

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE SOCIETY

FEBRUARY

- Feb 8: 1.30pm Buchclub: "Gruppenbild mit Dame" von Heinrich Boell
Feb 9: Galli Theater New York presents: 3.30pm "Die Prinzessin auf der Erbse" (German),
5pm "Snow White" (English), Free Admission
Feb 12: 6pm Konversationsabend im Ratskeller
Feb 16: 3pm Wister and More! Concert im Auditorium with *melomanie2*
Feb 22 Bierfest 2025, 2-5.30pm

February Film Fest has been moved to June 20th, 6.30pm.

MARCH

- March 1: 8pm Philly Alaaf! A Karneval Tanz Party im Ratskeller
March 2: 3pm PhillyKinder Fasching im Ratskeller
March 8: 1.30pm Buchclub: "Die Ringe des Saturn" von W.G.
March 12: 6.30pm Konversationsabend im Ratskeller
March 13: 6pm Library Lecture with Steven Ujifusa "The Last Ships from Hamburg"
March 16: 3pm Wister and More! Concert im Auditorium with *The Wister Quartet*
March 21: 6pm Friday Film Fest "In einem Land, das es nicht mehr gibt" , German w/ English subtitles
March 30: 5th Annual Bösendorfer Youth Music Festival

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GET YOUR TICKETS FOR OUR "BIERFEST 2025" HERE: WWW.PHILLYBIERFEST.ORG

Call the office to get your member discount of \$5 per person.



The German Society
of Pennsylvania

Neuer Pennsylvanischer

Staatsbote

CELEBRATING

1764 250 2014

YEARS OF

GERMAN
HERITAGE

Winter 2025

Empowering the Next Generation:
The German Society's Scholarship Program

Since the early 2000s, the German Society of Pennsylvania (GSP) has been committed to fostering the study of the German language and culture through its Scholarship Program. This initiative has provided substantial financial assistance to graduating high school seniors and undergraduate students dedicated to German studies.

The success of this program is largely due to the generous and consistent support from individuals, the former Ladies Auxiliary of the Society, and the Society itself. Their contributions have enabled the GSP to offer significant grants, typically ranging from \$2,000 to \$5,000, to deserving students. These awards are primarily based on academic achievement and potential, with financial need also considered.

The Scholarship Program is administered by a dedicated committee of six individuals, two of whom have been members for the past twenty years. Their efforts reflect a deep commitment to the GSP's mission and the promotion of German language and culture.

The impact of this program is best reflected in the voices of our scholarship recipients:

"I would like to express my heartfelt thanks that I was selected as a 2024-25 German Society of Pennsylvania scholarship recipient. Studying the German language, both abroad and in the US, has been such an enriching part of my college experience, and it is an honor to be recognized by this award. The money will go a long way toward alleviating the cost of tuition this upcoming year and

reducing the financial burden of my studies for me and my family. I very much look forward to continuing my study of the German language with the support of the German Society."
— Abigail Harr, recipient of the Elsa Schweikert Scholarship, Lafayette College

"I wanted to write and thank you again for your generous scholarship. At Dickinson College, I tested into the highest German class possible, German 202, during my first semester of college, and I finished that class with an A. In this upcoming semester, I will be taking German 251: German Orientalism, From Fascination to Fascism, which will also be taught in German. I also declared my German major and am actively participating in the Dickinson College German Club. Thank you again for your support!"

— Annalee Brant, recipient of the Leon H. Volgenau Scholarship, Dickinson College

The application process for the 2025/2026 academic year is now open. Applicants must be residents of the Greater Delaware Valley and either high school seniors intending to major or minor in German at college or current undergraduates majoring or minoring in German at eligible institutions. The deadline for submission is March 10, 2025, at 5:00 PM.

For detailed application requirements and materials, please visit our website: www.germansociety.org/scholarships

We encourage all eligible students to apply and join us in our mission to preserve and promote the rich heritage of the German language and culture.

- The Scholarship Committee

Facing the Future: GSP Capital Campaign Update

We launched our GSP Capital Campaign 2024-2027 in mid-November by means of a special mailing to our members and the friends of the German Society of Pennsylvania. In our letter we stressed that “time has taken its toll on our beautiful building. The exterior 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 at \$2,000,000.”

Thankfully, through the generosity of outside grants and commitments, we have already secured \$1,190,000. We are actively seeking additional funding from government organizations and foundations to cover another \$310,000. However, the final \$500,000 must come from within—our members. It is up to us to protect and maintain the building that has served as our cultural home since 1888.

