

Calendar of Events

Wed. Oct. 9	Konversationsabend, 6:00pm
Sat. Oct. 12	Buchclub: <i>Die Schlafwandler</i> by Hermann Broch, 1:30pm
Sat. Oct. 19	Wandern at the Willows, 11:00am
Sat. Nov. 2	260th Stiftungsfest, 6:00pm
Thu. Nov. 7	Book Talk by Dr. Timothy Grieve-Carlson: <i>American Aurora: Environment and Apocalypse in the Life of Johannes Kelpius</i> , 6:00pm
Sat. Nov. 9	PhillyKinder Play, 3:00pm
Sat. Nov. 9	Buchclub, 1:30pm
Wed. Nov. 13	Konversationsabend, 6:00pm
Fri. Nov. 15	Friday Film Fest: <i>Die Herrlichkeit des Lebens</i> , 6:30pm
Sun. Nov. 17	St. Martin's Day Celebration, 5:00pm
Sun. Nov. 24	"Wister and More!" presents the Casimir Trio, 3:00pm
Sat. Dec. 7	Christkindlmarkt, 12:00pm
Wed. Dec. 11	Konversationsabend, 6:00pm
Fri. Dec. 13	Glühwein Dance Party, time TBA
Sun. Dec. 15	"Wister and More!" presents Baritone Grant Youngblood and Pianist Marvin Mills, 3:00pm
Fri. Dec. 20	Winter Spirits, 7:00pm

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The German Society
of Pennsylvania

Neuer Pennsylvanischer
Staatsbote

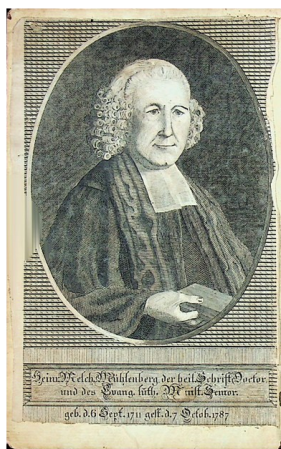
CELEBRATING
1764 **250** 2014
YEARS OF
GERMAN
HERITAGE

Fall 2024

Henry Melchior Mühlenberg Records Digitized and Transcribed

In a previous edition of the *Staatsbote*, I wrote about the library's *Transcription Tuesday* group of about a dozen volunteers which meets every week to transcribe handwritten documents from the German Society's Archive. In an effort to make handwritten records more accessible for research, our group has been transcribing these texts. The old handwriting styles called *Kurrent* and *Sütterlin* are very challenging to read, and it is a laborious and time-consuming project to decipher them, but we have found that working in groups makes the task much easier.

For over a year, members of the transcription group worked on a collection of documents (Ms. Coll. AM 4) written by and to Henry Melchior Mühlenberg, considered to be the patriarch of the Lutheran Church in America. Mühlenberg was a Lutheran pastor who was educated in



Göttingen and Halle before being sent to Pennsylvania in 1742 to organize the Lutheran congregations in the colonies. Before Muhlenberg's arrival, Lutheran congregations in America did not have many seminary-trained pastors. Mühlenberg was responsible for setting up the first permanent Lutheran synod, the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, he ministered to congregations from Georgia to New York, and he helped write a Lutheran liturgy. He was also a founding member of the German Society in 1764 and a friend of Heinrich Keppele, the GSP's first president.

Two of Mühlenberg's sons, Friedrich August and Johann Peter Gabriel, were later presidents of the German Society, and also played important roles in our country's history.

The Mühlenberg materials in the German Society's archives comprise four folders of material: two versions of a lengthy account of the building of the Barren Hill Lutheran Church (in what is now called Lafayette Hill, Pa.) and a dispute over its financing; an attestation of marriage to which Mühlenberg was a witness, and several letters to Mühlenberg, one from the Salzberger emigrants' Lutheran congregation in Ebenezer, Georgia.

Muhlenberg often made multiple copies of his letters and writings, sending some of them back to the Francke Foundation in Halle, which had sent him to Philadelphia. It is not clear whether copies or versions of these documents exist in other archives, but based on some preliminary research, they seem to be unique, so we hope that these newly digitized and transcribed documents will be of interest to researchers.

