

Calendar of Events

Wed. Oct. 13	Konversationsabend: Favorite Books, 7:00pm
Sun. Oct. 17	"Wister and More!" presents Elissa Lee Koljonen and Natalie Zhu, 3:00pm
Sat. Oct. 23	Library Treasure Tour with Dr. Frank Trommler: "The German Society and the University of Pennsylvania, Past and Present", 2:00pm
Wed. Nov. 3	Black Prussians: African American Intellectuals and German Culture - Virtual Lecture by Dr. Leroy Hopkins, 6:30pm
Wed. Nov. 10	Konversationsabend: <i>Angelika Kauffmann – eine Malerin in Goethes Rom</i> , 7:00pm
Sat. Nov. 13	Buchclub: <i>Olga</i> by Bernhard Schlink, 1:30pm
Sun. Nov. 14	"Wister and More!" presents the Wister Quartet with Chuck Holdeman, bassoon, 3:00pm
Wed. Nov. 17	Uneasy Neighbors - Virtual Lecture by Dr. Leroy Hopkins, 6:30pm
Fri. Nov. 19	Friday Film Fest: <i>Zwingli</i> , 6:30pm
Sat. Nov. 20	Library Treasure Tour with Jehnna Lewis: "Early Pennsylvania from a German Vantage Point: Francis Daniel Pastorius's Poetic Encounters with his New Environment", 2:00pm
Wed. Dec. 8	Konversationsabend: Weihnachtsfeier, 7:00pm
Sat. Dec. 11	Buchclub: <i>Der Steppenwolf</i> by Hermann Hesse, 1:30pm
Sun. Dec. 12	"Wister and More!" presents Filament, 3:00pm
Sat. Dec. 18	Wandern at the Willows, 11:00am
Sat. Dec. 18	Library Treasure Tour with Dr. Harry Liebersohn: "The Golden Age of Travel: Alexander von Humboldt and his Contemporaries", 2:00pm

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The German Society of Pennsylvania

Neuer Pennsylvanischer
Staatsbote

CELEBRATING

1764 **250** 2014

YEARS OF
**GERMAN
HERITAGE**

Fall 2021

From the President

Dear Members and Friends,

I want to welcome everyone to the 2021/2022 program year of the German Society of Pennsylvania.

It is an honor to be chosen to help lead the German Society for the coming two years. The work ahead of us builds on the contributions of my immediate predecessors as president as well as the many important board members, committee members and volunteers who make our programs possible. In particular, I want to express my gratitude to Tony Michels, who has served the Society as President for the last six years and has unstintingly donated his time, treasure and talent to further the purposes of the Society – and continues to do so as Vice President of Operations.

Equally important is the team that keeps the fires (metaphorically) burning at our historic building on Spring Garden Street. Congratulations to our new Executive Director, Liesl Jandrey – and to our new administrative assistant Rachel Salmon! Rounding out the roster is our Librarian, Bettina Hess and Lorena Boylan, our project cataloger, who bring creativity and professionalism to their work with our historic library collection.

Looking to the year ahead, the German Society faces a number of challenges, but also opportunities. COVID – despite the widespread vaccination – has continued to trouble us, forcing the cancellation of a number of important major events including the Stiftungsfest and Dogedelphia. The Weihnachtsmarkt will not take place at its usual time but will take on a new form this spring.

That said, other events like the Wister concert series and Friday Film Fest continue. The Society's Library Committee has created a new series of "Treasure Tours" that give participants the chance to learn about and handle books and other artifacts from our historic archival collection under the guidance of professional historians. The Günter Finke lecture series will explore the intersection of African Americans with German and German American culture. Other events including book discussions and Transcription Tuesdays can be found on our website. In order to continue to safely hold in-person events, the board recently voted to require proof of vaccination to attend Society indoor events in-person. Other events, for example our Konversationsabend, remain accessible online, and we will continue to seek to make as many of our offerings available online as possible.

Despite the challenges of the last two years, there are many opportunities in front of us. The Society has over the last decade built a financial and physical infrastructure necessary to its success. Its current program has strong support among our members and will continue as a core part of our work. To win new members and volunteers, now is the time to carefully plan for programming that will appeal to future members, build relationships with like-minded organizations and will raise our profile and expand our reach as the place in metropolitan Philadelphia where the German past and the present meet – and as a central institution in the transatlantic relationship. I am grateful to have the opportunity to be part of this work and look forward to seeing many of you in the coming months.

