

Calendar of Events

Fri. Apr. 25	Friday Film Fest: <i>Deutschstunde</i> , 6:30pm
Sun. Apr. 27	Re VIVAL, 3:00pm
Sat. May 10	Buchclub: <i>Verwirrnis</i> by Christoph Hein, 1:30pm
Wed. May 14	Konversationsabend, 6:00pm
Fri. May 16	Friday Film Fest: <i>Die goldenen Jahre</i> , 6:30pm
Sat. May 17	Wandern at the Willows, 11:00am
Sat. May 17	Eurovision Watch Party, 3:00pm
Sat. May 17	Post-Eurovision Dance Party, 7:00pm
Mon. June 2	Library Zoom Lecture by Len von Morze: <i>Monima</i> , 6:30pm
Sat. June 14	Buchclub, 1:30pm
Fri. June 20	Friday Film Fest: <i>Sie sagt, er sagt</i> , 6:30pm
Sat. June 21	Wandern at the Willows, 11:00am
Sat. Aug. 2	Eintracht Frankfurt vs. Philadelphia Union Game, 5:30pm
Wed. Aug. 20	Biergarten, time TBA
Wed. Sept. 10	Konversationsabend, 6:00pm
Sat. Sept. 13	Buchclub, 1:30pm

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SAVE THE DATES FOR OUR 2025/2026

WISTER & MORE! CONCERT SERIES

OCTOBER 26, 2025	THE CASIMIR TRIO
NOVEMBER 23, 2025	TRIO MONTAGE
JANUARY 25, 2026	ELISSA LEE KOLJONEN & NATALIE ZHU
FEBRUARY 15, 2026	NIGHT MUSIC
MARCH 15, 2026	CLAIRE HUANGCI, PIANO
APRIL 12, 2026	KARLSRUHER KONZERT-DUO

The German Society of Pennsylvania

Neuer Pennsylvanischer
Staatsbote

CELEBRATING

1764 **250** 2014

YEARS OF

**GERMAN
HERITAGE**

Spring 2025

Bridging Past and Future, Together

At the German Society of Pennsylvania, we often speak of being a bridge. A bridge between German-speaking Europe and Greater Philadelphia. A bridge between heritage and the horizon ahead. That idea came to life in a powerful way last month when we had the honor of hosting Frankfurt's Mayor Mike Josef and his delegation to celebrate ten years of our sister city relationship with Philadelphia (*pictured below*).



Photo by Ryan Brandenburg

It was more than a reception. It was a moment that captured the kind of organization we have become. One that builds relationships, welcomes ideas and collaboration, and creates space for meaningful cultural exchange. We co-hosted the event with the World Affairs Council, a partner that reflects our growing network of organizations who share our belief in thoughtful programming and vibrant community engagement.

As proud as we are of our 260-year history, we believe the best way to honor it is by looking ahead with purpose. This spring, we've launched a strategic planning process to help guide the Society into its next chapter, and a central part of that effort is hearing directly

from you. If you are a member, you should have received a short survey by email. It's completely anonymous, and we hope you'll take a few minutes to complete it if you haven't already. Your thoughts, ideas, and your concerns will play a key role in helping us understand where our energy should go, what matters most to our community, and how we can better serve both our members and the broader German-American public in the years ahead.

We know that when members speak, we are wise to listen. Because in many ways, you are not just the people we serve — you are the reason we exist.

Looking ahead to June, we will hold our annual board and officer elections. You'll find candidate statements in this edition of the *Staatsbote*, and we encourage you to read them. Many of the names will be familiar, but there is one new addition we are especially pleased to welcome — Karen Fenner, who is joining the board for the first time. Karen is no stranger to the German Society, and we are fortunate to have her stepping into a leadership role. At the same time, we offer our heartfelt thanks to Hans Mueller, who is retiring from the board after many years of steady and generous service. His presence has been a true gift to this community.

Thank you for being part of the German Society. Thank you for caring deeply about its mission and future. And thank you for continuing to help us build the kinds of bridges that connect cultures, generations, and ideas — with care, with conviction, and always with community at the center.

