



THE AMBASSADOR

DER BOTSCHAFTER

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Chartered as the United German-American Committee of the USA, Inc.

Spring 2020 / Page 1

Four GAHF Members Honored at 33rd Annual Council of 1000 Award and Fundraising Gala in Philadelphia

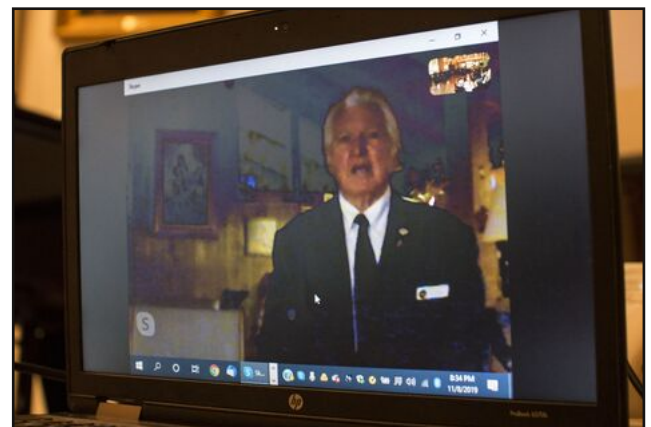
For more than 30 years, GAHF has been honoring deserving German-American men and women for leadership and achievements in business, the arts, education, science, politics, and society. Past candidates have included famous entrepreneurs and even celebrities, but in 2019, the Board of Directors chose to present four of its own members with the 2019 Distinguished German-American of the Year™ award:

- **Erich Ast** of Pennsylvania, who embodies the American dream as an immigrant, a successful businessman, philanthropist and volunteer
- **Frederick H.W. Hansen** of New York, a co-signer of GAHF's charter documents and dedicated fundraiser for Hockemeyer Hall
- **Helmut Krüger** of New Jersey, a GAHF founding member who served as president for 13 years and helped pass a bill for German-American Day and the German-American Friendship Garden
- **Hank Stoffel** of California, a long-time board member, tireless regional representative for Northern California, and retired pilot who stands for discipline, dedication and hard work



Erich Ast, Frederick Hansen, Helmut Krüger

Together these men have given decades of service and time, as well as generous financial support, to the German-American community in general and GAHF in particular. The chosen venue, the historic German Society of Pennsylvania, which was founded before the creation of the United States, was the perfect location to showcase the deep German-American roots of the four honorees. Guests were welcomed in the grand Horner Library on the top floor of the building with sparkling wine, an open bar, and an assortment of passed hors d'oeuvres. For many, it was a chance to reconnect and get caught up with old friends, while others met for the very first time.



Hank Stoffel

Some of the guests of honor were accompanied by family and friends. Hank Stoffel, who could not participate in person, and his wife were connected to the dinner and celebration in the Barthelmes Ballroom via Skype. Dressed up and visibly delighted, Hank and Dore cheerfully returned the congratulatory smiles and waves coming from the assembled crowd in the ballroom.

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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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**The Ambassador
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Message from the Executive Director

Dear Members and Friends,

With winter almost over and spring just a few weeks away, we are excited to launch into what will be a very busy season here in Washington, D.C. In addition to a book project, which is described in more detail on p. 9, we also have a new exhibit coming to us from the University of Wisconsin's Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies (p. 6), and a Beethoven tribute concert later this fall to celebrate the 250th anniversary of this musical genius. Details will follow soon, and we encourage you to sign up

for our mailing list, and to follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

The Beethoven anniversary is not the only birthday of significance in 2020: The German-American Heritage Museum is turning 10 this year! Our anniversary year will feature several highlights, including the creation of an interactive German-American heritage Website to help us connect with each other. Much has happened since the doors of Hockemeyer Hall first opened to the public in March of 2010, including our very first art exhibit featuring works of Fritz Faiss, which will remain open until April 17. Some of the paintings are still available for purchase. If you are interested in acquiring an object, please contact Katja Sipple at sipple@gahmusa.org or 202.467.5000. For an overview of the available works and pricing information, please visit www.gahmusa.org.

