Philadelphians, or anybody interested in how immigrants shaped this country

and were shaped by it. We recognize these gifts by including the donor's name in a summary of the Friends of the Horner Memorial Library, which can be found on the information table in the library. Gifts of \$1,000 or more are also listed in the Linden Society, which was established to recognize donations to any of our endowment funds.

The question is often asked - should I contribute to the Society's Endowment or the Horner Memorial Library Endowment? This is very much a personal choice! The Society will directly and richly benefit from either endowment. At this point, contributions to the Library Endowment amount to \$55,475. And the balance in the Society's endowment account at the Philadelphia Foundation stands at \$945,000.

Since it is still early in the year and there might be some tax changes coming in 2017, it is appropriate to remind readers again that existing tax laws allow donors who are seventy and one half years old and who need to take yearly IRA requested minimum distributions (RDMs), which typically have unpleasant tax consequences, to direct a portion or all of their RDMs—up to \$100,000—to their favorite charity. This feature can be used for donations to our endowment funds or even for a gift to the Annual Fund. Several individuals took advantage of this attractive feature in 2016. If you would like more information, just contact the office, and we will return your call.

Friends of the Horner Memorial Library – additional donors Nov 2016 to Feb 2017:

Donors' names have been removed from online version for their privacy.

- Ernie Weiler and Maria Sturm