

Calendar of Events

The German Society's office will be closed from Saturday, July 22 through Sunday, August 13. Normal business hours will resume on Monday, August 14.

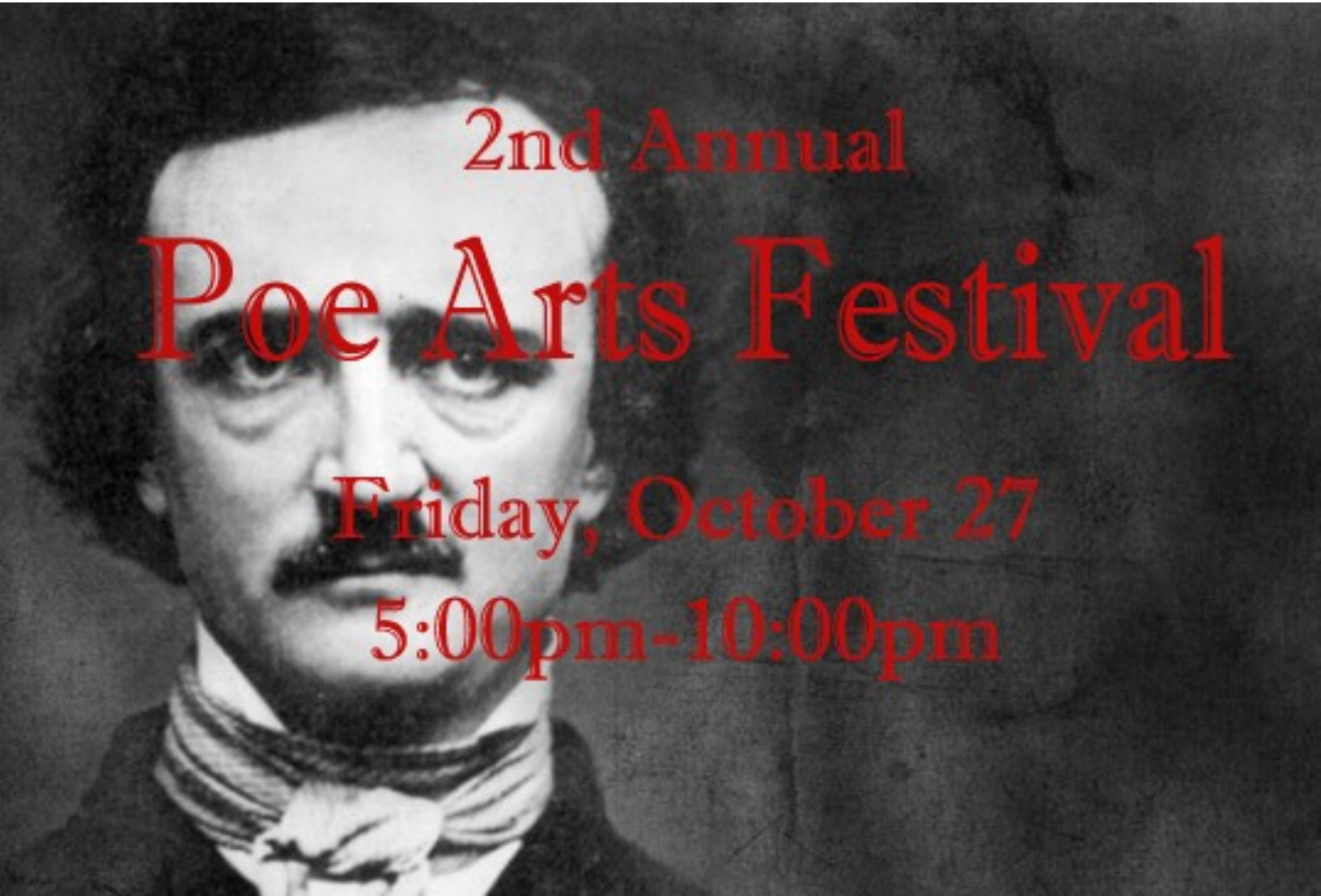
The German Society's parking lot will be closed from Monday, June 19 through the end of August.

Library use will be by appointment only from July 25 through the end of August. To make an appointment, please email [librarian@germansociety.org](mailto:librarian@germansociety.org).

