



# 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.

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### GAHF to honor four accomplished individuals at 2019 Council of 1000 Award and Fundraising Gala

For more than three decades, GAHF has been the only national society to recognize and honor outstanding leadership and achievement by an American of German-speaking ancestry in various fields. This year, for the first time in our history, we will present our **Distinguished German-American of the Year™ Award** to four deserving individuals from our own community on **Friday, November 8** who have given decades of service to GAHF.



**Erich Ast** is the embodiment of the American dream. He came to the United States as a young man, and together with his brother, he built the A&E Manufacturing Company in Levittown, PA. The business produces precision sheet metal components and assemblies for a variety of industries, while blending new technology with old world craftsmanship. Erich is not only a successful businessman, but has also been an active philanthropist and volunteer. His service on GAHF's board includes two three-year terms as treasurer, and multiple terms as a director of the board.



**Frederick H.W. Hansen**, who co-signed the documents that chartered GAHF in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, rendered support in the acquisition of the foundation's home, the former Hockemeyer Hall, in Washington, DC's Penn Quarter which also houses the German-American Heritage Museum. He also played a key role in the establishment of the German-American Friendship Garden on Constitution Avenue, and in several other projects of importance to the German-American community. For many years, he served as secretary on the board of directors, and continues to be an active board member and donor.



**Helmut Krüger** was a founding member of GAHF, and also served other German-American clubs in various capacities. During his 13-year tenure as president of the newly formed GAHF, he also envisioned the creation of a National Heritage Center in Washington, D.C. This idea eventually led to the purchase of Hockemeyer Hall, which today houses the German-American Heritage Museum. His dedication did not stop there, and he also worked with President Reagan to pass a bill for the development of the German-American Day and the German-American Friendship Garden – almost directly across from the White House.



**Hank Stoffel** has been a GAHF member and foundation board director for more than a decade. In addition to his tenure as the regional representative for Northern California, he has also been the second vice president for many years during which he promoted German-American culture and traditions. As a son of German immigrants, he embodies discipline, dedication and hard work; during his youth, he served in the U.S. Air Force, and later became a pilot for TWA.

Let us celebrate our heritage and our future. It would be a pleasure to welcome you and your friends at this elegant gala with dinner and dancing in the Barthelmes Ballroom and the historic Horner Library of the German Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

**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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**Message from the President**

Dear Members and Friends,

Fall is here, bringing with it not just changing colors and temperatures but also one of the busiest seasons in the German-American calendar, replete with parades, Oktoberfest celebrations, and many important dates and events.

In addition to seasonal activities, our museum continues to bring new offerings to our membership, such as our first art exhibit ever and German language classes.

Every year, well-ahead of the date, GAHF is the leading German-American organization formally requesting the White House for the official **Proclamation of German-American Day**, on **October 6th**, by the **President of the United States**. We are proud to distribute the Presidential Proclamation widely, not just to our membership but to German-American clubs and organizations throughout the United States. Furthermore, the proclamation is also read at a ceremony at the German-American Friendship Garden, in Washington, DC, by one of our board members.

This year, we are honoring four prominent individuals, who have long-served our organization and the German-American community across the country, at our **33rd Annual Council of 1000 Award and Fundraising Gala**. The **2019 Distinguished German-Americans of the Year** are: **Erich Ast** (Pennsylvania), **Fred Hansen** (New York), **Helmut Krüger** (New Jersey), and **Hank Stoffel** (California). We invite you to join us in this important and exceptional celebration at the **German Society of Pennsylvania** (611 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123) on **Friday, November 8th, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.**

You are also invited to the **43rd Annual Membership Meeting** to be held the day after the Gala, **Saturday, November 9th, 2019**, at the **Cannstatter Volkfest Verein** (9130 Academy Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114) at **1:00 p.m.** A new board will be installed following the results of the elections for directors on the ballot. You will find bios and mission statements for candidates to the board elsewhere in this issue of The Ambassador.

**November 9th**, this year, is also a special day not just for Germans and German-Americans but also for the free world, as it marks the **30th Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall**, a historic event never to be forgotten. GAHF's own full-height segment of the wall proudly stands today on the grounds of the German Embassy in Washington, DC.

