



# THE AMBASSADOR

## DER BOTSCHAFTER

A Publication of the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA®  
Chartered as the United German-American Committee of the USA, Inc.

Fall 2018 / Page 1

### **Peter Thiel Honored at the 32nd Annual Council of 1000 Award and Fundraising Gala**

An elegant black tie gala on a lovely and warm September evening in one of Washington, D.C.'s most beautiful historic buildings, the Organization of American States, is virtually guaranteed to be a success. More than 150 guests had gathered in this beautiful venue on Friday, September 21 for the 32nd Annual Council of 1000 Award and Fundraising Gala to celebrate the entrepreneur, thinker, and investor Peter Thiel as the 2018 Distinguished German-American of the Year™. The spacious covered courtyard of the main OAS building with its fountain and live plants provided the perfect backdrop for a formal, yet relaxed cocktail reception. As guests mixed and mingled, sipping wine and German beer, while listening to a jazz trio of talented young musicians from George Mason University, they caught up with old friends and made new acquaintances.



**President Hardy von Auenmueller presenting the Distinguished German-American of the Year™ award to Mr. Peter Thiel**

Mr. Thiel, a native of Frankfurt am Main in Germany, not only brought his partner, but also his parents and brother who retain active connections to their homeland, and who all seemed to enjoy this evening that reunited them with their own German heritage. A photo opportunity with the GAHF Board provided the perfect moment to become a little more familiar with the honoree before the assembled guests moved up to the Hall of the Americas for dinner.



**Gala Chairman Aaron Lewis**

The opening ceremony included remarks by gala chairman Aaron Lewis who paid tribute to Mr. Thiel's innovative and visionary spirit, and his courage to go down the path less traveled; as well as a greeting by Germany's ambassador Dr. Emily Haber, who used the opportunity to introduce the Deutschlandjahr USA 2018/2019 project with its motto of "Wunderbar Together" as a symbol of the long-standing ties and the friendship between the United States and Germany. Andrew Adair, a well-known D.C. lawyer and jazz pianist, played wonderful renditions of the national anthems before guests took their seats to feast on a three-course dinner with a Frankfurt touch. The dinner music included a special surprise tribute to Mr. Thiel who is a fan of J.R.R. Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings": The title music of the film version of the famous trilogy.

**continued on page 4**

**OUR MISSION**

The German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® is dedicated to preserve, educate and promote the cultural heritage of Americans of German-speaking ancestry and to be a leading voice of German-Americans in cultural and public policy matters in the USA.

We serve as a national membership organization through which Americans, proud of their German heritage and language, work together on vital issues of common concern.

The German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® was established in 1977 and chartered the following year as the United German-American Committee of the USA, Inc. as an independent, tax-exempt, educational not-for-profit organization.

**We are committed to:**

- Sharing a positive image of Americans of German-speaking heritage by focusing on their historical contributions to American society
- Strengthening the ethnic awareness and cooperation of German-Americans
- Promoting the German language and culture
- Cultivating German-American friendship and cooperation
- Supporting cooperative efforts among German-Americans and their organizations

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**The Ambassador (Edition Fall 2018)**

Publisher: German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA®  
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**Message from the Executive Director**

Dear Members and Friends,

With our gala behind us, it's time to focus on the many other exciting things our foundation and museum have to offer. The summer months are traditionally a slow time for the museum, but we had a very successful summer film series showcasing the Austrian "Sissi" trilogy from the mid-1950s about the life of the Austrian Empress Elisabeth. Please be sure to take a look at our event calendar for additional German-language films with English subtitles.

This year, we are also featuring a Halloween special on October 30 called "Der Vampir auf der Couch" ("Therapy for a Vampire"), an Austrian horror comedy about a vampire whose 500-year old marriage is on the rocks, and who is seeking help from the founder of psychoanalysis Dr. Sigmund Freud.

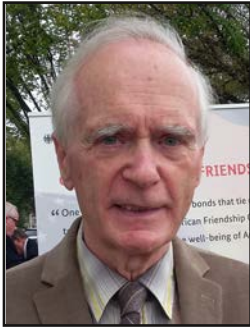
In September, a large group of Catholic University students majoring or minoring in German stopped by for a visit to pursue the question of ethnic identity. After a brief video to get them up to speed about German immigration to the U.S. a lively debate ensued about German heritage, what it means to be German, considering regional differences between for example Bavarians and Friesians, and the many facets and nuances – language, customs, food, art, culture, oral and written history – that influence ethnic and national identity. Naturally, identity is not static, and what defines a country and its people can and does change over time. If you know of any school or university groups who might be interested in visiting the GAHM, please contact me directly at [sipple@gahmusa.org](mailto:sipple@gahmusa.org) or by phone at 202-467-5000.