Thurs. July 13	GHI Brown Bag Lunch, 12:00pm
Sat. July 15	Buchclub: <i>Die Farm in den Grünen Bergen/The Farm in the Green Mountains</i> , 1:30pm
Tues. July 18	Fleeing Europe Conference, 9:30am
Sat. Sept. 9	Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, 10:00am
Sat. Sept. 9	Buchclub: <i>Der Trafikant/The Tobacconist</i> , 1:30pm
Wed. Sept. 13	Konversationsabend, 6:00pm
Sun. Sept. 24	"Wister and More!" presents Duo Parisienne, 3:00pm
Wed. Oct. 11	Konversationsabend, 6:00pm
Fri. Oct. 13	Friday Film Fest, 6:30pm
Wed. Oct. 18	Lecture by Ryan Berley: "Christopher Ludwick: Gingerbread Man and Baker General of the Continental Army", 6:00pm

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The German Society  
of Pennsylvania

Neuer Pennsylvanischer  
Staatsbote

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

Summer 2017

A Small Step for the Planet, but a Giant Leap for us

Last year we were able to complete the replacement of the failing heating systems and, as an even bigger step, I am proud to announce that the Board of Directors has decided to enable the entire building to be heated and cooled all year long. Don't worry—we are still frugal Germans (or German-Americans) and will not be heating or cooling the whole building 24/7.

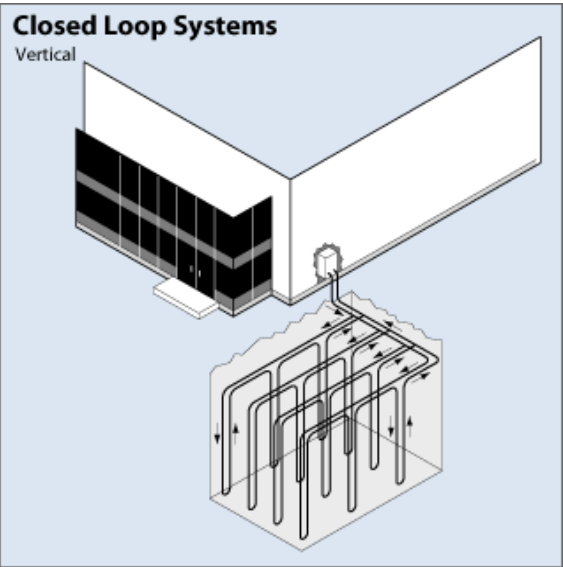
The building was subdivided into eight independent zones. At the end of the project, all library and archival related areas will be heated and cooled, as well as dehumidified and humidified within specifications that match professional requirements. All other areas will be handled as needed.

It might surprise you that we have chosen a geothermal system to provide the air conditioning load for this entire building. By choosing a renewable energy system, the German Society makes a long term commitment to our future and the future of this planet, and opts for a system that minimizes the use of natural gas (except for cooking), saving us thousands of dollars per year.

Last month we invested \$13,000 in a 540-foot deep test bore to determine the geophysical capacity and other underground conditions, and the results made the engineers and us confident that this was the right decision – investing in sustainable modern technology that will also save money is just common sense. We didn't even have to have the "return on investment" discussion – how many years it would take to pay for the additional costs – because we managed to get it for a similar price as a conventional system based on a cooling tower.

In the first phase of our project, replacing the heating system, we saved costs by thinking "out of the box." We saved approximately \$200,000 dollars in the first phase of the GSP HVAC Upgrade Project by choosing a plumbing company from outside the city limits and by telling them exactly what we needed and what we did not. A long term vision for the building development helped cut costs, along with strict project supervision and some hands on help.

At the end of June, a contractor from the Harrisburg area will start drilling a total of twenty-four 6-inch holes each 500 feet deep, and install a closed loop piping system that will be able to transfer an 80-ton cooling load to the basement of our townhouse building. At the same time, four 20-ton BOSCH water-to-water heat pumps (German company, manufactured in the USA) will be installed. These heat pumps will supply the cooling water into the already existing zoned new pipe system to cool the Auditorium, the Ratskeller, and other parts of the building.





We are going to use a vertical system because the land area required for horizontal loops is not available. Vertical loops are used to minimize the space needed. For a vertical system, holes (approximately six inches in diameter) are drilled about 20 feet apart and 500 feet deep. Into these holes go two pipes that are connected at the bottom with a U-bend to form a loop. The vertical loops are connected with horizontal pipe (i.e., manifold), placed in trenches, and connected to the heat pump in the building.

Until now, we could not host any events or rentals during June, July, and August. Even April, May, September, and October events were sometimes problematic. Now we will be able to plan events without the fear of unbearable temperatures. We are expecting to substantially increase our rental income as well as customer satisfaction related to events.

To address all the construction needed to accomplish this milestone project, access to the German Society parking lot will be restricted for the months of July and August this summer.

I am looking forward to completing this project and hope you will enjoy the resulting improvements in the years to come.