The Muhlenberg papers are available on the PA Power Library's website <https://powerlibrary.org/category/collections/german-society-of-pennsylvania/>, along with other digitized material from our library, and the transcriptions are available in the library.

- Bettina Hess, Librarian

Save the date for our annual

CHRISTKINDLMARKT

Saturday, December 7
12pm - 4pm

Facing the Future: GSP Capital Campaign

It is with great enthusiasm and urgency that we recently initiated a significant Capital Campaign to fund needed renovations to our building's façade. As a Committee member, I would like to share why this effort is so important to me and my family. I hope you will join me in learning about this ongoing work and consider making a contribution to protect our organization's historic home.



Crumbling cornice elements on the townhouse section of the GSP's building

Our building's façade is sadly out of sync with the rich, vibrant, and impactful activities and programs inside. Significant renovations are needed, estimated to cost nearly **two million dollars** in the next few years. While raising this amount is daunting, there is good news. We have already received generous grants and commitments totaling nearly half the required amount, thanks to the leadership of Ernie Weiler, our Vice President of Advancement.

Now, we must count on our members to contribute to this critical effort, and that is where you come in. Please join me in making a generous gift to our Capital Campaign to safeguard our home for generations to come. Additional funding will also be solicited by our leadership from government organizations and foundations. If your employer offers matching funds, let us know.

My family has been a member of the German Society of Pennsylvania since we moved here from North Carolina in 2018. We greatly value being a part of the oldest Society of German-speaking peoples in the United States, having been founded in 1764. I feel tremendous joy when stepping inside our historic building on Spring Garden Street and often think about how many people our organization has served and welcomed into this special place over the

years. My family loves coming to events at GSP. We are excited to invest in our wonderful building and to do our part in maintaining this legacy and growing our impact.

My children and I are fascinated by the research library upstairs, enjoy programs in the Ratskeller, and attend music performances and cultural events in our beautiful hall. I often hear visitors and guests remark on how impressed they are with our space and how much they enjoy learning about our extensive history.

Taking care of our historic building requires significant time, expertise, and money. We must, as a Society, step forward with this shared responsibility to invest in our organization's future. Funds from our endowment can cover some, but not all, of the cost. As such, we have initiated a Capital Campaign to raise **\$500,000 over the next three years**. No donation is too small, and every donation is tax deductible.

How can you help? Look out for a Pledge Card or visit our website to make your contribution all at once or over time, as you prefer. If you'd like to speak with someone from the Capital Campaign Committee or would like to join this Committee to help us reach our goal of raising half a million dollars, please reach out. Thank you for supporting the restoration of our historic building, and stay tuned for Campaign updates!



Replacement of the Library windows is scheduled for this fall and winter.

- Stephanie Vogel

Stephanie Vogel is a second-term GSP Director, who is a member of GSP Committees for the Capital Campaign, Stiftungsfest, and Marketing. She lives with her two daughters in Germantown, Philadelphia.

PhillyKinder Summer Camp, August 5-16, 2024

Due to the church fire in Overbrook in January, we needed to find a new location for the PhillyKinder summer camp, previously held at Overbrook Presbyterian Church. Luckily, Anja had a contact in Swarthmore who helped us secure the Swarthmore Friends' Meetinghouse as a location. It is nestled amidst the Scott Arboretum at Swarthmore College and just steps away from Crum Woods and Crum Creek. With such beautiful surroundings, it was a natural choice to focus on nature themes for our two-week camp.

We welcomed Kindergarten through 7th grade students, divided into two groups each week: one for younger elementary and one for older elementary and middle school students. Each day started with a morning circle, followed by group activities and a group game. Whenever possible, we had lunch outside, followed by indoor card and board games, as well as quiet reading time. The days were closed off with water games and crafts on the playground in the afternoon.