We started the new year with our second showing of the beloved classic German comedy "Die Feuerzangenbowle". Featuring the unforgettable Heinz Rühmann as the successful writer Dr. Johannes Pfeiffer, who disguises himself as a student to experience the antics that he missed as a youngster, the viewer journeys back to small-town Wilhelmine Germany only to discover that daily life was not so different after all. Along with the film, we offered traditional open-faced sandwiches, or *belegte Brote*, and *Feuerzangenbowle*, a rum-laced punch dating back to the 19th century that serves as the movie's namesake.

On Jan. 30, senior staff from Germany's eight general consulates, the German Embassy, and representatives of other German and German-American cultural institutions came to the GAHM for a meet-and-greet with members of our Board of Directors. For many of them, it was the first visit to our museum, and the evening resulted in a fruitful exchange of ideas about promoting and linking up the German-American community across the country.

Are you interested in learning the language of your ancestors or are you simply a Germanophile? We are once again offering a German-language course, with classes commencing on Wednesday, March 25. The 10-week A2-level class will continue to build upon the skills acquired during prior courses, and continue to expand vocabulary and improve grammar. If you live in or near Washington, DC or know somebody who does and wants to learn German, please have them contact us.

Last but not least, thank you so much for your continued support. Our members are living proof that German-American life continues to thrive in the United States. If you haven't renewed your membership, please consider doing so now to ensure another successful year.

Yours sincerely,
 Katja Sipple

Message from the President



Dear Members and Friends,

It was with remarkable patience, persistent effort, and prudent stewardship that GAHF, under the outstanding decade-long leadership of President-Emeritus **Bern Deichmann**, acquired **Hockemeyer Hall**, a townhouse built in 1888 in the old Penn Quarter of Washington, DC. The 120-year-old structure was carefully renovated and brought up to date to be transformed into our **Foundation Headquarters** and the first national **German-American Heritage Museum of the USA™**, formally opening its doors in our nation's capital on **March 20, 2010**.

As we begin this new decade, it is with great pride that this coming March we shall arrive at a major milestone for our organization as we celebrate the **"10th Anniversary of the GAHM"**. This milestone will be the theme of our **2020 Annual Fund Drive** to which we hope you will contribute and help us reach our fundraising goal of **\$100,000**. Donors will be gratefully recognized and acknowledged, with sincere appreciation, at the different levels of support. The 10th Anniversary Fund is very much open and ready to receive your special contribution for 2020! Additional information may be found on our website at www.gahmusa.org and elsewhere in this issue.

Our foundation and museum vitally depend on your interest, involvement, and support to carry out our mission through events, exhibits, lectures, member gatherings, and through the recognition of the contributions and efforts made by German-Americans. I invite you to carefully peruse the announcements, events, and articles in this issue of our newsletter to appreciate the ever-expanding number and variety of exciting programs and activities that our organization now offers to members and the general public.

These are some of the highlights we accomplished in 2019:

- **Extensive Outreach:** GAHF/GAHM now reaches more than 12,000 people a month, through various channels, and counts more than 10,000 friends and followers through our Facebook and Twitter sites. Close to 20,000 people from all over the world have visited our museum in Washington, DC to date.
- **Unique Exhibits:** In addition to our permanent exhibit, **"Timeline of 400 Years of German Immigration"**, and **our first art exhibit**, our museum presented a wide variety of exhibits spanning an extensive range of interests and experiences. Among them: **"How German Toymakers Captured the Hearts of Americans: 200 Years of German Toys"**, an exciting exhibit, entirely curated by our own museum staff with the cooperation and generous support from private collectors, toy companies, and other museums; **"Stars and Stripes over the Rhine: The American Occupation in Germany after World War I, 1918-1923"**, an exhibit supported by the *Wunderbar Together: DeutschlandJahr USA 2018/2019* program and by the government of Rheinland-Palatinate; **"Culinary Customs: A Taste of Germany"**, a very popular traveling exhibit of the German-American Heritage Center in Davenport, IA with whom we maintain a fruitful and ongoing exhibit exchange program and collaboration; and **"500 Years of Lager Brewing: German Tradition Meets the American Dream"**, our own very popular GAHM traveling beer-tasting seminar and exhibit, also supported by the *DeutschlandJahr USA 2018/2019* program and a favorite with many German-American member clubs across the USA.
- **The Distinguished German-American of the Year Award™:** The signature event on our calendar, the **33rd Annual Council of 1000 Award and Fundraising Gala** honored four dedicated individuals from our very own ranks as the 2019 Distinguished German-Americans of the Year™ for their decades-long distinguished record of service to GAHF and to German-American communities across the country: **Erich Ast, Fred Hansen, Helmut Krüger, and Hank Stoffel**. You will find additional information and detailed coverage of the event in this issue and on our website.