Have a nice summer.

- Tony Michels

## 2017 Annual Meeting Report

On Sunday, June 11, our Annual Members Meeting and Elections of the Board of Directors was held in the German Society's Ratskeller. We are very pleased to say that we had a great turnout this year of 60 German Society members. After the approval of last year's minutes, a moment of silence, and a report from President Tony Michels, candidates for introduced themselves and presented briefly on what contributions they could bring to the Society. This year, eight candidates competed for six open Board positions: one vacancy in the Class of 2015-18 and five in the Class of 2017-20.

The members cast their votes, after which followed some lively and informative discussion. Two groups of volunteers tallied up the votes, which yielded the following results: Charles Borowsky will fill the vacancy in the Class of 2018. The five new directors in the Class of 2020 are Helga Halbfass, Daniel Lippard, Brian Norton, Doris Simon, and Maria Sturm. Congratulations to our new board members, and thank you to the Class of 2017 for your years of service to the German Society!

- Liesl Jandrey

## German Society Toasts the Library's Two-Hundredth Birthday

Dignitaries, Invited Guests, Society Members, and Library Volunteers Gather to Celebrate German Literary Culture

The second floor of the German Society of Pennsylvania bustled with excitement on the morning of Sunday, May 21st, as Society members, visiting dignitaries, academics, and Philadelphia-area library and museum professionals convened in the library reading room to celebrate the two-hundredth anniversary of the founding of the German Society of Pennsylvania Library. Following a series of presentations honoring the significance of the library's collection as well as a temporary exhibition of rare library materials, celebrants enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and took part in a champagne toast in honor of the library's birthday. The event drew new attention to the library collection's great importance to the modern-day study of German-American history and culture.



Society Vice President for Culture and Heritage Maria Sturm and President Anton Michels offered introductory remarks to open the event. They were followed by Brita Wagener, the Federal Republic of Germany's Consul General in New York, who shared reflections on the importance of the German Society of Pennsylvania and its library in sustaining positive bilateral diplomatic relations and encouraging cultural understanding. Axel Jansen of the Ger-

man Historical Institute in Washington, D.C. and Frank Trommler of the German Languages and Literatures Department at the University of Pennsylvania each offered comments on the important place of the library in fostering scholarship on topics in German-American history. Historical remarks by Alex Ames of the Department of History at the University of Delaware concluded the formal program.

The library's rich, two-hundred-year history offered numerous stories worthy of sharing at the event, but Ames's comments focused on the library's role in German-American identity formation from 1817 to the present, with much attention being paid to the 1880's and 1890's, the years surrounding the construction of the Society's current headquarters in 1888. In particular, the comments examined how German language, literary works and learning shaped the sense of shared German-American cultural heritage at the time, and how the Society's library itself reflected cultural values in its collection composition and visual aesthetic. Ames compared the history of the Society's library, as well as the 1888 building, to other libraries in the city of Philadelphia that catered to an English-speaking clientele and analyzed why the German Society's own library once contained so many English books. (The dual-language nature of the collection was seemingly the result of the German ethnic community's desire and practical need for English books, both to learn the language and especially as descendants of immigrants lost command of German.) The analysis confirmed the library's status as an important site of German-American cultural formation from its earliest days.

## Luther in Worms

Sunday, November 5, 3pm

In commemoration of Martin Luther's posting of his 95 theses on the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg, and his subsequent trial at the Imperial Diet of the Holy Roman Empire in Worms, Ludwig Meinardus (1827-1896) composed the Oratorio "Luther in Worms".



The oratorio is presented as a cooperative venture by choristers and soloists of the Singakademien Cottbus & Dresden, the Bachchor of Eisenach, and singers from Philadelphia—with full orchestra, conducted by Christian Möbius of the Staatstheater Cottbus.

Ticket cost: \$40. Reserve your tickets now at 215-627-2332.



Following the presenters' remarks, library volunteers welcomed visitors to tables and exhibition cases where some of the library's rare historical treasures were displayed, including three printed and heavily annotated library catalogues from 1839, 1864, and 1879; World War One-era receipts for books purchased for the library collection, as well as several of the books mentioned on the documents; and books published in the early nineteenth century that were some of the library's earliest acquisitions. Other treasures on display included pieces from the German-American collection, including a 1683 German-language translation of a tract authored by William Penn, a 1745 Ephrata imprint, and a 1752 German-language almanac printed by Benjamin Franklin. Champagne and other refreshments were then enjoyed by all.