October has already proven to be extraordinarily busy with German-American Day on October 6 and a ceremony at the German-American Friendship Garden in Washington, DC; the formal opening of our club exhibit on October 9 (please read page 5); a panel discussion on October 15 with the Hanns-Seidel-Foundation on the impact of the Bavarian state elections; a spooky lecture entitled "Germans, Graves and Ghosts" with Pennsylvania historian Bill Oosterman on October 25; and a beer tasting with renowned author, sommelier and beer expert Marnie Old, "500 Years of German Lager Brewing" on October 27, that kicks off our contribution to the Deutschlandjahr USA 2018/2019 under the motto "Wunderbar Together". Marnie is available to travel, and if any clubs are interested, I encourage you to please get in touch with me. The Deutschlandjahr USA campaign runs until the end of 2019, and we are looking for partners who have facilities that can accommodate anywhere from 50 to 150 people. Please be sure to also mark your calendar for our evening with the German Consul General of Chicago, Herbert Quelle, on November 16. A talented musician and accomplished author, Mr. Quelle will talk about the influence of the humble mouth organ on Southern Jazz and Blues music.

A look at our Website ([www.gahmusa.org](http://www.gahmusa.org)) and/or our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/GAHMuseum/](https://www.facebook.com/GAHMuseum/) is always worthwhile. Please give us a like or follow us to stay informed about upcoming events.

Yours sincerely,  
 Katja Sipple

## Message from the President



Dear Members and Friends:

Last month, we were privileged to honor **Peter Thiel**, Chairman of Palantir Technologies, Inc. and Co-Founder of PayPal, as our **32nd Distinguished German-American of the Year** during our Annual Council of One Thousand Award and Fundraising Gala. The event was held at the magnificent Hall of the Americas at the Organization of American States in Washington, DC.

Our honoree was born in Frankfurt am Main, a city which is known as the home of major German corporations and financial institutions, including the European Central Bank. Although his parents moved to the United States shortly after his birth, Peter Thiel's unparalleled success as an entrepreneur and large-scale investor is also reflected in the dynamic growth of that city. But Mr. Thiel hasn't just invested in technology, he has also invested in future thinkers. The Thiel Fellowship program offers young people the opportunity to think in new ways and pursue innovative ideas that advance our societies as a whole.

From the positive feedback I received, all of the 150 people who were able to participate in the celebration, including the new German Ambassador, **Dr. Emily Haber**, and several high ranking government officials, had a great time. Our keynote speaker, **Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg**, Chairman & Founder of Spitzberg Partners, LLC and former German Secretary of Defense, engaged Mr. Thiel in an open discussion on the challenges which the Western World is now facing in light of the emerging Chinese and Russian presence, particularly in Africa, the Mideast and other parts of the world.

While most of the European companies contacted for sponsorship support were reluctant to step forward, due to the current strained transatlantic relations, we received a solid backing from the entire GAHF Board of Directors, and many longtime members and friends of our organization. Encouraged by this level of support, we look forward to a very productive fall and winter season, for which we are planning the following exhibits and events:

As of this writing, we are opening our **German-American Club Exhibit** featuring the histories of those organizations who have valiantly supported us from the very first day when our museum at Hockemeyer Hall was established in 2010. The display panels of these clubs will be presented from now until the end of November. Thereafter, for the following four months, we will show a vast collection of **German Toys**, Ravensburger games and puzzles, Tin Soldiers from various epochs – on loan from the Frazier History Museum in Louisville, KY – as well as Käthe Kruse and other dolls from private collectors, to name a few. At the end of the exhibit, some of these items will be offered for sale!

Furthermore, as it has been our custom for several years now, a pre-Christmas Party will be held on Thursday, December 6. At that time, we will host again choristers from the Alpine Singers to get into the mood for our holidays. And while on the subject of choral music, it was my distinct pleasure to bring a group of fifty (50) choir boys from the Limburg Cathedral to our German-American Day celebration at the Washington Mall on October 6. Three days earlier, on German Unity Day, the Federal Government rang in their **2018/19 DeutschlandJahr USA**, under the slogan "Wunderbar Together" – with 1,000 events in every region of the United States, to which we will contribute a German beer tasting and lecture program.

On behalf of all of us at GAHF, I wish to thank each and every one of you for your continued support and involvement that make our exhibits, programs, achievements and aspirations possible.

With sincere regards,  
Hardy von Auenmueller



continued from page 1

After the main course, GAHF President Hardy von Auenmueller presented Mr. Thiel with the award. Instead of a traditional acceptance speech, Peter Thiel opted for a scripted dialogue with his personal friend Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, Germany's former minister of defense. It touched upon transatlantic issues, but also the need for innovation in society, politics and the economy. In a fast-moving global world, we need to focus on our common Western values to overcome the challenges that we are facing. Finally, the Berlin artist Michael Najjar presented Peter Thiel with a specially engraved book of his works. Mr. Najjar also generously provided his image "europa" – one of Jupiter's moons – featuring a lone astronaut gazing into the distance for our 2018 commemorative gala program. The program can be downloaded as a PDF on our Website.