- Mark McGuigan, President

THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA PRESENTS

AN AFTERNOON OF MADRIGALS

Heinrich Schütz's il Primo Libro de Madrigali, Op. 1

performed by a consort of five prominent early music specialists from the region

A pre-concert lecture about the composer and the music will be presented by
Dr. John Leonard, Professor of Music, The College of New Jersey

Sunday, January 30, 2022 | 3pm

The German Society of Pennsylvania
611 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123

Tickets and more information at www.germansociety.org

Development Report

In the June issue of the *Staatsbote*, we reported that we moved our endowed funds from the Philadelphia Foundation to the Haverford Trust Company. We asked Rebecca Farnsworth, Vice President & Institutional Portfolio Manager, to provide an introduction to Haverford as well as a short overview of giving options and leaving a personal legacy – these are tailored to the German Society. Her contribution follows and her contact information is provided as well.

40 Years of Nonprofit Investment Management Experience on Your Side: Getting to Know the Haverford Trust Company

A Prudent Fiduciary Over Your Gift

The Haverford Trust Company has been entrusted to exercise prudence and act in a fiduciary capacity over the gifts to the endowments and is committed to helping these gifts grow to support the German Society of Pennsylvania into perpetuity. Haverford provides the support, strategic advice, and investment solutions designed to meet the unique financial, investment, and organizational goals of the Society. When you give a gift to the endowments of the German Society of Pennsylvania, you can have peace of mind that your gift is being stewarded by an established nonprofit organization, backed by a reputable investment management firm with more than 40 years of investment experience managing endowments. Refined over four decades, Haverford utilizes its *Quality Investing*® approach to maximize the growth of the endowment, while minimizing risk throughout the entire market cycle.

Below are some additional concepts to review when considering giving to the German Society.

Legacy Giving

Legacy giving, or planned giving, is the process of making a planned future charitable donation as part of a broader financial or estate plan. Legacy gifts enable individuals to build a sig-

nificant philanthropic legacy and, in some cases, generate tax advantages for their heirs. Options include bequests and naming the German Society of Pennsylvania as a beneficiary on a retirement account, pension, trust, life insurance policy, or other investment vehicle. The Linden Society has been established to recognize those individuals who have committed to naming the German Society as the beneficiary of a planned gift.

Endowed Funds

Endowments which benefit the German Society create a lasting impact that can help to solidify your legacy for generations to come. Endowed funds are prudently invested and then a percentage of the gift is spent annually. Cultural or educational programs and other activities as well as membership support are financially assisted by the general endowment fund. The Joseph Horner Memorial Library and yearly scholarships are funded by separate endowments. As the donor, you can delegate exactly how your gift should be spent to be aligned with your specific wishes. Whether you're passionate about cultural programs, providing German language opportunities, or the Joseph Horner Memorial Library, your gift can help support the program that you find dear. The funds support the cause of your choosing today and are invested with the goal of growing in value for future use. That means your gift, over time, may have a significantly higher impact than the original donation.

Other Ways to Give

Making a gift to the German Society of appreciated securities (stocks, mutual fund shares, or other appreciated assets) can be a great way to maximize your support to the Society. In most instances, you can take a tax deduction for the full market value of the gift and avoid any capital gains tax. If the deduction is larger than you can use in one year, you may deduct the surplus over the next five years until it is completely utilized. Additionally, distributions from qualified Individual Retirement Accounts

(IRA) can be made directly to a charitable organization. Depending on your age and amount, these gifts can be tax-free and count towards a required annual minimum distribution.

Your Impact

When you give a gift to the German Society of Pennsylvania, your gift will help to foster good understanding between the peoples of the United States of America and Germany by maintaining an awareness of German culture and traditions, and by promoting the understanding of German and German-American contributions to the history, culture, economy, science, and technology of the United States.

With your help, your gift can help the German Society of Pennsylvania to be recognized as a premier German ethnic Society in the United States by making our own historic building the home of significant contributions to the diversity of social and cultural life – open to all – in the greater Philadelphia area.

