

Calendar of Events

Sat. Apr. 1	Hamburger Abend, 3:00pm
Sun. Apr. 2	Gentle Yoga, 11:00am
Sun. Apr. 2	Bösendorfer Youth Music Festival Final Concert, 3:00pm
Sat. Apr. 8	Buchclub: <i>Der kurze Brief zum langen Abschied</i> by Peter Handke, 1:30pm
Sat. Apr. 15	Wandern at the Willows, 11:00am
Sun. Apr. 16	"Wister and More!" presents the Karlsruher Konzert-Duo, 3:00pm
Fri. Apr. 21	Friday Film Fest: <i>Und der Zukunft zugewandt</i> , 6:30pm
Sun. Apr. 30	Galli Theater: <i>Rotkäppchen</i> (in German), 3:00pm
Sun. Apr. 30	Galli Theater: <i>Rapunzel</i> (in English), 4:30pm
Sun. May 7	Gentle Yoga, 11:00am
Sun. May 7	Library Treasure Tour, 2:00pm
Thu. May 11	World Affairs Table: Germany, 6:00pm
Sat. May 13	Buchclub: <i>Amok</i> by Stefan Zweig, 1:30pm
Fri. May 19	Friday Film Fest: <i>Schachnovelle</i> , 6:30pm
Sat. May 20	Wandern at the Willows, 11:00am
Sun. June 4	Gentle Yoga, 11:00am
Sun. June 4	Annual Members Meeting and Elections of the Board of Directors, 3:00pm
Sat. June 10	Buchclub, 1:30pm

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Save the dates for our 2023/2024

Wister & More Concert Series

SEPT. 10, 2023	3:00pm	The Wister Quartet
OCT. 8, 2023	3:00pm	Elissa Koljonen, Violin with Amy Yang, Piano
NOV. 19, 2023	3:00pm	The Casimir Trio
JAN. 21, 2024	3:00pm	Grant Youngblood, Baritone
FEB. 18, 2024	3:00pm	Rachell Ellen Wong, Baroque Violin with David Belkovski, Harpsichord
MAR. 17, 2024	3:00pm	Estrella Piano Duo
APR. 7, 2024	4:00pm	Claire Huangci, Piano

Purchase a subscription and get one complimentary ticket to a performance of your choice!

The German Society of Pennsylvania

Neuer Pennsylvanischer
Staatsbote

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

Spring 2023

Season of Joy

Spring has arrived, and whether you wish to cry out against the vagaries of early spring (April, April, er weiß nicht was er will!) or welcome the arrival of May and "tanz in den Mai," you will find something going on here at the German Society!

Large celebrations returned with a vengeance this winter – with the **Society's 258th Stiftungsfest (Founders Gala)** filling the 19th century *Library* and *Versammlungssaal* (Assembly Hall) with food and drink, music, and dancing. In February, **Bierfest** hosted over 800 participants in this unique celebration of German and locally crafted German-style beer. In March, we held the second annual **Classical Guitar Meets Classic Wine**. True to its name, a sold-out crowd of over 100 participants enjoyed both elements in equal measure.

Smaller social events brought new faces to the Society, including the PartyAG's two dance parties – **Vor*glühen**, and for the *Karnivalisten* in the room, February's **LOVE Parade: A Fastnachtsparty**. Over 70 participants at each celebration danced "bis in die Puppen" to German and American dance music of the last 30 years. **Konversationsabend** continued to promote German language discussion on a theme, and a new **Stammtisch** with *Netzwerk Philadelphia* brought informal socializing into our Ratskeller through the season. You can expect more opportunities to connect with others here at the Society in the coming months!

Lectures and exhibits are core parts of the German Society's annual program. This January led off with the opening of the **German Jewish Heritage Series**. Among several events, we

saw over 150 people join us to view the opening of the *Leo Baeck Institute's* traveling exhibit **1700 Years of Jewish Life In German-Speaking Lands**, while a similar number came to hear author and illustrator **Nora Krug** interviewed by fellow Karlsruhe native **WHYY-FM's Maiken Scott** about her struggle with the meaning of her German identity in the post-Holocaust era. More intimate lectures included a talk by **Martin Kaiser** of the Gustav Stresemann Institute on the "culture of remembrance" in Germany and the United States, and comments by the **German Consul for Washington, DC** on German foreign policy. **Library Treasure Tours**, a **St. Martins Day Märchenstunde** with *PhillyKinder*, **Wister & More Concerts**, **Friday Film Fest**, **Buchclub**, **Gentle Yoga**, **Wandern in the Willows** – it has been a stupendous season so far. And more is on the way!