On behalf of everyone at GAHF, we thank you for your continued support and involvement making our programs possible and allowing us to carry on our mission of sharing the inspiring saga of generations of Americans of German-speaking ancestry and their contributions to the building and advancement of our great nation.

We look forward to seeing you in Philadelphia this November!

John M. Manoyan, Ph.D.

## Message from the Executive Director



Dear Members and Friends,

Greetings from Washington, D.C., where we just celebrated a most exciting premiere: on **Friday, Sep. 13**, we officially opened our first-ever **art exhibit** featuring some 50 original works of the late German-American artist Fritz Faiss whose versatile style ranged from Henri Matisse-inspired portraits to Impressionism and classic abstract art. Kristen Gonzalez, an art historian and curator with the National Gallery of Art, provided a wonderful lecture with poignant insights about the parallels between medieval and modern art, as well as the cultural and political significance of Faiss' works. The exhibit will remain open until April 2020, and some of the paintings are still available for purchase. If you are interested in acquiring a specific object, please contact Katja Sipple at [sipple@gahmusa.org](mailto:sipple@gahmusa.org) or 202.467.5000 for pricing.

Autumn is a busy time in Washington, DC, and it's also an eventful time for our foundation and museum. On **Oct. 3**, which is Germany's national holiday, we will be hosting a **special lecture** with **Dr. Michael Braun**, the head of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation's Department of Literature. It's a special year: the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the entire Iron Curtain that separated Western Europe from Soviet-controlled Eastern Europe. Drawing on Thomas Mann's concept of "The Great Irritability" from the novel *The Magic Mountain (Der Zauberberg)*, published in 1924, Braun connects literature with current political issues, fragmented societies, and the digital media age, thus spanning the bridge from the past to the present.

The following month, we will travel to Philadelphia – the first capital of the United States – for our **33rd Annual Council of 1000 Award and Fundraising Gala** at the historic **German Society of Pennsylvania**, which is not only the oldest such society in the country, having been founded in 1764 to aid poor immigrants, but also features a beautiful library with one of the largest collections of German books. Please join us on **Nov. 8** for a unique insider look at the German Society of Pennsylvania, and to celebrate the many accomplishments of German-Americans. Tickets start at just \$200 for members and \$250 for nonmembers, and include a three-course dinner, the award ceremony and dancing.

This brings us into the month of December, specifically **Dec. 7**, when we will once again present our annual Advent concert with traditional Austrian and Bavarian Christmas tunes, as well as beloved favorites, performed by the **Alpine Singers** under the direction of Herbert and Carol Traxler. Please check our Website at [www.gahmusa.org](http://www.gahmusa.org) and our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/GAHMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/GAHMuseum) for more information. Although Christmas and the holiday season may seem far away, planning ahead is always a good idea, and those of you who are interested in genuine German recipes, holiday customs and their meaning will be delighted by **Trudy Gilgenast's** cook book ***The Flour is Different***. You can buy a copy at our museum gift shop if you are in the area, or simply make a purchase online for just \$25 plus shipping and handling. It makes a great present, and the resulting dishes will surely be enjoyed by all.

Yours sincerely,  
Katja Sipple



## Fritz Faiss Exhibit

On the evening of September 13, members and friends gathered for a very special exhibit opening at our Washington, DC museum. **From the Black Forest to the California Desert – The Life and Work of Fritz Faiss** is the first art exhibit to debut at the museum and will run through April 2020. Featuring 51 works by this German-American artist Fritz Faiss, ranging from encaustic (wax) paintings to woodcut prints to pen on paper, it is the largest Faiss retrospective thus far, on the East Coast.

Fritz Faiss, whose name is not widely known but whose artwork features an impressive variety of styles and mediums, was born in the Black Forest in 1905. Growing up he was surrounded by nature; despite having 13 siblings, his childhood was often solitary due to frequent illness. He learned to appreciate this stillness, and the landscapes he experienced during this time in his life is reflected in many of his works. In 1922, he began studying at the Bauhaus, the German school for art and design. There he studied under artists such as Wassily Kandinsky and Paul Klee, and their influence is seen in his work from this time period.