- Mark McGuigan, President

Annual Members Meeting and Board Elections

On **Sunday, June 8, at 3:00pm**, the German Society will hold its **2025 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 6, 2025**. 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. For Directors on the Board, there are five openings for three-year terms in the class of 2028 and one opening for a one-year term in the class of 2026. There are six candidates running for these positions; the candidate with the fewest votes will fill the one-year term in the class of 2026. The following Officer positions are also up for election: President, Secretary, Treasurer, VP of Advancement, VP of Operations, and VP of Strategic Planning.

Candidates for Officers



President: Mark McGuigan

For the last four 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.

Together, we have created a host of programs ranging from receptions - like the one welcoming the Mayor of Frankfurt to Philadelphia - to more informal gatherings like the German dance parties hosted by our PartyAG. New leaders have joined with long-serving ones, and recently we have launched a strategic planning process to chart our next steps as an

organization. I am proud of what this team has accomplished in the last four years. 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 my core goals. After 20 years of working in German heritage, language, culture, and transatlantic bridge building, I am grateful to have the opportunity in my final term to continue to this work at the Society.



Treasurer: Lewis Volgenau

Due to a number of circumstances, Jackie Binstead, our Treasurer, is unable to continue on in that role. The Nominating Committee requested, and I agreed, to serve again as your Treasurer.

It is my intention to work with the Finance Committee to develop operating budgets and regularly review our investment portfolios and endowment fund returns. We will continue to pursue the strategy of keeping cash in interest bearing accounts for as long as possible while maintaining sufficient funds to cover our operating and capital expenses. We have also been examining our credit card options and are in the process of updating and modernizing these systems. Your support for my candidacy is appreciated.



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 about 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, and garden clean-ups. 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 for a 3rd term as 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: Christine Stenner

As a board member for the past two years, I currently serve as Vice President of Strategic Planning and Chair of the Marketing and Membership Committee. I have focused on strengthening outreach, increasing visibility, and supporting the Society's continued growth.

To expand our reach, I have led efforts to grow our social media presence, develop a new membership directory, and am currently working with a team to launch a new website that will enhance accessibility and better reflect our mission. A highlight has been collaborating with professional videographers to produce high-quality videos that reflect the level of service we aim to deliver to our community. These efforts help position the German Society as a modern and dynamic cultural hub where both older and younger German Americans—and others interested in our mission—can connect, engage, and celebrate German heritage in meaningful ways.

As Chair of Strategic Planning, I am leading the Society through an active planning process to

ensure we remain relevant in a fast-changing environment. This includes listening to our members and the broader community, adapting to new challenges, and making informed decisions that balance tradition with progress.

My background as a lawyer and business consultant allows me to approach challenges with structure and strategy, while my passion for the Society as a place of cultural connection drives everything I do. My vision is to honor our rich traditions while embracing innovation, so the German Society continues to thrive for generations to come.

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VP of Operations: Tony Michels

Dear members and friends, I am grateful for the opportunity to run again for the office of Vice President of Operations and to serve the German Society for another 2 years. After my im-

migration to the U.S. in 2007, I found a home away from home in the German Society and met many people with whom I shared common goals for the future of the organization. Those who have worked with me during the past 17 years know that I have a clear vision for the future of the German Society and my work here.

As Executive Vice President (2009-2015), GSP President (2015-2021) and, since 2021, Vice President of Operations, I was fortunate to be able to spend significant time involved in organizing the day-to-day business, establishing a professional administrative structure, and focusing on the development of the organization, including outreach and programming, while preparing our building to serve our needs for the years to come.

It's important to me to honor what we've accomplished while carrying our values forward into the future.

Anyone wishing for more information about the building is welcome to call me at 302-345-5672.



**VP of Advancement:
Ernie Weiler**

The focus of my activities for the next two years will be on the funding of capital projects and building the endowments of the Society. Our vision is to support 20% or even 25% of the

yearly operating expenses from endowments, to provide for ongoing library expenses from dedicated sources, and to offer meaningful yearly scholarships to students majoring in German at the college level. These dedicated funds are needed to secure cultural, social and educational programs for generations to come and help aspiring German language scholars achieve their career objectives.