Nora Krug (right) and Maiken Scott. Photo by Geovani Calderon

Membership and Annual Fund

And so, a last thought: this increasing offering of the German Society is made possible in part through your **membership** and support through our **Annual Fund**. If you are not a member, please consider joining us! And if you can contribute to our **Annual Fund**, please do – you can find out how on our website at www.germansociety.org.

– Mark McGuigan, President

German Newspaper Digitization Project

Did you know that in the late 19th century, there were six German language daily newspapers published in Philadelphia? The German Society subscribed to all of them, and I can imagine members perusing them in the elegant library reading room.

These newspapers are a trove of information for genealogists and researchers of all types, interested in how events of the day were reported in the German language press. In the 1990s our originals were microfilmed, but it still required a visit to the library to access them. Then, in 2014, the University of Pennsylvania digitized our remaining crumbling, leather-bound volumes, which are now searchable online, making them even more accessible. However, some of the original issues of the *Philadelphia Demokrat*, *Tageblatt*, *Freie Presse*, and others were lost and now are only available on microfilm. We are now in the process of converting 100+ microfilm reels of these newspapers to digital format, using a microfilm scanner on loan to us from Hosting Solutions and Library Consulting (HSLC), which hosts the Pennsylvania State Library's *PA Power Library* website. Our library intern has been scanning each issue and creating accompanying metadata, which will then be uploaded to the Power Library website along with the GSP's other digitized materials. We are very excited to be making these rare historic newspapers more easily accessible to the public!

- Bettina Hess, Librarian



Drexel library science student Nate Hubler scanning microfilm reels

Development Report

In the Winter 2023 issue of the *Staatsbote* we described our thirteen-year efforts to establish and fund several endowments which will help assure the long-term viability of the German Society. Our specific long-term goals are \$4.00MM for the General Endowment and \$1.5MM for the Horner Memorial Library Endowment. We are still far from these goals, and it might take us some time to achieve them.

We highlighted that many non-profits look toward legacy gifts to achieve their endowment funding goals. These gifts are generally not predictable and may not come to the institution for some time. In the past thirteen years we received one legacy gift in the amount of \$25,000. Since our last issue, I am pleased to report that, as per the attorney of a deceased, a second individual has left the same amount in her estate. These gifts are an important tool in our efforts to grow the endowments.

We have now 32 members, one more since our last issue, who have indicated that it is their intention to include the Society in their estate plans and shared this information with us, which is the reason their names are listed under the Legacy section of the Linden Society.

If you intend to include the Society in your estate plans - and we encourage you to seriously consider this giving option - we ask that you complete the enclosed pledge form and return it to the office. The amount does not need to be specified. For some individuals, listing the Society as beneficiary of a retirement account or a life insurance policy is an easy option which does not require a codicil to a will; this option also allows for several organizations or family members to benefit from the same investments. As always, we would be delighted to discuss specific questions you might have.

We included the same summary in our last issue, but neglected to include the pledge form in the mailing as we had promised. We apologize, and hopefully we have given you some additional time to consider this suggestion.

- E. D. Weiler

GSP Endowment Pledge Form

Please select from the options listed below, and return the signed pledge form to Mr. Ernest Weiler at the German Society of Pennsylvania.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Option 1: Gift now or over a period of years

We/I will help perpetuate the Society by committing to give \$_____ to the GSP Endowment Fund. Payments will be made from _____ through December 30, _____ in the following manner:

\$_____ Monthly \$_____ Quarterly \$_____ Annually, in _____ (month)

Lump sum \$_____ Using Appreciated Securities? Yes No

Option 2: Legacy Gift

We/I will help perpetuate the Society by committing to include the GSP Endowment Fund in our/my estate plans and/or retirement accounts.

