



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 2020 / Page 1

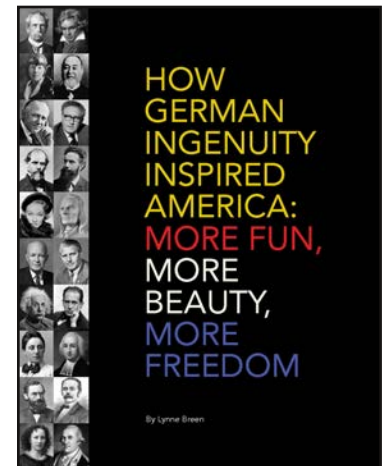
“How German Ingenuity Inspired America”

GAHF’s First Book Launch

Over the past six months, while we were forced to operate our museum virtually – due to the lock-down imposed upon us by the coronavirus epidemic – we made good use of the time to work on the above book project which was introduced to you in the previous issue of our newsletter.

First, we reached out to various potential donors in order to garner the necessary funding support for the design, layout and publication of this compendium. After we received positive responses from several individuals, which gave us confidence that we could proceed with this project, we selected GHI Design Inc. of Philadelphia, PA as our partner for the creative part.

Throughout this summer, hardly a day went by, on which Katja and I have not been in contact with Lynne Breen, the author, or Andrea Hemmann, the designer, on a myriad of details, such as fact-checking and weighing the significance of contributions made by numerous individuals, past and present; selecting the appropriate photo image, preferably from the public domain, in the minimum required dpi resolution strength; and correlating all the endnotes, including their numbers, for the various chapters.



The most daunting task in getting the book ready for publishing also rested with Lynne Breen, whose dedication to details is something I certainly learned to appreciate over the span of these "shut-in" summer months. Since she covered in her book the contributions of close to 1,000 people, plus their respective field of endeavor or historic relevance and location, the preparation of the index – in alphabetical order – also rested on her shoulders..., and she did this masterfully.

As stated before, it is our intention to present this historic reference book in a handsome coffee-table edition for people like you, your relatives and/or close friends. For this reason, we shopped all over the world (from here to Canada and the Far East) to locate an appropriate printer. In the end, it was a South Korean printer, with an office in Charlotte, NC whom we have entrusted with this task. Our 240-page book, with the cover design, as shown above, and priced at \$39.99, will be available to you before Christmas.

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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 Executive Director

Dear Members and Friends,

When we published our last issue of The Ambassador, we were still living in pre-pandemic times, and could not yet anticipate how our lives would be impacted and changed in the coming months. We not only had to close our museum in Washington, DC for three months, but we also had to cancel or reschedule all in-person events, including our 2020 Gala for former Governor Jerry Brown, this year's Distinguished German-American of the Year. We expect this festive occasion to take place in Sacramento, California in the Spring of 2021, and I look forward to meeting those of you who live on the West Coast.

Gov. Brown has kindly made a great video for us, now available on our website, in which he talks about his German ancestors, and his joy in having been selected. The video premiered at the Oct. 6 virtual German-American Day celebration as part of our hour-long program to celebrate the history and achievements of the German-American community.

Necessity is indeed the mother of invention, and with on-site events being impossible, it was a year of firsts for us. We had our very first virtual exhibit and Zoom panel discussion on the role of German-Americans in the Women's Suffrage Movement to celebrate the centennial of the 19th Amendment's ratification. You can browse the entire exhibit, which includes an audio component, on our homepage.

Despite COVID-19, we are also continuing with our third German-language course. Once again, we have adapted to the changing circumstances by using online tools to teach the intricacies of German grammar and practice pronunciation. I expect that our next courses will also be web-based, and that means you no longer have to live in Washington, DC in order to participate. If you want to learn German, or know somebody who does, please send me an email at sipple@gahmusa.org. Class size will be limited to eight (8) students to ensure that everybody gets personal attention and individualized instruction.

We have a special treat for lovers of Halloween and spooky stories with a German twist on Thursday, Oct. 29 at 7 pm. Join me via Zoom for a collection of German ghostly folklore – from corn spirits (not the distilled variety!) to will-o'-the-wisps haunting bogs or marshes and giants roaming ancient forests. Login information will be provided on our website, on social media, and via email.

Thank you for your loyalty and continued support during these difficult times. Please stay safe and healthy wherever life takes you.