Because of his involvement in the Expressionist art movement, in 1937 the Nazis labeled his art as degenerate; he was forbidden from painting or exhibiting his work and his passport was revoked. He was put into a forced labor camp with other political and intellectual prisoners, and was one of the three survivors of approx. 130 internees. After the war, the American government in Pforzheim exhibited his art. Through this connection he was able to get sponsorship for a travel visa to leave Germany and immigrate to the United States, where he settled in California in 1951. He created a new life for himself, teaching art at various California universities; there he clashed with the bureaucratic systems that prevented him from teaching what he desired. Still, he appreciated the freedom to exhibit his art and speak freely.



Guests who gathered to join us for the opening reception heard remarks from Kristen González, curator from the National Gallery of Art's Department of Northern European Paintings. González works with the National Gallery's permanent collection, including important German works by Hans Holbein, Lucas Cranach and Matthias Grünewald as well as the later Flemish and Dutch paintings of the Baroque era. In her enlightening talk, González provided guests with the context behind Fritz Faiss' work as it pertains to the Expressionist movement. Expanding upon this, she contrasted Faiss' works with some of his American contemporaries, such as the Abstract Expressionists Jackson Pollock and Mark Rothko.

From "The Black Forest to the California Desert – The Life and Work of Fritz Faiss" gives visitors the opportunity to learn about an artist whose unique life story shaped every aspect of his work. We encourage you to visit the museum before the exhibit ends in the spring of next year, so that you may experience Faiss' inspiring artwork in person.

- Sarah Marsteller

## Deutschlandjahr – Beer Tastings

As many parts of the United States are celebrating their Oktoberfests with gallons of beer and delicious sausages, the German-American Heritage Foundation is wrapping up its year-long beer tasting seminar "500 Years of Lager Brewing – German Tradition Meets the American Dream" with sommelier and beer expert Marnie Old under the banner of the DeutschlandJahr USA and the Wunderbar Together motto.

Marnie leads through a guided tasting of ten beers, while exploring the history of German and American beers from the last five centuries. Beginning with monastic brewing traditions, beers of the masses, and the remarkable rainbow of lagers from German and American brewers that reflect the time-honored traditions of classic German-brewing styles, she takes beer aficionados and newcomers alike on a journey that culminates in the limitless innovations of modern American craft brewers.



A special thank you goes to the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Goethe Institut in Washington, DC for the logistical support, and everybody who contributed to make this series of events so successful. **Together**, we are indeed **wunderbar**, and we are delighted to have been selected as ambassadors of German culture and tradition.



What began at the GAHM in Washington, DC in October 2018, with stops in Delaware, Philadelphia, and New Jersey, two planned locations on the West Coast, will then come back to the Eastern part of the U.S. for a final hoorah of the taste buds at the Cannstatter Volksfest Verein in Pennsylvania, which is also the birthplace of GAHF.



## MEMBERS CORNER

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Wolfgang Moessinger, IL  
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### ANNUAL FUND DRIVE DONORS \$1,000 and above

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## Remembering the 250th Birthday of Alexander von Humboldt, the Great German Geologist, Explorer and Naturalist

Friedrich Wilhelm Heinrich **Alexander** Freiherr **von Humboldt** was born in Berlin on September 14, 1769 to a prominent Prussian family. His father died within ten years of Humboldt's birth, leaving Alexander and his older brother Wilhelm to the care of their mother. Upon her death in 1796, the sizable family resources passed unto these two children. While his brother Wilhelm followed the civil service path of his father, and later on gained notoriety in his own right as a philosopher and diplomat, Alexander pursued a different career path and prepared himself to be a scientific explorer.

Throughout his education he had the opportunity to study and travel under the tutelage of scientifically educated men. Along with these efforts, he studied commerce and foreign languages in Hamburg, and geology at the Freiberg School of Mines. His first publication, a compendium of his botanical research, came to the attention of **J.W. von Goethe**, with whom he developed a long-lasting friendship. Humboldt's drive served as an inspiration for the elder Goethe, who had moved to Jena. Together, they attended university lectures on anatomy and conducted their own experiments.