During the first week, the older group took water samples from the creek and explored creek life and insects in general. Both groups used a high-resolution microscope under the guidance of Dr. Troy Messick, a scientist and PhillyKinder parent, to explore the creek water life. Microscopic findings were compared with those of beetles, blood, and onions. The younger group collected nature materials to create beautiful collages. The older group explored herbariums and then built and decorated individual flower presses. Both groups had the chance to explore the creek before it swelled with heavy rain water and enjoyed exploratory walks through the arboretum and the forest. A final highlight of the first week was the older group preparing a delicious, healthy vegetarian lunch and making smoothies for everyone on Friday.

During the second week, the elementary group built and decorated volcanoes out of paper mâché. Their constructions were rounded off by crafting dinosaur eggs to hide in their volcanoes, and dinosaurs. They all greatly enjoyed



making their volcanoes erupt on Thursday! The older group studied how the forest floor filters water, followed by exploring and building different water filtration systems. A highlight of their week was constructing mini rafts from twigs and string, which were raced down a portion of the creek. On Thursday the older campers prepared various dishes with high-water-content vegetables for everybody to taste, including a couscous salad, tzatziki, and mini-Caprese-skewers. The homemade watermelon-lime popsicles were the favorite dish prepared that day. On the last day, both groups joined together for a treasure hunt organized by Susanna. In mixed-age groups they explored the Scott Arboretum to find and solve clues that led to a hidden treasure box. The camp ended with the ultimate highlight of the week - the epic water balloon toss showdown.

This year was especially memorable for the chance to be immersed in nature, and everyone loved spending so much time outdoors. Despite facing some weather challenges in the first week, the second week brought near perfect temperatures. Overall, the beautiful location and its surroundings were a big hit with the PhillyKinder campers and their team.

- Birgit Splitt, for the PhillyKinder Summer Camp Team 2024
(Manuela, Susanna, Ines, Birgit, Annika, Samuel & Anja)



Three Horner Fellows Report on their Research on Zoom

This year our three GHI-GSP Horner Fellows reported their findings on Zoom for a larger audience which also included our liaison with the German Historical Institute, Professor Axel Jansen. Instead of our traditional brown bag seminar which usually attracts about twenty GSP members in the Ratskeller, librarian Bettina Hess organized and monitored a successful zoom meeting on June 20, of course with a Q & A section.

The readers of the *Staatsbote* will learn about three very different projects. Jane Chang, whose dissertation at the University of Tennessee encompasses a whole era of medical practices in the eighteenth century, was particularly successful in her immersion in the holdings of the Horner Library. Her dissertation will be the first comprehensive study of the differences and interconnections of British/American medical practices with those the German Americans used before 1800. In contrast, Kirsten Becker, who writes her dissertation at the University of Münster — the place from where we received several academic guests in previous years — could not count on many titles for her study of the legislative assemblies in the American states before and after 1776. And yet Becker located significant material here and at other Philadelphia archives. Gabriel Wolfson, PhD student at Tübingen, in his study of the Jewish *Feldrabbiner* in the German army in World War I, located three very rare texts at Horner for his dissertation. Most gratifying is the fact that Gabriel is able to follow one of the rabbis, Felix Aber, in his later work for the Jewish community in Lancaster, PA.

- Frank Trommler

The Formation of a New German-American Medical Culture in Colonial Pennsylvania (1730-1810)

The research undertaken at the Horner Library and several other archives (e.g., Lutheran Archives, Moravian Archives, and Ursinus College) in the Philadelphia and adjacent areas

were very helpful in supplementing my chapters on medical advice printed in the German press as well as on women's health in my dissertation "Intermingling of the Old and New: The Formation of a New German-American Medical Culture in Colonial Pennsylvania (1730-1810)." This was my second trip to the Horner Library, and it was more helpful and productive as I knew exactly which sources I wanted to access, namely the *Kalender* [almanac] published in Philadelphia from 1730-1815. I specifically examined many boxes of different *Kalender* including *Der Hoch-Deutsch Americanische Kalender*, *Americanischer Haus- und Wirthschafts-Calender*, *Americanischer Stadt und Land Calender*, and the *Neuer Lancasterischer Calender*. Most (around 85%) of the *Kalender* had a section dedicated to medical recipes dedicated for humans (*Helf- und Hausmittel für die Menschen*) and farm animals such as cattle, pigs, and horses. Each almanac always contained a page for bloodletting and cupping (*Vom Aderlassen und Schröpfen*), revealing their mainstay as a form of medical treatment; even Heinrich Melchior Muhlenberg was known for administering it to himself [see Image].