Yours sincerely,
 Katja Sipple

Message from the President



Dear Members and Friends,

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

This year is different. Many of our traditional events and celebrations have either gone virtual or been postponed or re-scheduled, but we carry on, in new and different ways, as we must, to continue the task ahead and looking forward to better days for all. Our own 2020 Gala, honoring (former) Governor Jerry Brown of California as the Distinguished German-American of the Year, has been postponed until Spring 2021 and is expected to be held in Sacramento, CA.

October 3rd, this year, marked a special day not just for Germans and German-Americans but also for the free world, as we arrived at the 30th Anniversary of the Reunification of Germany, a historic event never to be forgotten. The German Embassy in Washington, DC, and consulates across the country, celebrated the milestone virtually, and we convey our reiterated congratulations on the occasion.

Every year, 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. President Trump kindly issued this year's proclamation on time, as usual, and we proudly and promptly distributed the 2020 Presidential Proclamation widely, not just to our membership but to German-American clubs and organizations throughout the United States. Furthermore, the proclamation was also read, on the day, at a virtual ceremony by one of our board members, in place of the traditional celebration at the German-American Friendship Garden, on the National Mall, in Washington, DC.

Also, in this issue of *The Ambassador*, you may read about our very first book launch: *How German Ingenuity Inspired America*; about our virtual exhibits, lectures, German language instruction, the revival of our *Oral History Project*, and much more.

You are likewise invited to the 44th Annual Membership Meeting to be held on Saturday, December 12th, 2020, at the Cannstatter Volkfest Verein (9130 Academy Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114) at 1:00 p.m. ET. 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 included in this issue of *The Ambassador*.

As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of our museum this year (and the theme of our 2020 Annual Fund Drive), 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 hale and hearty in better times to come!

John M. Manoyan, Ph.D.

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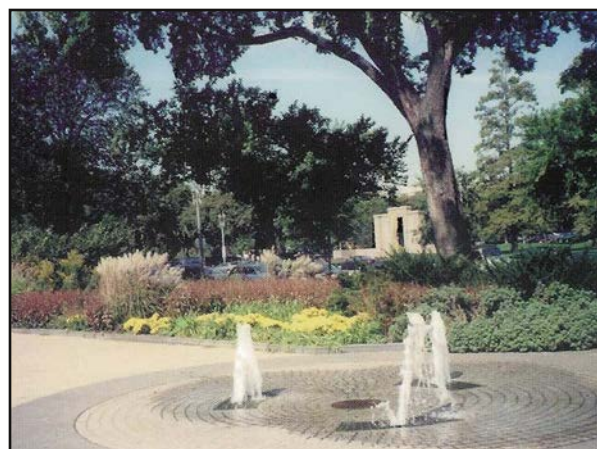
We have reason to believe that this comprehensive reference book on the many contributions – made by Germans and German-Americans over the past 400 years – must also be made accessible to the general public and as educational material for high schools, colleges and universities. Some of the topics that are explored in this book have been the center of exhibits at our Museum: the history of the automobile, the origin and success story of Hollywood, Germany's culinary customs, and the German expertise in the manufacture of toys, to name just a few.

Finally, I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge with thanks the generous financial support received for this project from the following individuals and organizations: Philip F. Anschutz, founder and owner of the Anschutz Corporation of Denver, CO; Erich Ast of New Hope, PA; Drs. Raymond and Sally Ehrle of Annapolis, MD; Gabriele Windeck Lee of Philadelphia, PA; Wally Prechter, President of the World Heritage Foundation of Trenton, MI; Ruth Wedelich, President of the Frauenverein of the Fritz Reuter Altenheim in North Bergen, NJ; and the SAVA Educational Fund of Philadelphia, PA.

– Hardy von Auenmueller

A Virtual German-American Day Celebration

On Tuesday, Oct. 6, members and friends of the German-American community gathered via Zoom to commemorate the many contributions of German-speaking immigrants to the United States. In previous years, those of us in the Greater Washington, DC area assembled at the German-American Friendship Garden on the National Mall to listen to speeches and readings of proclamations from the White House, the governors of Maryland and Virginia, and the District of Columbia's mayor. This year, circumstances did not permit congregating in person, and together with Rev. Katja Albrecht of the United Church, GAHF staff took the initiative, and put together a festive program with musical interludes by Grammy-nominated musician Alex Meixner and the chamber music trio *The American Virtuosi*, greetings from Germany's Ambassador to the U.S. Dr. Emily Haber and former California Gov. Jerry Brown, live readings of the proclamations, and a brief introductory video of the history of German-American Day. If you missed our event on Zoom, we encourage you to visit our website at www.gahmusa.org to watch a recorded video. We look forward to hosting a live event on the Mall in 2021, and hope that many of you will be able to join us.