With its evocation of a bygone era in German-American history and hands-on opportunities for visitors to engage with books from the collection, the event reminded attendees of the central role played by German art, literature, and culture in ethnic identity formation during centuries past, as well as the central role of the library in the Society's history of vibrant cultural offerings. Many thanks to those who attended this event, and all who worked so hard to make it a success!

- Alex L. Ames

## GHI-GSP Summer Fellows in 2017

When attending the brown bag seminars by our GHI-GSP fellows every summer, the members of the German Society have been exposed to a variety of topics, from research about eighteenth-century German-speaking immigrants to the plight of German Americans in the political hysteria of World War I and the situation during and after World War II. The list of topics has been growing every year, showing the wealth of materials that the Horner Library is able to offer to scholars from around the world.

In our next brown bag seminar on July 13, 2017, at 12 noon in the Ratskeller, we will hear about two very different topics by this year's GHI-GSP fellows. Rebecca Lott, a doctoral student of history at St. Andrews University in the UK, will speak about her research in the field of charity which, of course, was the central mission of the German Society since its founding in 1764. Under the title, "Charitable Ethnic Societies in Philadelphia and Charleston, 1740-1810s," Rebecca will illuminate this part of the history of the Society in comparison with similar activities in Charleston.

Adelheid Voskuhl, an associate professor in the Department of History and Sociology of Science at the University of Pennsylvania, is using the holdings at Horner for her book-length study under the title, "Engineers' Philosophy: Industrialism, Theories of Technology, and Social Order in the Second Industrial Revolution (1890-1930)." Heidi will discuss the different roles of engineers in Germany and the United States at the turn of the 20th century, a fascinating topic as it brings up a comparison between the two leading industrial nations that has not received the attention of historians it deserves.

- Frank Trommler

## Berlin Memories

In 1964, when the German Society was celebrating its 200th anniversary, Gudrun and I got married. We spent our honeymoon in Salzburg and Vienna. Subsequently, we travelled to Berlin, which was then a divided city – with a 100 mile wall, built three years earlier, that encircled West Berlin for close to 40 years.

The year before, at the height of the Cold War, President John F. Kennedy had identified himself with the citizens of Berlin by declaring "Ich bin ein Berliner" in his speech at the Schöneberger Rathaus. Regrettably, barely six months later, he was assassinated. And as I write this story, on May 29, 2017, I realize his birthday was exactly 100 years ago.



Twenty-four years later in 1987, President Ronald Reagan flew to Berlin – challenging the Soviet Premier, Mikhail Gorbachev "to tear down this wall"! Gorbachev's reforms of perestroika and glasnost in the Soviet Union encouraged a number of East German citizens, notably Lutheran clergymen, to hold peace services. These were followed by peaceful marches and demonstrations – with the participants shouting out the words: "Wir sind das Volk" (We are the people). That slogan soon changed to: "We sind ein Volk" (We are one people), which led to the fall of the Berlin Wall, and ultimately, to the re-unification of Germany.

Now, thirty years later, the Protestant world congregated in Berlin for their bi-annual German Kirchentag over a five day period as part of the 500th anniversary celebration of the Reformation – with hundreds of events, attended by 250,000 visitors. Furthermore, 100,000 soc-

cer fans descended upon Berlin for the German Pokal championship game, which was held at the Olympic stadium. Hence, we could barely find a hotel room. In fact, we had to move every day to another abode.

Just as we landed in Berlin on May 27, 2017, President Barack Obama met with Chancellor Angela Merkel at the Brandenburg Gate. That event was attended by 70,000 people. These two political leaders were engaged in a friendly banter – responding to questions from the general public – and thus they set the tone for the "You see me" motto of the Kirchentag.

