



GERMAN-AMERICAN
HERITAGE FOUNDATION OF THE USA®

A CELEBRATION OF 40 YEARS



UNITED GERMAN-AMERICAN COMMITTEE OF THE USA, INC.
VEREINIGTES DEUTSCH - AMERIKANISCHES KOMITEE

40



German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA®

The United German-American Committee of the USA, Inc. (UGAC) / Vereinigtes Deutsch-Amerikanisches Komitee (VDAK) was conceived in 1976, established by its members in 1977 and formally registered on April 6, 1978. Many individuals and organizations contributed to the establishment of this organization, called the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA®.

The signatories of the Articles of Incorporation were:

Alfred Baumann, Maryland	Helmut Krueger, New Jersey
Dr. Georg Beichl, Pennsylvania	Karl Schmollinger, Pennsylvania
Bernard J. Freitag, Pennsylvania	Fritz Weber, Pennsylvania
William Handeler, New York	Lutz Weber, New Jersey
Frederick Hansen, New York	Hilda Yaeger, Delaware
Reverend Hans R. Haug, Pennsylvania	

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Mission

"Our **mission** is 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 political, cultural, and economic **transatlantic relations**."



L-R Top: William Handeler, Hermann Voss, Bernie Freitag, Liz Krueger, Lutz Weber, Karl Dziggel, Frederick Hansen; L-R Seated: Carl Schmollinger, Dr. Hans Haug, Helmut Krueger, Fritz Weber

Vision

"It is our **vision** to become the **ONE voice** that will speak up for all Americans with German-speaking ancestry and their organizations to preserve, promote and educate about our heritage and strengthen transatlantic ties."

Goals

Rediscover our heritage: to identify, preserve, promote, and celebrate, particularly reaching out to younger generations, the rich German-American Heritage. Promote German sites, German Clubs, German traditions and make them accessible through online tools.

Build closer ties and collaboration with German-American Clubs and organizations: identify all the relevant organizations and build and maintain database; be a repository of German-American Clubs' histories, particularly those that close their operations, while building alliances with universities and other institutions that can preserve their physical archives.

Strengthen transatlantic relations: through an active participation at political levels through heritage and culture; reinstating more educational approaches to build closer ties between German-Americans and German-speaking countries, particularly around building a skilled workforce.

Strengthen the GAHF to meet the new requirements: build a strong and active board with effective working groups; empower the staff of GAHF; develop a clear value proposition and the communications to reach relevant stakeholders; build strategic alliances to achieve our goals.

Founding President

Pastor Hans R. Haug †



In 1976, one of the dreams of Pastor Dr. Hans R. Haug became a reality, when leaders of the German-American community gathered in Philadelphia to conceive an organization that would speak as one voice for the interests of the largest minority group of the United States - the German-Americans. In 1977, the organization was chartered under the name of United German-American Committee, Inc. In November 1980, this was amended to: United German-American Committee of the USA, Inc.

Rev. Haug was born in Tübingen, Germany on March 30th, 1924. He came to the USA in 1948 with a scholarship to the Theological Seminary in Mt. Airy, Pennsylvania and a year later completed a Masters at the Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University, New York. In 1950, he returned to Germany and was ordained in 1952. In 1956, he returned to Philadelphia and in 1958, he became the

Pastor of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Philadelphia. In 1974, he undertook the construction of a new church where he served his bilingual congregation until his passing.

Dr. Haug was an activist. He was convinced that German-Americans had to raise their profile and stress the contributions of German-Americans to the founding and strengthening of the United States of America. When the German Consulate in Philadelphia was closed, Rev. Haug felt the void and facilitated the cooperation and dialogue between several German-American clubs in Philadelphia, until they created the Deutsch-Amerikanisches Komitee. Local leaders engaged included Dr. George Beichl, Harry Schaub, Carl Schmollinger, and Fritz Weber.

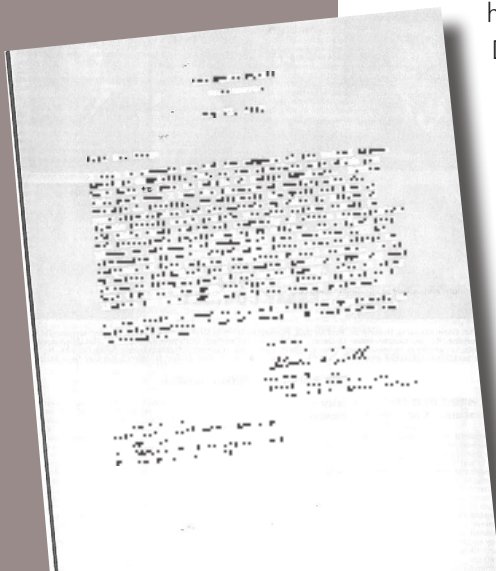
With the celebration of the country's bicentennial, Dr. Haug saw an opportunity to highlight the role that German-Americans had played in the history of this great nation, and he used the opportunity to promote unity among German-American groups. Dr. Haug served as the Chairman of the Ethnic Committee of the City of Philadelphia's Bicentennial Commission.