– Katja Sipple

Remember the Ladies: German-Americans and the Women Suffrage Movement

Virtual Exhibit & Panel Discussion Explores Historic Roles and Reactions of the German-American Community

Abigail Adams, the wife of President John Adams, can rightfully be credited as the first advocate for women's equality and voting rights in the newly founded United States. It was she who beseeched her husband "to remember the ladies" in a letter penned in 1776, warning him that "if particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation."

Abigail was a formidable woman, but it took until the 1848 Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, NY for the idea that women should have the right to participate in politics to gain sufficient momentum, and many more decades of work to educate and convince the public about the validity and necessity of women's rights. On June 4, 1919, the efforts of suffrage pioneers culminated in the 19th amendment which guaranteed American women the right to vote. However, 36 state legislatures were necessary to have it become the law of the land, and that finally happened on Aug. 18, 1920 when Tennessee narrowly ratified it.

As the country remembered its struggle for women's equality, online sources and newspapers featured a range of articles, photos, and even early film footage showcasing traditional suffrage heroines, but information about German-Americans was hard to find. We decided to rectify this situation, and created a virtual exhibit about German-American suffrage leaders, and a Zoom panel discussion on Aug. 18 with Dr. Alison Efford of Marquette University, Kate Howard, JD, and Dr. Mark Loudoun, Director of the Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to take a closer look at this unique community. The majority of German-Americans had favored the abolition of slavery and personal liberties such as freedom of speech, yet many remained reluctant to support women's voting rights fearing the destruction of family structures and laws against the consumption of beer and wine, which had a central role in German-American culture, as Dr. Loudoun explained with the help of old newspaper articles and archived pamphlets.

Despite widespread skepticism and growing frustration of Anglo-American suffragists with the stubborn German-Americans, there were some truly amazing German-American women who advanced suffrage and strove for full political participation and equality. Dr. Efford introduced us to Mathilde Franziska Anneke, a supporter of the 1848 German revolution, who immigrated to Milwaukee, Wisc. where she published the very first feminist journal called *Deutsche Frauen-Zeitung* in 1852. Anneke, along with fellow Wisconsinite Meta Schlichting Berger, the daughter of German immigrants and the first female member of the Wisconsin State Board of Education, Hawaiian-German Wilhelmina Kekelaokalaninui Widemann Dowsett, and Caroline Katzenstein, also features in our virtual exhibit, which can be viewed on our website at <https://gahmusa.org/remember-the-ladies-german-americans-and-the-woman-suffrage-movement/>



We hope you enjoy this historical excursion, and look forward to your feedback and insights in an area that requires much more research.

– Katja Sipple

German-American Oral History Project 2020

Everybody has a story, and we want to learn yours!

In June, we announced a revival of our oral history project for Americans who are either immigrants from a German-speaking country themselves or whose ancestors immigrated from a historically German-speaking region, and we hope that we can count on your participation. We have already received about 60 responses from people just like you, ranging in age from 24 to 80, who are either descendants of German immigrants from many different regions or who have arrived on these shores themselves. As this will be an ongoing project, we want to reach as many of our members and friends as possible. The research process consists of two parts: a simple online questionnaire and a recorded narration. The survey link along with instructions for the narration, and the results of previous participants can be found at <https://gahmusa.org/oral-history/>

For the recorded part, you can either use a free online recording tool, and save your file as an mp3 or a recording app on your smartphone or tablet.

Why is this important?

Millions of people from German-speaking lands came to these shores in the last 400 years. They were motivated to escape religious persecution and economic hardships, by a desire for personal and political freedoms their native countries could not provide, or perhaps driven by a sense of adventure in the "land of opportunity". Although they may share commonalities, every individual is unique. We want to learn more about your history, that of your ancestors, community, culture, and faith. This will provide valuable data that will enable researchers and historians to better understand German-American history and culture, and teach students how to do scholarly research, conduct interviews and write biographies about the rich history of German-Americans. By participating in the German-American Oral History Project, you are helping us preserve and record the diverse heritage of German-American immigrants in the United States for future generations.