Estate: Lump sum payment \$_____ IRA or 401K: Percentage of account _____%

Percentage of estate _____% Amount to be determined

Amount to be determined

Option 3: Insurance policies

We/I will help perpetuate the Society by committing to list the GSP Endowment Fund as the beneficiary of existing or new insurance policies.

Value of policy: \$_____ Unknown Amount TBD (new policy)

Option 4: Planned giving

We/I will help perpetuate the Society by committing to work with the Philadelphia Foundation to establish a planned gift to benefit the GSP Endowment Fund. The Philadelphia Foundation offers the following options, and I am most interested in:

Charitable Gift Annuity Pooled Income Funds Charitable Remainder Trusts

Charitable Lead Trusts Real Estate and Life Estate Real Property

We/I would like to discuss specific options with the Philadelphia Foundation.

Option 5

We/I cannot participate at the present time.

We/I may participate at a later date.

Print Name: _____ Print Name: _____

Signature: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

This commitment reflects a statement of intention that remains valid unless modified.

In Memoriam

Siegfried Reiser



We were informed that Siegfried Reiser passed away at his home in Havertown, Pa on December 13, 2023. He was born on March 5, 1929 in Falkenburg, Pommern, which now part of north-western Poland. Siegfried and his family resettled in Philadelphia after the war.

He was a skilled tool and die specialist employed by Budd-ThyssenKrupp for 33 years.

Siegfried and his wife Gisela were very active in the German Society in the 1980s and 1990s; Siegfried's special task was to help with the set-up for the annual Christkindmarkt, an event then managed and staffed by members of the Woman's Auxiliary. He enjoyed coming to the Wister concerts and supported the Library. He was a quiet and dedicated family man, very proud of his German heritage.

Our sympathy goes out to Gisela, his wife of almost 65 years, to his daughter Christiane Schmidt, and the Reiser family. A private memorial service was held in December.

Jerry Schmidt



We learned that Jerry Schmidt, husband of Christiane Schmidt, passed away at Pine Run in Doylestown, Pa on October 13, 2022. He struggled valiantly for three years with Lewy Body dementia. Jerry was born on March 24, 1949. He trained as an electrician in the Navy Seabees and then worked for over thirty years in healthcare facilities management in the Philadelphia area.

Jerry was active in the German Society as a volunteer, assisting his wife and others in preparation of the annual Christkindmarkt and

other social functions. He was a quiet and serious man, and he enjoyed his large camper, which he took as far as the Florida Keys during the winter months.

Our condolences go out to Christiane, his wife of 34 years. A private memorial service was held in October of 2022.

Tom Unkefer



Ralph Thomas Unkefer, Jr. died peacefully at his home at the Quadrangle in Haverford, PA on December 10, 2022 at the age of 91 after what can only be considered a full and rewarding life. Tom was a Civil Engineer with an MBA from Harvard. He went to work with his father at Unkefer Brothers Construction Company, becoming president after his father's death in 1964. Under his leadership Unkefer Brothers grew into one of the city's outstanding general building contractors. The firm's projects included restorations of a long list of historically significant structures in Philadelphia, including the German Society Library in the 1990s.

Tom was an active member of the Society for many years. We extend our sympathies to Jane, his wife of 60 years, and the Unkefer family. A memorial service will be held on March 25, 2023 at the Arch Street Friends Meeting House.

- E. D. Weiler



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Music Notes - Wister and MORE!

The Wister series presented three concerts since the last *Staatsbote*, and there has been so much activity at the German Society and beyond. There were also two *non-Wister* music programs.

The Pyxis Piano Trio performed on Sunday, December 11, 2022. The program looked rather conservative, but the music had lots of hidden surprises. They played the dreamily romantic *Phantasiestücke in A minor, Op. 88* by Robert Schumann, enhancing the grey and rainy afternoon. The *Piano Trio No. 3 in F minor, Op. 65* by Antonin Dvořák started with violin and cello, and the second movement had some rhythmical enigmas. There were hints of Chopin's style in the cello/piano beginning of the adagio. Then they woke us out of our reveries with the encore: Chi-Hsin Yi's arrangement of *We wish you a merry Christmas!*

On February 5, 2023. Claire Huangci returned for a solo program of Schubert, Rachmaninov, Gershwin, and Mussorgsky. Ms. Huangci's interpretations of the Schubert *Four Impromptus, Op. 142, No. 3 and 4* gave an indication of her experimentations with strength of sound. She played a piano solo version of George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue for Piano and Orchestra*, transcribed by the composer, with amazing agility and speed. Just as her Rachmaninov *Prelude in C-Sharp Minor, Op. 3, No. 2* was technically impressive, the *Pictures at an Exhibition* by Modest Mussorgsky was real display of assertive brilliance.