Let's Connect

There are countless ways to create a legacy and maximize the impact of your giving. Whether you have an established investment portfolio or are funding your first 401(k), **anyone has the power to create a lasting legacy.**

The various options for giving offer a flexible means for achieving your charitable objectives while providing for your tax, financial, and estate planning needs with the greatest permanence. We encourage you to connect with the German Society of Pennsylvania and to reach out to your tax or legal advisors to help develop the solution that works best for you.

Our contact with The Haverford Trust Company is Rebecca Farnsworth, Vice President & Institutional Portfolio Manager, who can be reached at: 610-995-8772 or email: rfarnsworth@haverfordquality.com.

- E. D. Weiler

In Memoriam: Don Atwood



On July 24, we lost Don Atwood, a longtime member and good friend of the German Society. Don had a long and successful career as a high school teacher. At Neshaminy High School he was the Department Head for Shop, Music, and

Art, an acknowledgement that his knowledge and expertise ranged far beyond the manual training and architecture courses he taught. After retiring, he was recruited by Ed Hess to put his practical skills to good use at the German Society.

Don and his wife, Mary Ruth, were active supporters of the Philadelphia Orchestra. Mary Ruth did volunteer work cataloging music scores at the Academy of Music and later on at the Kimmel Center. On a regular basis, when she was there, Don would go to the Society to do routine maintenance chores. He did this on his own for six years. Since a lot of jobs are done more easily with two people, Don asked me to give him a hand whenever I was available.

One of the first jobs was to clean out a room in the basement (Lou Oschmann's nest) as a workshop. Don collected the few hand tools that were available along with miscellaneous nuts and bolts used to make repairs. He brought in his own tools when they were needed and often fabricated parts at home to be used at the Society. Usual routines were changing light bulbs, plunging clogged toilets, blowing down the boiler, replacing bent table legs, painting, climbing through the roof hatch to change temperature settings, and other similar glamorous repairs. Then and now, there was an unending list of tasks that needed to be done.

One particular chore stands out as a highlight. At that time, we did not have the Genie lift, and our tallest step ladder didn't reach the chandeliers in the Auditorium. A light bulb gripper on

an extended pole could not be used, as it could not be properly angled to remove or replace the bulbs in the chandelier. Don's solution was to place the stepladder on two tables, climb to the top, and angle the gripper on a 3-foot pole until he could grab the burnt out bulb. Then he used the same procedure to screw in a new bulb. My job was to try to steady the ladder as Don performed his aerobatics, realizing that there was nothing I could do if it started to fall. Don was fearless. When Mary Ruth discovered this escapade, Don was "grounded" and not allowed a repeat performance.

He continued on in this capacity for another ten years until he had to quit to assist Mary Ruth who developed severe health issues and could no longer do her cataloging work.

Don never had an official title, just a dedication to do the best he could to keep the Society functioning. His efforts are appreciated and he is sorely missed.

- Lew Volgenau

Notes from the Three KA Programs

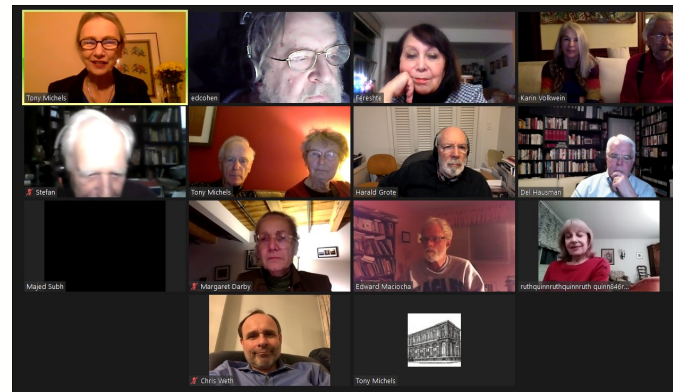
All 2021 spring term meetings happened on Zoom. This meant that some of our older participants decided to wait things out until corona times would be over, but new participants signed up from various parts of the country, and also from Europe, including two of the speakers. See some highlights below.