– Katja Sipple



Meet the Candidates for our Board of Directors

On Saturday, December 12, 2020 at 1:00 PM ET, the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® will hold its 2020 Annual Membership Meeting and Election of Directors on the premises of the Cannstatter Volksfest Verein, 9130 Academy Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114; Tel: 215-332-0121.

This year there are nine (9) candidates presented for your consideration. Five (5) candidates are incumbents and four (4) are new. Their mission statements and photos are found below.

Our by-laws direct us to stagger the board so that we have an equal number of candidates coming up each year. This year, we have 8 open seats for the term 2020-2023; therefore the ninth candidate (with the lowest number of votes) would be staggered for a shorter term, i.e. for the term ending 2022.

Complete voting instructions 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, December 10, 2020. 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, Ph.D., President

Robin Estey, PA



Robin's interest and love of her German heritage started at a very young age. She was born in Princeton, NJ and moved to the Netherlands when she was 2 and lived there for 9 years. She lived close to the German border and made regular trips to visit her relatives in Germany. Her grandparents emigrated to the U.S. from Kiel and Eschelbronn. She became very close to her grandparents during summer trips back to the Lebenstraum Farm in Mt. Bethel, PA. Together with her grandparents she attended German-American Club events Oktoberfest celebrations.

Robin studied at Gettysburg College where she earned her B.A. in German with a minor in Economics. During her junior year she spent a semester at Heidelberg University and took every opportunity to visit her father's cousins in nearby Waibstadt where she could further improve her German language skills.

Since 1994, Robin has been working at Hannover Fairs USA, Inc., a U.S. subsidiary of Deutsche Messe AG. As Director of Operations, she has been responsible for organizing USA pavilions at the exhibition grounds in Hannover, Germany. She managed the logistics and planning with her German vendors, while helping U.S. companies prepare for successful tradeshow participation in Hannover. She manages the Operations team and she is deeply involved their North American events, including Hannover Messe USA which takes place in Chicago during even years.

The German-American Heritage Foundation is dear to her heart because it was her father's passion. It has been an honor for her to serve for the past 4 years and if she can continue to serve on the Board it would be her goal to get younger generations of German-Americans involved in the organization to ensure that the foundation will thrive and continue to grow.

Stephen Hollender, Ph.D., Berea, OH

Steve started studying German at the age of 14 in High School in Quincy, IL, and wanted to teach German. He completed his B.A. at Western Illinois University with his junior year in Baden bei Wien. Steve married Eve Lendway in 1977 and they have 2 adult sons. From 1977-1979 he taught German and math at Victor J. Andrew HS, Tinley Park, IL. He was awarded teaching and research assistantships and a study-abroad scholarship to Tübingen from the University of Iowa, where he earned a Ph.D. in German in 1989.

From 1987 to 1991 Steve was a visiting professor at Grinnell College. From 1991 to 2020 he was the sole professor of German at Baldwin Wallace University, Berea, OH. He taught every level of undergraduate German language, literature and culture courses, translation and intercultural communication. He was a summer Fulbrighter in a seminar on German reunification and took several sabbaticals and attended various workshops in Germany on pedagogy, intercultural communication, business German and authors living in Berlin. He was also faculty leader of numerous student trips and founded an exchange with Universität Osnabrück. As professor, he organized frequent community events: *Oktoberfest*, German-American *Kulturabend*, *Adventsfeier* and *Weihnachtsfest*, organized speakers for the Marting Lecture Series in the Humanities and was named Malicky Chair in the Humanities by the Baldwin Wallace faculty in 2019. Steve is also a frequent guest on the German-American Radio Hour, 90.3 FM on WCPN in Cleveland.

Steve's entire professional life has been dedicated to promoting better global awareness and helping Americans work toward intercultural competence through language acquisition. He's been a tireless advocate for promoting German language and culture and sees GAHF as an opportunity to continue these efforts. He would be happy to cooperate any way he can, particularly as a liaison with academics and assisting with German-American events which promote intercultural understanding and encourage the study of German language and German-speaking cultures.