It is thanks to your trust, participation, and support that our foundation has been able to thrive and continue to provide important benefits not only to our own members, but also to the larger German-American community. Additionally, we continue to broaden our relations and collaboration with German and German-American organizations well beyond our home base while supporting our individual members and member clubs in other parts of the country as a critical part of what we do as a heritage foundation.

We look forward to seeing you in 2020!
John M. Manoyan, Ph.D.

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Board President John Manoyan and Treasurer Hardy von Auenmueller greeted the guests. A well-known Pennsylvania-based dance orchestra played the national anthems before guests took their seats to enjoy a three-course autumn-inspired dinner. Unlike the events in recent years, the 2019 gala featured a spacious dance floor, and many couples took advantage of the music to take a spin.

After dinner and an initial round of dancing, it was time for the award presentation. All four award recipients received a beautiful trophy and a personalized certificate from President Manoyan for their dedication to GAHF, in Fred Hansen's and Helmut Krüger's case this service goes back to the founding and chartering days of the 1970s, and their role model function for the wider German-American community. With an immigration history dating back to the early 1600s, German-Americans are one of the oldest and the largest ethnic group in the United States with many accomplished individuals. However, historic events and the passage of time have also ensured an effective assimilation process that often makes German-Americans virtually invisible. The positive effects of having role models that embody German-American values while contributing to the wider society are invaluable to promote the many contributions made by members of our community.



**GAHF President John Manoyan
and Helmut Krüger**



**Grete & Erich Ast
and John Manoyan**



**Fred Hansen
and John Manoyan**

Guests also had a chance to place bids for the many wonderful silent auction items. You can still acquire a limited-edition, numbered print, offered by honoree Helmut Krüger, featuring the Brandenburg Gate with the lighthouses of Kennebunkport in Maine and Dornbusch, near Stettin, now a part of Poland. The painting, shown on the right, was created by renowned maritime artist and Detroit native Leo Kuschel. The price is \$100 per print plus shipping and handling. Also available are two weekend stays at the historic Dargavel House B&B near Charlottesville, Virginia and at Apple Haven Farm in the heart of Pennsylvania's fruit belt for \$300 each. Please contact Katja Sipple at 202-467-5000 or sipple@gahmusa.org if you are interested in making a purchase.



Thank you to everybody who attended and helped make this evening a success. Special recognition goes to Gary Koerner for his continued outstanding support of GAHF and the 2019 Gala.

– Katja Sipple



Reception in the Historic Horner Library



An overview of the Barthelmes Ballroom



**Katja Sipple and Gary Koerner
Gudrun and Hardy von Auenmueller**



**Katja Sipple, Monika Hoffarth-Zelloe,
James Zelloe, John Sipple**

Neighbors Past and Present – The Wisconsin German Experience

Immigration from German-speaking regions of Europe is tightly woven into the fabric of American history. What began in 1607 with the arrival of German physician and botanist Dr. Johannes Fleischer the Younger in Jamestown, Virginia, eventually swelled to 8 million immigrants between 1820 and 1920. Even today, there is a "German belt" that extends all the way across the country, from eastern Pennsylvania to the Oregon coast. The Midwest with its large swaths of land and fertile soil proved particularly attractive to the newly arrived Germans, and many settled in Ohio, Illinois, Missouri and Wisconsin.