In the late 1790s, he went to Paris, where his brother was now living. Paris was a great center of scientific learning, and his brother was well connected in those circles. While a major expedition, i.e. circumnavigation of the earth, to which Humboldt had been invited and for which he had already selected scientific instruments, did not materialize due to the continuing warfare in Europe following the French revolution, he felt lucky having met **Aimé Bonpland**, the botanist and physician. Discouraged, the two left Paris for Marseilles, where they had hoped to join Napoleon Bonaparte in Egypt, but the French authorities refused to give them permission to travel.

Humboldt and Bonpland eventually found their way to Madrid, where – with the help of the Saxon envoy to the royal Bourbon court – they obtained permission to make a scientific tour of Spanish America. Over a period of 18 months, Humboldt examined geologically and geographically every part of Venezuela, including the rivers Orinoco and Rio Negro. Afterwards, he and his companion travelled to Bogota, the Cordilleras and Quito. They also investigated the volcanic mountains and climbed the Chimborazo – reaching an altitude of 19,286 ft. (a world record at that time, but 1,000 ft. short of the summit). They concluded their South American journey with an expedition to the sources of the Amazon.



**Alexander von Humboldt and Aimé Bonpland  
at Mount Chimborazo, Ecuador**

From Guayaquil, Ecuador they headed for Acapulco in New Spain (Mexico), and then via Taxco and Cuernavaca (called "City of Eternal Spring" by Humboldt) to Mexico City, the most populous city in the Americas, at that time. With the permission of the Viceroy, they spent a full year in Mexico, exploring various mining and archeological sites, taking geological measurements, and collecting thousands of plants and fossils, same as in South America, whose ancient civilizations were a source of special interest to Humboldt during the prior two years. Before leaving the Western hemisphere, he made another stop in Cuba, and then sailed for the United States.

Arriving in Philadelphia, which was a center of learning in the US, Humboldt met with several major scientists of the era, incl. botanist **Benjamin Barton**, chemist and anatomist **Caspar Wistar**, and physician **Benjamin Rust**, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. He also followed an invitation of **Thomas Jefferson** to visit the White House in the nation's new capital, and held numerous intensive discussions with Jefferson on both scientific matters and his year-long stay in New Spain. Jefferson had just concluded the Louisiana Purchase, but the Spanish envoy in Washington had declined to provide any information about the Spanish territories. Hence, Humboldt's knowledge of the area was of great help.

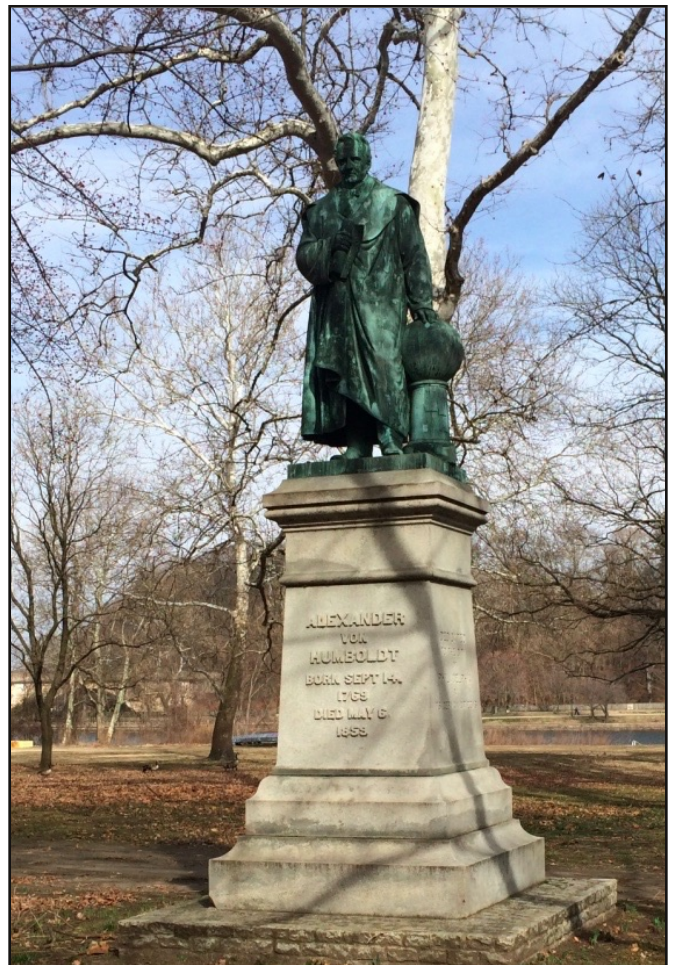
During his lifetime, Humboldt became one of the most famous men in Europe and America. Academies were eager to offer him a membership, the first being the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia. He was also granted Mexican citizenship by the first President of Mexico, after independence from Spain, and King Frederic William III of Prussia made him Royal Chamberlain, without any duties, but a pension. On his sojourn to Spanish America, he kept a detailed diary, running some 4,000 pages, on which he drew for his multiple publications. The leather-bound diaries had been taken by the Red Army after World War II, but were returned, following German reunification, to one of his descendants.