William H. Holly, Coral Gables, FL

Bill is Founder and President of Patton Real Estate Group, a Miami-based, full service commercial real estate firm providing brokerage, property management, development and consulting services throughout the State of Florida.

Previously, he earned local and national business and real estate accolades including being awarded the Entrepreneur of the Year Award by the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, being named one of the Top Ten "Hot Commercial Real Estate Brokers" in the U.S. by Commercial Property News, and being awarded the Top Sales Broker, Top Leasing Broker, Development of the Year and Broker of the Year in Miami. In addition, he developed the first LEED-Certified Green Office Building in Miami.

Bill plays an active role in the Community serving on numerous charitable and for-profit boards. He is a founding shareholder of Florida Gulf Bank and Coral Gables Trust and currently serve as Chairman of the Board of Young Presidents Organization (YPO) Americas Gateway Chapter and the YPO Northeastern Region Board. He is also the Chairman of the Patton Real Estate Foundation, a board member of JB Green Estate (a local real estate investment firm), and Chairman of the Board of the Edgewater Trust Company. Moreover, he was the past Chairman of the Ransom Everglades Board of Trustees, the past President of the Brickell Area Association and the past Chairman of the Historical Museum of Southern Florida (History Miami). He served as a councilman on the Coconut Grove Village Council (1999, 2000) and was the past Senior Warden at St. Phillips Church in Coral Gables. He graduated from Florida State University.

Bill became acquainted with GAHF since his parents and other members of his family have long been members, and his uncle, Bern E. Deichmann, was President Emeritus of GAHF and the 2013 Distinguished German-American of the Year. Furthermore, his grandparents who emigrated to the United States from Kiel, Germany and Ossigen, Switzerland, have always instilled in their family members pride in their German heritage. His grandfather's papers (he was a founder of the International Society of Toxicology) are located in Kiel today which explains why Bill is so keen in promoting German interests and cooperation with the USA.

John M. Manoyan, Ph.D., San Francisco, CA

John has served uninterruptedly on the Board of Directors of GAHF in various capacities since joining the organization more than a dozen years ago. He is currently completing a fourth term as president.

He has also represented GAHF at numerous diplomatic and cultural events, and successfully reached out to many German-American clubs and to other German-American organizations across the United States in order to establish closer ties, develop reciprocal program exchanges, and gain further support for GAHF in Washington, DC and across the country.

As directors, we are called, at a minimum, to attend Board meetings, make an annual financial membership contribution to the organization, and reach well-reasoned and impartial decisions concerning Foundation business. However, our organization requires far more involvement and support from directors in order to continue to progress and thrive, whether through financial support (Annual Fund, Gala Fund, Council of 1000 membership), board service (committees, legal, administrative, exhibits, projects, technology, etc.), outreach or fundraising.

Our Foundation is a work in progress, at many levels, facing challenges along with exciting opportunities, and that we are well-positioned to operate successfully and in a financially-responsible manner, even in the current environment, while living up to the mission of our organization with our eyes on the future and mindful of our history. He believes that we currently have a very supportive board and a most excellent and dedicated staff.

Should the membership choose to re-elect John, it will be an honor and privilege to continue to serve as an active member of the Board of Directors for another term and to continue to work on behalf of GAHF and its bright road ahead.

Rebecca S. Markert, Esq., Madison, WI

Rebecca was born and raised in Wisconsin, a state whose population proudly boasts its German-American heritage. Her family was among German immigrants who came to the U.S. after the 1848 revolution and she grew up hearing about her paternal great-grandfather who spoke only German until he was 5 years old.

Growing up in Wisconsin, the German influence was all around. Many high school students elect to take German as their foreign language, so naturally she did as well. It led her to spend her senior year of high school as a Rotary Youth Exchange student in Hamburg, Germany. Upon returning to the U.S., she began her undergraduate career at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, where she majored in German, International Relations, and Political Science. Her courses included not only German language, literature, history and politics, but also a seminar on Germans in the U.S., and a linguistics course on how the German language shaped dialects across America. After graduating from UW in 1998, she was lucky to participate in the Bundestag Internship Program in Bonn, Germany.