Two goals have been established, \$4.00M for the general endowment fund and \$2.00M for the library fund, respectively. The dedicated scholarship account currently stands at \$0.79M, which we like to double in five years.

Furthermore, we will work with and remind members and friends of the Society to consider legacy gifts through their wills and estate plans.

The renovation costs for the façade are likely to run at least \$2.00M based on estimates of a respected restoration company. With our Capital Campaign Team we expect to raise \$500,000 over the next three years as well as \$320,00 from foundations or state or other sources to complete this work by the end of 2027.

Candidates for Directors



Ralf Wiedemann

Thank you for considering my candidacy. For 24 years, I have practiced as an immigration attorney, helping clients worldwide secure U.S. visas, green cards, and citizenship. This work has honed my skills

in fact-gathering, analysis, client advising, and persuasive advocacy before U.S. agencies and consulates.

Earlier in my career, I worked at large and mid-sized law firms, gaining experience in navigating diverse organizational environments. For the past five years, I have operated my own practice, which has deepened my skills in self-sufficiency and business management.

For the last 13 years, I have also served as honorary consul of Germany in Philadelphia. In this role, I assist German citizens with consular services such as passport applications, birth registrations, and signature certifications. I regularly liaise with the German consulate general in New York and the embassy in Washington, DC, supporting diplomatic and business delegations. This position has sharpened my abilities in diplomacy, communication, and time management.

As a first-generation American born to German parents who emigrated in the 1960s, I hold dual citizenship and have passed this legacy to my children.

If selected to serve on the board, I look forward to contributing my skills and experience to the German Society of Pennsylvania.



Karen Fenner

Being able to serve on the Board of the German Society of Pennsylvania, America's oldest German cultural institution, is a meaningful culmination of not only being German/American but having been an enthusiastic educa-

tor in the field of German language and cultural acquisition in the corporate world and academia for close to 30 years. My German heritage is an intrinsic part of who I am, being from Hamburg, Germany, continuing German traditions with my own family and teaching about German society, inter-cultural topics and language at the MBA and college level. I am honored to be nominated to this culturally and historically

rich institution which celebrates German culture and heritage and am excited about its future.

Professionally, I have passionately taught German and conducted cross-cultural seminars at global companies and Executive MBA programs through my own consulting company and headed up the German Department at the College of New Jersey for the last 15 years. Providing a bridge between cultures makes my profession a rewarding one. Connecting people through language and cultural awareness is the important role the German Society of Pennsylvania has played and continues to play in the larger community. My vision for the German Society is to continue to expand this reach for interested people to exchange ideas on topics such as German society, German politics, literature, business, the sciences as well as current events. The German Society plays a pivotal role in being this cultural conduit and I will give my best to make these endeavors a success.



Eric Zillmer

Serving on the Board of the German Society of Pennsylvania is a true privilege. I cherish the opportunity to celebrate our Society's heritage - past, present, and future. I am dedicated to making GSP a welcoming

physical and social home for everyone interested in German culture. Over the past three years, I have participated in the library, marketing, and strategic planning committees, and I chair the nominations and co-chair the Stiftungsfest committee. I am a life member of GSP and bilingual in German and English, having lived in Germany for 18 years during my formal schooling and university studies. My family has a strong connection to Germany. My sister, Bibi, is a three-time German champion in figure skating and represented Germany in the 1968 Olympics in Grenoble, France. Bibi is a German citizen, and I hold an indefinite German residency permit. My father, David Zillmer, a USMA West Point alum, earned an MA in Ger-

man language from the University of Heidelberg and taught at the Führungsakademie der Bundeswehr (FüAkBw). Together with my mother, who grew up in Vienna, we primarily spoke German at home. I am a psychology professor at Drexel University. As a participant in Philadelphia's arts, sports, music, and tourism infrastructure, I stay attuned to the emotional pulse of our city's cultural and civic community and collaborate regularly with other organizations. If elected, I would be highly motivated to advance the Society, ensuring it remains a celebrated, modern, and proud cultural icon for decades to come.