EStrella Piano Duo played a concert celebrating Ukrainian music and culture and featuring women composers. As one hails from Ukraine and the other from Russia, it was quite meaningful to hear the repertory they had chosen which they played with superb coordination. Women composers Fanny Mendelssohn, Amy Beach, and Cécile Chaminade filled the first half. The second included two compositions commissioned by the Duo: a very modern piece of stark longing by an 18-year-old Ukrainian refugee and a particularly jazzy *Ukrainian Fantasy* based on Ukrainian folk tunes by Chicago-based

composer Ilya Levinson. A surprise was that the *Carol of the Bells* was written by Ukrainian composer Mykola Leontovych. As usual, their program was perfectly prepared, and Svetlana Belsky was both entertaining and informative.

Liesl Jandrey and Chuck Holdeman coordinated with the Music Committee to expand the audience for Sunday concerts and took a survey of the audience to get their suggestions for attracting more listeners. Although there were only 39 listeners, there were many new faces, including parents and children.

The two extra-Wister musical events included a very enjoyable "Afternoon of Madrigals" by the Schütz Vocal Consort on January 22, which attracted new audience members, including one of the organists who plays the Wanamaker organ at Macy's. Many of the singers are frequent performers in Philadelphia who just have beautiful voices, and they sang with great spirit. The project was the brainchild of Professor John Leonard who teaches at The College of New Jersey in Ewing Township, New Jersey. He gathered a group of singers including members of a Renaissance Group called *Les Carnards Chantants* and members of *Choral Arts Philadelphia*.

On February 12, 2023 the German Society was finally able to host the Youth Chamber Music Showcase which was originally scheduled for March 2020 but had had to be cancelled because of the pandemic. There were lively teenagers bouncing with musicality and excitement, and it was so lovely to see the Barthelemes Auditorium filled with young people and their parents. Patricio Acevedo led a group of 14 young people from the Camden Creative Arts High School String Ensemble, the Settlement Music School's Shelley Beard had four musicians perform, and the Play on Philly clarinetist and coach Jonathan Leeds brought an ensemble of three.

Next on the Wister calendar are the Casimir Trio on March 26 and the Karlsruher Konzert-Duo on April 16. The Third Annual Bösendorfer Youth Music Festival concert will be held on April 2.

- Margaret Darby

Annual Members Meeting and Board Elections

On **Sunday, June 4, 2023** at **3:00pm**, the German Society will hold its **2023 Annual Meeting and Elections for Directors and Officers**.

Members must be in good standing to be eligible to vote, i.e. current on dues no later than end of business on **Friday, June 2, 2023**. Members wishing to vote must be present at the meeting; there is no provision for absentee ballots or proxy voting under the Society's by-laws. Members at the Associate level (\$30/year) are not eligible to vote in our elections; if you an Associate member and would like to upgrade your membership, or if you have any other questions about your membership status, please contact our office.

Vision statements of the slate of candidates can be found on the following pages. There are five openings for Directors on the Board in the class of 2026 and one opening in the class of 2025. There are six candidates running for these positions. The following Officer positions are also up for election: President, Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, VP of Advancement, VP of Operations, and VP of Strategic Planning.

This year, members will also be asked to vote on several By-Law amendments and the GSP's Investment Policy, which are included in this mailing as a separate document. The amendments are separated into two groups:

- Those drafted by the Governance Committee in 2022 and approved by the Board, but not submitted to the members for last year's Annual Meeting, and
- A more recent group that were approved by the Board earlier this year.

Officer Candidates



President: Mark McGuigan

For the last two years I have had the honor to serve as President of the German Society of Pennsylvania with a great team of officers, board members, volunteers, and staff. This year, we have returned to holding in-person signature events

like the Wister Concert Series, the Stiftungsfest and Bierfest. At the same time, we have created a host of new programs like the German Jewish Heritage Series, gatherings to support German instructors in the region, the upcoming event honoring German Consul General David Gill, and more informal events like our PartyAG dance parties. New programs have meant new partners, new audiences, and new members for the Society.