A heartfelt thank you goes to the many individuals who worked tirelessly to bring this gala from the drawing board into the ballroom. Last but not least, GAHF thanks its many donors and supporters who made this event a tremendous success. Jeff Giese and Morgan Stanley, Gudrun and Hardy von Auenmueller, Andrew Adair, Gary Lee Koerner, AGI, Erich Ast, Deutsche Telekom, Susan and Dr. John Manoyan & CarolJean Siegert King, RRMG/IMO, the Sacramento Turnverein with Hank Stoffel & Ray Catudal, Spitzberg Partners, and Albert Wurz – to name just a few! Please be assured of our gratitude!

- Katja Sipple



**Headtable**



**Courtyard**



**Honoree with  
GAHF Board Members**



**Hall of the Americas**

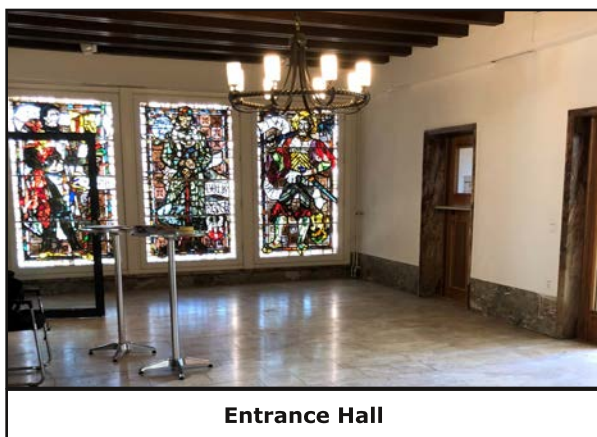


## Mark Twain Center for Transatlantic Relations / History and Future of German-American Relations in Heidelberg

You may recall that during the summer of 2015, Dr. Eckart Würzner, Lord Mayor of Heidelberg, and Professor Frieder Hepp, Director of the Kurpfälzisches Museum in Heidelberg, visited us in Washington. At that time, they were exploring how best to recognize the legacy of the American presence in Germany and be a forum for discussions on German-American relations. Heidelberg is best suited to serve in this function, since the U.S. Army had its headquarters there for close to 70 years. We all know, Germany owes its democracy and freedom to the United States during the Cold War. The combination of a steadfast foreign policy, generous economic aid in the form of the Marshall Plan, and massive military engagement led to a vibrant West Germany within NATO, and finally to German reunification.



**MTC Building**



**Entrance Hall**

Recognizing the historic connection of Heidelberg with America, as described in two prior issues of our newsletter, the City Council selected the former Commandant's Headquarters (Keyes Building) as site for their newly established **Mark Twain Center** for Transatlantic Relations. It is located in a park-like setting, right on Römer-Strasse. With appropriate funding support by the German federal government, they were able to complete the first phase of the necessary construction and renovation efforts, as planned, by this fall – just in time for a Vernissage of a Photo Exhibit by Steffen Diemer, called "America's Hidden Places", which took place on October 9, 2018.

With the establishment of the Mark Twain Center (MTC) in Heidelberg, we now have a German counter-part to our GAHF museum in Washington. From the photos shown on this page, you see how elegant and expansive this new MTC facility is. For further information, incl. photos of this beautiful city and the MTC site, please check their website at [www.mark-twain-center.com](http://www.mark-twain-center.com).

– Hardy von Auenmueller



**Exhibit Area**



**Dr. Uwe Wenzel, MTC Executive Director, Prof. Frieder Hepp and Steffen Diemer, Photographer**




## Current Exhibit

### German-American Clubs Life

Thank you to all of our valued members and guests, many familiar and some new faces, who attended our German-American Club Life Exhibit Opening on Tuesday, October 9. Our gratitude also goes to the many clubs that participated in the exhibit, and sent us their photos and materials to design the panels.

The exhibit provides a glimpse into the rich heritage and cultural life of German-American clubs across the country - with some dating back to colonial times. These clubs showcase the continued influence of the German way in the United States through their wide variety of cultural and social programs; many of them are GAHF member clubs, which are part of our dense network of a larger German-American community within the country. Please stop by to celebrate these clubs, past and present, which have kept the traditions of Germans and German-Americans alive for centuries.

In case you missed our previous calls to participate, it is not too late to order a panel! While we may not be able to feature it in our physical exhibit, we can design and produce them for you! A PDF or JPG of the panel will be placed on our Website, while the clubs can display the actual panels in a location of their choice. Please contact Katja Sipple at [sipple@gahmusa.org](mailto:sipple@gahmusa.org) or 202-467-5000.



**Cannstatter Volksfest Verein**  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**History**

On September 22, 1879 at the residence of Louis Hartmann, at 327 North Fifth Street in Philadelphia, a group of men met to plan a festival modeled after the famous Volksfest in Stuttgart, Germany. Their goal was to bring to the United States the best of German culture, music, and food. The festival took place just four days later at Broad's Vineyard in the Schuylkill Falls area of the city.