Monika Moyrer

I am honored to submit my candidacy for the Board of the German Society of Pennsylvania. As a passionate supporter of our mission to promote German language, culture, and traditions, I am eager to con-

tribute to the continued success and growth of this remarkable institution.

Over the past several years, I've witnessed firsthand the Society's efforts to build community, celebrate German-American heritage, and provide enriching programs. I am committed to helping the Society remain a vibrant and inclusive organization for generations to come.

As chair of the Language Committee for the past four years, I've worked with dedicated colleagues to organize Fortbildungen for German teachers, host a reception for ACTFL attendees, and welcome the annual AATG Award Ceremony. We've also supported Sprachfest and hosted student groups. Currently, we are establishing a strategic partnership with the Goethe Institute to make the German Society a certified Goethe Language testing site.

On a personal note, I came to the U.S. twenty-six years ago out of a sense of adventure and a passion for learning. After earning a PhD in German Studies at the University of Minnesota, I taught at various universities. I now live in

Lancaster and serve as U.S. Program Director for Action Reconciliation Service for Peace.

I am especially committed to strengthening the language program and fostering a welcoming community of German learners and enthusiasts in the Philadelphia area. I would be honored to serve on the Board and thank you for your support.



Daniel Lippard

I grew up in Lansdowne. Pop's side was Alsatian, Mom's Saxon. After boyhood were Duke, Naval, Security Group, and Vanderbilt. Thereafter, I've been practicing law in Media for 47 years, with a focus on estate and real estate matters.

Though not as much as I could or should, I have tried to be a helpful participant in a variety of Society matters. I did, with the gracious cooperation of Tony and Liesl, facilitate in getting out to the membership an online Pennsylvania-conforming Healthcare Power of Attorney/Living Will at the beginning of the pandemic. I've made a presentation on estate planning to members as well as our Latvian neighbors. I've also provided a presentation and tour for those interested in doing genealogical research at the County Courthouse. I was also scheduled to represent the Society as a speaker on deeds as genealogical resources to the Pennsylvania Historical Society, although this event was also an early Covid casualty.

Goodness should be a product and not just an accolade, and I learned that from Pop and Mom too.



Karin Volkwein-Caplan

Growing up in Germany, I came to the US to pursue a PhD in Sport Philosophy. When I was hired at West Chester University in 1992, I joined the German Society and have served on the

GSP board since 2019, and I am seeking re-election for a third term. Over the last 33 years I have witnessed major changes and improvements at the GSP, not only with our beautiful building, but also with the addition of new programs and change in membership; the GSP has become a more dynamic place to visit. "Wunderbar Together" is the slogan that represents the German-American heritage not only in the past but projects to which we aspire for the future as well. Holding dual citizenship, I am interested in furthering the relationship between our two countries. As a professor of Cultural Studies I have many opportunities to foster these relationships through exchange programs with German universities, collaborating with German colleagues and leading student trips to Germany, including Kassel, Heidelberg, Freiburg, Berlin, German Sport University Cologne.

My passion includes supporting wellness and exercise programs to promote *Kameradschaft* among our members, such as the monthly "Wandern in the Willows". And I am looking forward to my continued service to the GSP as co-chair of the Stiftungsfest Committee and the chair of the newly formed Arts Committee. "Wunderbar Together"!

Reminder: Make the Most of Your Member Portal!

Have you explored all the features of our Member Portal? It's your one-stop hub to renew your GSP membership, update your contact information, register for events and classes, connect with other members, and make one-time or recurring donations to support the German Society.

Take a moment today to log in and make sure your information is current—it's a quick and easy way to stay in the loop. Visit <https://germansociety.app.neoncrm.com/login>. If it's your first time using the portal, click on "Having trouble logging in?" to set up your password.