He knew the time was right for the creation of an organization that would aim to speak as a unified voice for German-Americans at the national level. To that extent, in 1976 he engaged a group of influential German-American Leaders, who convened primarily in Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey. Amongst them were Helmut and Elizabeth Krueger, Bernie Freitag, and Fred Hansen. The road was not easy, but Dr. Haug was a charismatic and persuasive orator who inspired numerous talented and like-minded people to dedicate themselves to achieving these shared goals.

On June 5, 1977, in a meeting held at Cannstatter Volksfest Verein, Dr. Haug achieved his shared vision and the United German-American Committee, Inc. (UGAC)/Vereinigtes Deutsch-Amerikanisches Komitee (VDAK) was established.

He was elected the first President. Rev. Haug was adamant that German-Americans had to deepen their awareness of our history and heritage, and the importance to build on the past to forge ties for the future between the USA and Germany not only at the level of government and business, but on the individual level as well.

Dr. Haug was awarded the Cross of Merit 1st Class on March 14, 1979 by Walter Scheel, President of the Federal Republic of Germany. Rev. Haug passed away on September 15, 1980, leaving behind his wife Marianne and daughter Dorothea, and those that continued to build what is now the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA®.





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The celebration of the Bicentennial of the United States prompted all Americans to reflect on the blessings of liberty their families enjoyed in America, and to recall their family's own immigration story. From those stirrings emerged in June 1977 a newly constituted United German-American Committee of the USA, Inc. (UGAC), known today as the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA®.

For over 400 years, German-speaking immigrants have come to America to establish their families, being a driving force in the settlement, independence, and flourishing of our great nation. From farmers to inventors to astronauts, German-Americans continue to thrive in any endeavor where inquisitiveness, industry, and immigration are honored.

As German-Americans know, this country was not always welcoming, and in the decade of the 1970s, leaders of the German-American community felt the need to teach about the role German immigrants played in America and make German-Americans aware and proud of their heritage. Led by visionary Reverend Hans Haug, these leaders highlighted the role of German-Americans throughout the Bicentennial Celebration and went on to formally form our organization.

The vision of our founders was to have a national voice and meeting place for Americans of German ancestry. The UGAC mission was to "achieve greater visibility and recognition of the contributions of German-Americans to the strength and vitality of the United States at all stages of history." Today, we continue that mission for all Americans of German-speaking ancestry, building on the history of our immigration to strengthen relationships with the free people of our ancestral homes.

We are inspired by our heritage to cultivate our shared transatlantic inheritance for future generations. We welcome German-speakers to America for travel, study, business, and investment; likewise, we encourage Americans of every background and walk of life to explore German-speaking Europe, and learn first-hand about our friends on the other side of the Atlantic.

You, our members, donors and friends have made it possible for us to be a voice for the 46 million German-Americans. We thank you for your unwavering support throughout these 40 years. We invite you to continue to be a welcoming friend and an advocate in our community and encourage you to support our efforts to provide perspective and understanding in an uncertain age.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Marc Wheat".

J. Marc Wheat, Esq.
President

TRICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF GERMAN SETTLEMENT IN AMERICA

The origins of German-American Day date back to the tricentennial anniversary of the first German settlement in America. Germantown, which was settled by thirteen Mennonite families from Krefeld, Germany, was founded on October 6, 1683. To celebrate this milestone, President Ronald Reagan signed Senate Joint Resolution 260 and issued Proclamation 5014 on January 20, 1983, designating 1983 as the "Tricentennial Anniversary Year of German Settlement in America."

GERMAN-AMERICAN DAY

The tricentennial commemorations of 1983 marked a turning point in the revival of German-American culture, and the desire to celebrate annually the many contributions and achievements by German-Americans



grew. At an annual meeting of the Society for German-American Studies in 1986, a proposal was made to establish German-American Day. Following the creation of the German-American Joint Action Committee, senate Resolution 108, sponsored by Sen. Richard Lugar (PA), was signed by President Ronald Reagan on August 18, 1987. The first official German-American Day was celebrated that year and October 6th has been proclaimed German-American Day every year since.