The festival was a great success and encouraged the men to form a committee of men to organize a society called the Cannstatter Volksfest Verein of the City of Philadelphia. Together, they drew up a constitution and by-laws stating, "The object and purpose of this Association is the mutual education of the Cannstatter Festival and other social expressions, public utility and charity in general." This founding mission was the beginning of a tradition that has continued for over a century.

The Cannstatter originally drew members from the Philadelphia region as well as from Germany and other parts of the world. The first members of the Cannstatter were: Louis Hartmann, Charles F. Hartmann, and Charles F. Hartmann (Charles's brother). The Cannstatter originally drew members from the Philadelphia region as well as from Germany and other parts of the world. The first members of the Cannstatter were: Louis Hartmann, Charles F. Hartmann, and Charles F. Hartmann (Charles's brother).

Things were with the society and to save the Cannstatter purchased the old Williams house at 1011 N. Broad Street. Later in 1912, the club purchased a prime piece of property on Academy Road in Northeast Philadelphia which remains the Cannstatter's current home.

**The Cannstatter Volksfest Verein Today**

The club's 140th anniversary in 2019 was celebrated with a series of events, including a large festival in the city of Philadelphia. The club's mission is to promote German culture, music, and food in the United States. The club's members are active in various community organizations and are dedicated to the preservation of German heritage.

**Club Life**

The club's members enjoy a variety of activities, including social events, cultural programs, and community service. The club's members are active in various community organizations and are dedicated to the preservation of German heritage.

**THE CVV and GAHF**

Originally called the United German American Convention of the City of Philadelphia, the club was founded in 1879. The club's mission is to promote German culture, music, and food in the United States. The club's members are active in various community organizations and are dedicated to the preservation of German heritage.

**CONSTITUTION of the Cannstatter Volksfest Verein of the City of Philadelphia**

Article I. The name and title of this Association shall be:



**Delaware Saengerbund**  
Newark, Delaware

**History**

The joy of singing and comradeship brought German immigrants together regularly at their homes in Newark, Delaware. On March 10, 1882, they decided to form an official society. In short time, they had four singing societies, and in 1885 the Delaware Saengerbund was born.

In connection with the Wilmington Turners and the German Literary Association of Wilmington, in 1885 the Saengerbund moved to a new home located at 101 East 10th Street in Wilmington. The large house, now known as the German Club, became the first place for singing societies. The regular members sang and danced, attended many visitors from the local community. Through years of hard work and dedication, the club has become a prominent part of the German-American community in Newark, Delaware. The club's members are active in various community organizations and are dedicated to the preservation of German heritage.

**The Delaware Saengerbund Today**

With nearly 1,000 members, the club is a full-time organization. The club's members are active in various community organizations and are dedicated to the preservation of German heritage. The club's members enjoy a variety of activities, including social events, cultural programs, and community service. The club's members are active in various community organizations and are dedicated to the preservation of German heritage.

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**DEUTSCHER CLUB** Clark, New Jersey

**History**

With the goal to keep their heritage and culture alive, a group of men - all of German descent - decided to establish a German Club in Rahway, NJ in September 1935. The idea that first came up in Rahway was to have a place where like-minded people could meet and socialize. The "Deutscher Club of Rahway" was founded in 1935. The club's mission is to promote German culture, music, and food in the United States. The club's members are active in various community organizations and are dedicated to the preservation of German heritage.

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**Frauen Verein Fritz Reuter Altenheim**  
North Bergen, New Jersey

**History**

The Frauen Verein, or ladies' society, of the Fritz Reuter Altenheim was founded by 12 women on April 11, 1908, and is today incorporated as the Frauen Verein des Fritz Reuter Altenheim on May 10, 1908. The club's mission is to promote German culture, music, and food in the United States. The club's members are active in various community organizations and are dedicated to the preservation of German heritage.

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## Past Events

### German-American Day Celebration at the German-American Friendship Garden

Thirty-five years ago, in 1983, President Reagan proclaimed October 6 as German-American Day to celebrate and honor the 300th anniversary of German immigration and culture to the United States. As President Trump wrote in this year's proclamation, "the industrious nature and ingenuity of German-Americans have shaped and continue to impact our national landscape" and are reflected in some of the great cities, such as Philadelphia, PA, St. Louis, MO, Milwaukee, WI, and many others. GAHF President Hardy von Auenmueller, who spearheaded the request to President Trump to issue this year's proclamation, organized a very special presentation for this year's celebration: A performance by the Limburger Domsingknaben, a well-known German boys choir. Various German-American groups, including the Washington Sängerbund who performed the national anthems, were in attendance to read proclamations by the president, the governors of MD and VA, and the mayor of Washington, DC.



