Calendar of Events

Sat. Aug. 2	Eintracht Frankfurt vs. Philadelphia Union Game, 5:30pm
Wed. Aug. 6	Biergarten with GACC Philadelphia, 6:00pm
Wed. Sept. 10	Konversationsabend, 6:00pm
Sat. Sept. 13	Buchclub: <i>Der Trinker</i> by Hans Fallada, 1:30pm
Γhu. Oct. 2	Global Quizzo with the World Affairs Council, time TBA
Wed. Oct. 8	Konversationsabend, 6:00pm
Fri. Oct. 10	Friday Film Fest, 6:30pm
Sat. Oct. 11	Buchclub, 1:30pm
Sun. Oct. 26	"Wister and More!" presents the Casimir Trio, 3:00pm
Sat. Nov. 1	261st Stiftungsfest, 6:00pm
Sat. Nov. 8	Buchclub, 1:30pm
Wed. Nov. 12	Konversationsabend, 6:00pm
ri. Nov. 21	Friday Film Fest, 6:30pm
Sun. Nov. 23	"Wister and More!" presents Trio Montage, 3:00pm
Sat. Dec. 6	Christkindlmarkt, 12:00pm
Wed. Dec. 10	Konversationsabend, 6:00pm
Fri. Dec. 12	Winter Spirits, 7:00pm

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Neuer Pennsylvanischer Staatsbote CELEBRATING YEARSOF GERMAN HERITAGE

Summer 2025

A Remarkable Year

It was a pleasure to see so many of you at this year's Annual Meeting. I want to reflect briefly on what has truly been a banner year for the German Society of Pennsylvania.

The Society continues to benefit from a strong financial foundation, thanks to prudent management of the Finance Committee and the generous support of our community. This stability was recently bolstered by a remarkable beguest from the late Mr. Vsevolod Arefiev, a devoted member and supporter of German language and culture. Special thanks go to Tony Michels, VP of Operations, who served as Mr. Arefjev's executor and cared for him personally in his final days.

Exciting progress is also underway in our building. Tony is spearheading a renovation of the first-floor kitchen and adjacent Schulzimmer, made possible by the former Women's Auxiliary. At the same time, we've launched a major \$2 million facade restoration project—window replacement and masonry repair—that will protect and highlight our historic building for years to come. The capital campaign, led by VP of Advancement Ernie Weiler, seeks to raise \$500,000 in individual donations over three years. Please consider making a pledge or gift by check, online, or by contacting our office.

Membership and public engagement have also seen remarkable growth. Thanks to the Marketing and Membership Committee and our new Director for Community Relations, Anett Mindermann, we've expanded our reach through social media and events.

Our calendar has been full of highlights:

- German-themed dance parties draw 70+ guests across generations.
- The Eurovision Watch Party welcomed over 130 attendees and raised \$2,000.
- A recent Biergarten event with Eintracht

- Frankfurt brought 150 quests to our Terrace.
- New wine tastings and classical guitar con-
- Beloved traditions like the *Stiftungsfest* remain strong anchors.

We've also deepened partnerships—with the Philadelphia Union, opening doors for new cultural programming, and with the World Affairs Council, expanding our global reach.

Importantly, we've done all this while continuing the core programs that define our mission:

- The Bösendorfer Youth Music Festival
- The Wister and More classical concert series
- Buchclub, Konversationsabend, and Wandern at the Willows
- The ongoing work and programming of our Library Committee

This has also been a year of strategic reflection. Your feedback to our member survey is shaping the Strategic Planning process, led by VP Christine Stenner. Christine also chairs our efforts to modernize our online presence, with a new website and refreshed materials that present the German Society as a diverse, intergenerational, and welcoming organization. Please visit our new site and watch our brand video, which highlights our vibrant, inclusive community.

Finally, thank you to outgoing board members Hans Mueller and Jackie Binstead for their invaluable service. And welcome to our new board candidates—especially Karen Fenner, whose energy and ideas are already making an impact.

As I said at the meeting: the Society thrives because of you: our members, donors, volunteers, and friends. Thank you for being part of this journey. Here's to another successful year!

