



The German Society of Pennsylvania

Neuer Pennsylvanischer
Staatsbote

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

Spring 2026

April 2026

Wed. Apr. 8 Konversationsabend mit Tony | 6:00pm
Fri. April 10 Friday Film Fest "Die Kaiserin" | 6.30pm
Fri. April 10 Behind-the-Scenes Tour at the Historical Society of PA
Sun. Apr. 12 Wister and More! presents "Karlsruher Konzert Duo" | 3pm
Thu. April 16 Open House- Tag der offenen Tür for members | 6pm– 8pm
Sat. April 18 Galli Theater for kids | 1pm and 2.30pm
Sat. April 18 Buchclub in German | 1.30pm
Tues. April 21 Nadine Lindner: A German Journalist's Visit to the US | 6pm
Sat. Apr. 25 Wandern at the Willows | 11:00am

May 2026

Fri. May 1 Biergarten POPUP: Celebrate May Day the German Way | 6pm– 9pm
Sun. May 3 Wine & Classical Music Pairing 1pm– 3pm | Beer & Jazz Music Pairing 6pm– 8pm
Sun. May 10 Wister and More! Elissa Lee Koljonen & Hanchien Lee | 3pm
Wed. May 13 Konversationsabend mit Tony | 6:00pm
Thurs. May 14 Exilmusic Concert in memory of Margaret Darby | 7pm
Fri. May 15 Friday Film Fest: *Eine Million Minuten* | 6:30pm
Sat. May 16 Eurovision Watch and Dance party | 3pm
Sat. May 16 Buchclub in German | 1.30pm
Tues. May 19 Lecture by Dr. Annette Hofmann - The German Turner Movement | 6pm
Sat. May 23 Wandern at the Willows | 11:00am

June 2026

Sat. June 6 FIFA World Cup Watch Party: GER vs USA | 2.30pm
Sat. June 6 Buchclub in German | 1.30pm
Sun. June 10 Konversationsabend mit Tony | 6:00pm
Sun. June 14 FIFA World Cup Watch Party: GER vs. Curacao | 4pm
Sat. June 20 FIFA World Cup Watch Party: GER vs. Ivory Coast | 4pm
Thurs. June 25 FIFA World Cup Watch Party: GER vs. Ecuador | 4pm



Scan the QR code to learn more about our upcoming events and to register!



Alles neu macht der Mai — and even April!

by Mark McGuigan, President

When the weather warms, people come back out, and things set in motion over the winter begin to take shape. The German expression "*Alles neu macht der Mai*" captures that well.

We began to see this already at the end of February with **Bierfest**. Since then, the building has been filling up again. Spaces that were quieter over the winter are active, and conversations are happening more easily. It's not something that needs to be announced—it's simply what happens when people come together again with a shared purpose.

That carries directly into the weeks ahead. Our spring calendar reflects what the Society does at its best: creating opportunities to gather, exchange ideas, and connect with German culture and German American heritage. Some of that will feel familiar—our **Wister Concert Series** and **Friday Film Fest** continue as part of the regular rhythm of the building, and on April 13 our **German language classes** resume.

At the same time, a number of events give this spring its particular character. We will welcome *Deutschlandradio* journalist Nadine Lindner. A special concert of **Exilmusik** will highlight an important and often overlooked part of the German cultural tradition. **Marnie Old's Wine and Beer Pairings with Classical and Jazz** return as well, which have become something of a signature here. Our **Library Lecture Series** will continue to highlight German American heritage in this 250th anniversary year of the United States.

Other events have quickly begun to feel like tra-

ditions of their own. On May 1, the Leidy Terrace hosts our first **Biergarten** of the season. The **Eurovision Watch and Dance Party** has become one of the livelier evenings of the year, and this spring we will also host **FIFA Soccer Watch Parties**—another way for people to gather and share an experience together.



Taken together, what matters is not any one event, but the overall picture: the Society actively living its mission with and through its members.

That same sense of forward movement will be visible in June with our **Board elections**. A number of members have stepped forward as candidates, including four who are new to the process. I encourage you to read their profiles in this issue of the *Staatsbote*. The willingness of members to take on these roles is one of the clearest signs of a healthy organization. Spring is not an endpoint—it's a beginning. For now, it's enough to recognize where we are: things are opening up again, familiar rhythms are returning, and new possibilities are starting to take shape.