While Humboldt spent half his fortune on his South American expedition, he spent the rest on writing and publishing a myriad of scientific books, over a period of 25 years. His writings also covered the delicate connection of human activity and nature, and sounded a warning that humans had the power to manipulate nature, i.e. cause climate change. While Humboldt supported the US experiment in democracy, he could not understand its embrace of slavery. The centennial of Humboldt's birth in 1869 was celebrated throughout the US. The German sculptor Friedrich Drake was commissioned to create a statue. It was unveiled in Philadelphia, as part of the US Centennial Exposition in 1876.

This fall, the German Society in Philadelphia and other US organizations will celebrate Humboldt's 250th birthday with a series of events. For further details please be referred to the German Society website at [www.germansociety.org/](http://www.germansociety.org/)

Hardy von Auenmueller

PS: Last week, on September 14, 2019, a group of forty German-Americans, mostly members of the German Society, gathered around a bronze statue of **Alexander von Humboldt** to pay homage to him on his 250th birthday. While the Humboldt monument, which had been paid for by members of the German Society, was originally placed very prominently at the entrance of the Girard Avenue Bridge crossing the Schuylkill River, it was moved to a remote location in Fairmount Park (more than two miles from the Museum of Art) 100 years ago, at the height of the anti-German sentiment of World War I.





## Meet the Candidates for our Board of Directors

On **Saturday, November 9, 2019 at 1:00 PM**, the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® will hold its 2019 Annual Membership Meeting / Election of Directors on the premises of the **Cannstatter Volksfest Verein**, 9130 Academy Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114; Tel: 215-332-0121.

Six (6) candidates for 3-year-terms, all 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 7, 2019. 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.

- John M. Manoyan, PhD, President

### **Erich Ast, New Hope, PA**



I have been a Member of the Board of Directors of the German-American Heritage Foundation, founded as the United German-American Committee of the USA for over 15 years. I have also served as Treasurer for over 6 years.

During this period I was actively involved in the acquisition of Hockemeyer Hall including the establishment of the headquarters of our organization and its museum. As such, I am completely aware of our Mission, History and By-Laws. In all those years I have regularly attended almost all board and special meetings.

I have been a Council of 1000 member for a long time and have supported the Organization financially.

We must continue our efforts to put the organization on a sound financial footing. I have also proposed that we promote the GAHF and its museum by online publications and the like within the German-American community.

I will continue to be an active board member as I have clearly demonstrated in the past.

### **John Carroll, Bayonne, NJ**



For twenty-nine years, I have been an educator. During this time I have taught elementary and middle school, served as a vice-principal, and participated in archdiocesan curriculum mapping projects. These have been wonderful experiences working with children, parents and colleagues. I currently teach fifth grade at Our Lady of Czestochowa School in Jersey City, and work as an instructor at Saint Peter's University in the Reading Center of its School of Education. In addition to professional pursuits, my avocations have an educational side. I have spoken before groups for the National Park Service as a volunteer at several sites in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and

Virginia. I am active with my local Cub Scout Pack. A member of the music ministry at my church, I have given violin lessons to people of all ages. My German heritage comes to me through my mother. Her father always called himself Pennsylvania Dutch. Through research, we have discovered that his ancestors came to America in the eighteenth century from the Palatine. Grandmother was first generation American. Her family was Vistula German. They emigrated from the Russian Empire (today Poland) near the close of the nineteenth century. I am a proud member of Deutscher Club of Clark, NJ. Since joining, I have been a very active member. Most recently, I had the privilege of serving as chairman of the nominating committee for the 2016 election. Finding an interest in hiking and walking among the members, I formed a hiking group within the group.