- Mark McGuigan, President

Past Meets Present: A Facelift for the Future

I see the facade of the German Society building as an ambassador of our organization; its appearance, service, security, and functionality are all important. As a GSP officer for the past 18 years, I have been responsible for the GSP property and the operational tasks that come with it. Since I began my work here in 2008, it has always been important to me to find a balance between preservation and modernization/repair and replacement. The façade project brings special chal-

lenges from financial limitations to the need to continue day-to-day operation, business, and programming.

Looking at the façade from 100 yards away, the overall appearance of the Townhouse and the Main Building has not changed very much in the past 30

years. However significant elements have been replaced

Some challenges are quite visible. For example, during initial (Townhouse) and 1888 (Main Building), which are less imme-

diately visible, but cause problems from structural safety to HVAC issues.

preservation consulting company to evaluate the needs of the project and to recommend possible contractors. After receiving their report, we began with



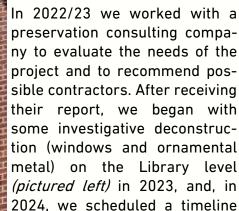
Scan the QR code above to view drone footage of the façade and to make a donation to the ongoing Capital Campaign.

(Auditorium windows) or been remodeled (roof, entrances). Unfortunately, emergency repairs in and outside the building have often taken priority over other things, but I am glad that, with your help through the Facade Capital Campaign and that of other organizations who support our mission, we are now finally able to renovate the outside structure.

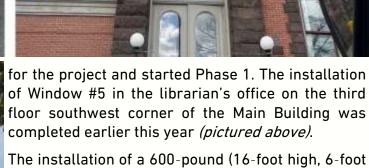
construction of the building the three-dimensional ornamental elements surrounding the library windows on the third floor level (pictured left) were built to make them look like carved sandstone, but were actually made by shaping galvanized sheet metal into wooden molds and then painting it to look like sandstone. Since 1888 they have been repainted multiple times. All of those layers of paint must be removed without damaging the underlying structure and the metal ornaments repaired and repainted. There are other defects involving brick, brownstone, and mortar deterioration since 1829



2







wide) heavy preassembled window frame requires weeks of preparation inside the building and out, including street closures and specialized equipment and crew.

In the third week of July we will begin the installation of Library Level windows #1-4 by first relocating all indoor equipment in the 20 x 50 foot east

> section of the Main Reading Room. We will then create a large framed plastic barrier, top to bottom and side to side, to keep the Main Reading Room safe from exposure to any potential hazards from the installation. During this disruption, the day-to-day business of the GSP must and will continue. The plan is for this part of the façade project to be complete by the end of August. Anyone with guestions about the façade project is welcome to call me at 302-345-5672.

Enjoy your summer of 2025; see you in the fall at the German Society.

- Tony Michels, VP of Operations and **President Emeritus**







Below: The completely renovated

Librarian's Office, a successful

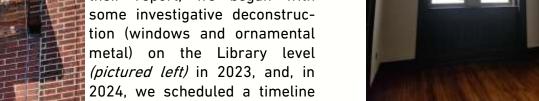


3

Below: The finished window,

successfully integrated into the

outside of the building.



John Wanamaker: A Pioneer in Retail Marketing

You may remember Wanamaker's on 13th and Market Streets—Philadelphia's first department store and one of the earliest in America. On opening day in 1876, customers must have been delighted to see the abandoned railroad station refurbished into a wonderland of clothing, housewares, and dry goods!



John Wanamaker introduced electrical lights, elevators, and a restaurant in his grand emporium. It was also the first store with a telephone, the first to have pneumatic tubes for conveying cash and important documents, and the first to hold "white

Image courtesy of the sales" and "opportunity Library of Congress sales" to keep prices low. He eventually had the railroad depot razed and built a modern building—completed in 1910 on the same site, encompassing an entire block just across from Philadelphia City Hall.

The building's sevenstory atrium—sheathed in marble—was known as the "Grand Court," with its awe-inspiring organ that cost nearly \$3.7 million in today's dollars. Built in St. Louis, Missouri for the 1904 St. Louis State Fair, the 10,059-pipe organ was so massive that it required 13 freight cars to Image courtesy of the transport it to Philadel-



Library of Congress

phia by train, and two years to install. Between 1911 and 1917, Wanamaker added more than 8,000 pipes.

As imposing as the grand organ was, the "Eagle"—with its 6,600 bronze feathers meticulously placed by hand—was the centerpiece of the Grand Court. Wanamaker acquired the 2,500-pound raptor, which was created by the prominent German sculptor August Gaul for the

1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition. Not only was the impressive eagle a work of art, it also became the department store's mascot. Soon the words "Meet me at the Eagle" became a popular slogan among Wanamaker shoppers.