Alles neu macht der Mai—and this year, even April and June are doing their part.

Annual Members Meeting and Board Elections

On **Sunday, June 14, at 3:00pm**, the German Society will hold its **2026 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 12, 2026**. 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 2029 and one opening for a one-year term in the class of 2027.

There are six candidates running for these positions; the candidate with the fewest votes will fill the one-year term in the class of 2027. The following Officer positions are also up for election: Treasurer and VP of Communications.

Candidates for Officers

Treasurer: Lewis Volgenau



For many years, I have had the privilege of serving as Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer of the German Society. Our Strategic Plan calls for the documentation of our financial and investment policies which is being accomplished by the Finance Committee with the assistance of Bill Hardham. An important strategy is the planned succession for the Treasurer role. With the advent of new accounting sys-

tems, our previous treasurer operating manual needs to be revised. With your support, I will continue this work and the transition of many of the Treasurer activities to the Executive Director and the Office Staff. We will work with the Executive and Finance Committees to provide balanced budgets and prudent investments as well as the funding of capital improvement projects to maintain our library and building. My thanks for the support of our members for their donations and continued membership.

VP of Communications: Maiken Scott



I am a veteran journalist and broadcaster, originally from Karlsruhe, Germany. I currently serve as the host and executive producer of *The Pulse* at WHYY, a weekly national health and science radio show and podcast that explores the people and places at the heart of health and science. Through *The Pulse*, I aim to make scientific discoveries accessible to all audiences and to highlight how science shapes our everyday lives.

At the German Society of Pennsylvania, I have been grateful for the opportunity to help create and support a variety of programs and events, including the Eurovision Watch Party and Biergartens, as well as moderating talks with visiting authors and dignitaries and serving as emcee for our Stiftungsfest.

I am passionate about the work of the German Society and committed to helping more people discover our organization, our mission, and the wonderful programs and events we offer. If elected, I look forward to continuing to support the Society with creativity, enthusiasm, and a strong commitment to community engagement.

Thank you GSP and PhillyKinder

My association with the German Society began over 22 years ago, when, on a whim, I decided to learn German. I attended classes for several years, partook in many social events at the GSP, and coincidentally met a nice German guy in Philadelphia. I followed him to Düsseldorf, then eventually we got married and settled back in Philly.

When we had our daughter, we became involved in PhillyKinder, which was a part of the German Society at that time. For the past 12 years she has attended classes at PhillyKinder, while I have worked as a teacher's helper, and we keep coming back to the GSP for events like the Sankt Martinsumzug.

When PhillyKinder spun off from the GSP and became an independent non-profit, I was a founding board member and became President a few years later. I have had the immense pleasure of watching PhillyKinder grow into a thriving language program and community over the last 12 years.

PhillyKinder has also continued to foster a cooperative relationship with the German Society, through co-sponsored events throughout each school year, working together to promote the German language and culture in the Philadelphia area.

My family is preparing to relocate to Florida this summer, and we will greatly miss our German community here in Philadelphia. While I am sad to be leaving PhillyKinder, I know that I am leaving the organization in good hands. Thorsten Drautzburg will be taking over as President this summer, and I am so excited for what's to come for PhillyKinder!

Before I say my final goodbye to this fare city, I want to thank everyone at the GSP and PhillyKinder for providing such a wonderful environment for my family to participate in German cultural traditions.

Thank you to Mark McGuigan and the staff at the GSP for being so supportive of me and PhillyKinder during my presidency. Thank you to Maria Sturm for guiding PhillyKinder into its new era as a non-profit, for facilitating the GSP's donation of its Children's Book section to PhillyKinder, and for being the best "Friend of German" that Philadelphia could ask for. Thank you to Birgit Splitt and Anja Hilliard for developing our language program into a true community and for toiling countless hours to make everything work at PhillyKinder. Thank you to my fellow board members past and present for offering their time and talent to support our non-profit. I also want to thank our families for bringing their children to PhillyKinder; seeing your kids every Thursday afternoon brings me great joy!

Finally, I want to thank our teachers for continuing to believe in our program and for providing a fun and educational environment for all our children. Our program begins with you, and we are so grateful for your dedication to PhillyKinder!