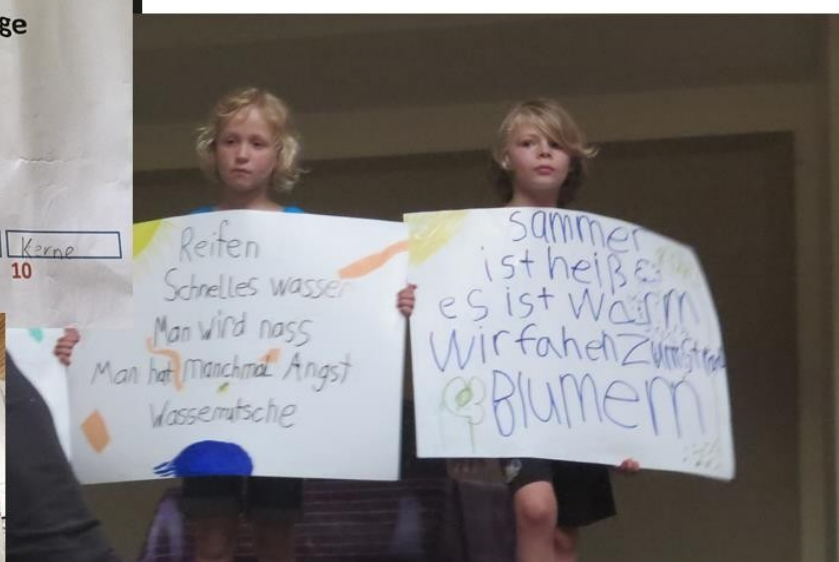
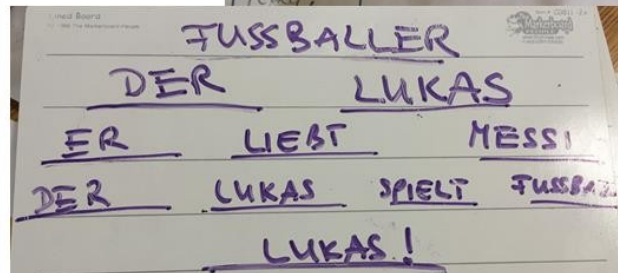
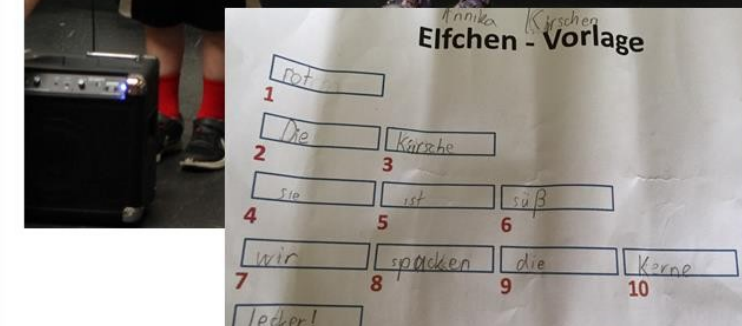
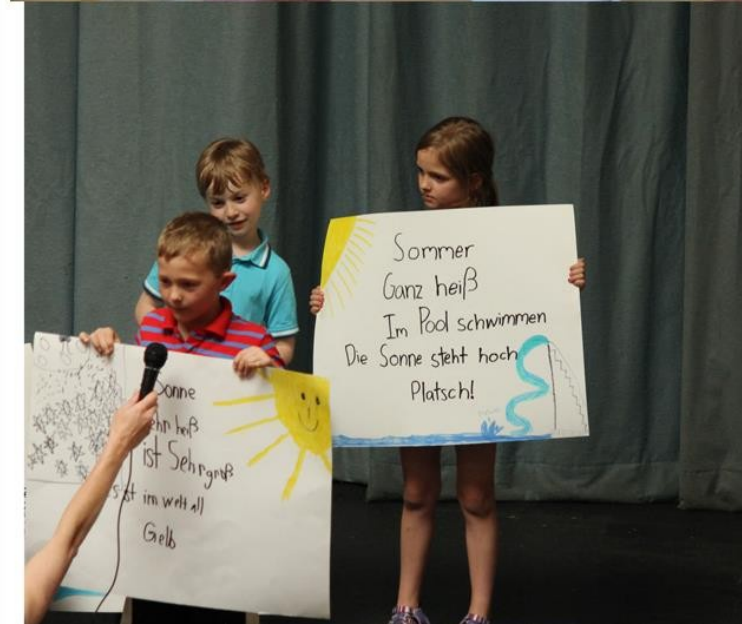
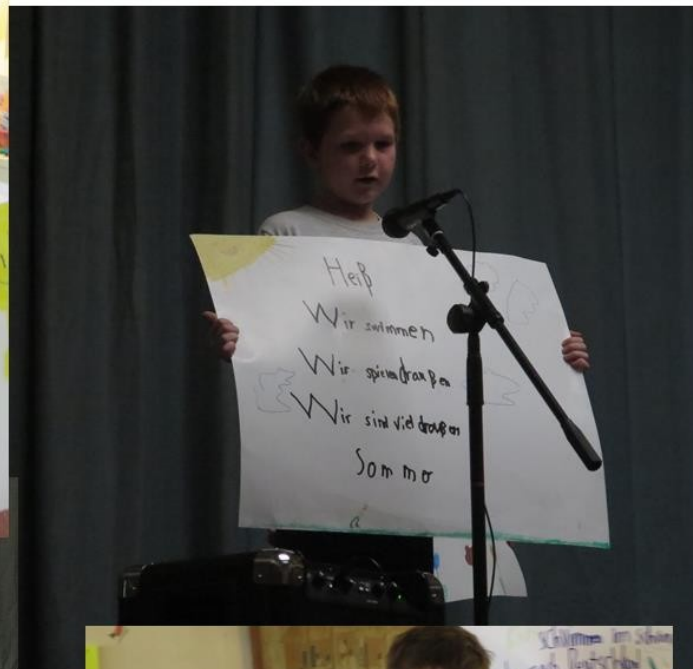
- Hardy von Auenmueller