Considered a brilliant businessman, Wanamaker sent buyers to Europe each year as he wanted his department



Wikipedia

store to offer quality as well as style. He was the first retailer to place both half- and fullpage advertisements in a newspaper although as a deeply religious man, he never advertised on Sundays. Wanamaker's customers came to realize that a promise made in his ads was a promise kept. In addition, he began the "money-back guarantee" and created the price tag at a time when haggling over price was common practice.

Wanamaker's abhorrence of unions was countered by how well he looked after his employees—providing them with free medical care, pensions, profit-sharing plans, and, if needed, instruction in bookkeeping, English, finance, and mathematics. He also offered recreational facilities, built housing for women employees, and opened a library.

Well-known for his philanthropy, Wanamaker co-founded Bethany Presbyterian Church in 1858, serving as church superintendent for many years. He also financed the campaign to have America's mothers recognized on a special day. Hence, in 1914, the U.S. Congress designated the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day, which later became an international holiday. In addition, Wanamaker made several donations to the University of Pennsylvania's Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, including a collection of bronze reproductions uncovered from the ruins of Pompeii. In 1878, he also co-founded a homeless shelter and soup kitchen. Named the Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission, it has since expanded and continues to assist the homeless population of Philadelphia.

In 1889, Wanamaker became the center of controversy when he was appointed U.S. Postmaster General by President Benjamin Harrison. Accused in the press of buying the post for \$10,000, Wanamaker later was credited by friends for bringing efficiencies to the Postal Service and for introducing the first commemorative stamp. Wanamaker also was the first to recommend rural free delivery (RFD). His plan for the service was implemented nationwide in 1902.

Born in South Philadelphia in 1838, Wanamaker's paternal ancestors were German, and his mother's family came from Alsace. He became a member of the German Society of Pennsylvania in 1869. Wanamaker was married to Mary Erringer Brown, with whom he had six children. He died in 1922 at the age of 84 and is buried in the Wanamaker Family Private Chapel at the Church of St. James the Less Episcopal in Philadelphia.

- Lynne Breen

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Building Connections: A Lively Evening of Exchange and Service at the German Society

On April 25, the German Society of Pennsylvania (GSP) welcomed students from Temple University's German program and volunteers from Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste (Action Reconciliation Service for Peace/ARSP) for an evening of engaging conversation, community, and cultural exchange.

The event was organized in collaboration with Temple University faculty professors P. Melzer, A. Schmidt, and A. Bussiek, along with M. Moyrer, U.S. Program Director of ARSP.

The evening centered on a shared commitment to service and intercultural understanding. The ARSP volunteers spoke about their reasons for

dedicating a year of service in Philadelphia, focusing on remembrance work and community support. I was very much impressed by their thoughtfulness—and equally inspired by the Temple students, whose strong spirit of service and global engagement came through in their reflections.

The encounter began with a guided tour of the Society's historic building, led by Tony Michels, GSP VP of Operations, offering a deeper appreciation for German-American heritage, especially the rich resources of the Society's library.





Over pizza in the Ratskeller, conversations continued about everyday life in Germany and the U.S., study abroad experiences—especially at Temple's Leipzig campus—cultural impressions, and current events. I was encouraged by the genuine curiosity on both sides. Students and volunteers left with new connections and plans to stay in touch, perfectly reflecting the German Society's mission.

Special thanks to the German Society of Pennsylvania, as well as everyone who joined us and helped make the evening truly memorable. We look forward to future opportunities for meaningful dialogue and connection.

- Antje Bussiek, Adjunct Instructor at Temple University and Language Committee Member

State of the Library – Summer 2025

Looking back through old issues of the *Staats-bote*, I was reminded that Alex Ames, former chair of our Library Committee, had written an article in 2021 called "State of the Library," which recapped a number of activities of the library over the previous months. I thought it would be a good idea to reprise this, since there are many things that happen behind the scenes in the library of which members may not be aware.

On any given Tuesday or Thursday, the library is humming with volunteers, interns, and staffers working on various projects to make the library's holdings more accessible.