Since then, she has worked on Capitol Hill for a Wisconsin senator and returned to school to get her law degree. For the past 12 years, she has been practicing constitutional law in Madison, Wisconsin, and in the past 4½ years, has been supervising a team of 6 attorneys and 2 legal assistants, developed and implemented a legal fellowship program, and managed legal fellows and interns, including law students and undergraduates as Legal Director of the Freedom From Religion Foundation where she analyzes, researches, and advises on constitutional law issues such as establishment of religion, free exercise of religion and free speech rights. She and her husband, Mike, have four young children.

Rebecca is excited to contribute to the work of the Foundation in any way she can. She would be very interested in projects involving the contributions of German-American women to the U.S. (she wrote a paper in college on German-American feminist Mathilde Anneke), German-Americans and freethought, and of course, any other projects the Board has decided to pursue. She's eager to assist and lend her experience and expertise to the Board.

Ulrich Pelz, Ph.D., Sacramento, CA



Uli was born in 1943 in Wittstock/Dosse, Germany, and moved to Austria in 1950. He married Susan Studer in 1967, and they have 3 daughters and 4 grandchildren.

Uli's education was mostly in Austria. After high school, he obtained the degree of Diplomkaufmann from the Hochschule für Welthandel (College of Economics and International Business) in Vienna in 1967. Subsequently, he worked in Germany as a consultant in retail business until he and his wife decided to move to the United States at the beginning of 1969. They settled in Boulder, Colorado, where he obtained a Master's degree in economics and a Ph.D. in business administration. In 1973, he took a teaching position in accounting at the California State University in Sacramento. Then, in 1977, Uli joined the Office of the Auditor General of California and obtained a CPA certificate in 1980, while also teaching part-time. He retired from state service in 1993, and has since been involved in a variety of endeavors: business consulting, translating business articles, and investing in stocks and real estate. He retired from managing real estate in 2017, but stays active in the stock market.

Uli has been active in the Sacramento Turn Verein since 1995, as treasurer, librarian, and the Audit Committee. In addition, he and his wife travel frequently to Europe to see two of their daughters and grandchildren. The oldest daughter lives in Philadelphia.

Uli sees his mission derived from the mission of the GAHF, which is to promote German culture, history, and ethnic awareness in the United States. Furthermore, he wishes to support the goals of the GAHF by fundraising to achieve a solid financial backing for the German-American Heritage Museum, being involved in various special activities such as the Annual Gala, educating the American public about the contributions of Germans in the U.S., assisting and/or contributing in publications of the GAHF, and coordinating with the other members of the Board.

Hans Peter Stein, Philadelphia, PA



Hans has lived and worked in Philadelphia for the past sixty years. He came to the area from Vienna, Austria, as a young student and studied at the University of Pennsylvania, receiving a Master in Architecture degree. He opened his own Architecture Studio in 1973.

He became involved with the United German American Committee in 2002 when he met Bern Deichmann who asked him to provide him with a physical and economic feasibility study on Heurich House in Washington, DC. The Committee intended to purchase the facility, but we recommended against this action.

In 2007 he led a preliminary study for Hockemeyer Hall, an empty building shell which ended up being purchased by the GAHF to become the German-American Heritage Museum. His Architecture Studio provided pro bono services to the Foundation to design and supervise the construction of the facility when the building opened in Washington in 2010. It was an honor and pleasure to work with many distinguished Directors to complete the building.

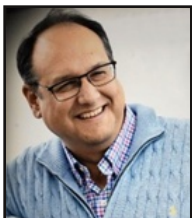
Hans was an early "Council of 1000" member, and he has attended ten gala events honoring our "Distinguished German American of the Year" in both Washington and Philadelphia.

Hank Stoffel, Auburn, CA (2nd VP, Emeritus)

Hank's parents emigrated from Wuppertal, Germany, in the mid-1930s, and in 1940, he was born in Patterson, NJ. After moving from New Jersey to New York City, Hank attended public schools and joined the Lutheran Church. He also became active in New York's Turner organization.

Living in the Big Apple, he developed an interest in aviation, and after graduating from high school at age 16, he joined the U.S. Air Force. While in the Air Force he was stationed at Rhein Main Air Base in Frankfurt, Germany. During his three years in Germany, he traveled throughout Europe and North Africa. Upon his return to the United States, he was a flight simulator instructor with Pan American World Airlines, and while finishing college aviation studies, he simultaneously operated an air taxi company and taught at a flight safety school. In 1966, he joined Trans World Airlines as a Boeing 707 pilot, and continued flying internationally for 34 years – until his retirement in the year 2000.