**At the German-American Friendship Garden**



**Limburger Domsingknaben**

### Hanns-Seidel-Foundation and GAHF host lunch debate at the GAHM

Bavaria's anxiously anticipated state elections took place on Sunday, October 14, and we at the GAHM were delighted to host the Hanns-Seidel-Foundation for a lunch debate to discuss the diminished role of Bavaria's conservatives, the Christian Social Union. Bavaria has always had a special role in German politics, partly stemming from its history and statehood which far outlasted the German Empire. The robust transatlantic ties of Bavaria, the economic powerhouse of Germany, are evidenced by the large number of U.S. companies located there; the state also serves as the home away from home for the largest number of U.S. soldiers in Germany, and hosts the Munich Security Conference. A distinguished panel consisting of Christian Forstner, the director of the Hanns-Seidel-Foundation, Peter Rashish from the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies, Jan Surotchak, the senior director for transatlantic strategy at the International Republican Institute, and moderator Conrad Tribble, a senior diplomat at the U.S. Department of State discussed the election outcome, trends for Bavaria and Germany, and what lessons the two countries can learn from each other. Amongst the audience were members of the media, think tanks, and academia who took the opportunity to ask questions.



**Visitors learning about Bavarian elections**



## Upcoming Exhibit

### HOW GERMAN TOY MAKERS CAPTURED THE HEARTS OF AMERICANS: 200 Years of German Toy Industry

For many centuries Germany has been recognized as one of the world's great toy producers, and the German-American Heritage Museum is honoring this cultural legacy with a special exhibit beginning this upcoming holiday season: from November 30, 2018 until March 28, 2019. GAHM will be displaying German toys from the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. During the last four centuries, German toy companies have seen great success with exports all over the world, especially to the United States. The exquisite quality of these toys, the manufacturers' attention to detail, and their colorful and artistic appearances made them very popular among American children and continue to make them coveted pieces for hobbyists' collections today.

This exhibit spans over 200 years of history of the German toy industry; it begins with the simplistic yet wildly popular wooden toys handcrafted in the regions of Thuringia and Erzgebirge, then explores how industrialism and two World Wars affected the German toy industry and influenced its exports to the United States. The exhibit also details different toy varieties and how and why those products were made, then ends with a focus on German toy producers who have continued to thrive despite heavy competition in the 21st century. Visitors to the exhibit will learn not only about specific producers of toys, but also what made those producers so special, including such household names as Käthe Kruse, Margarete Steiff, and Gebrüder Märklin.



Featuring artifacts such as porcelain dolls whose heads were produced in German factories, including from the Königliche Porzellan Manufaktur (KPM) Berlin, original Steiff teddy bears and stuffed animals, tin soldiers from renowned producers Heyde and Märklin, and much more, there will be toys of every variety to delight all of our visitors. With cooperation and generosity from private collectors, private companies, and other museums, this exciting exhibit, curated entirely by GAHM employees and its board, presents visitors with a backdrop of beautiful vintage toys while teaching them about the history of the German toy industry. As a unique aspect this exhibit will also have a Spielecke open to children and adults alike, where visitors can experience German toys hands-on and play classic German board games such as Mensch ärgere dich nicht and newer ones such as Settlers of Catan.

Due to the popularity of German toys and the broad appeal of this exhibit, the museum will be open on select Saturdays while this exhibit is on display to accommodate as many visitors as possible during its four-month span. GAHM staff will also be organizing a multitude of events related to the exhibit, including lectures with personal collectors and doctorates in the field, board game competitions, toy-related film screenings, and a silent toy auction which will be open to all museum visitors until the exhibit closes in March. Be sure to follow us on Facebook and make sure you're subscribed to our e-newsletter in order to stay abreast of weekend opening hours and other events related to this upcoming exhibit!

- Sarah Marsteller

## Meet the Candidates for our Board of Directors

On Saturday, November 10, 2018 at 1:00 PM, the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® will hold its 2018 Annual Membership Meeting / Election of Directors on the premises of the Cannstatter Volksfest Verein, 9130 Academy Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114; Tel: 215-332-0121.

Eight (8) candidates for 3-year-terms, four (4) of whom are incumbents, are presented for your consideration. Their vision statements and photos are found below. Complete statements will be mailed with the Notice of the Annual Membership Meeting. Members must be in good standing to be eligible to vote, i.e. current on dues no later than the end of business Thursday, November 8, 2018. Members wishing to vote must be present at the meeting, or cast their vote by Proxy and/or Ballot.

As in prior years, the Board of Directors will convene after the Annual Membership meeting at which time the election of officers will take place in keeping with our By-Laws. Should you have any questions, please contact our Administrative Director, Christine Yang, at the GAHF Foundation office at 202-467-5000 or her email at yang@gahmusa.org.

- Hardy von Auenmueller, President

### **Dr. Charles K.H. Borowsky, Baltimore, MD**



I was born in Silesia (Oberschlesien). In 1945, my homeland became part of Poland under a communist regime. Later in life—as professor of sociology with a research interest in the youth movements of the 1960s—I published my first book discussing the equivalent movement in Eastern Europe. This did not sit well with the Polish authorities, and I was asked to leave the country. However, that experience opened the door to various forums in Europe and America. After a conference at the United Nations, I was invited to join the faculty at Yale University, and later, the Harvard Center for Kibbutz and Communal Studies.