- Mark Darby, a retired cataloger from Temple University, continues to volunteer, cataloging odds and ends that are part of our backlog. (The most challenging items get pushed to the end, and those are the ones we give to Mark).
- Maria Sturm continues to come in regularly to help with book deaccessioning, event planning, and other projects.
- School graduate, is our current intern working on the newspaper digitization project, in which our newspaper microfilm is being converted to digital format and uploaded to the PA Power Library website.
- Phil Foglia recently wrapped up archival processing of the Library's own records, a project that was funded through a grant from the Pennsylvania Museum and Historical Commission.
- Volunteer Beatrix Moore made hundreds of enclosures for fragile items before leaving this spring for a position at the Library of Congress.
- Evan Radcliffe, our tech whiz volunteer, is helping to set up our new ArchivesSpace program for inputting information on archival materials, and has helped implement our hybrid events.
- Temple student Noah Isenberg is volunteer-

ing this summer, working with the Al program *Transkribus*.

- Project cataloger Lorena Boylan is now working on cataloging periodicals. Hopefully many of these volumes can be shelved in the library after having been stored in boxes in the attic for many years.
- And I can't forget to mention the dozen volunteer transcribers who meet on Zoom every week to transcribe documents from the GSP Archives, a service to researchers who may not otherwise be able to read the old Kurrent handwriting.

On the programming side, we held a number of events this spring. We offered two local tours: In March, Maria Sturm led a tour of the Philadelphia History Museum collections on exhibit at PAFA, and in May, a group of us received a curator-led tour of UPenn Library's exhibition: *Revolution at Penn?* Both tours were fascinating and highlighted connections to German Philadelphia.

Book talks by Steven Ujifusa and Len von Morzé dealt with immigration and 19th century novelist Mary Ralston, respectively. We also cosponsored a talk with the Max Kade Center for German American Studies on a letter collection belonging to the Pabst beer-brewing family. New programs are currently being planned for the fall – stay tuned!

Over the summer, for the 17th consecutive year, we will be hosting a GHI-sponsored research fellow for four weeks. Jenny Merriman, a PhD candidate at the College of William and Mary, will be researching German print culture in colonial Pennsylvania.

All of this was amidst the excitement (and displacement) of a new window being installed in the Librarian's office (with four more to go in the Main Library this summer). I look forward to moving into the newly renovated space soon.

- Bettina Hess, Librarian

2025 Annual Meeting Results

On Sunday, June 8, members of the German Society gathered in the Barthelmes Auditorium for our 2025 Annual Meeting and Board Elections. A total of 38 members were in attendance for the afternoon, which combined official business with warm camaraderie.

This year's election featured six candidates running for six available seats on the Board of Directors. The five top candidates would join the Class of 2028, while the sixth candidate would fill a vacancy in the Class of 2026. In addition, the officer roles of President, Treasurer, Secretary, VP of Advancement, VP of Operations, and VP of Strategic Planning were on the ballot.

Following an overview of the past year delivered by President Mark McGuigan and introductions of the candidates, members cast their votes. While two volunteer teams tallied the results, other attendees enjoyed coffee and a wonderful assortment of cakes and other goodies, graciously coordinated by Hella Volgenau.

The election yielded the following results:

- The following Officer positions were reaffirmed for another term: Mark McGuigan
 as President, Bill Hardham as Secretary,
 Christine Stenner as VP of Strategic Planning, Tony Michels as VP of Operations, and
 Ernie Weiler as VP of Advancement.
- Lew Volgenau was elected to serve as Treasurer.
- Monika Moyrer was elected to the open seat in the Class of 2026.
- The Class of 2028 will include returning Directors Ralf Wiedemann, Eric Zillmer, Karin Volkwein-Caplan, and Daniel Lippard, along with newly elected Karen Fenner.

We extend congratulations to all incoming Board members and sincere thanks to outgoing Director Hans Mueller for his years of dedicated service to the Society!