Although most of the *Kalender* dealt with addressing general injuries and illnesses such as

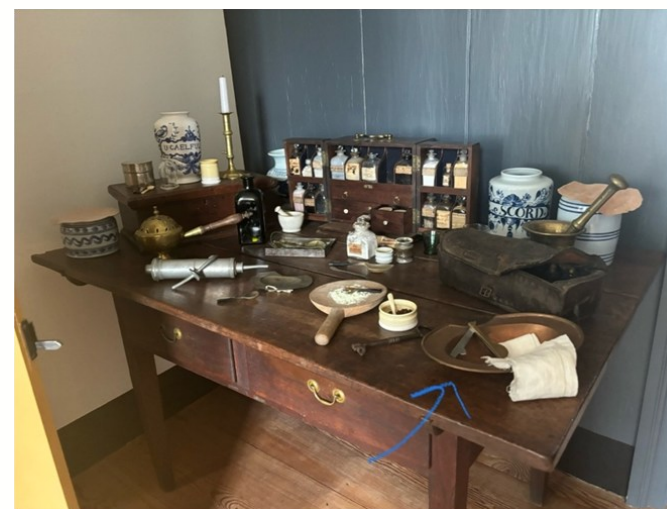


Image 1: A reconstruction of Heinrich Melchior Muhlenberg's medicine desk. The blue arrow points to a blood-letting instrument and gauze that he utilized during his life. Photo taken by me at the Henry Muhlenberg House located in Trappe, PA.

suturing, headaches, fevers, and dysentery, the recipes also delved to a limited extent into the more mystical aspects of healing and women's health. For example, in the 1771 edition of *Der Hoch-Deutsche Americanische Calender* [AY 1.6], we see a recipe for *ein vortreflich Wund-Balsam* to be used for fresh wounds in both people and animals ("*das ist an sich selbst ein vortreflich Heilungs-Mittle in allerlein frischen wunden bei Menschen und Vieh*"). In some of the *Kalender*, there was a compact section for useful botanicals and plants (*Fortsetzung des kurzgefaßten Kräuterbuchs*): some had medicinal properties, and others were simple spices, fruits, or flowers. Recipes geared towards women's health were few in the *Kalender*. There is a recipe for women's breast pain calling for a sort of chest rub similar to today's Vicks VapoRub. For this subject matter, however, I was more successful in obtaining around 4-6 *Weiber-Büchlein* dating around the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries at the Library Company of Philadelphia and Ursinus College.

In addition to working at the Horner Library, I was lucky to be a recipient of a grant through the Library Company of Philadelphia to extend my stay another month. Through Frank Trommler I was able to get in touch with Lisa Minardi, the Director of the Lutheran Archives and Historic Trappe. The Lutheran Archives holds private papers and correspondences with the Muhlenberg family (mainly Heinrich Muhlenberg and his son, Henry Jr.) and Justus Henry Christian Helmuth. Helmuth had written a couple of letters accounting for the yellow fever outbreak in Philadelphia in 1793. For the Muhlenbergs, I was looking for any connections with medicine with the Old World. Indeed, Henry Jr. kept in close contact with naturalists and ministers back in Central Europe to obtain ingredients and books.

Henry Jr. is of particular interest to me as he is one of the main characters in my last chapter alongside the Moravian missionary Anna Rosina Gambold née Kliet. In this chapter, I plan to discuss how Henry Jr. and Anna were two piv-

otal examples of medical personnel who meshed together the knowledge from the Old World with the local knowledge of the Americas vis-à-vis indigenous communities and local flora. Overall, my two-month stay in Philly was a success, and I plan to complete the dissertation by the end of spring/summer 2025.