KA Extra Series: Dr. Alex Ames from Delaware University, then Chairman of our Library Committee provided in conjunction with the librarian Bettina Hess information on the status and mission of the Horner Library. Martin Kaiser from the Gustav Stresemann Institute in Germany continued his yearly visits and gave us important insights on the present political climate in Germany. Prof. Hartmut Zinser from the Department of Religious Study (Religionswissenschaft), Freie Universität Berlin, contributed a fascinating presentation

on the progression of ancient sacrificial cults to complex religions based on their holy scriptures.

KA Konversationsabend: Framed by a mini-Carnival in February and a travel session in May, the highlights were a very well attended presentation on city planning (Helga Halbfass) in March and on healthy aging (Prof. Karin Volkwein-Caplan and Prof. Selen Razon, both from West Chester University).

The Konversationsabend will continue with "Actualities - Germany: News, Trends, and Developments" on September 8, "Favorite Books" on October 13, "Angelika Kaufmann, a painter in Goethe's Rome" on November 10, and the annual Weihnachtsfeier on December 8. (The last two in person at the Society, if possible.)



City Planning - March 10, 2021. Photo by Ed Cohen.

KA Contact: This has been a very lively weekly conversational platform on Zoom for our English speaking friends and members coming together every Tuesday evening at 8 pm to discuss a wide variety of themes, including the Corona virus development and our personal experiences and situations, the popular discussion on cultural differences between Germany and the United States and what the traveler should keep in mind. KA Contact started up again after the summer break on September 21.

We invite you to join us again and contribute to make this fall successful and worthwhile for all members and friends.

- Helga Halbfass

PhillyKinder wandelt sich

Aram sam sam, aram sam sam
Guli, guli, guli, guli, guli, ram sam sam

Alle Kinder Groß und Klein unseres PhillyKinder Programms sind mit diesem Aram Sam Sam Lied vertraut, das bei unseren jungen Schülern, den Kleinen Freunden und Jungen Entdeckern, gern als Begrüßungslied gesungen wird. Es ist fast unglaublich, dass bereits 10 Jahre verstrichen sind, seit Aram Sam Sam das erste Mal durch die Räumlichkeiten der Overbrook Presbyterian Kirche tönte und die ersten Kinder, mit denen wir dieses Lied damals gesungen haben, mittlerweile Teenager sind. So schnell vergeht die Zeit, und viele der ersten PhillyKinder vom September 2011 sind auch im September 2021 noch Teilnehmer oder jugendliche Helfer in unserem Programm, das mit Spaß und Spiel deutsche Sprache und Kultur vermittelt.



Was ursprünglich als kleine Mutter-Kind Gruppe begann, wurde über die Verbindung mit Maria Sturm zur German Society, und deren folgender Unterstützung, ein Programm, das im Herbst 2011 offiziell seine Türen öffnete. Bevor die Anmeldungen begannen, gingen die Gründerinnen Gabriele Albrecht, Manuela Sieber und Sonja Srama-Souder davon aus im 1. Jahr drei Gruppen anzubieten. So groß war allerdings das Interesse bei den Deutschsprachigen in der Umgebung, dass im ersten Schuljahr bereits fünf Gruppen stattfinden konnten. Das Programm brauchte

natürlich einen Namen und ein Logo und so entstanden binnen kürzester Zeit über die Sommermonate des Jahres 2011 hinweg die PhillyKinder.



Über die Jahre ist unser Programm gewachsen und mittlerweile in der Umgebung von Philadelphia etabliert und bekannt. Viele Familien sind uns über 10 Jahre hinweg treu geblieben, andere mussten uns leider verlassen, entweder weil ein Umzug bevorstand oder sich persönliche Umstände änderten. Wir sind allen Familien, die in den letzten Jahren Teil unseres Programms waren, dankbar für ihre Unterstützung und ihr Vertrauen in unsere Arbeit. Ohne euch gäbe es kein Programm und dank euch hat sich unsere kleine Gruppe von damals in eine stattliche Gemeinschaft gemausert, in der Groß und Klein gleichfalls willkommen heißen werden und die über die Jahre hinweg Anstoß mancher Freundschaft geworden ist.