- Liesl Jandrey, Executive Director

2025 German Society Scholarship Awards



The six members of the German Society's Scholarship Committee conducted in-person interviews of five applicants to the Society's scholarship program at its historic headquarters. The interviews were conducted primarily, but not exclusively in German. As a result of the interviews, the Committee awarded four scholarships for a total amount of \$25,000. The funds will be made available directly to the colleges which the awardees plan to attend. One condition of the award is that each recipient is required to be enrolled in at least one German course per semester. This year's recipients plan to attend the following universities: Isaiah Cook, Drexel University; Nicholas DeCosta, Rowan University (Elsa Schweikert Scholarship); Connor Paoli, Georgetown University (Beichl Fund); Mia Seidel, University of Pennsylvania (Leon H. Volgenau Scholarship). The awardees graciously expressed their profound appreciation to the German Society for its support, and especially to the named sponsors of the Leon H. Volgenau Scholarship and the Elsa Schweikert Scholarship. In addition to those letters of appreciation from the awardees, we also received replies from family members of the awardees expressing how deeply moved they were by the generosity of our Society. The scholarships were officially awarded at the local chapter of the AATG's (American Association of Teachers of German) *Preisverleihung* on April 27, which was held at the Society. This ceremony provided us with a marvelous opportunity to converse with the awardees and their family members on a personal level.

- Donald Rainey, Scholarship Committee Chair

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Project 2025 – The PhillyKinder Cookbook

In the final weeks of the school year, all schoolaged PhillyKinder groups engaged in a shared, hands-on project: creating a PhillyKinder Cookbook. Each group explored the world of cooking, baking, and healthy eating in its own ageappropriate and creative way. Along with practicing their German, students also gained reallife kitchen skills.

Here are some of the highlights from each group:

ABC Schützen 1

- Read the book Steinsuppe and cooked a simple vegetable soup together—peeling, chopping, and tasting were all part of the fun!
- Blended fruity smoothies and baked delicious cookies.

ABC Schützen 2

- Baked a tasty apple cake after studying the recipe together as a group.
- Prepared a fresh carrot salad inspired the story *Die Rübe*.
- Enjoyed watching Sachgeschichten mit der Maus during snack breaks and learned how hazelnut spread is made and how jelly donuts are filled.

Together, both groups brought Die Rübe - a Russian fairy tale - to life in a charming readers' theater performance, which delighted the audience at the end-of-year celebration.



Schlaue Füchse 1

- Learned vocabulary related to food groups and nutrition.
- Measured sugar content in fruits and processed foods.

- Learned how to make Quark from scratch and used it to prepare Frühlingsquark,
 - which was served on whole grain bread. The leftover whey was blended into fruit smoothies.
- Practiced writing Vorgangsbeschreibungen (how-to texts) and took on the role of kitchen reporters by presenting step-by-step instructions for making Apfelpfannkuchen.
- Baked classic German heart-shaped waffles as a fun and tasty reward for creating and composing their recipe cards.

Schlaue Füchse 2

- Built kitchen vocabulary through a mind map and games like Stadt, Land, Fluss.
- Shared family recipes through storytelling—explaining when the dish is served and what memories it holds.
- Created mini-posters and recipe cards, which will be featured in the final cookbook.
- Created and performed a funny skit for the end-of-the-year celebration about a family's chaotic visit to a restaurant, filled with unexpected twists and lots of laughs.

Looking Ahead

8

By involving our students throughout the process, we aim to create more than just a cookbook - a warm, community-centered collection of recipes from our PhillyKinder families.

We invite all families to contribute a favorite recipe! Our plan is to compile and publish the finished book this fall, and hope it will be used in our families' kitchens for many years to

- Birgit Splitt with Ines Aßmann, Susanna Ding, Manuela Sieber und Sonia Srama-Souder PhillyKinder



Major Reform of German Name Law

Looking back at the early years of the German Society of Pennsylvania, it was a place of guidance and practical help—a Hilfsverein supporting German-speaking immigrants with the challenges of settling in a new country. Education and sharing of knowledge were pillars of that mission.

Today, we inform ourselves online, but we might miss information we wouldn't even think to search for. One such important piece of information is the major reform of German name law that took effect on May 1, 2025.

1. Why This Reform Matters to Germans Living

Until now, German citizens—even those residing abroad—had their names governed exclusively by German law. This meant that names chosen for married couples or children under U.S. law (like hyphenated or double names) often weren't recognized under German law, leading to inconsistencies.

Now, from May 1, 2025, the law of the country of residence applies by default, rather than German law. For Germans living in the U.S.. this means U.S. name law governs marriage and birth names unless they actively choose German law.