Building relationships that support our mission, expands our programs, enhances our reputation, and increases our reach are core goals. After 18 years of working in German heritage, language, culture, and transatlantic bridge building, I am grateful to have the opportunity to continue to this work at the Society.



Assistant Treasurer: Jackie Binstead

I have worked in nonprofit accounting for most of my career. I would be honored to use my experience to help continue the excellent accounting and financial work which the Finance Committee does, in order to help support the mission and programs of the German Society.



Secretary: Bill Hardham

Although my surname is English, my genealogical research shows that I am 13% German, so part of my interest in things German has a genetic basis. Also, in 1961, I spent a year doing chemical research in a Max Planck Institute in Germany and developed an appreciation for German science and culture. Since joining GSP nearly 30 years ago, I have volunteered by serving food at Christmas bazaars, painting the interior and exterior (including the roof a few years ago!) of our treasured building. As a 14-year Board member, I have served on the Nominating and Children's Programs committees, helped to lead efforts to create our endowment and annual strategic

plans for each committee, and a 5-year Capital Spending Plan. Most recently, I have carried on these planning tasks as a VP and served as Secretary and am happy to stand again for Secretary. I have taken and promptly published minutes for numerous organizations that I have served; it just comes naturally! As a GSP officer, I will do my best to further the understanding of German and German American contributions to the growth of American history and culture.



VP of Strategic Planning: Harold Glass

I am currently VP of Strategic Planning and am running for a second term. I have worked and published in the areas of econometrics and strategic planning.

My focus during my time on the board has been on strategic planning and financial matters. I am also a member of the finance committee.

I have started and sold two companies to NY stock exchange companies and certainly learned the strategic and operational importance of sound planning and management. During my academic career I held several positions in the US and Europe. I am retired now as Dean's Professor at the University of the Sciences. My graduate work was at the London School of Economics (MSc.Econ.) and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Ph.D.



VP of Advancement: Ernie Weiler

My activity will focus on funding capital projects and endowments of the Society. Our vision is to support 20% of the budget from endowments. This is a compelling objective needed to secure cultural, social, and educational programs for generations to come. Financially it is a stretch goal, especially since our Board established longer range targets of \$4.00MM for the General Endowment and \$1.5MM for the Library Endowment, respectively. The current balances are close to

\$2.00MM and \$1.0MM for the two endowments. Furthermore, we hope that members and friends of the Society consider legacy gifts. Moreover, we will work with the foundations that provided most of the funds required for recent capital improvements. Renovation of the façade is probably the last remaining major project – this multi-year project will likely cost \$1.00MM.



VP of Operations: Tony Michels

I am honored that you have given me the opportunity to serve as President of the GSP from 2015 till 2021. I am proud of what we have accomplished together, and I am

asking for your support in allowing me to continue to serve the German Society in the role of Vice President of Operations for the next two years.

For those who have known me during the past 15 years, it is certainly no surprise that I have a clear vision for my work here at the German Society of Pennsylvania. In the German Society, I found a home away from home and many people with whom I share common goals for the future of the organization. As President, as well as in my former role as Executive Vice President (2009-2015), I was fortunate to be able to spend significant time involved in organizing the day-to-day business, focusing on the development of the organization including outreach, preparing our building to serve our needs for the years to come, and establishing a professional administration.

Director Candidates



Christina Frei

Christina Frei currently serves as the Executive Director of Language Instruction for the School of Arts & Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania, as well as Academic Director of the

Penn Language Center and Adjunct Associate

Professor for Penn's Graduate School of Education. In her professional life, she specializes in constructivist curriculum design, intercultural communication, and diverse applications of technology for teaching and learning world languages and cultures. She co-authored a textbook for introductory/intermediate German language and culture: *Augenblicke German through Film, Media and Texts, 2021*. She brings with her a passion for second language acquisition, curriculum design, and digital pedagogy.