GERMAN-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

The history of the German-American Friendship Garden also dates back to the German immigration Tricentennial. Senate Joint Resolution 260 not only recognized the 300th anniversary of the settlement of Germantown, but it also established the Presidential Commission for the German-American Tricentennial to further commemorate the anniversary. Invited to the official groundbreaking ceremony were Senator H. John Heinz III; UGAC President Helmut Krueger; and William Handeler, UGAC board member and Chairman of the Steuben Parade. The garden was restored and rededicated April 11, 2014 by German Ambassador to the US, Dr. Peter Ammon. Each year, the German-American Friendship Garden serves as the location for the official German-American Day celebrations in Washington.



German-American Day 2014 L-R: Robert Carle, J. Marc Wheat, Laura Hoffman, Gerhard Meinzer, Hardy von Auenmueller, Michelle Brooks, Petra Schuermann, Ron Kosmahl



DISTINGUISHED GERMAN-AMERICAN OF THE YEAR™ AWARD

Every year since 1987, the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® (GAHF) has recognized an American of German-speaking ancestry for outstanding leadership and achievements in business, the arts, education, science, politics, and society. The Distinguished German-American of the Year™ Award is the only national honor of this kind.



Philip F. Anschutz, Distinguished German-American of the Year™ 2016

CARL SCHURZ GRAVE

Carl Christian Schurz was born in Prussia in 1829 and became a German revolutionary. In 1852, he migrated to Wisconsin, where he quickly immersed himself in politics. He was a Union Army General in the American Civil War. He was also a lawyer, an accomplished journalist, newspaper editor and orator. He held many positions in government including U.S. Minister to Spain and Secretary of the Interior. In 1869, he also became the first German-born American elected to the United States Senate.

The United German-American Committee has taken the responsibility of care and maintenance of the grave of this truly magnificent German-American Hero.



A wreath was placed on the grave of Carl Schurz, General, U.S. Senator and Secretary of the Interior by the members of the VDAK Executive Board, L-R: Peter Vasiliere, Bill Handeler & Helmut Krueger

Distinguished German-American of the Year™ Recipients

Mr. Karl Ehmer †, NY	1987
The Honorable Ruth E. Denk, NY	1988
Mr. Werner Fricker †, PA	1989
Mr. Eric Braeden, CA	1990
Mr. Albrecht Maier, NJ	1991
Mr. Heinz C. Prechter †, MI	1992
Dr. George J. Beichl †, PA	1993
Mrs. Doris Meissner, WI	1994
Mr. William Hetzler, NY	1995
Mr. Bruno Karnas, PA	1996
Mr. Gerald R. Kainz †, DC	1997
Prof. Dr. Otto I. Walter, Esq. †, NY	1998
Mr. C. John Muller †, PA	1999
Mr. John Patrick Schmitz, Esq., DC	2000
Mr. Detlef "Ted" Hierl †, NJ	2001
Dr. Don Heinrich Tolzmann, OH	2002
Mr. Walter Brand †, CA	2003
Mr. Albert Wurz, PA	2004
Dr. Günter Blobel, M.D., Ph.D., NY	2005
General H. Norman Schwarzkopf †, Mrs. Brenda Schwarzkopf, FL	2006
Mrs. Margrit B. Krewson †, DC	2007
Dr. Jesco von Puttkamer †, VA	2008
Mrs. Wilma L. Schmidt † (Posthumously), PA	2008
Mr. William R. Timken, Jr. (Ambassador ret.), OH	2009
Honorable Paul A. Volcker, NY	2010
Mr. Robert B. Zoellick, MD	2011
Chef Walter Staib	2012
Mr. Bern E. Deichmann †	2013
Mr. Helge H. Wehmeier	2014
Mr. Doug Oberhelman	2015
Mr. Philip F. Anschutz	2016

TIMELINE

1976 Rev. Hans Haug and leaders of the *German Clubs of the East Coast* use the Bicentennial to come together and promote German heritage.

1977 The United German-American Committee, Inc. Vereinigtes Deutsch-Amerikanisches Komitee (UGAC/VDK) is founded.

1978 UGAC is chartered in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

1979 UGAC creates the "German-American Friendship" essay contest.

1980 The UGAC "German-American Friendship" Essay contest comes to the attention of the White House and Bernard Freitag represents UGAC at the White House.