- Jane Chang, University of Tennessee



Little more than a name change? Symbolic Communication of Colonial and State Legislatures, c. 1760-1820

In June 2024 I completed a two-week research stay in Philadelphia as part of the "GHI-GSP Summer Fellowship" awarded by the *German Historical Institute* in Washington and the *German Society of Pennsylvania*. I was able to consult essential sources for my dissertation project in various archives, first in the *Joseph Horner Memorial Library* of the *German Society* and then in the holdings of the *American Philosophical Society*, the *Historical Society of Pennsylvania* and *LancasterHistory* (formerly the *Lancaster Historical Society*).

In my project I examine the development of selected state legislatures – including Pennsylvania's – during the upheaval of the American Revolution and the early Republic. The project assumes that state legislatures, while retaining many characteristics from the colonial period, were subject to a process of transformation. It asks how the legislatures were perceived, what voters and, in a broader sense, the "people out of doors" expected from their parliamentarians, and how the parliamentary institutions reacted to the changing expectations and legitimized their legislative power – both externally and internally. In view of the increasing number of German, Scottish, and Irish representatives, the polarization of politics through the

emergence of the “First Party System,” and not least the inclusion of former Loyalists such as William Rawle – whose diary and selected correspondence I was able to consult in the American Philosophical Society – the question arises as to what actually held this institution together and allowed it to present itself to the outside world as a cohesive institutional unit.

The Horner Library houses a large, almost unique collection of German-language almanacs published in Pennsylvania in the 18th and 19th centuries. In addition to the conspicuous focus on national political figures and institutions in the German-language calendars of the Revolutionary period and the early Republic that has already been noted in historical research, the almanacs I have examined also show an increasing presence of Pennsylvania political institutions that were largely invisible in these publications before the Revolution. The almanacs record the processions and festive events in Philadelphia involving the state legislature, include the annual election day in early October in the series of “remarkable events,” list members of the legislature in some calendars, and bring the reference to the “VOTES of the Honorable HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES of this Province” available for purchase from the publisher of the *Philadelphischer Calender*, Heinrich Miller. Yet it is the rare but extant example of commentary and statements critical of the government that I would like to give greater attention to in my work.

Both German political commentators and German legislators will be a focus of my PhD project. While research is usually limited to noting the small number of petitions introduced by Germans in the legislature or repeating the derisive comments of political contemporaries about their perceived lack of language skills, I hope to broaden this perspective by taking German legislators seriously as central actors in (post-)revolutionary Pennsylvania.

I would like to express my sincere thanks for the opportunity offered to me by the GHI and the German Society and for the possibility to present my research project and some initial

findings from the archival research to a number of members of the German Society.

- Kirsten Becker, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster



Jewish Military Chaplains in the German Army in World War I

The work of the Jewish *Feldrabbiner* who served in the German Army in World War I from 1914 to 1919 has been a neglected part of German-Jewish history. In my dissertation at the University of Tübingen, “Deutsche Feldrabbiner im Ersten Weltkrieg: Erlebnis – Erfahrung – Deutung,” I investigate a select number of the 45 Jewish field chaplains in their religious and social activities, illuminating their theological practices as part of the Jewish tradition in Wilhelmine Germany.

In my research in the Joseph Horner Memorial Library I concentrated in particular on three very rare titles. Of paramount importance is the so-called *Feldbibel* (“Field Bible”) published by the “Association of German Jews”, which quickly became the de facto standard prayer book for Jewish military chaplains. Its selection of excerpts from the Holy Scriptures allows conclusions to be drawn about the main focus of the *Feldrabbiner*. It represents a document of Jewish pastoral care in the First World War whose importance cannot be overestimated.

Similar consideration can be extended to the “Kriegsbriefe gefallener Deutscher Juden” (“War Letters of Fallen German Jews”) which were published in 1935. Against the backdrop of efforts to denigrate the war effort of Jewish soldiers by the government of Nazi Germany, the “Reichsbund jüdischer Frontsoldaten” (“Reich Federation of Jewish Front-Line Soldiers”), which regarded itself as an advocacy group for Jewish veterans, published a collection of field post letters that were intend-

ed to demonstrate to the public the patriotic attitudes of their authors. The content provides an authentic insight into the ruthless life at the front line, the austerity, scantiness, and deprivations. It all was endured thanks to the tenacious belief in a German victory. Since the soldiers considered meetings with the *Feldrabbiner*, who was responsible for their respective front section, to be extremely newsworthy, the “War Letters” include extensive passages devoted to these encounters, making them a worthwhile source for the perception of the pastoral care of military chaplains by their primary clientele.