After moving to California, Hank began volunteering at the library culture section of the Sacramento Turn Verein in various capacities for several years. Hank has been a GAHF member and foundation board director for more than a decade, and in addition to his important work as the regional representative for Northern California, he has also been the second vice president for many years during which he tirelessly promoted German-American culture and traditions. Hank was also one of four Distinguished German-Americans honored at our 2019 Gala in Philadelphia and his mission is to continue campaigning for German-American causes.

Daniel Villanueva, Ph.D., Reno, NV

Daniel is a native Californian, born in Long Beach and raised in Glendora, and actually began taking German only because the French class he wanted to take in high school was full. However, after his family hosted three high school exchange students with the German-American Partnership Program and he himself spent parts of his sophomore and junior years in Goslar, Germany, with GAPP as well, he knew the German language and culture would be his career and vocation. Thus began a lifelong love affair with all things German (and German-American) as an exchange student, researcher, Honors and German faculty member at two universities, Bundestag Internship Program participant, and now Director of the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) for Young Professionals. Daniel's academic background, mostly related to the study of German at all levels, is quite extensive and is available upon request.

Although Daniel would be interested in assisting in whatever projects the Board is interested in pursuing, he has two projects in mind. One is an online exhibit commemorating the history and influential alumni of the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program (both high school and young professionals) since 1986, and an online microsite cataloging American public and university libraries' German book collections. Furthermore, Daniel's grant-seeking and grant-writing experience to help fund projects anticipated by GAHF should be invaluable.

Daniel is married to Michelle (Renn) Villanueva, the one, admittedly, of actual German descent in the family, and they will celebrate their 10th wedding anniversary in December 2020. Michelle is an attorney, an administrator with the NV Board of Regents, and a published poet. Daniel and Michelle, both Episcopalians active in their church, do not have any children but are "parents" of one very energetic cat. Mutual hobbies include gardening and travel abroad, and he is looking forward to working closely with GAHF if elected to the Board.

IN MEMORIAM

Bruno Karnas

Our 1996 Distinguished German-American of the Year

June 5, 1934* – April 16, 2020†



Bruno Karnas was born on June 5, 1934 in Kalvarija, Lithuania, of German descendants from Augsburg. At the beginning of World War II, his family returned to Germany for fear of Russian persecution. Bruno lived in Schleswig-Holstein and later moved to Düsseldorf, where he obtained his *Meisterbrief* as butcher. He immigrated to the United States in 1956 and married Astrid a year later. Their children Ingrid, and her husband Michael, and John, and his wife Sylvia, have given them five grandchildren.

Upon arriving in Philadelphia, Bruno became active in many German-American organizations, including the GTV Almrausch Schuhplattler dancers, the Cannstatter Volksfest Verein (honorary director), the Bayrischer Volksfest Verein (former director), the Hermann-Humboldt Lodge, the German-American Police Association, and the United German-American Committee of Philadelphia & Vicinity (former president).

In 1981, Bruno was elected President and General Chairman of the Steuben Day Observance Association and held that position for many years. He initiated German Day in the City of Philadelphia to raise money for the annual Steuben Parade. Bruno was appointed to serve on the national German-American Tricentennial Committee – with celebrations in 1983, both in Philadelphia and Krefeld, Germany, in the presence of Bundespräsident Karl Carstens and Vice President George H.W. Bush. Also, under his leadership, a German-American Sommerfest was started at Penn's Landing.

The Federal Republic of Germany honored Bruno in 1984 with the prestigious *Bundesverdienstkreuz 1. Klasse* in recognition of his tireless efforts of promoting German-American friendship over many decades. During that time, he was asked by several Mayors of Philadelphia to welcome dignitaries and visitors from German speaking countries on their behalf. Bruno used these opportunities to build goodwill and friendship between his original homeland and his adopted one in America.

For many years, he worked as Chief Inspector and Director of Food Services for the City of Philadelphia, after being appointed to this position by Mayor Frank L. Rizzo. In 1990, a section of the Berlin Wall was brought to the Philadelphia area through the efforts of the German-American Committee of Philadelphia under his leadership. This section is now displayed on the grounds of the Vereinigte Erzgebirge in Warminster, PA.