I wish the German Society and PhillyKinder many more years of success and cooperation!

Farewell, Adrienne Frangakis



Anja, Adrienne and Birgit

Spotlight on Past Members: Carl Cist 1738-1805

by Lynne Breen

A well-known printer in Philadelphia, Carl Cist was born in 1738 in St. Petersburg, Russia. After earning a medical degree from the University of Halle, Germany, he emigrated in 1769 to the Pennsylvania colony. There he became a journeyman printer, working in the office of Johann Heinrich Miller—publisher of the *Pennsylvanischer Staatsbote*—before going into business with Melchior Steiner.

Cist and Steiner, staunchly in favor of the American Revolution, printed many documents in support of independence, notably the first German broadside edition of the Declaration of Independence and Thomas Paine's *The American Crisis*.

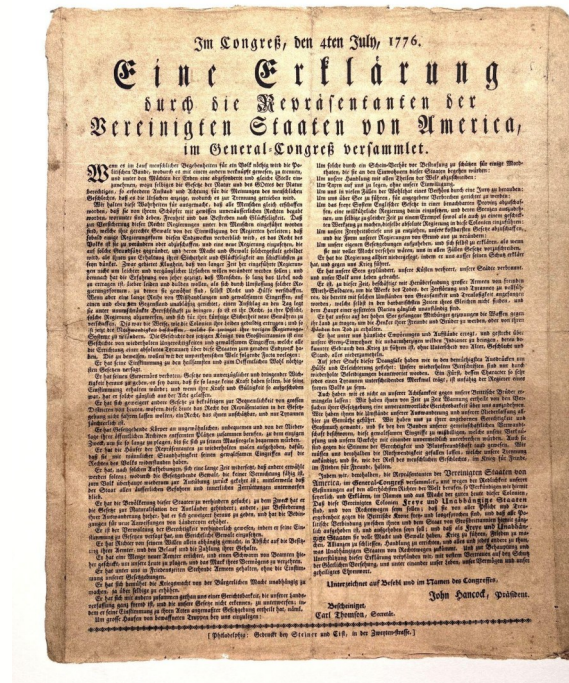
Carl Cist joined the German Society of Pennsylvania, where he served as one of the overseers who investigated and reported on newly arrived German emigrants needing the Society's assistance. In 1792, he was elected secretary of the German Society, and, in the same year, joined the Lehigh Coal Company, introducing anthracite coal into general use in the U.S. In this role, he brought several wagons full of anthracite coal to Philadelphia, offering to give it away.

However, he was threatened with mob violence for attempting to foist this unknown coal on the populace, for they thought the substance was just black stones! During the administration of John Adams (1797-1801), Cist moved to Washington, D.C., where he opened a large print shop and book bindery to aid the government in publishing important documents.

In 1781, he married Mary Weiss, sister of a Revolutionary War officer. They had seven children.

Carl Cist died in 1805 at the age of 67 and was buried in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Carl Cist printed the First German Edition of America's Declaration of Independence.



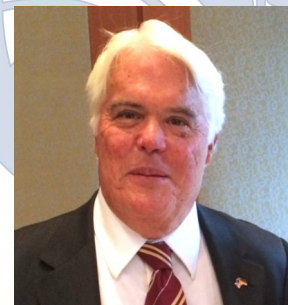
We are selling a facsimile of the first German translation of the Declaration of Independence on our website www.germansociety.org.

The high-resolution broadside, printed on heavy paper and measuring appr. 16 x 20", is reproduced from the original in the Deutsches Historisches Museum in Berlin, one of only two surviving copies.

The cost is \$50 (including shipping) and will be mailed to you in a tube container.

Candidates for Directors

Del Hausman



I am currently the Chair of the School Committee of the Immanuel German School/Deutsche Sprachschule Philadelphia. I have taught German, Russian, and English in a suburban high school, English in a German *Gymnasium*, German at Villanova University, and graduate courses in educational administration at Penn State. For 15 summers I accompanied AATG prize winners on their 4-week study/homestay trips to Nürnberg and Berlin. Additionally, I started a school exchange with a *Gymnasium* in Hamburg.