Mit dem Groß werden und dem Wachsen und Gedeihen des Programms wurde zunehmend klar, dass es an der Zeit war, sich nach Jahren unter den Fittichen der German Society, abzunabeln und selbstständig zu werden. Im Schuljahr 2017 waren 112 Kinder & Jugendliche auf 11 Kurse verteilt. In Zusammenarbeit mit der German Society und der finanziellen Unterstützung von Anton Michels wurden 2017 die Weichen zur Gründung der Philly-

Kinder als unabhängige 501(3)c Non-Profit gestellt und im Mai 2018 wurden die PhillyKinder quasi wiedergeboren. Die offizielle Gründung der PhillyKinder als eigenständige Organisation konnte gefeiert werden und das erste PhillyKinder *Board of Directors* nahm mit Maria Sturm als Präsidentin seine Arbeit auf. Bis zum heutigen Datum unterstützt die German Society finanziell unser Programm und hat damit einen erheblichen Beitrag zur Stabilität der PhillyKinder Organisation geleistet, wofür wir sehr dankbar sind.

Programme wandeln sich und jede Organisation muss zum Überleben und Fortbestehen mit der Zeit gehen und sich den Umständen anpassen. Mehr und mehr Familien wünschten sich in Center City ein PhillyKinder Angebot. In der St. Peters Schule fanden wir einen zweiten Standort und konnten dort 2019/20 ein Programm am Dienstagnachmittag anbieten.

Im März 2020 kam dann schlagartig die Covid-Pandemie! Damit begann eine weitere - ungewollte - Anpassung an die neuen Umstände. Wir sattelten für ein Jahr auf virtuellen Unterricht um und schätzten uns glücklich ein Programm mit 15 Kursen und über 70 Teilnehmern anbieten zu können. Uns war im Frühjahr 2021 jedoch bereits klar, dass das folgende Schuljahr von weiteren Ungewissheiten gezeichnet sein würde. Daher beschlossen wir im Herbst sowohl ein Programm vor Ort in Overbrook und ein Waldkindergartenprogramm im *Schuylkill Center of Environmental Education* als auch ein virtuelles Programm anzubieten.

Mit dem Schuljahr 2021/22 kündigt sich auch unser 10-jähriges Bestehen an. Dieses wollen wir u.a. als Anlass für eine weitere - geplante - Veränderung nehmen: der Neuauflage unseres Logos! Im digitalen Zeitalter ist zunehmend klargeworden, dass das alte Logo einen Facelift nötig hat. Unser Logo ist von wahrscheinlich genauso vielen Menschen geliebt wie ungeliebt, aber es hat uns über un-

sere Anfangsjahre hinweg wohl gedient und ziert besonders hübsch unsere PhillyKinder T-Shirts. Besonderen Gefallen hatte wir immer daran, dass die Kinder im Mittelpunkt des Logos standen.

Wir fanden in Hannah Ricca, einem PhillyKinder Elternteil, professionelle Unterstützung und berieten in einem dazu kreierte Komitee über die Neuauflage des Logos. Wir lernten, dass bei der Gestaltung eines Logos der Wiedererkennungseffekt eine besondere Bedeutung hat, in unserem Fall die Kinder im Logo. Außerdem benötigten wir sowohl eine schwarz-weiße als auch eine farbige Version. Um nicht abzulenken, durfte es nicht zu viele Details und zu viele Farben enthalten. Moderner sollte das Logo ebenso sein, und schließlich war es uns ein Anliegen, dass sich unsere PhillyKinder davon angesprochen fühlen. *The Jury is out on that one!* Wir geben heute offiziell unser neues Logo bekannt und hoffen, dass sich mit der Zeit alle bzw. der Großteil der PhillyKinder Freunde und Familien damit anfreunden können. Uns gefällt es!



Das neue Logo ist der Auftakt für das PhillyKinder Jubiläumsjahr, das unter dem Motto **10 Jahre PhillyKinder – Sprache verbindet!** steht. Via Zoom begannen wir im April/Mai von einem Jubiläumsfest zu träumen. Wir arbeiten daran und gehen davon aus, dass dieses Fest im Mai 2022 unter freiem Himmel

den krönenden Abschluss unseres Jubiläumsjahrs bilden wird.