We are delighted to introduce a new exhibit, curated by the University of Wisconsin's Max Kade Institute of German-American Studies – with original images and resources from their own library and archives – which documents the history of the German migration and settlement in Wisconsin. It will come to our museum on April 21. Organized German immigration to Wisconsin began in 1839, when a group of 20 Old Lutheran families from Eastern Pomerania, now a part of Poland, founded the community of Freistadt in Ozaukee County north of Milwaukee. Overall, there were great waves: The first one from 1850-1860 with settlers hailing from Bavaria, Baden, Württemberg, the Rhineland, the Palatinate, and Switzerland. This wave included the so-called "48ers", intellectuals and professionals fleeing the failed revolutions of 1848/49, and included Carl Schurz and his wife Margarethe. Subsequent waves happened in 1865-1875 from northern areas, such as Schleswig, Holstein, Hanover, and Westphalia, and finally, from 1880-1890 with immigrants from Brandenburg, Pomerania, Silesia and German exiles from Russia.



**Dr. Mark Loudon, Director,
Max Kade Institute for
German-American Studies**

The struggles of the Wisconsin immigrants, the importance that they placed on preserving elements of their heritage, such as language and cultural traditions, along with resulting questions of ethnicity and identity in the newly forged communities are representative of German immigrants across the nation. German-Americans everywhere became a part of America's multi-ethnic tapestry, and developed a hybrid identity that merged influence from the Old and New Worlds.

We look forward to welcoming you to the official exhibit opening on **Friday, April 24 from 6 – 8 pm. Dr. Mark Loudon**, director of the Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies, will give a special lecture entitled **"The Wisconsin-German Experience in National Context"** at 7 pm. More information and an invitation where you can register for the event, will be available on our website and via e-mail in March.

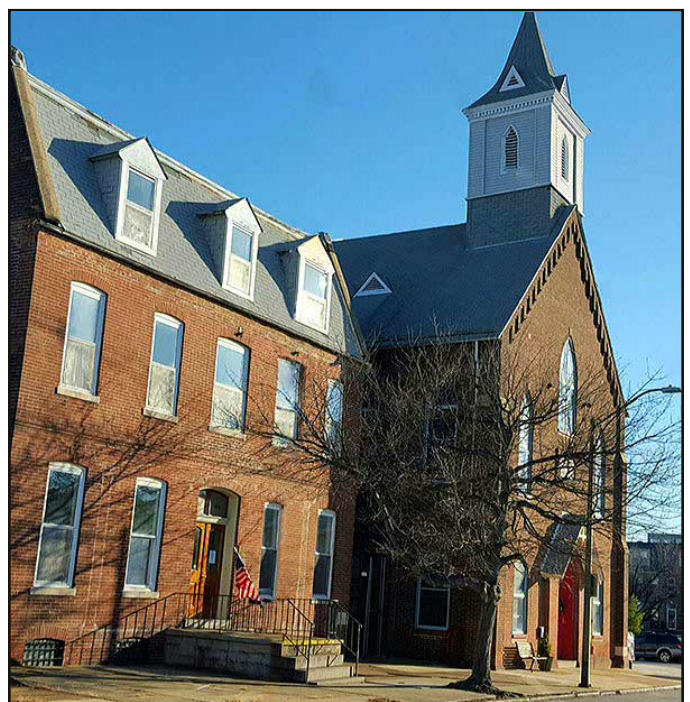
The Baltimore Immigration Museum

It is a little-known fact that from 1830 to 1914 Baltimore was America's third largest immigration port, with 1.5 million landing here. In 1868, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and the North German Lloyd Company of Bremen partnered to build an immigration pier in the Locust Point area of the Baltimore harbor. Overall, about half of the immigrants landing in Baltimore were from Germany, making Baltimore the second-largest port of entry for Germans after New York. In 1904, the congregation of a German Reformed Church in Locust Point built next door the *Deutsches Emigrantenhaus*, a boarding house for immigrants, just five blocks from the immigration pier. According to records, 3,710 immigrants stayed at that house from 1904 to 1915; job placement assistance and English language lessons were provided. In the 1920s, the US Congress greatly restricted immigration, and Baltimore no longer served as a port of entry. Nevertheless, sailors stayed at the house, as well as truck drivers making deliveries to the port up to the 1950s.