Founder Rev. Hans Haug dies, survived by wife Marianne and daughter Dorothea.

1981 Campaign to secure a commemorative stamp to celebrate the German-American Tricentennial.

1982 UGAC agrees to make an annual donation for the care and upkeep of the Carl Schurz Gravesite at the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, Tarrytown, NY.

1983 Proclamation of German-American Day by President Ronald Reagan in commemoration of the celebration of the German-American Tricentennial.

1984 UGAC creates the *Council of 1000* as an Advisory Board.

1985 Unveiling of the "Auswandererdenkmal"-Emmigrant Memorial in the port city of Bremerhaven, Germany to commemorate the over 7 million immigrants who went through that port. The project was sponsored by the German American Memorial Association, under the auspices of UGAC, and headed by Hans Beyer.

1987 First Distinguished German-American of the Year™ Award is given to an American of German-speaking ancestry for outstanding leadership in achievements in business, the arts, education, science, politics and society. First Recipient - Karl Ehmer.

1992 The periodic newspaper of the UGAC acquires the title of "The Ambassador" or "Der Botschafter."

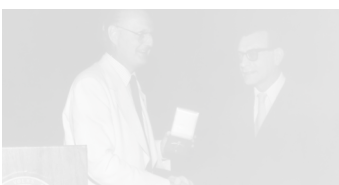
1993 The idea of creating a Museum to bring focus to German-American history is raised for the first time.

Distinguished Achievements Award in German for students who demonstrate excellence in the German language is created.

1994 The organization adopts the resolution to explore the topic of a German-American heritage museum and cultural center.

1995 Fundraising for the German-American heritage museum and cultural center begins.

1999 UGAC restructures the organization into 17 regions.



2000 An announcement is made by President Fred Hess, Jr. of the intention to move UGAC to Washington, DC in 2001 and to create a German-American Heritage Museum.

2001 UGAC opens office in the Carriage House of the Heurich House Mansion - with the intent to purchase.

2002 The fundraising campaign to acquire Heurich House begins.

2003 Plans to acquire Heurich House fail and UGAC seeks another home.

2004 UGAC moves to 1901 Pennsylvania Avenue.

2005 First "Tanz in den Mai" Ball in Washington DC is co-sponsored by German-American Business Council and UGAC, members of the Philadelphia and Washington community congregate.

2006 UGAC is granted the name German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® (GAHF).

2008 GAHF acquires Hockemeyer Hall thanks to the efforts of President Emeritus Bern Deichmann and various board members.

Commemoration of the first German settlers arriving in Jamestown, Virginia.

2009 VP Walter Lehmann† spearheads the donor recognition efforts for the acquisition of Hockemeyer Hall.

2010 Grand opening of the German-American Heritage Museum of the USA™ and offices of GAHF at Hockemeyer Hall.



2012 25th Anniversary of German-American Day.

Oral History Research Project to capture thousands of stories of German-Americans is launched.

2013 GAHF petitions for a piece of the Berlin Wall.

2014 GAHMUSA welcomes UTOPIA exhibit which tells the migration story of 500 immigrants who came from Giessen to settle in Missouri.

It also presents "The White Rose," an exhibit commemorating student resistance against Hitler.

2015 Five year Anniversary of GAHMUSA.

GAHF acquires a piece of the Berlin Wall, thanks to the efforts of Hardy von Auenmüller. The Wall will be displayed for three years at the Embassy of Germany in Washington, DC.

100 years of Hollywood Exhibit opens at GAHMUSA.



2016 Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the inception of the GAHF.

30 year celebration of the *Council of 1000* Gala Fundraiser and Award Dinner and Distinguished German-American of the Year Award™.

GAHMUSA hosts "Lawyers without Rights," an exhibit portraying the faith of German lawyers of Jewish descent through their personal stories.

2017 June 5 - Celebration of the 40th anniversary of GAHF/UGAC.



GERMAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MUSEUM OF THE USA™

The founders of the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® knew that they needed to have a powerful voice to be based in Washington, DC. In 2001, the offices of GAHF were established in the Carriage House on the property of the Christine Heurich Mansion. The initial goal was to acquire the mansion from the Historical Society of Washington and establish a German-American Heritage Museum and Cultural Center. By October of 2008, GAHF acquired Hockemeyer Hall at 719 Sixth Street, NW, and opened its doors to the public in March 2010.