Today, I am leading two organizations: Intermuse (promoting classical music around the world) and the International Institute for Regional Studies (built on my prior international academic experience). Through both avenues, I have lectured extensively, including ten universities in Germany. Over the course of my career in music management, I have brought many acclaimed German musicians to perform in the USA. Our family ensemble, known as The American Virtuosi, has performed worldwide and in Germany many times.

It is the music connection which first brought me into contact with the German Society of Pennsylvania. Having been a GSP member for many years and member of the Board of Directors for three terms, I arranged the 2008 U.S. tour for the Youth Orchestra of Rheinland-Pfalz, including a performance at the Society. In the years since, I organized an annual “Lobster Feast” as fundraiser for the cultural programming.

I would be honored to serve as member of the Board of Directors of the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA and support its mission by (1) sharing my academic and cultural management experience, including in organizing fundraising events, (2) assisting the foundation with creative ideas (especially in bringing in younger members outside Washington, DC), and (3) serving as a liaison with other ethnic groups.

### **Raymond M. Catudal, Sacramento, CA**



I am very interested in the opportunity to serve on the board of the GAHF. I am a German American and have many years of experience establishing businesses, managing partnerships and building bridges between Germany and the US.

I was born in Berlin and raised in a German-American household. As a native speaker of both languages, I studied in both, the US and Germany, getting my B.A. in International Relations from St. John's University.

A few of my professional career milestones include a role as a Managing Director, where I established a Swedish medical device subsidiary in Berlin and an International Sales Manager position for a US-based manufacturer establishing partnerships and distributors all over the world.

Today, I work in a consultative role as a Partnership and Key Account Manager for the global advisory firm WillisTowersWatson, managing several multi-million dollar accounts, that utilize our platform software and consulting services. In addition, I regularly vet health care start-ups for compatibility with our offering. I have



been working in the digital health care and SaaS space for the last 10 years and am very familiar with digital, internet and mobile applications.

I also currently serve as the Vice President of the German American Cultural Center and Library (GACC-L), a section of the Sacramento Turnverein. The GACC-L promotes German culture, literature, language, and history. Locals with German ancestry—and those with an interest in German culture—congregate to socialize, study German language, celebrate, exercise, and carry on revered German customs.

My networking and relationship skills and German American background make me an ideal director to continue Hank Stoffel's GAHF fundraising efforts and promotion of the recognition of individuals of German-speaking heritage in Northern California and beyond.

Over the last several months, I have been introduced and met with several executives of the Northern California German-American clubs and interest groups. I currently reside in Sacramento, California with my wife and two sons.

### **Robert L. Fricke, Denver, CO**



My mission as Vice President of the Mountain Region of the German-American Heritage Foundation (GAHF) remains focused on membership recruitment for the organization and serving as its representative to the numerous German-American organizations located in my territory and elsewhere where I may have contacts. Membership recruitment will focus at the organizational level. My main focus will target German-American organizations such as Denver area's T.E.V. Edelweiss and German teacher groups. It will also entail my serving as a consultant and advisor within the organization regarding German-American culture and activities in our region.

I have grown up with the German-American organizations of Northern Ohio, and visited and participated in German-American groups throughout the country. I continue efforts to recruit a member of the board from the northern Ohio region. The GAHF is one of the very few organizations dedicated to all German culture, and the only German-American organization with a national museum. Its charter and function complement, and do not compete with, other German-American activities and organizations.

I hope to remain actively engaged in the GAHF for many years to come. My participation in the GAHF has been limited by my recent career change and logistics involved in having two children in college. All of these situations that compete for my time and money are already dissipating. As I review my last three years I have benefited from challenges I have faced as I've learned the ropes, so to speak. I have learned through experience that recruiting members and raising funds requires careful articulation of benefits for potential members and contributors. In this regard I have recently started efforts aimed at offering significant benefits for potential member organizations and individuals. I recently initiated a discussion and tentative plans to assist a local organization obtain support from a German institute for a local project. I have also recently hosted a German police officer in an internship with the Colorado Springs Police Department. In this capacity I have initiated discussions with the International Police Association (IPA) regarding continued German police officer exchanges and will incorporate the GAHF in these efforts.

My attendance at board meetings has been very good and I have sought mentorship and maintain regular contact with GAHF officers such as Hardy von Auenmueller and Hank Stoffel. I have traveled throughout my region on behalf of the organization. I have donated approximately above and beyond my membership dues during this period as member of the board and will continue to seek to contribute as my circumstances permit. Eventually my contributions will be higher. Friends and family members have either contributed money or joined the organization at my request.

In addition to fund solicitation, I have attended numerous German-American social events and venues as representative of the GAHF. Most significant was my recent attendance at a Denver German-American Chamber of Commerce (GACC) event during which I was acknowledged as representing the GAHF. I maintain strong ties with GACC representative Fred Beisser. As mentioned above, most of my liaison to date has involved planning to apply GAHF assets and assistance to enhancing local German American events and activities, as well as membership recruitment.