2. Marriage and Birth Names in the U.S.

- Marriages after May 1, 2025: Double surnames under U.S. law can now be recognized in German passports and records.
- Children born in the U.S. after May 1, 2025: The name on the U.S. birth certificate will automatically be recognized under German law

3. What If You Already Have Different Names?

Many dual citizens have inconsistent names in their German and U.S. documents due to old restrictions. Now you can retroactively apply U.S. name law by submitting a declaration of choice of law (Rechtswahlerklärung) at your local German consulate. This lets you align

your German name with your established U.S. identity.

4. What Are the Options if You Choose German Law?

- **Double Surnames**: Couples can now choose a joint double surname; parents can give their child a double surname even if they don't share the same name.
- Name Changes after Divorce or in Blended Families: Children can adopt the surname of the parent they live with or revert to their birth name after divorce.
- Adults May Rename Themselves: Adults can redefine their birth surname once-by shortening a double name, switching parental surnames, or creating a new double name from both parents.

5. What Should German Citizens in the U.S. Do?

- For marriages or births in the U.S. after May 1, 2025, your names will follow U.S. law unless you choose German law.
- Names on U.S. documents will generally be recognized by German authorities.
- To apply German law, submit a declaration through your local German consulate.
- To align inconsistent names, submit a declaration of choice of law.

For questions about the procedure, forms, or next steps, contact the German consulate responsible for your region. They are the first and official point of contact for all name declarations and changes under the new law.

> - Christine Stenner, Rechtsanwältin and Member of the Board

Disclaimer: This article is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice.

9

Development Report: Donor-Advised Funds

Do you have a Donor-Advised Fund?

In recent years, donor-advised funds (DAFs) have become a popular way to support the charities of your choice. Many investment institutions - such as Schwab and Fidelity - and community foundations offer these accounts with a tax-deductible contribution. You can subsequently make a donation from your fund to your favorite 501(c)3 charity such as the German Society of Pennsylvania.

What are the benefits of a Donor-Advised Fund?

The benefits of using Donor-Advised Funds are many. One is that you can donate cash, stock, or other assets and avoid the tax on appreciated securities. There is also flexibility; the institution holding the account allows you to choose from various investment options, allowing the funds to grow until you are ready to use them. Finally, record-keeping is simplified, making DAFs quite easy to use.

Can these funds support my estate planning?

They certainly can. DAFs allow the opportunity to designate a specified amount or percentage to be distributed to a charity at the time of your death, or with a specific grant schedule to continue giving into the future.

In summary, DAFs are a simple, tax-smart solution that you can use to support your favorite charity, like the German Society of Pennsylvania.

If you plan to remember the Society in your estate plans, please let us know; this will allow us to thank you properly and recognize you among Legacy members of the Linden Society. The latter was established to acknowledge donations of \$1,000 or more to any of the endowments of the Society.

- E. D. Weiler

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In Memoriam: Harry Carl Schaub, Esq.



We learned that Harry Carl Schaub passed away on May 11 at the age of 96 following a stroke. Hailing from the northeastern section of Pennsylvania, Harry attended a private high school, MMI, and received a scholarship to the Uni-

versity of Pennsylvania, afterwards obtaining a law degree from Yale University. In 1955 he joined the law firm Montgomery, McCracken, Walker, and Rhoads and was a 'lifer' until he retired from active legal practice in 1999, yet he still maintained an office until the COVID-19 pandemic. He described his life as an adventure of three careers: intelligence officer, lawyer, and author. His well-written obituary describes in some detail his interesting and productive life. We recommend reading it.

Harry served as the General Counsel of the German Society in the 1990s, attending to various legal matters, and was an active member of our Board. He had such an engaging personality, and it was enjoyable to see him at key events at the Society, including our 250th Anniversary Celebrations in 2014.

We have lost a true friend of the Society. We extend our sympathy to Harry's wife, Kathryn Deans-Schaub, and the extended Schaub family.

- E. D. Weiler



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William Schlitte
Gabriele Schorb-Machado

Marc Schultz Jennifer Schwartz Eckart W. Schwarz

George Sfedu Jeanne Sigler David Simon Stephen Smith

Nanette Steffenhagen Barry Strube Jasmin Tahmaseb

Jim Vogelman Patti Wachtman Christa Walck John Waltrich

Ralf Weiser Shannon White Diane Widdop Ralf Wiedemann

Peter Wiesner Edward Wildanger Emma Wood

Richard Woodville Mildred Zdziebkowski

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