I have served as a national Vice President of the American Association of Teachers of German and as a member of the Accreditation Committee of the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET). For over two decades, I was a Consultant to the College Board for AP German. Following my teaching career, I became the Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the Lower Moreland Township School District. I am presently a member of the Board of Trustees of Forum Deutsch and a former Board Member the German Language School Conference (GLSC).

As a member of the Board of Directors of the German Society I am an active member of the German Buch Club and the Language Committee.

I believe that the German Society is uniquely positioned to serve as a hub for all things German throughout the greater Philadelphia area. 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. 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. All of us should actively promote the study of the German language.

James Niessen



I live in Queens, New York, and my family has deep roots in Philadelphia and the German Society of Pennsylvania. My paternal grandfather immigrated from the Rhineland and Baden to Philadelphia in 1894, settling with his family near the Society. Since 2001, I have served as librarian for German language and literature, history,

and other humanities fields at Rutgers University in New Brunswick. As a historian, I continue to publish research on modern Hungary and Hungarian America, and I also serve on the board of the American Hungarian Foundation. For many years, I have been honored to serve on the Board of Directors and Library Committee of the German Society of Pennsylvania. In these roles, I have worked to support the preservation and stewardship of the Joseph Horner Memorial Library, strengthen its role as a repository for German-American materials, expand programming for local and online audiences, and foster collaboration with other libraries and archives.

Stefan Neubig



I am honored to be a candidate for the Board of Directors of the German Society of Pennsylvania. Born and raised in Brackenheim in Württemberg, Germany, I developed an early appreciation for German heritage, culture, and the importance of community. I studied International Business and Management before

relocating with my family to the United States in 2001.

Over the past 30 years, I have built a career in executive leadership, specializing in large-scale business and IT transformation. Throughout my professional journey, I have advised senior leaders on strategy, governance, and operational excellence. I currently serve on the Board of the German American Chamber of Commerce, have held advisory roles across the Philadelphia community, and remain actively involved in my church.

My wife, Susanne, and I have been happily married for more than 33 years, and together we have raised four grown children. We live in Wayne, Pennsylvania. In my free time, I enjoy being outdoors—whether hiking, fishing, or especially skiing.

As a candidate for the Board, I am committed to supporting the mission of the German Society of Pennsylvania and helping strengthen its future for generations to come.

Kathrin Hennig



I emigrated from Germany in 2007 to pursue a master's degree in criminology from the University of Pennsylvania. After graduating, I joined the Federal Community Defender Office's Capital Habeas Unit in Philadelphia, where my work focuses

on gathering mitigating evidence during the post-conviction stages of death penalty litigation.

In 2018 my family and I spent two years in Germany. As the parent of two young children, I was especially motivated to ensure that they would continue speaking German and grow up with an appreciation for German traditions and cultural heritage upon our return to the U.S.

For the past several years, I have been an active member of the PartyAG and currently serve as the Chair of the Children's Programs Committee at the German Society of Pennsylvania. In this role and in collaboration with the PhillyKinder organization, I help organize and support programming that introduces children and families to the German language, traditions, and cultural heritage.

I am deeply committed to promoting cultural awareness and preserving German traditions within both my family and the broader community. I would be honored to further support the Society's mission as a Board member by helping to engage young families and by expanding opportunities for children and adults to experience German language, traditions, and culture.

Nils Hansman



I have been an active and dedicated member of the German Society of Pennsylvania for many years, and it has been a pleasure to support the Society's mission through volunteer service and committee involvement. Over the years, I have served on

both the Party AG and the Marketing Committee, helping with event planning, outreach efforts, and the promotion of cultural programs.

I was born in Wilhelmshaven, Germany, and have lived in the United States since 2003. My wife, Elizabeth, and I have one son, who is fourteen years old. Outside of my professional and cultural involvement, I am deeply engaged in my local community. For the past seven years, I have volunteered as a travel soccer coach at our local soccer club. I am also an avid soccer player myself and a passionate gardener.