- Liesl Jandrey

Records of the Deutsche Ansiedlungs Gesellschaft (German Settlement Society) Tell the Story of Hermann, Missouri's Founding



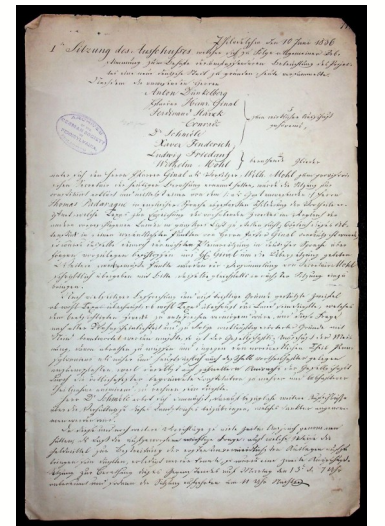
Sketch of the imagined town of Hermann, Mo. made for a share certificate of the Deutsche Ansiedlungs Gesellschaft

In June 1836, a group of German Philadelphians met at the Penn Hotel on Letitia Court near 2nd and Market Streets to discuss founding a German colony (*"ein neues deutsches Vaterland zu gründen"*) somewhere in the West. By September, the group had formally incorporated as the **Deutsche Ansiedlungs Gesellschaft zu Philadelphia (DAG)**, or, **The German Settlement Society of Philadelphia**.

One of the first orders of business was to sell shares to raise the necessary funds to purchase land on which to build a town. At an early meeting, Texas was suggested as a possible location but rejected. The Society also considered Pennsylvania, Missouri, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Indiana to be possible locations. In May 1837, three members of the group were sent on a scouting mission to identify a site along a river suitable for both agriculture and industry, where there was enough land available for purchase to build a town that would be "German in every particular." George Bayer, a music teacher, served on the committee defining their duties and was subsequently selected as the Society's representative to acquire the recommended land parcel on the Missouri River in Gasconade County, Missouri. Bayer set out in July of 1837 and purchased 11,000 acres of government land and parcels from private owners for the total sum of \$15,612. Over the

course of several years, Germans from Philadelphia and other shareholders from around the country would follow Bayer and build the town of Hermann.

The fascinating story of the founding of the Deutsche Ansiedlungs Gesellschaft and subsequent settlement of Hermann is illuminated in original documents in the Horner Library's Archive (Ms. Coll. AE 127). The records were donated to the German Society by Marion Dexter



Learned, a GSP member and professor of German at the University of Pennsylvania, some time before 1905, when they were consulted in the writing of a PhD dissertation written by William Bek, a student of Learned's. The Horner Library's Transcription Group recently finished transcribing these documents, which are written in the old handwriting called "Kurrent." (They had been cited in Bek's dissertation, but never completely transcribed.) The records include meeting minutes, correspondence, reports, the original "Acts of Incorporation," and share certificates, and tell the story of the Hermann from its earliest conception. Many additional documents on Hermann's founding are located at the Gasconade County Historical Society in Hermann, and we hope to offer an event in the near future where the Philadelphia and Hermann sides of the story are brought together.

For additional information about this collection or to view the DAG records in the Library, please contact Bettina Hess at: librarian@germansociety.org.

- Bettina Hess, Librarian

Spotlight on Past Members: German-born Louis Wagner Fought Heroically for the Union



One hundred and sixty years ago this spring, **Union Colonel Louis Wagner** (pictured left) was promoted to brevet brigadier general of the U.S. Volunteers for his meritorious service. The American Civil War would end less than a month later, and Wagner, born in Giessen, Germany, had courageously led his men into battle even though he had twice been wounded.

Wagner emigrated to Pennsylvania with his parents in 1849 and was engaged in the trade of lithographic printing when civil war broke out in his adopted country. He enlisted with the 88th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry - commissioned as first lieutenant - and soon was promoted to captain of his company. Despite suffering wounds at the Second Battle of Bull Run, Wagner performed valiantly, and for this he was promoted to major of his regiment.

Wounded in action again at the Battle of Chancellorsville, Wagner was taken to Philadelphia to recover. While there, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel. He then volunteered for the command of nearby Camp William Penn, the first and largest U.S. Army training camp for African American soldiers. Later promoted to the rank of colonel, Wagner's final command was leading the Fifth Brigade of the Pennsylvania National Guard.