Recently, a group of historians and volunteers partnered with the neighboring church, now the Locust Point Community, U.C.C., to establish the Baltimore Immigration Museum in three of the rooms. The Museum tells the story of global immigration in the 19th century, as well as the specific immigrant groups that established a presence in Baltimore. We also have exhibits on more recent immigration from Asia and Latin America, as well as African-American migration from the rural South to Baltimore in the 20th century.

Visitors are welcomed! The Museum is open to the public on weekends, 1-4 pm from March through November, and by special appointment. We are located near I-95 (exit 55), in a safe residential neighborhood with free parking. Please visit our website www.immigrationbaltimore.org for more information.

– Dr. Nicholas Fessenden



The Mark Twain Center for Transatlantic Relations New Programs and Activities

Ever since Dr. Eckart Würzner, Lord Mayor of Heidelberg, and Professor Frieder Hepp, Director of the Kurpfälzisches Museum, visited us in our Museum five years ago, we have periodically reported on the progress of work at the Mark Twain Center (MTC).

With the help of substantial governmental support, the MTC has now been firmly established on the site of the former Commandant's Headquarters for the US NATO Forces in Europe. In 2018, after a construction period of almost three years, it opened its doors to the public – to remember the long-term presence of the US Army and American civilians in Heidelberg after World War II. The period-authentic, original rooms and furnishings at these impressive premises, their convenient proximity to the city center, and the spacious park surrounding them, portend the great potential of this site. Furthermore, the Center is slated to become a platform for discussions of all kinds on topics related to the future of German-American relations.



Currently, the MTC team is preparing a multimedia presentation on the history of the American military and civilian presence for an exhibit to the public in 2021. In addition, a series of events were initiated in the fall of 2019 to engage the local population in the Center's activities. Once a month, a group of approx. 40 people meets for a discussion forum called "History Harvest". At such events, a contemporary witness presents memorabilia pertaining to his or her particular connection to the local German-American community. For example, at the January meeting, Volker Kohlmeyer, a German barber who served in various American military facilities for more than twenty years, reported on his experience and donated a key of the Mannheim Penitentiary to the MTC Collection.



Thereafter, the MTC started a collaboration with the nearby Julius-Springer-School. In the past, the building had been used as the American High School of Heidelberg. Thanks to generous grant from the Dietmar Hopp Foundation, workshop trainers could be hired to engage student participation in one of MTC's upcoming projects. Within the next few months, the students will work on three different multi-media elements for a non-permanent exhibit.

It is MTC's aim to honor Mark Twain with a special exhibit: "Travel is fatal to prejudice – Mark Twain in Heidelberg". For close to three months in 1878, Mark Twain, together with his family, visited Heidelberg and included many of his observations in his travel book "A Tramp Abroad", published in 1880. This exhibit will highlight the author's observations in and around Heidelberg and how he raised intercultural awareness. According to current plans, it is scheduled to be opened to the public on April 26, 2020, and will run through the end of August 2020.

– Hardy von Auenmueller

"How German Ingenuity Inspired America"

Late last year, we were approached by one of our members who had been contacted by an author from the Midwest with a book proposal that carried the above title, which we found to be most intriguing. The author of that book has spent many years doing her research on the above subject, while in the employ of a state government as a speech and copy writer and as editor of the state's official newsletter to schools and rehabilitation centers.

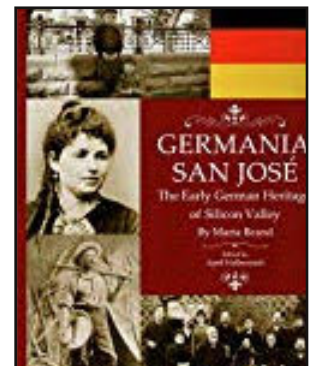
After reading her well-researched 300-page manuscript, which contains a most comprehensive write-up on the many contributions made by Germans and German-Americans to this country over the past 400 years, we are convinced that such a reference book ought to be published by us for the general public and as educational material for high schools, colleges and universities. In fact, every lending library in America should have in their possession a copy or two of this book, and so should all the German-American clubs throughout the USA.