All in all, I consider the GAHF to be the preeminent and most significant German-American organization in the United States. I desire to grow in my position as Regional Vice President to help the organization flourish. I have enjoyed my service with the organization since 2013 and will always consider it an honor to have served in such capacity. May I count on your support to continue in my current capacity?

**Guntwin Galleisky, Oceanside, CA**

I believe I offer a unique perspective which will be of benefit to the GAHF in its present efforts to expand exposure to the general public, as well as in the future in recruiting of both new members and sponsors. To be successful, the Foundation needs board members with a positive outlook, a keen understanding of its goals, and the willingness to "get out there." I bring these to the table.

I was privileged to observe and participate in efforts by my father, Hartmut Galleisky, as the early work began in building a base from which to develop the museum. I went with him to many of our Southern California German-American clubs to help rally support for this effort. I gained a healthy respect and understanding of the effort involved to get such a project moving.

As a younger member, I would be seen as a "bridge" to the future, able and willing to carry out the mission and programs of the GAHF. I came to this country at the age of 4, went to primary, secondary and high school here in Orange County and San Diego County, attended university at UCSD, UCLA (earning bachelor's and master's degrees), and professional school at USC (earning a doctoral degree). I have kept contact with family in Germany and understand its culture quite well. These accomplishments show that I've lived the American dream and been a contributing member of society, a very positive role model for others to turn to and a positive picture to be used in presenting the Foundation.

I am willing to pursue funding from both private persons and organizations, corporate donors, and other identified sources. Thinking "outside of the box" is what we will need in order to survive. I am comfortable as a public speaker, having presented papers to professional organizations when I was involved in basic academic research. I've also done public speaking to various lay groups, senior groups, etc over the years.

I take seriously anything I commit to. I firmly believe in the mission of the GAHF, and would like it to become the leader and role model that other immigrant groups choose to emulate. There can be no higher compliment.

It would be an honor to serve in the capacity of board member and to help in moving the GAHF forward.

**Karl Hormann, Esq., Cambridge, MA**

Karl came to the US in 1960. He is a graduate of Suffolk University Law School, specializing in Patent Law. After a brief time in Germany, during the collapse of East Germany, he settled back in the US and opened his own practice to represent clients from German-speaking countries, which he relinquished in 2002.

Karl has been married for 38 years and has four grown children from his first marriage.

His commitment to the GAHF is to make the existence and purpose of the Foundation and its affiliated museum better known in the New England states. An area of special and particular interest for Karl is to explore the role and contribution of German Jews to America's development. He has served on the Board of Directors of GAHF since 2015.

**Ute Kattner-Horn, Pompton Plains, NJ**

In the post war years, I grew up in Hamburg, Germany where my sister, brother and cousins still live today. In my early twenties, I immigrated to the United States, where I was able to finish my formal education with a BA degree in the Social Sciences. I worked for Allied Signal Inc. for twenty years and retired as a Computer Systems Analyst, after Allied Signal and Honeywell merged.

For the past 12 years, I have been on the Board of Germania Park of N.J. Inc. in Rockaway Township, NJ – serving as Corporate Secretary. During these years, we successfully changed the emphasis of our club members from speaking German to their German heritage as Americans. Germania Park generates most of its income from two popular Volksfest weekends, one in June and one in September – in tradition of the Bavarian Oktoberfest. At that time, our club members usually host the band members from Germany who also play at the Steuben Parade in New York City. Furthermore, my Pennsylvania-Deutsch husband and I very much enjoy singing in the German chorus of Germania Park.

I am encouraged by the Germania Park's shift to emphasize the German heritage of their members rather than German language skills. It has brought us more active, middle-aged and younger members. I believe that this perspective is equally important for all German clubs and organizations across America who share and support the values of the German-American Heritage Foundation.



If given the opportunity, I would like to assist GAHF in whatever ways possible, including administrative matters, based upon my professional experience.

**Peter Knapp, Leola, PA**



I was born in Romania (Klein Betschkerek, Banat Region) to ethnic German parents (Donauschwaben) in 1939. We fled Romania in 1944 and settled in Austria. I attended school there from 1st to 7th grade. Our family of 6 immigrated to the USA in 1952 to New Brunswick, NJ where my mother was born in 1911. I attended school there from 8th to 12th grade. When I was 16, I joined the German Aurora Singing Society Chorus in New Brunswick and sang with them for about 3 years.

I graduated from Indiana Institute of Technology (BS, Electrical Engineering) in 1961. During my career in engineering I worked for Ingersoll-Rand Co., Westinghouse, RCA, Thomson and several other companies. I retired in 2005.