## Welcome New Members!

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



## PhillyKinder Sommer-Elfchen der ABC Schützen 1



## PhillyKinder: Sommer-Elfchen

After a long and fun filled school year at Phillykinder, the ABC Schützen 1 are welcoming summer by writing their own Elfchen poems. Elfchen ("elevenie") are short poems consisting of eleven words that do not rhyme, but have a certain structure. They are arranged in a specified order of five rows with one word the first row, two words in row two, three words in row three, four words in row four and one word in row five. Elfchen demonstrate that one can express more in eleven words than is often said in eleven sentences. The children are proud to present their work, and to show that by the end of the school year their writing and reading skills have progressed sufficiently to write their own poems. The poems express what comes to their minds when thinking of summer.

- Andrea Niggemeier

## Leading German-American Scholars Meet at the German Society

On April 21 and 22, the German Society played host to the annual gathering of the leading scholars of German-American history and culture. After 34 years, the Society of German-American Studies returned to Philadelphia – the last time it participated in the Tricentennial Conference of German-American History, Politics and Culture in 1983. Usually the annual symposia take place in the Midwest or Texas where most of the scholars reside. This time it was Philadelphia's turn under the title, "The Protestant Reformation at 500: Its Legacy from Pennsylvania across German America." Numerous papers focused on the importance of Pennsylvania for the spread of Lutheranism. Besides Luther, Henry Muhlenberg, one of the founders of the German Society, who was sent from Halle to North America to give the Lutheran Church a viable structure, received particular attention. Numerous members of the German Society took advantage of the free registration and attended many of the 46 sessions.

They took place on all three floors of the Society's building, in the Horner Library, the Auditorium, and the Ratskeller. A banquet was organized for the evening of April 22 in the Wyndham Philadelphia Historic District Hotel.

The fact that the 41st SGAS Symposium was held at the German Society and proceeded to everybody's satisfaction and praise is due to the perseverance and organiza-



tional talent of Vice President for Culture and Heritage, Maria Sturm. In lieu of a local organizing committee, Maria and her team provided the necessary logistics and oversight. They made possible that the excursion to Germantown on a rainy Saturday afternoon – visiting Grumblethorpe, the Mennonite Meeting House, and the Pastorius monument in Vernon Park – was an enjoyable special feature for the more than forty participants. At the business meeting, SGAS President Walter Kamphoefner expressed his gratitude to Maria and the German Society.

Many of the conference topics that program director Steven Rowan received were not unfamiliar to GSP members, among them Pennsylvania-German calligraphy, piety, and furniture; Luther's impact on America; or Alexander von Humboldt. Others pertained to German-American culture in the Midwest. Still others were new, among them the American connections of the painter Gabriele Münter; the photographer Rudolf Zajt; Czech-German parallelism among immigrants; or the Schnitzelbank songs as an overlooked feature of German-American popular culture. Karyl Rommelfanger, the SGAS membership chair, counted about a hundred registrants, some of whom had come from Germany, where these studies have been part of migration studies, local histories (Bremen's Auswanderermuseum), or an ingredient of American studies.