Wir möchten uns zum Anlass des 10-jährigen Jubiläums ganz herzlich bei unserem Board bedanken, vor allem bei unserer jetzigen Präsidentin Adrienne Frangakis und unserer ehemaligen Präsidentin Maria Sturm, bei unseren Lehrkräften, bei der German Society und bei allen Familien und Freunden der PhillyKinder.

- Birgit Splitt und Anja Hilliard



*This article is an example of the activities of a German Society affiliate. PhillyKinder is a separate PA 501(c)(3) corporation and not a component of the German Society of Pennsylvania.

After Angela: A Conversation with Leading German Political Journalist Martin Klingst



GSP President Mark McGuigan (right) led a conversation with German journalist Martin Klingst (left) in our historic library reading room. Photo by GSP Director Marwan Kreidie.

On October 14, the German Society of Pennsylvania hosted Martin Klingst, former chief political correspondent for *DIE ZEIT* and most recently the head of German President Stein-

meier's Strategic Communications and Speechwriting section. His topic: German governance in the post-Merkel era.

In a first for the Society, this speaking event was held both in-person and streamed online to an audience of 50+ viewers from our historic library reading room. Mr. Klingst responded to questions from the Society's new president, Mark McGuigan about the state of coalition talks following the September 26 German federal elections and the likelihood of significant policy changes and impacts on the transatlantic relationship.

Mr. Klingst emphasized that, despite the apparent loss by the ruling Christian Democratic Union and their Bavarian allies the Christian Social Union, there was a significant signal for continuity even as voters signaled a desire to address pressing issues of climate change in new ways. That message was driven home by the losses by smaller parties on the extreme left and right. Mr. Klingst took questions from the audience, both in person and online, including questions about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the elections and the surprising absence of rhetoric around the issue of immigration - a central topic in recent elections. Mr. Klingst suggested that Germany had done surprisingly well with integrating the large wave Syrian immigrants from several years ago and that immigration numbers had returned to earlier lower levels.

At the end, Mr. Klingst spoke briefly about the profound impact that his high school exchange to the United States had on his life and importance of this personal experience in building bridges between Germany and the United States.

Our thanks go out to the American Council on Germany, who cosponsored this event and made Mr. Klingst's visit possible.

State of the Library Report: Autumn, 2021

As autumn returns to the Joseph P. Horner Memorial Library, the Library Committee and Library volunteers continue to work toward our goal of preserving and making widely accessible our rich collection of rare books, manuscripts, and other artifacts. The Library's new Library Treasure Tours launched in September with an expertly-prepared and well-received program offered by Committee member Dr. Dorothee Schneider. The Treasure Tour was titled "Home Life, City Life and the Nation: Encountering the German Ethnic Experience in the Horner Memorial Library." During this hands-on tour, participants viewed and paged through published guides, handwritten letter collections, and descriptive books about life in North America, which informed immigrants about the United States as early as 1808. The Library's beautiful, nineteenth-century reading room provided the perfect setting for a conversation about ethnicity, identity, and what it means to be a (German-) American.

Upcoming Library Treasure Tours include Dr. Frank Trommler's presentation on October 23 titled "The German Society and the University of Pennsylvania, Past and Present"; Jehnna Lewis's tour on November 20 titled

"Early Pennsylvania from a German Vantage Point: Francis Daniel Pastorius's Poetic Encounters with his New Environment," and Dr. Harry Liebersohn's December 18 program titled "The Golden Age of Travel: Alexander von Humboldt and his Contemporaries." Tickets cost \$15 for GSP members and \$20 for non-members. Visit <http://www.germansociety.org/calendar-of-events/> to reserve your ticket today!