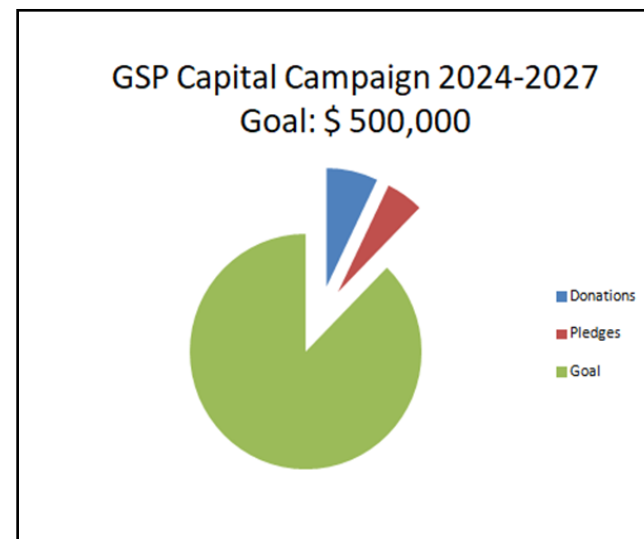
As of January 13, 2025, we have received \$56,579 in donations, with an additional \$29,440 in pledges. In total, this represents 17% of our stated goal.

A very good start, but we still have a ways to go to reach our goal. We are grateful for all

The beginning of the year is typically a good time to review charitable giving plans for the coming year and we hope that our Capital Campaign is included in your plans. Please use the forms found on our website under *Donations* to make your pledge and/or donation: [Facing the Future: GSP Capital Campaign 2024-2027](#).

We thank you for giving this opportunity your personal consideration!

E. D. Weiler, Capital Campaign Committee Chair – members Ed Cattell, Bill Hardham, Liesl Jandrey, Daniel Lippard, Mark McGuigan, Tony Michels and Stephanie Vogel.



FACING THE FUTURE
GSP CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 2024 - 2027

**Help the German Society
restore its historic facade.
Make your pledge today!**

In Memoriam: Wolfgang Fred Rump



Wolfgang Fred Rump passed away on October 1, 2024, in Naples, Florida after long and courageous battle with cancer. He was born on December 1, 1937, in Elbing, East Prussia, Germany. His family was displaced by the forced evacuation of

Germans from East Prussia following WWII and eventually settled in Philadelphia. While serving in the U.S. Army in Germany he was reacquainted with his elementary school classmate Maria “Marlies” Vogel and they were married in Philadelphia in 1960.

Fred obtained a B.A. from La Salle University in 1969 and in 1971 founded ComputData, Inc., an IT service and consulting company. He retired from the successful family business in 1994.

Fred and Marlies were proud of their German roots, and they maintained a close connection to the Society. Fred was an avid history buff and used the library for some of his research. They contributed generously to our Annual Fund Drive, to the Library Endowment Fund and indicated that the Society would be remembered in his estate. Fred and Marlies are members of our Legacy Society. Furthermore, Fred purchased lifetime memberships in the German Society for his two children.

His obituary reads, ‘in lieu of flowers, please consider honoring Fred’s life with memorial contributions to the German Society of Pennsylvania.

Our sympathy goes out to his daughter, Angela Nadeau, his son Bernhard Rumpf and their respective families.

– E. D. Weiler

Members and Friends of the Society who passed in 2024

The German Society of Pennsylvania is an organization supported by members and friends who are connected to German heritage, culture and tradition and often by years of friendship. The Office is typically notified that a member has passed and asked to remove his or her name from our mailing lists. Other times the family or friend calls us with the sad news.

At times an *In Memoriam* is included in a quarterly issue of the Staatsbote. However, this is not sufficient and we are starting a tradition to list the names of all members known to us who passed in the prior year in first quarter issue of the *Staatsbote*.

The listing for the calendar years of 2023 and 2024 follows. We include 2023 since this our first listing. We remember the listed individuals for their friendships and support and extend our sympathy to their families and friends.

2023

Otto Reichert-Facilides, John G. Huber, Nikolaus Kampf, Sue Kruse, Sherri Smith, Helen Schutz, W. Marshall Schmidt

2024

Charles and Margaret Birnstiel, Edward Maciocha, Rev. Louis H. Temme, Martin Knappe, Nick Cvetkovic, Reinhard Kruse, Vsevolod Arefiev

Parent & Audience Reactions

In many ways Fritzzi's story is my story and the musical has given my kids an incredible immersive experience of it. Seeing them singing the songs, I sang and wearing the „Thälmann-Pionier“ uniforms was difficult at times. But I am beyond grateful that they got a window into the events of 1989 that shaped my life.