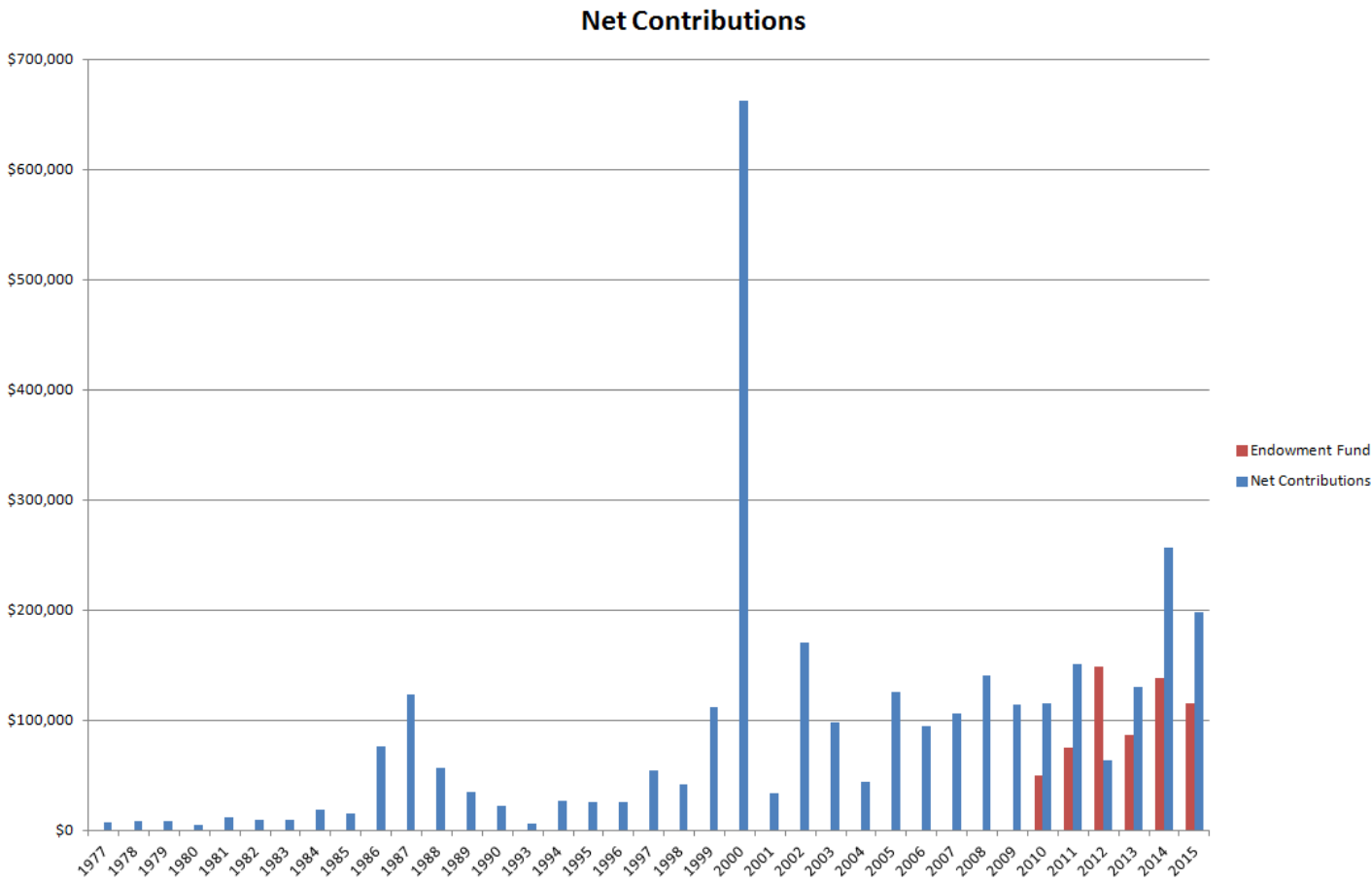
- Frank Trommler



## Back to the Future

“I made my money the old-fashioned way. I was very nice to a wealthy relative just before he died.”  
- Malcolm Forbes

This time we look at our history of Net Contributions. These are donations from individuals, corporations, and foundations to support operations. Contributions for capital projects are excluded. Included are: the annual fund, bequests, bar tips, the library donation box, gifts in kind, and stock donations. The result is one of the more intriguing financial history graphs we have:



In the earlier years, net contributions were relatively modest, though they did provide on average about 20% of the income needed to run the Society. What happened in 2000? Most of the money, \$500,000, was a bequest from the Barthelmes estate. There were additional bequests from the Huberti estate and a final payment from the Linke estate.

The latter is one of our good success stories. The Linke bequest of about \$162,000 specified for scholarships carried with it the covenant that half of the income generated was to be reinvested. The Linke money was pooled with additional bequests given for scholarships, resulting in a total of about \$207,000. The Society invested these funds, continued reinvestments, and paid scholarships from the income generated. In 2011, the \$260,000 in the scholarship account was moved to the Philadelphia Foundation, which provided a more diverse range of investments with a history of excellent returns. The scholarship endowment fund is now worth \$312,000, and we have given a total of \$146,000 in scholarships to deserving students: a shining example of the power to do good from legacy gifts.

We know of another organization who received the same sized bequest from the Linke estate. They made some bad investment decisions, did not adhere to the 50% reinvestment covenant, and spent

part of the principal. They now have substantially less funds than the original bequest.