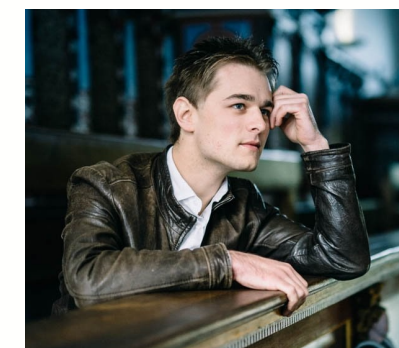
Exilmusik Concert in Memory of Margaret Darby

by Maria Sturm



Michael Müller-Kasztelan

On May 14th, at 7pm, the German Society of Pennsylvania will welcome German tenor Michael Müller-Kasztelan and pianist Stefan Bone – both connected with the *Kammerorchester der Grossregion* (KOG), a pan-European orchestra headquartered in Saarbrücken, and joined by Philadelphia cellist Ulrich Boeckheler. They will perform an array of music ranging from compositions by Arnold Schoenberg, Kurt Weill and Hanns Eisler, to Heinrich Heine poems set to music by Franz Schubert and Robert Schumann, and on to songs by Gustav Mahler, all interwoven with Samuel Barber's Cello Sonata.



Stefan Bone

We're hosting this evening of *Exilmusik* in honor of Margaret Darby, a long-time member and supporter of the German Society. Many of you will have seen her byline in the *Staatsbote* under beautifully written reviews of Wister concerts, reflecting one of her passions – classical music. And then there was her other passion – language and literature – which also bound her deeply to the German Society, in the form of its Horner Library and the *Buchclub*. She attended every Library event she could fit into her busy schedule, endlessly curious to learn – and she was the most wonderful *Buchclub*

member, not only a voracious reader but also always prepared with smart and probing questions, and such an eloquent participant in our discussions. Therefore, what better way to honor her memory than a *Liederabend*, with its combination of music and words? It's also very fitting how the two musicians from Germany have ties to Saarbrücken, the city where Margaret studied German at the beginning of her career as a simultaneous interpreter.



Chuck Holdeman & Margaret Darby

We hope you will enjoy this concert in the spirit of being at home in different languages and cultures, just as Margaret was – and embodying what she has intended with her generous bequest to the German Society: to support the organization in its efforts to explore and celebrate the German American experience in all its countless ways – and with a special flourish now, in 2026, the 250th anniversary of American Independence.

Scan the QR Code to sign up for this special concert:



Popular Fiction by Women Authors at the GSP

by Mark Darby

From the mid-1990s, the Horner Library emphasized describing and maintaining a collection focused on non-fictional works intended to give a general (chiefly 19th century) audience access to practical information for living.

When it came time to catalog the fiction, the question of what authors the library wanted to hold arose, along with concerns about the lack of space and, sadly, serious issues with condition. In this era, books were printed on low-quality paper, and the patrons of the German Society had read the books almost to pieces. Some materials, especially detective and mystery novels, did not survive early collection decisions.

When Lorena Boylan and, later, Mark Darby, began cataloging post-1918 imprints, they planned to maintain narrow restrictions on what the collection would hold. As they worked, however, they kept running across popular novels that scarcely appeared in institutional collections—often not even in Germany --and they were among-the most-circulated items at the German Society. Unlike most lending libraries, the GSP did not “deaccession” popular fiction after interest waned, and university libraries never held the types of novels in our collection.

After discussion with Bettina Hess and Maria Sturm about how to re-think the process, Mark and Lorena decided to keep the bulk of the novels and to give them extra attention. They noticed that many of the novels were written by women, and many were genre fiction, or, in German “Trivallliteratur.” Accordingly, they noted women authors and, when possible, genre. This included a new (in cataloging world) genre term, “Heimatromane,” because of the considerable number of works about rural and alpine people. To date Mark and Lorena have cataloged 708 post-1918 fiction titles by women and 417 works of “romance fiction” (3/4 by women), along with 215 “Heimatromane.” There are likely to be more of both, but they

were not always able to determine the genre, exactly.



Many of the genre novels in the library were written by Hedwig Courths-Mahler (d. 1950) and her daughter Friede Birkner (d. 1985). Courths-Mahler was a pioneer of German romance fiction, beginning in the late 19th century. Many of the library's copies were reprinted later (replacing, sometimes, earlier issues). The editions of the 50s and 60s often have plot summaries from book jacket copy affixed to the front pastedowns, and sometimes there are summaries in the catalogs of booksellers.