The third title, equally weighty for my research at Horner, is the report on “The Jews in the Eastern war zone” by the “American Jewish Committee” in 1916. It is an important document from a US nongovernmental organization whose authors travelled to war-torn Eastern Europe in order to intensify charitable work and to coordinate the organization of the distribution of humanitarian aid with contacts on the ground. In the course of this venture, meetings were held with Jewish military chaplains who shared their impressions of the material, social, and religious situation of Eastern European Jewry. These insights from the war zone as well as their reception by representatives of North American Jewry complement and add to the experiences of the field rabbis, as they offer statistical evidence to the chaplains’ observations. The report of the American Jewish Committee provides an auspicious comment on how reality is constructed in a wartime situation.

Taking advantage of the geographical proximity, I extended my research with a visit to the Archives of Lancaster which contain documents of the later life of one of the *Feldrabbiner*, Dr. Felix Aber. While the old world got consumed by flames, Dr. Aber succeeded in reaching safe shores in 1939. He learned English and served as a rabbi in Lancaster for several years. I focus on bulletins from the community, preserved sermons, personal documents, and anything that could bear witness to his tem-

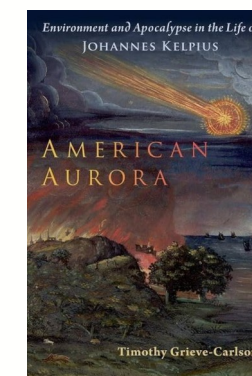
poral Pennsylvanian presence. A comparison of Aber’s liturgical writings in exile with those he created while serving as a field rabbi will reveal continuities and breaks in his religious worldview. It will contribute to the understanding of the significance of the war experience for the formation of his self-understanding as a theologian.

I was able to advance my doctoral project significantly thanks to the support of Professor Trommler, the library staff, and the dedicated members of the GSP. I would like to extend special thanks to Dr. Edmund Cohen, who gave me a valuable hint that I regard as a highly promising incentive.

- Gabriel Wolfson, Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen

Former GHI Fellow to Present on November 7

Curious what our former GHI-GSP Fellows are up to? Join us on November 7 at 6pm for a talk by former fellow Dr. Timothy Grieve-Carlson on his newly published book, *American Aurora: Environment and Apocalypse in the Life of Johannes Kelpius*. Some of the research for this book was conducted in our Library!



This work examines the life and legacy of the theologian Johannes Kelpius, a figure from Pennsylvania German history who is both influential and mysterious. Drawing on archival research and newly translated source material, Dr. Grieve-Carlson explores the esoteric dimensions of Kelpius’s Christianity

before turning to his legacy in American religion and literature.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase. We hope to see you there!

- Liesl Jandrey

Film Schedule 2024-2025

Tausend Zeilen (2022)

September 20, 2024

German with English Subtitles



This movie is based on the real life events of Claas-Hendrik Relotius, a German former journalist who resigned from *Der Spiegel* in 2018 after admitting to fabrication of numerous stories.

The fictional character Lars Bogenius, played by Jonas Nay, closely resembles Claas Relotius, and Elyas M'Barek portrays Juan Moreno, who uncovered and documented Relotius' fraudulent activities. *Der Spiegel* is turned into the news magazine *Die Chronik*. This movie is not just a docudrama, but a clever and entertaining combination of drama, satire, and commentary.

Die Herrlichkeit des Lebens (2024)

November 15, 2024

German with German Subtitles



June 3, 2024 was the 100-year anniversary of Franz Kafka's death. This is the latest movie about Kafka, based on the 2011 bestselling novel of the same title by Michael Kumpfmüller. It depicts the last year of the 40-year-old Kafka's life and his love affair with Dora Diamant, a 25-year-old kindergarten teacher from an orthodox Jewish family. He met her by chance in the summer of 1923 in Graal-Müritz at the Baltic Sea, where he stayed for a vacation to seek healing for his laryngeal tuberculosis. They fell in love, and Kafka moved to Berlin to live with her.