- Ines Aßmann

I came away deeply impressed from watching the play. Using the projector to show authentic Tagesschau clips and to reinforce some key historic points was a wonderful idea. A well-weighted balance between singing, narrating and acted-out scenes made the play very entertaining, too. Lastly, as someone who was 11 years old when all of this happened, I remember. But then again, as a child you cannot comprehend what reunification truly meant to so many people, and it was very moving to re-live these memories, now as an adult.

- Erasmus

What an impressive performance! The acting, the music, the incorporation of authentic news clips, the creative use of space--this show was a real treat!

- Magdalena

I was so incredibly impressed by how well all the PhillyKinder gave their performances! No notes or teleprompters to assist in delivering many lines in flawless German is a Herculean accomplishment. Since none of the players and most probably few of their parents are well versed in the historical enormity of November 9, 1989, the play served as a spotlight on the monumental moment of German reunification. Kudos to all involved for bringing "Ein Land ohne Mauer, da ist keiner sauer" to the stage.

- Mary Beth Sauter

Library Volunteer Spotlight: *Beatrix Moore*

As an aspiring art conservator and graduate of the University of Delaware's Art Conservation undergraduate program, I have dedicated my career to preserving cultural heritage and making it accessible to the public. My journey in this field has been shaped by hands-on experience in special collection spaces, libraries, and conservation labs, where I have worked to bridge the gap between historical artifacts and the people who wish to learn from them.

As a volunteer at the German Society of Pennsylvania (GSP), I have had the privilege of preserving a unique collection of historical books, ledgers, and documents. A significant part of my work involves designing and constructing over 200 custom protective enclosures for rare items, ranging from 19th-century financial ledgers to 20th-century translated fiction. These enclosures, made from archival-quality materials, protect items from environmental damage such as light and humidity, ensuring their longevity for future generations.

Through my work, I aim to contribute to a broader understanding of the importance of preservation and the role it plays in connecting communities with their shared past. My experiences at the GSP have not only refined my technical skills but also strengthened my passion for this field. I look forward to continuing this journey and sharing the value of conservation with a wider audience.



Founding GSP Member Heinrich W. Stiegel became famous Glassmaker in America

- by Lynne Breen

Heinrich William Stiegel's enterprising goal was to make glassware in the American colonies that could match the best European glass. Born in 1729 in Köln, Germany — only one kilometer from Cologne — Stiegel was part of the broad wave of Germans who traveled to British North America in the early eighteenth century.

Arriving in Pennsylvania in 1750, Stiegel — who was also an accomplished ironmaster — became one of the three best-known glassmakers in America. He built a factory called the American Flint Glass Manufactory in Manheim, a town in Lancaster County that he helped to establish. He had schools built and hired teachers for the children of the glassblowers and decorators in his employ. A talented musician, he also directed the choir in the town's Lutheran church. Manheim was often referred to as "Stiegelstown."

He and his workers created glass following Germanic traditions of style, producing candlesticks, pocket bottles, decanters, wine glasses, ink jars, and other wares in various brilliant colors, from cobalt blue to radiant amethyst. With his growing prosperity, Stiegel followed his long-held penchant for lavishness by residing with his wife, Elizabeth, in an ornate mansion that included a second-story chapel from which he gave sermons in German, as well as a rooftop area spacious enough to hold a concert band comprised — at Stiegel's prompting — of his employees.

Sadly, Stiegel conducted his business venture just as he did his personal life — pouring money into the Manheim glassmaking plant as he wanted to have a more dynamic enterprise. His debts continued to multiply, his glass factory closed, and, in May 1774, he was consigned to a debtor's prison in Philadelphia.

Stiegel was released at Christmastime that year, but by then he was a broken man. He died a pauper on January 10, 1785, at age 55. In 1934, the Lancaster County Historical Society created a memorial dedicated to Heinrich W. Stiegel.

Surviving pieces of Stiegel glass may be viewed at the Historic Manheim Preservation Foundation, the Historic Society of Pennsylvania, and the Hershey Story Museum; also at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City and the Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, New York.



Pocket bottle attributed to Heinrich W. Stiegel and the American Flint Glass Manufactory, 1769-1774

The German Born Bodybuilder Who Became the World's Strongest Man

- by Lynne Breen

He was a rather ordinary looking man: 5'9" in height, with fair, curly hair. Looking at his face, the only distinguishing feature was his blondish, upturned mustache in the manner of Kaiser Wilhelm II — a style popular in the late nineteenth century called "Es ist erreicht." Ironically, it was the phrase that described Eugen Sandow's life: "It's achieved," for he would become the world's first celebrity bodybuilder.

Born in 1867 in Königsberg, Prussia, to a German father and a mother of Russian descent, he was named Friedrich Wilhelm Müller. He later adopted the stage name of Eugen Sandow by Germanizing his mother's maiden name of Sandov.