Since it is never possible to read the works one catalogs, this jacket copy helped in determining genre. Often, it was possible to guess a date of issue for books published by Titania-Verlag and Meister-Verlag by tracking down the origin of cover illustrations taken from popular films, not always German ones. Friede Birkner's *Wann sehe ich dich wieder?* (When will I see you again?) has a cover illustration taken from the US film “Pillow talk” (1959), which made dating the printing a little easier. It is rare that the illustration rarely has any relation to the contents of the book.

There are works dealing with 19th century society, families living through the first World War (Courths-Mahler, *Bettina und ihre Söhne*, ed. of 1973), difficulties of coping with modern urban society, rural love triangles, and even computer dating (Birkner, *Liebe und Computer*, 1970). Almost all were checked out so often as to fill the inserted date-due slip.

Some of the works are still in print and some are available as electronic books. Not all of them are available, however, and the whole collection gives readers access to a world of popular literature unavailable in most of the U.S.

Some of the works are still in print and some are available as electronic books. Not all of them are available, however, and the whole collection gives readers access to a world of popular literature unavailable in most of the U.S.

Since 2014, I have organized and led a German Stammtisch group, which has been a wonderful way to foster connection and conversation among German speakers and enthusiasts in the region. Building community and creating opportunities for cultural engagement have always been important to me.

If elected to the Board of Directors, I would be honored to continue serving the German Society in a leadership role. I look forward to bringing thoughtful insight, practical experience, and a collaborative spirit to support the Society's continued growth and cultural mission.

Ed Trauffer



I was born in Philadelphia in 1959.

I have a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from Villanova University, an M.S. in Analytical Chemistry from St. Joseph's University, and a B.A. in Chemistry from La

Salle College. I have also passed the Patent Bar Exam and am a registered Patent Agent. My Career has been 20 years in the Specialty Chemical Industry (Global Head of R&D), and 20 years in the Generic Pharmaceutical Industry (Global Head of Strategy for Americas).

Volunteer activities have been a primary focus in my life for over 50 years. Extensive training in managing non-profit organizations has enabled me to provide valued insight in various organizations. I have been on the board of non-profit charitable organizations and small business organizations. Current charitable activities include building houses for Habitat for Humanity, 25 years of leadership with Scouts USA, and 45 years of judging science and engineering fairs.

Woodworking and home renovation has been my primary leisure focus for over 50 years, taught by my father. I have built several home

additions, several kitchen and bath renovations, church renovations and renovated a dilapidated house built in 1928 to its original structure.

I will be delighted to apply my skills to the historic building of the German Society.

New Addition to Office Staff



We are delighted to welcome **Andreas Copes** as the new **Administrative Coordinator** of the German Society of Pennsylvania. Andreas will be joining our team in mid-April, and support the Society's daily operations, programs, and member services.

Dear Reader of the “Neuer Pennsylvanischer Staatsbote”,

It is a pleasure to meet you. My name is Andreas, and I am the new Administrative Coordinator at the GSP. I came to the United States in 2017 after spending eight years working for the federal health insurance provider Techniker Krankenkasse, with stops in Dortmund, Cologne, and Berlin along the way.

Born and raised “im Pott,” the industrial coal-mining region of North Rhine-Westphalia, my connection to the United States runs deep. I am both an American citizen and married to one, and my family history here spans generations.

Continuing my own journey, I earned my Bachelor's degree from Temple University in 2022 and have since worked as a news producer, most recently for Studio 2 on WHY? I look forward to contributing my organizational skills, enthusiasm, and “gute Laune” to the German Society, getting to know all of you, and sharing in some “Klatsch und Tratsch” about what connects you to the country of Beethoven, Goethe, and Helene Fischer.

Glück auf, Andreas

From the VP of Advancement by E.D. Weiler

Donation Opportunities

In the past 15 years, we have periodically reminded our membership that the mandated yearly distributions from Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA's) are wonderful opportunities that can be used for charitable purposes. That is, if the funds are not needed as income for yearly expenses. No federal income taxes are due on donations to charities.