This year, Kafka's popularity reached unprecedented levels, with many German publications

calling it a "Kafka-Kult." It presents an opportunity to view this movie on the background of his life and writings.

Ein ganzes Leben (2023)

January 17, 2025

German with English Subtitles



This movie follows the life of orphan Andreas Egger from a young age until his death in his 80s. It takes place at the turn of the 20th century in a remote, impoverished valley of the Austrian Alps. When Egger loses his parents, his uncle reluctantly accepts him on his

farm but treats with disdain and frequent, brutal physical beatings. Despite all of this, Egger grows up to become a strong and honest man who finds a job when the first Alpine ski lift is being constructed under extremely dangerous conditions. In a local restaurant, he finds the love of his life, the waitress Marie, and the two enjoy moments of joy and marital happiness until tragedy tests his character like never before.

Sie sagt, er sagt (2024)

February 14, 2025

German with German Subtitles



This film is a made-for-television movie that was first broadcasted on February 26, 2024 on the major channel ZDF (Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen) as "*Fernsehfilm der Woche*". The screenplay was written by one of Germany's most successful authors, Ferdi-

nand von Schirach. In a criminal trial at a State Court in Berlin, a rape case is being investigated. The well-known TV journalist Katharina

Schlüter accuses the industrialist Christian Thiede of forcing himself onto her when she clearly and repeatedly asked him to stop. The two had a secret love affair for years but are now pitted against each other in a high-stakes case that could ruin their careers and their marriages.

In einem Land, das es nicht mehr gibt (2022)

March 21, 2025

German with English Subtitles



This movie is based in large part on the autobiographical experience of the director and screen writer Aelrun Goette, who lived in East Germany. Just like Aelrun, young Suzie is expelled from school just before graduation because she is caught wearing a swords-to-plowshares sticker and carrying the book *1984* by George Orwell, which is considered threatening to the state. Shortly afterwards, while working in a factory as a form of punishment, Suzie is photographed and consequently featured in a fashion magazine. This coincidence changes her life, and she transitions into the fashion world and the underground scene of the GDR shortly before the fall of the wall.

Deutschstunde (2019)

April 18, 2025

German with German Subtitles



When Siegfried Lenz published his novel *Deutschstunde* in 1968, it instantly became one of the most successful works of the German *Nachkriegsliteratur*. It was quickly turned into a film for television in 1971. This film is the latest adaptation of the Lenz classic. It starts with the German class assign-

ment "*Die Freuden der Pflicht*" for the inmates of a juvenile detention center in the 1950s. Siggi Jepsen, unable to start the essay during class, is forced into solitary confinement, where he begins to write down his memories of his father, who, as a local policeman in a small village along the Northern German coast during the Third Reich, was assigned to enforce a "*Malverbot*" of the painter Max Ludwig Nansen. The execution of this duty is the central theme of the novel and the movie.

Die goldenen Jahre (2022)

May 16, 2025

German with German Subtitles



This Swiss comedy depicts the life of Peter and Alice Waldvogel after Peter's 65th birthday and retirement. While preparing for this new phase of their lives, some major disturbances begin to develop. As Alice mourns the death of her best friend Magalie,

Peter develops into a serious health fanatic. A Mediterranean cruise is supposed to get the couple closer together again. Upset that Peter insisted on inviting Magalie's widowed husband on the trip, Alice decides to embark on her own adventure when the ship stops in Marseille. This feel-good movie about the golden years finds a successful balance of dramatic events and comedic elements.

- Karl Moehlmann



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Exciting News and Temporary Team Update

We are delighted to share the exciting news that our Executive Director, Liesl, will be taking maternity leave this winter. We are so excited for her and wish her all the best during this special time!

During Liesl's absence, we are pleased to welcome Anett, who will be joining our team temporarily to help fill in and ensure everything continues to run smoothly. We are very excited to have Anett on board and confident that her support will be invaluable. Liesl will be returning in early March.