After the war, Wagner served as the first Director of Philadelphia's Department of Public Works, President of the Third National Bank, and for many years, President of the City Trusts, which administered the estate of Stephen Girard, the largest trust ever left to the city of Philadelphia.

Louis Wagner joined the German Society of Pennsylvania in 1869, serving as chair of the

School Committee from 1879-1893, and was a long-time teacher in the German-English night school. He served as President of the GSP from 1894-1899, during which time he strove to increase the Society's aid to German immigrants. From 1900-1913 he was chair of the Finance Committee.

The heroic Wagner passed away in 1914 at age 75 at his Germantown home and is buried in Ivy Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia.

- Lynne Breen

„Mäuschen Spielen“ – Fly on the Wall at PhillyKinder

Kleine Freunde. In the *Kleine Freunde* group, toddlers and their parents enjoy a vibrant mix of fun and repetition. At the heart of our lessons are music, movement, and shared experiences. We typically sing popular German songs, dance, do finger plays, and make music — shakers and rattle eggs are always part of the fun! Afterward, we settle down with a picture book and a snack. To wrap up, we play one final game, and before we know it, our time together has flown by.

What matters most is that the children feel completely at ease and look forward to returning — year after year!

Junge Entdecker. In the Pre-K *Junge Entdecker* groups, music continues to be a big part of our fun! We begin with a welcome song, followed by a discussion about the weather and the seasons. At this stage, the children begin to explore traditions. Recently, celebrating birthdays has become a real highlight — making special birthday cards, singing the birthday song 'Wie schön, dass du geboren bist,' and playing games like 'Topfschlagen' and 'Schnitzeljagd' are always a hit!

Story time is filled with exciting tales, and we

love talking about our favorite vacations, getting creative with arts and crafts, and stretching our bodies with yoga. Fun games like musical statues keep the energy flowing. When things get extra lively, we throw dance parties, and visiting each other's groups for a spin at the 'Sportinator' is always a blast.

Another highlight is playing classic games like '1, 2, 3 im Sauseschritt' and 'Wer hat den Keks aus der Dose geklaut?' These games not only bring joy, but also help the children with their language development. Through movement, laughter, and play, we have a great time learning German together!

ABC Schützen. In the *ABC Schützen* groups (K-grade 3), we love to read, craft, and play — and we also have fun exploring nature! In the fall, we learned about different deciduous trees and discovered how birds survive the winter. Instead of just feeding the birds, we learned that it's even better to plant food for them. With plenty of creativity, the children described birds and even painted them while blindfolded! Animals in the winter was another topic we explored.

Outdoor games are a big hit, especially classics like "Fangen," "Mein rechter, rechter Platz ist leer," and "Feuer, Wasser, Sandsturm" — all played in German, of course!

Schlaue Füchse. In the *Schlaue Füchse 1* group (grades 4-5), we've been rehearsing a reader's theater! With handmade puppets, we bring the story of "Froschkäppchen" — a humorous blend of "The Frog King" and "Little Red Riding Hood" — to life on stage. But this version has a twist: instead of a prince, Little Red Riding Hood kisses the frog, the well turns into an outhouse, and even dirt bikes make an appearance! The children loved creatively reimagining the story, and they are excited to perform the play for

the other groups.

In the fall, the *Schlaue Füchse 2* (grades 5-8) groups explored the history of the Berlin Wall. We learned a lot by listening to 'Zeitzeugen' interviews, and we also reached out to family and friends to hear about their memories. We read interesting text passages, had lively discussions, created protest posters, and uncovered fascinating facts about daily life in the GDR — like how car manufacturing was often shaped by improvisation. The highlight was, of course, our performance of the musical theater 'Fritzi war dabei.' After the winter break, we shifted gears to focus on German grammar and contemporary music. Fun games like 'Bankrutschen' give us refreshing breaks and keep the energy high!

In every group, whether with the little ones or the older students, we always focus on a balanced and well-rounded program. In every class, we strive to design engaging activities and projects that help our students connect with the German language in a way that is both enjoyable and rewarding.