To Qualify:

- You must be 70 ½ years of age or older at the time of the gift
- The transfer must go directly from your IRA to qualified charities (such as the Society)
- Your gifts cannot exceed a total of \$111,000 in 2026 (but there is no minimum)
- Your gifts must be outright (gifts that return income to you do not qualify)

Donor Recognition: Walter Schweikert

Over the past 15 years, Walter Schweikert has become one of the most generous donors to the Society using portions of the yearly distributions as charitable gifts. He has donated to the Library Endowment, the General Endowment, he has and is supporting the Capital Campaign and, last but not least, he has established the **Elsa Schweikert Scholarship Fund**, in memory of his mother, which allows us to award yearly scholarships for students enrolled at local or regional universities and majoring or minoring in German.



Walter Schweikert, Ernie Weiler and Claire Huangci

To recognize his outstanding generosity, the Board of Directors awarded Walter Schweikert, a lifetime membership in the Society and at the March 15, 2026 piano concert by Claire Huangci, we presented Walter a very nicely framed plaque in addition to a memorial brick with his mother's name to be installed in our *Walk of Honor* at the Society.

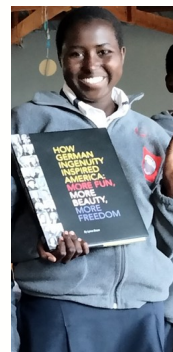
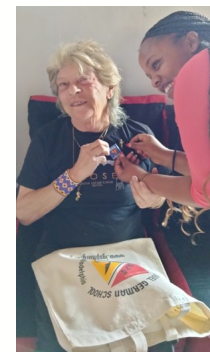
Bridging the Miles and Years by Del Hausman



1973 LMHS Yearbook

Deborah Rooney, nee Frl. Kling, my former (1971-73) German colleague at Lower Moreland High School, is now teaching German in Africa.

During a brief visit home over the Christmas holidays, we were able to renew old ties, catch up, and present her with a few items of interest for her students in Kenya.



Deborah Rooney with her students

Each student received a button stating: "Ich spreche Deutsch. What's your superpower?" from the AATG; the school was presented with a copy of *How German Ingenuity Inspired America: More Fun, More Beauty, More Freedom* which was donated by Hardy von Auenueller of the German Society of Pennsylvania, as well as an Immanuel German School tote bag donated by the school.

Eurovision—Watch and Dance Party at the GSP by Maiken Scott

It's the "Olympics of Pop," an over-the-top spectacle of talent, glam and glitter - in a word, it's Eurovision! It's the contest that has brought us pop icons like ABBA, Bonnie Tyler and Celine Dion, who represented Switzerland in 1988.



I have so many memories of watching Eurovision as a child. It was one of the few occasions when my mother would buy chips and Granini juice (expensive!) for me and my sisters. Of course, I was always rooting for the German contestants, even if I liked other performers better.

(While it was very exciting when Nicole won with her hit "Ein bisschen Frieden" in 1982, I have to confess, I never liked that song!) How the organizers pulled off this mega-production and the complicated voting before the internet, computers and high-speed communication tech remains a mystery to me!

This year, the world's largest music competition takes place in Vienna as the Eurovision Song Contest celebrates its 70th anniversary. A city synonymous with musical brilliance - from Mozart to modern pop - Vienna provides a spectacular backdrop for this landmark edition of the contest. For Eurovision fans who can't



get to the Wiener Stadthalle for the grand finale on **Saturday, May 16th**, the beautiful auditorium of the German Society will provide the perfect setting to enjoy the performances and root for your favorite stars. Doors open at 2:30pm; the show begins at 3pm.

It's GSP's third year of hosting a Eurovision watch party followed by a dance party in our retro-fabulous Ratskeller. During our past Eurovision events, about 150 guests watched and cheered as stars from Europe and beyond battled it out to be crowned best crooner. We've welcomed guests of Latvian, Swiss or Turkish descent, as well as fans from far away places like Australia and New Zealand.

"Eurovision is amazing. It's fabulous, it's fun, it gets very competitive and edgy - it brings out the best in everybody," says Mark McGuigan, president of the German Society of Pennsylvania. "We're excited to welcome all fans and European expats living in the region to our beautiful building and experience this one-of-a-kind event."

This year's Eurovision Song Contest has been overshadowed by some controversy, with several countries boycotting the event because of Israel's participation. Eurovision was born in the aftermath of World War II, as a way to unite Europe. The idea is that music can build bridges between nations, it can bring people together and heal divisions.