Kelley, our administrative assistant, will remain full time—so all regular operations will continue per usual.

Here's a quick introduction so you can get to know our newest team member!

Anett, originally from East Germany, is bringing some fresh energy to our team! With over 15 years of experience in the hospitality industry, she's worked with some of the biggest hotel chains, but now she's here with us. Anett is also a proud "soccer mom" to her 9-year-old son, so you'll often find her cheering from the sidelines. When she's not busy with family or work, she loves to ride her horse and unwind with a good glass of wine on the weekends.

We're excited to have her on board!

- Kelley Dahlen, *Admin Assistant*



Thank You to our Volunteers!

To kick off our Capital Campaign project, we needed to assemble and mail out almost 1,000 donation packets, complete with information about the project as well as donation forms. This effort was only made possible with help from our volunteers! A huge thank you to each and every volunteer who came to the Society to help us out with this massive mailing.



Spotlight on Past Members: We Have Godfrey Keebler to Thank for Yuletide Cookies!

With the December holidays just around the corner, we can be especially thankful for past



*Godfrey Keebler.
Image courtesy of the
Columbia Historic
Preservation Society.*

GSP member **Godfrey Keebler**, the first one to make the celebrated Keebler cookie!

When he arrived in Pennsylvania from Württemberg, Germany, with his father in 1832, Keebler was a ten-year old boy. He spent summers helping neighboring farmers in Phoenixville with their chores and attended school until the age of nineteen.

At this point, he moved to Philadelphia, where he learned the trade of baking cakes and bread. Possessing an entrepreneurial spirit, Keebler opened a baking business in 1844, then moved to Columbia, PA to apprentice as a baker's assistant at the elegant American Hotel.

In 1853, Keebler founded his own bakery in Philadelphia, which came to network with other baking companies across the country. These bakeries eventually merged into the United Biscuit Company of America, with headquarters in Battle Creek, Michigan.

Godfrey Keebler, who is buried at Mount Peace Cemetery in Philadelphia, would undoubtedly be pleased with the company's slogan, "Uncommonly Good."

- Lynne Breen

Development Report: Charitable Gift Annuities (CGAs)

As reported in prior issues of the Staatsbote, the German Society has benefited significantly from the benevolence of members who purchased a CGA from the Philadelphia Foundation.

There have been recent changes to this program. The program starts at age 65 and the minimum contribution is \$50,000; it was formerly \$10,000. At the conclusion of the CGA, 75% of the residual value will create an endowment fund for the specific charitable purposes of the donor, and the remaining 25% will be added to an existing fund in support of the Philadelphia Foundation – such as the Philadelphia Foundation Civic Leadership Fund or Annual Fund. This is second important change. With prior contracts, 100% of the residuals would benefit the German Society. In fact, the balance in the German Society Remainder Fund is \$340,700 thanks to three generous donors; the majority coming from Irmgard Martino. Contracts for annuities are between the donor and the Philadelphia Foundation.

Nevertheless, we recommend annuities as an attractive vehicle to receive an income stream for life at an attractive rate, with a tax benefit, and at a future date the German Society will receive your legacy gift.

Annuity rates for an individual 70 and 80 years old with and without a partner are shown below. The Philadelphia Foundation also offers a webpage where you can tailor the requested information by date of birth, for example. The web address is as follows: <https://www.philafound.org/professional-advisors/estate-planning/charitable-gift-annuities/>

We would be delighted to provide additional information or to have you visit with the Philadelphia Foundation.

Sample Annuity Based on \$50,000 Initial Contribution*

Age	Payment Rate	Annuity	Tax Deduction*
70	6.3%	\$3,150.00	\$18,756.00
70/70	5.5%	\$2,750.00	\$16,839.50
80	8.1%	\$4,050.00	\$22,707.50
80/80	6.9%	\$3,450.00	\$19,981.50

**Annuity Rates are determined by the American Council on Gift Annuities and are subject to change. Tax deduction will vary based on current federal midterm interest rate at the time of the gift.*

- E. D. Weiler