I believe that the German American Heritage Foundation has a tremendous opportunity to educate our nation about the contributions of our people and the greatness of the United States. The museum is a tremendous achievement. Having a center of German-American culture in our nation's capital makes a profound statement. Outreach to local German clubs and schools would help to educate as many people as possible. Traveling exhibits can reach people for whom traveling to Washington, DC is impossible. The impact of the foundation would be nationwide. People need to know the beauty and impact of our German heritage.

**Frederick H.W. Hansen, Ridgewood, NY**



I, Fred Hansen, hereby declare my candidacy to serve on the Board of Directors of the German American Heritage Foundation of the USA. 1) I am completely familiar with the Foundation's Mission Statement and By-laws, having been a contributor to the original formulation of these By-laws and having participated in discussions and deliberations in formulating our own. 2) I am intimately knowledgeable about the organization's history, present operation, challenges and future plans. I was present at the initial meetings of our organization which were held both in Philadelphia and subsequently at the Schuetzenpark in North Bergen, NJ. I am a founding charter member of the organization. I attend the meetings of the Board of Directors on a regular basis, usually in person, either in Philadelphia or Washington DC. 3) I make annual contributions to our organization and I am a Council of 1000 member. I am very proud of the fact that our German-American Heritage Foundation has reached the milestone of its 40th Anniversary. It has been an honor for me to have been part of this organization since the very beginning. I pledge to continue to support the GAHF in the future and will actively promote our organization in the New York metropolitan area as well as in Germany.

**Michael Heinen, Washington, DC**



Please accept this statement to declare my candidacy as a member of the Board of Directors of the German-American Heritage Foundation. I joined the Board earlier this year and am happy to continue to serve.

I was born in New York City in 1976 – my parents immigrated to the United States from Germany in the late 1960s. I grew up in Bavaria after my parents moved back to Germany in the late 1970s. Guided by my family and specifically grandfather, who was a member of the German Bundestag for over 20 years, I showed early interest in politics and attended the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. After graduation, I attended the Bundestag Internship Program as part of MdB Paul Breuer's team in Bonn and then moved to the Philippines for several months as part of a development program at an Elementary School in the Banaue region.

Subsequently, I spent 11 years in the Financial Services Industry in New York, working for Deutsche Bank and Bear Stearns / JP Morgan. At Deutsche Bank, I supported the German-American Team in the Private Wealth Division. I was then hired to lead an IT transformation of Fixed Income Trading Platforms by Bear Stearns. It was at that time that I met my wife Caroline. Together we decided to move to Berlin in 2011. There I was recruited to lead the implementation of the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA) initiative for the German and Dutch Mortgage / Deposit Businesses of Lloyds Banking Group. With a new addition to the family, we made our way back to Washington, DC, where Caroline grew up and I had studied.

As founders of the Graciela Haim & Heinen Group in 2015, we decided to form an international real estate team to focus on the needs of relocation in the DC Metro area. Our clients include the German Embassy, German Historical Institute, and Goethe Institute, just to name a few. Our 6-year old daughter attends the German International School.

I am looking forward to continue to contribute to the German-American Heritage Foundation. My main focus continues to be to help increase the visibility and membership of the organization in the mid-Atlantic region by leveraging my many contacts in the German-American community, and will support all events at the museum as our DC-based Board representative.