- Birgit Splitt
with the PhillyKinder Teaching Team



Capital Campaign Update



FACING THE FUTURE
GSP CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 2024 - 2027

As reported in the last issue of the *Staatsbote*, we launched our Capital Campaign 2024-2027 in mid-November 2024 by means of a special mailing to the members and friends of the German Society of Pennsylvania. In our letter we stressed that “time has taken its toll on our beautiful building. The exterior or façade, windows, and structural elements of our historic building are in urgent need of repair. We are facing significant renovations that are critical to preserve our home for future generations. The estimated cost of these repairs stands around \$2,000,000.”

We have already secured \$1,190,000 toward this endeavor. We are seeking additional funding from government organizations and foundations to cover another \$310,000. However, \$500,000 must come from our membership and friends. It is ultimately up to us to protect and maintain the building that has served as our cultural home since 1888.

As of April 15, 2025, we have received pledges and donations in the amount of **\$94,119.87**. The list of contributors follows; we urge all of our members to participate in this important fundraising effort. We are very grateful for all gifts and pledges; we would like to stress again that any amount would be very much appreciated. A donation link can be found on our website under the “Donations” tab. You can also scan this QR code to access the donation form. >>



We thank you for giving this request your personal attention!

- Ernie Weiler, Capital Campaign Committee Chair; committee members Ed Cattell, Bill Hardham, Liesl Jandrey, Daniel Lippard, Mark McGuigan, Tony Michels, and Stephanie Vogel

Donors to the Capital Campaign 2024-2027
As of April 1, 2025

Andrew Baker	Klaus-Peter Finke-Haerkoenen	Monika Moyrer	Hanno & Sonja Spranger
Henry Barrett	Glenn & Lisa George	Hans & Harriett Mueller	Evelyn Tabas
Manfred & Helga Bast	Andrew Graff	Maria Netizel	Ernst Tanner
Gustav Baumann	John Greenstreet	Christina Niessen	Ryan Thiele
Charles W. Becker, Jr.	Bill Hardham & Lorena Meunier	Mary Niessen	Walter Tilger
Jackie Binstead	Hans Hartleben	Bruce & Lois Peiffer	Ursula Tracy
Lynne & Earl Breen	Del Hausman	Joseph Pfeifer	Ralph Karl Travis
Elaine Burgess	William Heintzelman	Ann Resnik	Lewis & Hella Volgenau
James Caplan & Karin Volkwein-Caplan	Chuck Holdeman	Michael Rissinger	Hardy & Gudrun von Auenmueller
Julia Catini	Sharan Knoell	Mary Sauter	Auenmueller
Edward & Joellyn Cattell	Stephen Kochenberger	Jackie Schmenger	Christa Walck
Sonja Ciccotelli	Monica Kulaski	Sönke & Anne Schmidt-Lange	Jack & Linda Weaver
David Coffin	Margarete Larese-Ortiz	Paul Schneider	Ernest & Jutta Weiler
Dennis Daly	Lars Laurenz	Robert Schneider	C. Chris Weth
Joan Detz	Daniel Lippard	Karen Schoenewaldt	Ralf Wiedemann
John William Dickey	Brigitte Masci	Walter Schweikert	Robert Wiener
John & Katherine Douglas	Mark McGuigan	Kordula Segler	Jack Williams
Annemarie Dunn	Tony Michels & Patricia Raine	David Simon	Edward Woehling
	Randall Miller	Joyce Spindler	Eric Zillmer

Annual Fund Donors

Heinrich Keppele
James Caplan and Karin Volkwein-Caplan
Kurt and Donna Froehlich
William and Jane Heintzelman
Joseph Pfeifer
Lewis and Hella Volgenau
Ernie and Jutta Weiler

Friedrich A. Muehlenberg
Topper and Betty Brick
Edward and Joellyn Cattell
Hardy and Gudrun von Auenmueller

William Penn
Jackie Binstead
John Blickensderfer
W. Morgan and Sonia Churchman
Bill Hardham and Lorena Meunier
Independence Foundation
Eva Jackson
Hardy and Elke Kaffenberger
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