The superb writing skills of the author, plus hundreds of relevant, high-resolution photos and historic references, make it a very good read. We envision for this new book a coffee-table edition – similar to the one recently written and published by Maria Brand, a long-time member of our organization, on the early German heritage of Silicon Valley, titled GERMANIA SAN JOSÉ.

From her experience, we know that the layout, design, publication and hardcover printing of an initial supply of 1,000 copies will cost \$30,000 to \$40,000. We are currently reaching out to several different funding organizations which, we hope, will render financial support to this project. On the other hand, if anyone reading this article has experience in self-publishing, including layout and design work, please let us know. We certainly would appreciate your lending us a hand.

– Hardy von Auenmueller

PS: Incidentally, Maria Brand's book is available for \$40 per copy from Amazon, or directly from her, with an autograph. We will gladly put you in touch with her. You may also peruse her book at our museum, when you next come to visit.

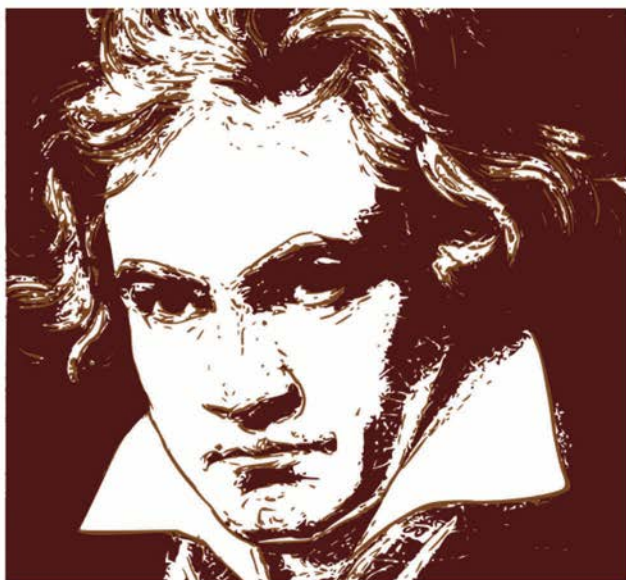


Council of 1000 MEMBERS

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

Walter Deichmann, PA
Guntwin Galleisky, CA
Deutscher Club Clark, NJ
Raymond & Sally Ehrle, MD
Fred Hansen, NY
Gary Koerner, VA
Rolf Mahler, NY
John & Susan Manoyan, CA
Anton & Theresa Merle, CA

Waltraud Prechter, MI
The Excelsior German Center, CA
Don Thureau, DE
Hardy & Gudrun von Auenmueller, PA
Uta von Behrens, CA
Ruth Wedelich, NJ
Al Wurz, FL
Monika & James Zelloe, VA



Beethoven 250

Come celebrate the 250th anniversary of Ludwig van Beethoven.

We are delighted to announce a Beethoven tribute concert under the patronage of Germany's Ambassador **Dr. Emily Haber** in the **Fall of 2020**. Program highlights will include the Triple Concerto for Violin, Cello and Piano and the famous last movement of the 9th Symphony, the Ode to Joy, which was chosen to be the official anthem of the European Union. More information will be available this spring at www.gahmusa.org.

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.

To donate go online:
<https://gahmusa.org/donate/>

MEMBERS CORNER

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Earl Breen, MI
 Barbara Chamberlain, CA
 Kristen Gonzalez, MD
 Sarah Marsteller, MD
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 Albert Schlenker, CA
 Hans Stein, PA
 William Timken, OH
 Hardy & Gudrun von Auenmueller, PA
 Monika & James Zelloe, VA

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2020 MEMBERSHIP DUES

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<input type="checkbox"/> Patron:	\$5,000	\$ _____

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

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<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Donation for 2020 Operations	\$ _____
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