What happened to all the money we got in 2000? It was set aside as a reserve fund. In those years, we had a relatively large paid staff to the extent that the payroll consumed as much as half of the budget. This was unsustainable, and after 4 years, the reserve funds were depleted and the staff had resigned. When Hardy von Auenmueller assumed leadership, he brought us our current business model of a limited paid staff, extensive support from volunteers, and balanced budgets. The improved financial stability has helped us to obtain donations from foundations as they want to be assured that our organization will continue to exist.

For the past 10 years, we continue to rely on donations, primarily to the Annual Fund, to provide about 12% of our operating budget. This keeps the lights on and the doors open.

In 2011, with Ernie Weiler’s persistence, we finally established an endowment fund. This is the future for the Society. When we achieve our interim goal of a \$2 million endowment, we will have a solid reserve fund to continue operations and provide money for needed capital projects.

As shown in the graph, we have garnered support for both our Annual Fund drive and our endowments; both are essential. We are grateful for the contributions from our members and friends who continue to make this possible. We also appreciate the many people who have chosen to provide a legacy gift to the Society in their wills: an “old fashioned way” to ensure the continued existence of the German Society.

-Lew Volgenau

## Report by the VP of Development

### Lifetime Members

At the Board of Directors Meeting of November 16, 2015 a motion was approved that going forward, we would transfer all new lifetime membership donations to the General Endowment Fund of the German Society, unless otherwise designated. Since late 2016, donors now also have the option to select the recently established Horner Memorial Library Endowment Fund. Clearly, a lifetime membership translates into a long term commitment to the Society. The following individuals have become lifetime members since November of 2015, and one donor elected to have his gift benefit the Library:

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

We typically do not report on the background of new lifetime members, but I would like to make an exception and share a few details about Mr. Michael Kunz. In the summer of 2016, he retired as the longest serving clerk in U.S. Court history, after having served for more than 54 years. He served with distinction and brought many efficiencies to the court, some of which were covered in the July 2016 issue of the Legal Intelligencer. He traces his German roots to the late 1700's. As he retired, he looked forward to taking German language lessons at the Society, he wanted to explore our Horner Memorial Library more fully and also wished to take an active role in various activities. These plans are currently on hold due to health concerns. I recently had a cup of coffee with Michael and his wife, Marlene, and can report that he is making good progress. We welcome Michael and Marlene to the Society and look for-

ward to their active participation in programs and activities.



**Development Report**

We are making steady progress to build two meaningful endowments that will greatly benefit the Society. The General Endowment Fund stands very close to \$1.00MM, which means we are at the half-way mark towards our \$2.00MM interim goal - although so far this year, we received only a few gifts. Once fully funded, half of the yearly proceeds – 4% of the account balance, or \$80,000 per year - will be used to support ongoing operations and membership services and the other half will be set aside for capital projects.

The Horner Memorial Library Endowment Fund was launched late last year with an interim goal of \$600,000 to provide ongoing support to the special needs of the Library. Just a few weeks ago, we celebrated the Library's 200th Anniversary and we were pleased to report to the attendees that close to \$70,000 has already been donated by 38 donors and the Women's Auxiliary.

Friends of the Horner Memorial Library – additional donors from February through May 2017:

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

And finally a word or two about charitable gift annuities, which in the future will benefit the German Society and currently are a valuable investment tool for our members. We have a small cadre of members that have repeatedly purchased charitable gift annuities from the Philadelphia Foundation. Clearly, they have

found annuities to be attractive instruments that nicely fit into their investment strategies. These annuities have a combined face value of \$437,084. Please note that we do not book these annuities on our financial ledgers until the funds are transferred into our accounts. On average, we expect to eventually receive approximately 50% of the face value, or \$218,542.

The Philadelphia Foundation provided the following information, which might be of interest to our members:

Since between 76 and 82 percent of the annual income is tax free, the effective yields of the annuities are in fact higher than indicated. To receive further information, please call the of-

\$10,000 annuity	Age: 80
Payment rate:	6.8%
Benefits	
Charitable Deduction	\$ 5,064.35
Annual Income	\$ 680.00
Tax Free Payment	\$ 519.50
Ordinary Income	\$ 160.49

\$10,000 annuity	Age: 90
Payment rate:	9%
Benefits	
Charitable Deduction	\$ 6,312.00
Annual Income	\$ 900.00
Tax Free Payment	\$ 738.00
Ordinary Income	\$ 162.00

fice and we will return your call as quickly as we can. You may also wish to contact Mr. Thomas Mesko directly at the Philadelphia Foundation at 215-863-8125. Mr. Mesko can tailor the estimates to fit your specific situation.

- Ernie Weiler

**Annual Fund Donors**

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