He left Prussia in 1885 to avoid military service and traveled throughout Europe as a circus performer. Seeking the "perfect physique," he would visit museums to study the ideal bodies of Grecian statues. Through a strict regimen of weightlifting, Sandow's biceps would evolve to 19.5 inches; his chest, to 48 inches. When flexed, his torso expanded to 62 inches.

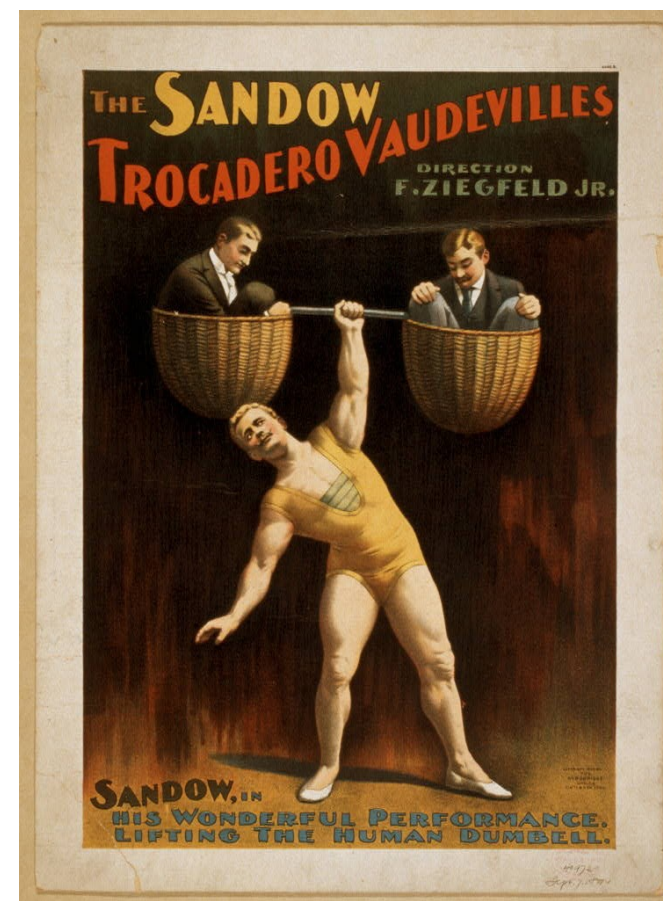
His first big break came in 1889 when he entered a London competition to find the strongest man in the world. Sandow easily defeated the reigning champion, bringing the German-born bodybuilder instant fame.

His amazing physical feats caught the attention of American impresario Florenz Ziegfeld, Jr., who arranged for Sandow to perform at the 1892-93 Chicago World's Fair. He thrilled audiences by breaking chains around his chest, lifting barbells

bearing grown men, and adopting poses that showed off his muscular physique to greatest advantage.

Even though the Victorian Era held sway at the time, Sandow's music hall performances in America were attended by the most respectable ladies. They paid a surcharge to attend private viewings backstage, where they were allowed — with properly gloved hands — to touch his muscles.

— Lynne Breen



An 1894 poster for the Sandow Trocadero Vaudeville, produced by Florenz Ziegfeld, Jr.

A PhillyKinder Performance



To mark the 35th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, PhillyKinder presented, on November 9, "Ein Land ohne Mauer, da ist keiner sauer" to a full house at the German Society.

For this special production, Sonja Srama-Souder adapted Hanna Schott's "Fritzi war dabei" for the stage, with Jessica Tremblay directing a choir of 30 talented children and youth. The stage play was accompanied by a multimedia slideshow created by Birgit Splitt to bring the historical context to life.

The play transported the audience to the year 1989, following 10-year-old Fritzi during the pivotal weeks leading up to the Wall's fall. The main scenes from the book were interwoven with present day Nina and Oskar visiting their grandmother in Leipzig and learning about the Cold War era and the *Wendezeit*. The sib-

lings reflect the experiences of our PhillyKinder students, who remain connected to Germany, despite growing up in the United States.

The performance featured a selection of songs that express themes of peace and belonging, from GDR-era Pioneer songs to the modern song "Wir sind eins" by Morgaine. The production concluded with Brecht and Eisler's "Die Kinderhymne", a moving anthem for a peaceful Germany.

We are immensely proud of our cast. Despite only eight weeks of rehearsal, their dedication and hard work were the true heart of this production. We hope this experience deepened their understanding of life in a divided country and the power of the peaceful revolution that brought down the Berlin Wall after 40 years.

- Birgit Splitt for PhillyKinder