I am married to my wife Connie for 53 years. We have 2 children. Through the years, I have played amateur soccer with teams from NJ, Indiana, Texas, NY and PA. Since 1969, we have lived in Lancaster County, PA. I have been a member of the Lancaster Liederkrantz (LLK) since 1969 and have served as president of the club for 4 one-year terms. I have also had numerous other positions and responsibilities at the LLK.

I have been a member of the LLK Hobby Chor since its founding in 1978. My wife Connie and I danced with LLK Alpenrose Schuhplattler group for several years. I am also a member of two German clubs in the Reading, PA area: Evergreen (Heimatbund) Club and the Reading Liederkrantz and the Danube Swabian Club in Philadelphia.

My knowledge of German is still good enough for me to read German newspapers, although I do have to consult the dictionary occasionally.

I will continue to support the mission of GAHF as stated in "The Ambassador". If elected, I would like to continue to improve the status of the GAHF. The GAHF should be the 'go-to' organization for Americans wanting to know about German-Americans, their accomplishments, their culture and customs. Recently, I was instrumental in convincing the officers of the Lancaster Liederkrantz and the Reading Liederkrantz to sponsor their club posters for display in the GAHF Museum.

Whether elected for another term or not, I want to propose new ideas to increase GAHF membership. I feel that we are in an era when many German-Americans are once again proud of their German heritage and the accomplishments of German-Americans in building this country.

**Donald D. Thureau, Wilmington, DE**



Although I was born in Berlin in 1946, I left Germany with my parents in 1949 to migrate to Cuba. I did, however, maintain roots in Germany since I visited my grandparents and uncles in Berlin during many summer months.

All that travel helped prepare me for my career in DuPont where I ended up first as Market Development Manager out of Barcelona and later Sales & Marketing Manager for Latin America and Asia-Pacific.

I do have some experience with boards and foundations since I was on the Board of Directors for 12+ years at the Skating Club of Wilmington as well as their President for 2 of those years and I am still President of the SCW Foundation which helps support our athletes who compete in U.S. Figure Skating qualifying competitions. I was also on the Board and served as President for the Tavistock Civic Association in Wilmington.

Because of a very busy career, I never gave myself the opportunity to join the Delaware Saengerbund until 2014 after I retired. However, in just 3 short years I became chairperson of the Saengerbund's Culture Committee besides taking German language classes both at the Saengerbund and the University of Delaware's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

Since I became a Delawarean in 1979, should I become a member of the GAHF board, I would like to find ways to inform, educate, inspire, lead, explore and support our cultural diversity as German Americans for the benefit of the GAHF and the State of Delaware. I would also welcome and enjoy the opportunity to interact with other board members to conceptualize a greater visibility of the contributions made by German Americans in the U.S.

## ANNUAL FUND DRIVE 2018

The German-American Heritage Foundation and its museum tell the story of all Americans of German-speaking ancestry, and how they have helped shape this country. Member dues alone don't cover the costs of running our organization, expanding our collection, creating new exhibits, and offering concerts, lectures and presentations. Your gift matters! Why?

- Your gift pays forward to help keep history alive for future generations and excite young people to rediscover their roots.
- Our strength is your strength. Americans of German-speaking ancestry are the largest ethnic group in the US.
- Help us reinforce the ties between the United States and Germany.
- Explore matching gift options with your employer. Many organizations will match gifts and allow you to double or even triple your impact.

**Look for your letter in the mail or go online: <https://gahmusa.org/donate/>**

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#### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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 Peter Kanelos, MD  
 Douglas Knapp, PA  
 Deborah Piroch, PA  
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 Michaela Weber, DC

#### NEW COUNCIL of 1000

William Holly, FL



## 2018 MEMBERSHIP DUES

- ☐ Yes, I/we would like to support the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® by renewing my/our MEMBERSHIP / Becoming a MEMBER:

### **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP**

<input type="checkbox"/> Student: (Non-voting):	\$ 25	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate Member (Non-voting):	\$ 50	\$ _____
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### **CLUB MEMBERSHIP "VEREIN'S CIRCLE"**

(Based on \$1 per Member with a \$25 Minimum)

<input type="checkbox"/> Basic:	\$ 1 per member (\$25 minimum)	\$ _____
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<input type="checkbox"/> Silver:	\$150 - \$499	\$ _____
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- ☐ Yes, I/we want to also support the Annual Operating Fund of the German-American Heritage Museum of the USA™ and the Foundation offices:

<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Donation for 2018 Operations	\$ _____
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## Planned Giving

By including the German-American Heritage Foundation in your will, you help us to preserve, promote, and educate about the impact of Americans with German-speaking ancestry in building our nation; and to excite the next generations to rediscover their roots while strengthening the political, cultural, and economic transatlantic relations.

You can also name GAHF as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy or your retirement plan (such as 401(k), 403(b), IRA or other pension plan). By naming GAHF as a beneficiary, you maintain complete control over the plan while living, but at your passing the plan passes to GAHF free of both income and estate taxes.

Please visit our website at [www.gahmusa.org](http://www.gahmusa.org) for more information.