The Library Committee is also excited to announce a Guenter Finke Memorial Lecture Series to be held virtually (via Zoom) in November, 2021. Dr. Leroy Hopkins, Professor Emeritus at Millersville University, will deliver two lectures organized around the theme of "Germans and African Americans: An Historical Perspective." The first lecture, titled "Black Prussians: African American Intellectuals and German Culture," will be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, November 3. The second lecture, titled "Uneasy Neighbors," will explore ethnic and cultural interactions in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and will be held on Wednesday, November 17 at 6 p.m. Visit the German Society's events calendar to learn more and register for these free events. The Library is honored to welcome Dr. Hopkins for these virtual presentations. A native of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Dr. Hopkins received a B.A. in German and Russian from Millersville State College in 1966 and a Ph.D. in Germanic Languages & Literatures from Harvard University in 1974. Dr. Hopkins served as Associate Director of Pro-



Dr. Leroy Hopkins

gram and Planning and then as Acting Executive Director of the Urban League of Lancaster County (1976-1979). He began his tenure at Millersville State College and, after 1983, Millersville University in 1979, retiring in 2015 as Professor Emeritus of Foreign Languages.

Watch upcoming Library communications for more information about other Library Treasure Tours and other virtual programs. Even while working to implement our exciting slate of fall programs, the Library Committee and other Library volunteers are actively planning other opportunities for engagement with our collection in alignment with the Library Committee's core values of building Sustainability, Discoverability, and Community around our collections. We look forward to seeing you at a virtual or in-person program soon!

- Dr. Alexander L. Ames

Meet our New Administrative Assistant

I am excited to have recently joined the German Society as the new part-time Administrative Assistant. I graduated in 2016 from Temple University with a master's degree in Art History with a focus on German postwar art. I also studied German during my undergrad, and am looking forward to the opportunity to put my German knowledge to good use supporting this organization. In my free time, I enjoy hiking and rock climbing.

- Rachel Salmon



GSP Wellness Activities Will Continue

In the fall of 2020 during the pandemic, we started a Wellness program at the German Society, which provides opportunities for our members, their families and friends to participate in "Gentle Yoga" classes taught via Zoom, as well as "Wandern in the Willows" in person. Each of these activities were offered once a month, and with the positive feedback we received, we want to continue this program for this upcoming year. Here are the plans:

"Gentle Yoga" will continue via Zoom with our wonderful instructor, Dr. Selen Razon, every first Sunday of the month at 11 am - starting in October. Watch for the invitations in your e-mails and sign up for the sessions no later than the Friday afternoon before the event.

"Wandern in the Willows" will continue with Dr. Helga Halbfass, every third Saturday of the month at 11 am - starting in September. Again, watch for the invitations in your e-mails and sign up no later than the Friday afternoon before the event.



Winter hike at the Willows, December 19, 2020. Photo by Helga Halbfass.

PLEASE note that the Wellness Walk program will have some variations this year, including different locations and varying genres, such as "Philly City Walk: Discover the Murals" and more. If you have some ideas and suggestions for this program or other Wellness activities, PLEASE let us know.

We are looking forward seeing you via Zoom during yoga and/or in person for our hikes!

- Karin Volkwein-Caplan with Helga Halbfass and Selen Razon



Friday Film Fest Schedule 2021-2022

Die göttliche Ordnung (2017)

September 24, 2021

German with English subtitles



This movie is a Swiss comedy-drama about the right of women to vote, which was decided by male voters in a *Volksabstimmung* on February 7, 1971. The story takes place in a small alpine village in the northeastern part of Switzerland and portrays the

life of Nora Ruckstuhl, who lives with her husband and two sons and seems content with her role as a *Hausfrau* until she gets in touch with the campaign for women's right to vote. Her involvement inspires other women to join her, and together they try to overcome the local resistance by most men and some women to change the "divine order" of male dominance. When the women go on a domestic strike, the conflict comes to a head but finds a peaceful resolution that leads to progress in the referendum as well as in their personal lives.

Zwingli. Der Reformator (2020)

November 19, 2021

German with English subtitles



The movie starts in 1519, when the young priest Ulrich Zwingli takes up his new position at the *Grossmünster* in Zurich. As he uses his sermons to criticize the infallibility, corruption, and abusive practices of the Catholic Church and to question the customs of fasting during lent

or the celibacy of priests, he becomes the leader of the reformation in Switzerland. His biblical exegesis and his German translation of the New Testament serve as revolutionary forces in the beliefs and empowerment of the regular citizens and inspire the backing of the political leaders of the city. The film also chronicles his love and marriage to Anna Reinhart, with whom he has several children. But his conflict with the Anabaptists and their persecution dampen the moral integrity of

his movement, and the failure of the food blockade of his alliance against the Catholic cantons of Switzerland ultimately lead to his early battlefield death in 1531.