**Joachim (Yogi) Reppmann, Northfield, MN**

I have been living and working six months in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany and the other half of the year in Northfield, Minnesota since 1992. After teaching as a Professor of German at St. Olaf and Carleton College, my firm "deus GmbH, INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS" is finding, facilitating and incubating new business connections between the US-Midwest & the Baltic Sea region. Two heartlands de.us – by the way it is pronounced "deuce", no comment on the Latin – navigates your transatlantic expansion.

Born and raised in Flensburg, I studied at the Universities of Kiel and Bochum – combined with research trips to the US. I finished with a history Ph.D. thesis on Schleswig-Holstein's immigrants to America. Since then, I have organized many group tours from the USA to Northern Germany and vice versa, and published several books on the immigrant issue. As a member of several German-American organizations, it is my desire to inspire and nurture the human spirit with German-American friendship.

**Hardy von Auenmueller, Philadelphia, PA**

I enjoyed an idyllic childhood "to the manor born" on a farm in Saxony, where my family had lived for over 300 years. After WWII, our substantial landholdings were confiscated by the Soviet occupational government. We were headed for a one-way ride to Siberia – which we declined by defecting to the West – where we resettled in a bombed-out building on an abandoned airfield. During those formative years, I learned to live frugally.

When I came to this country as a young adult – with a business degree and a treaty trader visa in hand – I was privileged to work for a multi-national firm, called Hoechst, the superlative of "high", on the 82nd floor of the Empire State Building. That was indeed the physical zenith of my life! After twenty years of faithful service to that company, I ventured out on my own. Restructuring faltering enterprises became my specialty, in the US and – following the fall of the Berlin Wall – in Eastern Germany.

Fifteen years ago, I recognized an opportunity to apply my trade as a turn-around specialist in the non-profit field: first as a Board member, then as President, Chairman, and until recently as Treasurer, of the German Society of Pennsylvania. This venerable cultural institution, the oldest of its kind, has been put on a solid financial footing, expanded its programs, and thus became a beacon in the German-American community of Greater Philadelphia.

In 2009, before our Foundation opened its museum in Washington, I was approached by Bern Deichmann to review the projected budget. It showed a six-figure deficit. As I had no way of estimating the potential revenue stream, my recommendation was to cut the operating expenses to the bone. This was accomplished, and I was asked to join the Board – with a subsequent appointment as Vice President of Finance. In that capacity, I helped hone our financial reporting procedures, introduced the 90-day rolling cash-flow forecast system, and developed a full cost accounting for our exhibits.

In 2014, I served intermittently as President for one year. During that tenure, we acquired Arbeiter Hall from the Singing Society of Trenton, NJ which had been dissolved for lack of supporting members. After satisfying all third party claims, we were able to sell the premises to a local church group. The net revenue of that transaction has been set aside as seed money for the establishment of an endowment fund. Incidentally, my own contributions to GAHF exceed \$100,000, over the past decade.

Recently, I was again entrusted with the leadership responsibility for our organization – serving as President for the calendar year 2018, while our organization needed to be restructured – with a set of new officers and a change in executive staff. Fiscal discipline was reintroduced, resulting in a financial turn-around at the operational level, and an improvement of our bottom line. As current Treasurer, I am willing to continue my service at the Board level – for as long as my health and age permits me to do so.

## 2019 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	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Basic Member:	\$ 100	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporter:	\$ 250	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor:	\$ 500	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Council of 1000:	\$1,000	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron:	\$5,000	\$ _____

### **CLUB MEMBERSHIP "VEREIN'S CIRCLE"**

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

<input type="checkbox"/> Basic:	\$ 1 per member (\$25 minimum)	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Bronze:	\$ 26 - \$149	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver:	\$150 - \$499	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Gold:	\$500 and above	\$ _____

- ☐ 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 2019 Operations	\$ _____
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## German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA®

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### ANNUAL FUND DRIVE 2019

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 do not 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.
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**To donate go online: <https://gahmusa.org/donate/>**

### UNRESTRICTED GIVING - UNRESTRICTED POSSIBILITIES

The German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® (GAHF) is a 501(c)(3) educational non-profit organization, chartered in 1978 as the United German-American Committee of the USA, Inc. Its mission is to preserve and promote the heritage of Americans of German-speaking ancestry and their valuable contributions to the development of the United States of America.