Hans K. Mueller

I have seen many changes and much progress during my more than 40 years of GSP membership, including 15 years as a member of the Board and Executive Committee. We have come a long way. It has not always been smooth and uncontentious, but much has been accomplished. I am thinking of the elevator, Leidy Terrace, geothermal utility system, and GAC storage room to just name a few examples. I would like to help the Board maintain momentum and strengthen the position of the Society.

I am an engineer by training. I grew up in Dresden, studied there and in Aachen, and then went to Caltech in CA for a PhD in Aeronautical Engineering. We live in Wilmington, where I retired after working 40 years for the DuPont Company.



Helga Halbfass

I have been a member of the Board of Directors for more than 14 years and was asked to apply for re-election. In those years I participated in numerous volunteer activities. For 12 years I organized the *Konversationsabend* program (KA) with its three branches: the KA itself, the KA Extra, and the KA Contact. I also joined the GSP Wellness program as leader of the *Wandern in the Willows* subdivision. I would continue to work for increased cooperation and transparency between committees and projects, and engage actively in the ongoing process of defining and re-

defining the objectives of the Society (membership questions, publicity, hospitality, outreach activities) as my part in making the German Society significant for friends and members, and for the life of the City.



Christine Stenner

My name is Christine Stenner, and I am honored to express my interest in joining the board of the German Society of Pennsylvania.

I am a German/American lawyer with 30 years of experience. I earned my law degree in Germany and my Master of Laws (LL.M) from Temple University, Philadelphia. I remain an active member of the German bar and am also admitted to practice law in Pennsylvania as a foreign legal consultant, focusing on German citizenship and contract law. Besides my legal practice, I founded Steuben Consulting LLC, which provides strategy consulting for apprenticeship career pathways and change in the workforce. In addition, I teach International Law at a university in Germany.

I am passionate about bringing people and cultures together and see myself as a bridge-builder and catalyst in creating opportunities for connections. I aim to preserve and promote German culture and language in our region and foster connections and *Gemeinschaft* between old and new German immigrants and expats.



Del Hausman

I believe that the German Society of Pennsylvania is uniquely positioned to serve as a hub for all things German throughout Greater Philadelphia. The Delaware Valley remains

home to a rich, but dwindling array of German clubs and organizations, and it is my firm belief that we would all benefit from much closer cooperation and mutual support (here, I prefer the German word *Zusammenarbeit*, i.e., working together). One example of this *Zusammenarbeit*

in action would be last April's German Language Summit held at the German Society, which brought together area teachers of German from middle and high schools, heritage language schools as well as colleges and universities and enjoyed the support and participation of the national office of the American Association of Teachers of German as well as the German Embassy. As a cultural hub for all things German, the German Society should strive to promote its programs to members of all the other organizations, schools, churches, clubs, etc., and at the same time should endeavor to share information regarding programs of other institutions. Let's infuse new meaning into the slogan *Wunderbar together!*



Jim Niessen

I'm an historian of Eastern Europe (PhD Indiana) and librarian at Rutgers-New Brunswick (MLIS Texas) with paternal German roots in the Rhineland, Mosel, and Black Forest. For the potential renewal of my service on our board I would

bring a continued interest in the preservation of its library resources and varied cultural programming. Among the GSP's recent initiatives, I enthusiastically support the Library Treasure Tours, Jewish programming, and outreach efforts to institutions and people in Germany. Although my parents grew up in Philly (and some family members lived within blocks of the GSP), I live in NYC—in a part of Queens that for several decades was largely German. Today German New York is fading away, making the GSP all the more a regional stalwart of German heritage in its many forms.

Snoopy's Creator Was of German Heritage!

For *Staatsbote* readers who have fallen in love with Charlie Brown, Snoopy, and the rest of the *Peanuts* gang, it will be heartening to learn that creator Charles M. Schulz was of German heritage.

Born a little more than one hundred years ago in Minneapolis on November 26, 1922, Schulz was the son of Carl Friedrich August Schulz, born in Saxony, Germany, in 1897. Schulz's grandfather was Carl Ludwig Schulz, also of Saxony, and his grandmother, from Saxony-Anhalt, was Emma Alvine Auguste Seyer.

Like Charlie Brown's parents in the comic strip, Schulz's father was a barber, and his mother, Dena Halverson, of Norwegian descent, was a housewife. Schulz, who passed away in 2000, is said to have been one of the most influential cartoonists in history.