Hockemeyer Hall is a suitable home for GAHF. The 1888 Victorian townhouse was built by John Hockemeyer, a German immigrant who came to America in 1858. He served in the Civil War and then became a very successful merchant. The house was known as Hockemeyer Hall and served as a meeting place for a number of German clubs and fraternal groups.



Hockemeyer Hall



Wilma Schmidt †

Today Hockemeyer Hall houses the offices of the GAHF and the German-American Heritage Museum of the USA™ (GAHM). Its **Wilma L. Schmidt Exhibit Hall**, named in honor of Ms. Wilma Schmidt, the largest benefactor of the GAHM, houses a 44 foot long “historic timeline” along the walls, detailing the history of immigrations since 1607. The **Hans J. Trustorff Reception Area**, named after one of the main drivers of GAHF and proponent of establishing GAHF in the Nation’s Capital, welcomes the guests to the Museum.



Hans J. Trustorff †

Making Hockemeyer Hall the home of GAHF was made possible by the dedicated efforts of **President Emeritus Bern E. Deichmann †**. Mr. Deichmann was President of the GAHF from 2002 – 2012 and later, as President Emeritus, served on the Board of Directors until 2017. For his efforts and dedication, Mr. Deichmann was honored in 2013 as Distinguished German-American of the Year™ and in 2015, he received the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.



Bern E. Deichmann, President Emeritus, and
J. Marc Wheat, current President of GAHF

\$900,000 and above

Wilma L. Schmidt
Langhorne, PA

\$150,000 and above

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Doylestown, PA

Hans J. Trustorff
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Freundschaft Liederkrantz
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German-American League Inc.
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World Heritage Foundation
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Annapolis, MD

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Oakland, CA

German-American Club of Cape Cod
Hyannis, MA

Joachim H. & Diane Haedrich
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Frederick H.W. Hansen
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North Bergen, NJ

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Trenton, NJ

NYTV 1850 Foundation
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for Support & Services rendered**

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Clark, NJ

John P. Schmitz with Mayer, Brown et. al.
Attorney
Washington, DC

The Arnold Group, Furnishings
Hillside, NJ

Erik Bettermann, CEO, Deutsche Welle
Bonn, Germany

The Wall of Honor

In recognition
of those
organizations,
members, and
patrons whose
generous
financial
support made
this museum
possible. We
and the entire
German-
American
community owe
them a hearty
thank you and
our everlasting
gratitude.

The Board of
Directors

March 20, 2010

HIGHLIGHTS



Hecht Building in Washington DC, built by a German-Jewish family in 1925.

Showcasing our heritage

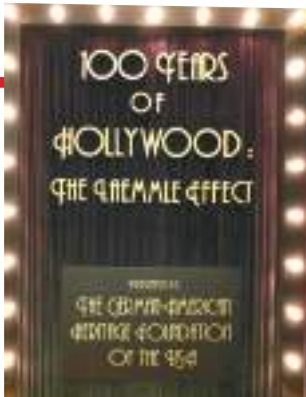
In order to showcase the breadth and depth of German-American settlement in this country, the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® (GAHF) launched the German-American Heritage Survey to document and preserve historical and archaeological sites to tell the stories of German-speaking immigration to America. State by state, we will work with individual members, member clubs, and other partners to create heritage trails that will contextualize these sites to attract tourists from the U.S. and overseas to these destinations.

The Berlin Wall comes to DC

Acquired by and for the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® in 2014, the piece of the Wall will be on display until 2018 at the German Embassy. Upon learning that a few sections of the Berlin Wall were still available, Board Member Hardy von Auenmüller petitioned the Berlin Senate, and was granted permission to acquire two pieces at the "the Gärten der Welt."



Piece of the Berlin Wall at the German Embassy



100 Years of Hollywood

The story of Hollywood and the motion picture industry is perhaps America's most quintessential immigrant success story. All of the major film studios during Hollywood's Golden Age were founded by German and Eastern European immigrants or their descendants. Nearly all of them were of Jewish heritage. Universal Studios, one of the most iconic, was founded by German immigrant Carl Laemmle. 100 years of Hollywood, curated by the GAHM, tells the story of the "Laemmle Effect"—the vision of a pioneering German immigrant who built the largest film studio in the world. This exhibit opened in 2015, has been on display at the German-American Heritage Center and the Deutsche Club of Clark and is scheduled to continue travelling throughout the US.