Akte Grüniger (2014)

January 14, 2022

German with German subtitles



The third of our Swiss movies is the story of *Polizeihauptmann* Paul Grüniger of St. Gallen near Lake Constance, who from March 1938 until March 1939 helps Jewish immigrants cross the border from Austria into Switzerland illegally without a valid visa. He does this by falsifying documents and establishing a support system of individuals within the local community who share his humanitarian efforts. But he is unable to escape the scrutiny of the central government, which sends the head of the *eidgenössischen Fremdenpolizei*, Robert Frei, to investigate the border activities. What he discovers puts not only Grüniger's position and the fate of the immigrants at risk, but also leads Frei to question his own mission. Amidst the worsening situation for Jews in Austria and Germany, the *Akte Grüniger* displays Switzerland's own moral conflict in dealing with the ever increasing number of refugees from Hitler's fascism.

Der Fall Collini (2018)

February 18, 2021

German with English subtitles



This movie, based on the 2011 book of the same name by Ferdinand von Schirach, is about the vigilante killing of a wealthy German industrialist named Jean Baptiste Meyer by Fabrizio Collini. Collini, an immigrant from Italy, had as a child witnessed the brutal

murder of his father in 1943 in Northern Italy by German SS troops who were coman-

deered by Meyer. The case put a spotlight on the so-called Dreher-law scandal of 1968/69 that reduced the statute of limitations for accessory to murder to 15 years, thus preventing many Nazi era criminal cases from coming to trial, including the one that Collini had filed against Meyer. When Caspar Leinen, the court appointed defense lawyer for Collini, played by Elyas M'Barek, takes on this seemingly hopeless case, he soon discovers the complicated and disturbing history of the *Verjährungsdebatte* and – *skandal*, a history which forms the leitmotif of the Collini case.

Das geheime Leben der Bäume (2019)

March 18, 2022

German with German subtitles



This documentary movie is based on the bestseller by Peter Wohlleben, who published this book in 2015 and who became Germany's most popular *Sachbuchautor* and the country's best known forester. In excerpts from his book, from interviews and his lectures and from his forest tours, Wohlleben explains his discovery of the "Wood Wide Web", the interlinking of trees through their root systems and a vast fungal network which enables them to send signals and help each other with nourishments and warnings of *Schädlinge*. He travels to Sweden to see the world's oldest tree, "Old Tjikko" which has been tagged as almost 10,000 years old. His sharp criticism of the forest industry is illustrated with scenes of clear cutting, using heavy machinery and modern tree harvesters. He participates in the protest of the planned destruction of the Hambacher Forest and ends his journey at the old growth forest in Vancouver Island, at the home of the Kwakwaka'wakw First Nation.

Duell der Brüder (2016)

April 15, 2022

German with English subtitles

This movie is the biography of the life, success and separation of the brothers Adolf and Rudolf



Dassler, who pioneer a sport shoe company in the small town of Herzogenaurach near Nürnberg in the 1920s. In 1948 they separate and form competing companies that develop into two of the most successful brands in the world, Adidas and Puma.

What were the reasons behind the bitter infighting and eventual split of the two brothers who worked together so well in the beginning? Did the draft issue at the beginning of the Second World War cause the rift, when Rudolf had to serve in the army while Adolf stayed at home as the head of their company? Or was it an alleged infidelity of Rudolf and Adolf's wife that ultimately broke their ties? The film is trying to find some answers of this most famous family feud and break-up.

Trautmann (2018)

May 20, 2022

German with German subtitles



This movie is a British-German biopic about Bert Trautmann who was captured by British troops in 1944 and imprisoned under harsh conditions in a POW camp in Lancashire, England. He became a soccer goalkeeper for a local team and

eventually a celebrated goalkeeper for Manchester City in 1949. His heroics during the FA Cup-Final in 1956, when he finished the last 20 minutes of the match after breaking a vertebra in his neck, earned him the admiration of the English public. His love affair and subsequent marriage to an English woman parallel the soccer story, a relationship that was also replete with trials and tragedy.

- Karl Moehlmann and Allen Krumm