- Lynne Breen



Charles M. Schulz in 1956, with a drawing of Charlie Brown. The *Peanuts* comic strip made its debut in October 1950. Image courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Working Together to Welcome Germanophones to Philadelphia

I recently attended the opening of the of "1700 Years of Jewish Life in German-Speaking Lands" exhibit at the German Society of Pennsylvania. It was a wonderful event that was well-attended by a diverse group of people. During the reception, I had the opportunity to speak with people who moved here from Germany, people who had German backgrounds but grew up in the US, and people who just had an interest in the cultures of German-speaking countries. I think this event highlighted not only the history of the German Society and but also its current mission. It was an amazing lesson about history that served as an important educational opportunity for all of us today. The German Society started off as a refuge for weary German immigrants, but in the 21st century the Society has continued to promote its mission of not only being a resource for new Germanophones to Philadelphia, but also promoting German and German-American culture, history, and traditions.

My association with the German Society started even before I met my German husband. As a lover of studying languages, I heard about a great teacher at the German Society, so I signed up for a class. I took classes there for several years, and some of the people from the classes are among my closest friends today. In addition to attending classes, my new friends and I attended many German Society social events, one of our favorites being *Wurstfest* with Walter Staib heading up the kitchen.

A few years later I moved to Germany and married my German husband. We returned to Philadelphia after a few years and then eventually had a child. When my daughter was a year old, our friends from my German-language classes invited us to the *Martinsumzug* event at the German Society. This event was my first introduction to the cultural world of German-speaking children. While at the event, we saw a flyer for PhillyKinder. We signed up for a class, and my family has been involved with PhillyKinder ever since. PhillyKinder has been an invaluable organization for my family as we raise

our daughter to be bilingual and bicultural in Philadelphia.

Both the German Society and PhillyKinder have played important parts in our life as a mixed German and American family. Both organizations have a lot to offer families like ours, and I appreciate the cooperation that the two groups have maintained over the years. To this day, German-speakers continue to move to the Philadelphia area, and our two organizations together can provide the welcome they need, while continuing to help the immigrants and their descendants that have been here for a while. There have been times where the German Society was my main link to the German language and culture, and there have been times where my link to Germany was stronger through PhillyKinder. Now as President of PhillyKinder, through our group's cooperation with the German Society, I feel connected to both organizations. The German Society got me started on my journey into German language and culture, PhillyKinder strengthened my commitment to raising my daughter bilingual and bicultural, and now, as my daughter gets a little older, I have the time to enjoy the benefits of being part of both organizations.



I share my story in the hope that our two organizations will continue to collaborate on ways to serve the new Germanophones coming to the Philadelphia area as well as the families of those that have been in the area for a while. Our community will continue to thrive, if our two organizations, along with the other German-related organizations in the region, find new ways to work together to promote an awareness and understanding of German-speaking cultures, traditions, and language. Here's to many years of cooperation between our two wonderful organizations!

- Adrienne Frangakis
President, PhillyKinder



7. bis 18.
AUGUST 2023

9-15 Uhr



PhillyKinder SOMMERLAGER



Deutsche Sprache, Gemeinschaft und Kultur

für Kinder von 6* bis 11 Jahren

Gemeinsam mit deutschsprachigen Freunden Spaß haben

- an unterhaltsamen und sprachfördernden Gemeinschaftsspielen, kreativen Bastelphasen und an Rollenspielen, die deutliches Sprechen und Ausdrucksfähigkeit fördern.
- Komplette auf Deutsch geleitet von Lehrern der PhillyKinder.

*Bitte beachten: Aus gesetzlichen Gründen dürfen Kinder, die im September 2023 noch nicht in die 1. Klasse eingeschult werden, leider nicht am Programm teilnehmen.

- 1. Woche: 7.8. - 11.8.23
- 2. Woche: 14.8. - 18.8.23

Begrenzte Teilnehmerzahl

\$375 pro Woche oder
\$725 für beide Wochen

Geschwister Rabatt: \$15

Das Sommerlager findet in der **Overbrook Presbyterian Church** statt.
6376 City Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19151

Nähere Informationen und Anmeldung:
PKSommerlager@gmail.com • www.PhillyKinder.org