30th Council of 1000 Award and Fundraising Gala

The Council of 1000 Award and Fundraising Gala is a tradition that was started 30 years ago to raise awareness and financial support for the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® (GAHF). It is the signature event of our Foundation. During our Council of 1000 Gala, GAHF has recognized outstanding leadership and achievements by an American of German-speaking ancestry in business, the arts, education, science, politics and society through the Distinguished German-American of the Year Award™.



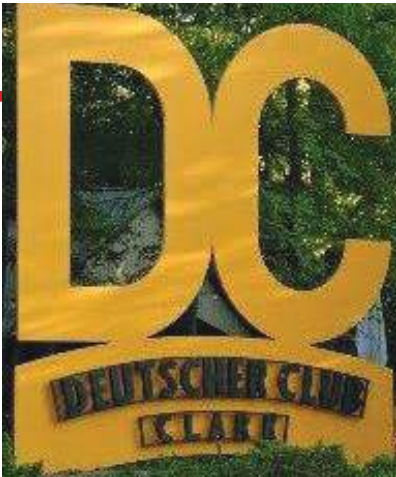
30th Council of 1000 Award and Fundraising Gala

Engaging the next generation

The GAHF is increasing its outreach to all generations, through activities like Fruehschoppen, that brings the Bavarian tradition to life; dance and music events with the Alpine Singers and Dancers; Stammtische for the young professionals to network and speak German; and events with school groups that come from different parts of the country.



Visit of DC school children to the exhibit
"In Praise of the Pencil"



German-American Clubs

German-American Clubs are the heart of the German-American history. These institutions, once founded to provide services, shelter, food and friendship to immigrants, have become centers of culture, music and information. Sadly, many are losing their members as newer generations feel less connected to these clubs. The GAHF has made it a priority to showcase and partner with our Club members to bring in new generations of German-Americans as well as to reach out to broader audiences. Through our web, newsletters and social media we showcase and revitalize the Clubs.

Celebrating German-American diversity

The GAHF has focused on celebrating the diversity of Americans of German speaking origin through exhibits like "Colony 1714 Germanna and the Iron Workers" that were chosen by the British for their ironworking skills; "Zoar" a communal settlement created in Ohio 200 years ago by a group of pacifists; and "Unter unser Leit" the Volga-German exhibit that follows the migration of Germans through the Volga River in 18th-century Russia, and then to the Kansas prairie a hundred years later.



40

ANNIVERSARY DONORS

In recognition of those who have made a contribution in celebration of the 40-year Anniversary of GAHF.

We acknowledge and appreciate all contributions received until June 2017. Each dollar counts to further the vision of our Founders.

A special recognition to ERICH AST for providing the donation that made this 40th Anniversary publication possible.

\$10,000 AND ABOVE

Gary Koerner
Vienna, VA

\$5,000 AND ABOVE

Freundschaft Liederkranz
San Francisco, CA

Erich and Grete Ast
New Hope, PA

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OUR PATRONS

We would like to acknowledge all donors to the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA®. Each contribution is invaluable and helps us further the mission of the organization.

In this section we would like to particularly recognize those donors who have been long time supporters and have made sizeable contributions to the Foundation since the year 2000.

\$900,000 AND ABOVE

Wilma L. Schmidt †, PA

\$150,000 AND ABOVE

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Hans J. † and Lise Trustorff, PA
Al & Jane Wurz, PA

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Ulrich & Ella Both, PA
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Waltraud Prechter, MI

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Deutscher Club of Clark, NJ
Freundschaft Liederkranz, CA
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German-American League Inc., CA
Hardy & Gudrun von Auenmueller, PA



GERMAN-
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MUSEUM OF THE USA™

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF THE
GERMAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION
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The United German-American Committee (UGAC)
VEREINIGTES DEUTSCH-AMERIKANISCHES KOMITEE (VDAK)

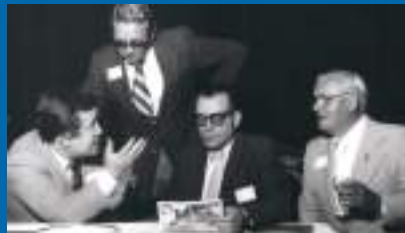


The German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® was created to preserve, promote, and educate about the impact of Americans of German-speaking ancestry in building our nation.

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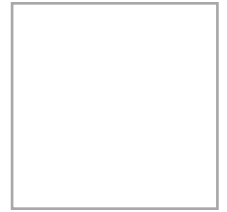


Please contact us to join the GAHF or to support our 40th Anniversary Campaign!
(202) 467-5000 | www.gahmusa.org



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