After retirement, Bruno split time between Philadelphia and Cape Coral, Florida. During the winter months, he skied at Camelback Mountain in Pennsylvania. He had a season pass there for many years and skied well into his 70's. When in Florida, he enjoyed boating as well as hosting his children and grandchildren. In August 2017, Bruno and Astrid moved to Southampton Estates, Pennsylvania, where he lived until his untimely death from the coronavirus on April 16, 2020.

We are so grateful for all the things he did for the German-American community in the greater Philadelphia area, and beyond.

– Hardy von Auenmueller

LIVES WELL LIVED**Wolfgang Hirdt****October 30, 1932* – May 15, 2020†**

"A Legend passed Away". Wolfgang Hirdt was born in Bottrop, a city at the northern edge of the Ruhr industrial region. After his initial employment in the entertainment industry, he found a job with the US Occupational Force, where he befriended a major who sponsored his immigration to the US. Upon his arrival in San Francisco, he met his wife Hildegard and worked for the first five years at the iconic Fairmont Hotel and the following 35 years at the famous Spinnaker Restaurant in Sausalito.

During those years, and in his retirement, Wolfgang was deeply involved in the German-American community. Early on, he became a member of the German-American Society (GAS) of Marin County, served for ten years as Vice President, and then another ten years as President. During the latter period he was also Treasurer of UGAS, in which capacity he organized the insurance coverage for many joint club events. In 2011, he became President of UGAS, a position he held for six years.

During those latter years, he supported the local German schools, the German Radio Station and the Church, and especially the German Unity Day celebration on October 3 as well as the German-American Day on October 6, which commemorates the first permanent German settlement in 1683, and *Deutscher Tag*, as part of the "Oktoberfest by the Bay" in San Francisco.

Wolfgang will surely be missed by all those whose lives he touched!

Shirley Riemer**April 26, 1928* – March 31, 2020†**

"We go around only once" was Shirley's motto. Born in Pittsburgh, PA, she was educated at the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie-Mellon University, where she developed a passion for education and writing that lasted a lifetime. Shirley taught high school English for ten years, and worked in the field of communication for 22 years, both in Harrisburg and Sacramento.

During her working years, two outside interests obsessed her: the Metropolitan Opera and the wines and culture of Germany. Shirley made over 50 trips to Germany in her lifetime, and shared her obsession by editing *Der Blumenbaum* for 24 years, and writing the *Mitteilungen* publication of the Sacramento Turnverein (STV) for 15 years.

In 2017, her dedication to the German genealogy community was commemorated with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International German Genealogy Partnership. Shirley met her husband, Harry, in college and had two children, Bonnie and Tom. She is survived by Bonnie as well as five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Thanks to Hank Stoffel's close working relationship with Shirley, I read many issues of her STV publications, and still value them greatly.

– Hardy von Auenmueller

Council of 1000 MEMBERS

Our sincere appreciation and gratitude for their kindness and generosity goes to the following individuals:

Guntwin Galleisky, CA
William Holly, FL
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Marilyn Mautz, VA

ANNUAL FUND DRIVE 2020

Tenth Anniversary of the German-American Heritage Museum

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.
- Explore matching gift options with your employer. Many organizations will match gifts and allow you to double or even triple your impact.

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Discover America's German Roots

German immigrants have fundamentally shaped the country we know today: popular foods like hamburgers and hot dogs, Christmas and Easter traditions, architectural wonders and inventions, and even the way we dress (blue jeans were created by businessman Levi Strauss who hailed from Buttenheim, Bavaria) showcase the creativity, energy and entrepreneurial spirit of German-Americans. Two months ago, GAHF received a grant from the German Embassy in Washington, DC to develop a map-based website directory that brings together German-American social clubs and organizations, historic sites, such as Germantown, Pennsylvania, Little Germany in Manhattan, other landmarks and settlements, businesses and restaurants, as well as schools, museums, and educational institutions that show how German-American culture continues to thrive today. The website will go live in October, and we will reach out to all of our member clubs, as well as other organizations that are part of the national German-American community, and encourage them to register. This will be a chance to promote your organization, its events and programs, to a large audience. An online directory of this scale is never static, and we look forward to partnering with you, and hope that you will help us by spreading the word to as many people as possible. For questions, please contact Katja Sipple at sipple@gahmusa.org.



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.