Dear Members of the Society,

The year 2015 marked the 145th Anniversary of the GLGBS since its founding in 1870. This remarkable achievement is attributable to countless hard-working and dedicated ladies who worked tirelessly to help those less fortunate.

In October, Society members met at the Legion of Honor Museum for a guided tour to view the Early Meissen Porcelain collection. It featured the story of “Survival of the Historic Meissen Vase,” the reconstruction of this beautiful vase from many pieces that survived the bombing of Dresden in 1945.

Our annual Christmas luncheon at the elegant Olympic Club was a wonderful event and enjoyed by all. It is an occasion that many members look forward to, not just to greet old friends and wish each other happy holidays, but to join everyone in singing the beautiful German Weihnachtslieder. The raffle prizes included many beautiful gift baskets, gift certificates and holiday items. Many thanks to all the Ladies whose donations assured the raffle’s success.

This year, we are planning several Kaffeeklatsch meetings at different locations in the Bay Area. We will have more information later in the spring. These social events are a great opportunity to get to know other Society members.

Our next function will be our annual business meeting on April 27 at the Metropolitan Club in San Francisco. The purpose of this meeting is to present the slate of officers and directors for 2016-2017 and to give an overview of the Society’s finances.

I wish you all a Happy Easter and I am looking forward to seeing you at the Annual Business Meeting on April 27.

Sincerely, Uta Wagner
How We Invest Our Money (cont.)

Allocation of Assets

In the Fall 2015 issue of our newsletter we presented to you the guiding principles behind our investment practices which are aimed at preserving the inflation-adjusted value of the Society’s investments through time, thus providing a stable flow of income to support the purposes of our organization. Investment restrictions intended to keep our investments as well as our reputation safe, apply. Securities that would cause embarrassment to the Society are studiously avoided.

Guidelines for the Allocation of Assets stipulate that

A. The Investment Manager will maintain at least 40%, but no more than 60% of the total value of the portfolio in equities unless specifically authorized by the Finance Committee; (as of 2/29/16 equities + preferred stock = 57%)

B. The investment manager will maintain at least 40%, but no more than 60% of the total value of the portfolio in fixed-income investments unless specifically authorized by the Finance Committee; (as of 2/29/16 fixed income + cash = 43%)

C. The Investment Manager will ensure that no single equity position exceeds 6% (at cost) of the total value of the maximum equity portion of the portfolio and that no single equity position exceeds 10% (at market value) unless specifically authorized by the Finance Committee.

D. The Investment manager will not invest more than 7% (at cost) of the maximum fixed income portion of the portfolio in the debt obligations of a single corporate issue and no more than 10% (at cost) of the maximum fixed income portion of the portfolio in any single U.S. Treasury issue. High yield bonds may be included in the portfolio, but they must not exceed 10% of the maximum fixed income portion of the portfolio (at cost.)

The Board welcomed our investment counsel Van Strum and Towne at the March meeting. Given the economic climate of 2015, we were pleased with the results achieved by this wonderful group of advisors. You will hear more at the April business meeting. Anneliese Miller, Finance Chair

LETTERS

There is nothing more uplifting than reading the many letters we receive each year from our clients. We wish we could share all of them with you, because the thanks really go to each and every member of the Society. Here are a few excerpts: “Words cannot express my gratitude for helping me through another very difficult year…”; “Liebe Earth Angels. Your continuous love and care were wind under our wings to keep a dream alive, to keep us safe....” “Your outpouring of love will always matter more than you think or know....” What more can one say....
An Invitation

Kaffeeklatsch

Ihr seid herzlichst willkommen!

Our recent trip to view Meissen porcelain chinaware at the Legion of Honor Museum turned out to be a trip down memory lane for some of us. Perhaps our china was not as fine, back then, but there certainly was nothing more sacred than that in the world of our German mothers. On the occasion of a festive Kaffeeklatsch Mutti reigned supreme. Remember those golden summer afternoons in the garden, the table perfectly set with snow white starched linens and Mutti’s best china, bees humming and the fragrance of wonderful cakes, still warm, wafting from the kitchen. There would be a vase with lovingly arranged roses on the table. Coffee, carefully brewed from the finest coffee beans would arrive at the table in a beautiful china coffee carafe just minutes after the arrival of those precious guests. There would be formal greetings at first, but soon the afternoon would dissolve into endless cheerful talk and laughter. Children were never included but gently tolerated as I remember.

It has been quite some time since we organized our last set of afternoon teas or Kaffeeklatsches. Won’t you join us in arranging an event in your area this summer. Perhaps you have a great venue in mind, such as your garden in bloom, a lovely home that can accommodate about 25 guests or even a favorite café that would be amenable to hosting a small event like this.

If you would like to participate, bake a cake perhaps, do call a board member in your area to discuss. They are offering their help to make it all happen. We are thinking particularly of Napa (Maren Namdar), the East Bay (Anneliese Miller) and the Peninsula (Silvia Hildebrandt). Give these ladies a call with your ideas.

Ortrun Niesar

Meissen china it is not, but meeting with friends to see the exhibit at the Legion of Honor and having lunch in the café afterward was wonderful.

The East Bay ladies meet in Walnut Creek for a Kaffeeklatsch in the beautiful rose garden of Society member Dietlind Goericke.
The Annual Christmas Luncheon of the Bay Area German Ladies’ General Benevolent Society was held December 9 at the Olympic Athletic Club on Skyline Boulevard in San Francisco. Once again about 160 ladies—mothers, grandmothers, daughters and old and new friends—met with joyful expectation for the lovely luncheon event in the beautifully decorated halls of the Club. While rain was expected, the weather turned out to be dry enough to keep from spoiling all those beautiful dresses and coifs.

Christmas spirit abounded everywhere. One did not need to be a kid again to enjoy it. There was cheerful greeting and embracing among the guests, many of whom only see each other at this event as they hail from all nine Bay Area counties. Festivities commenced with a heartfelt welcome by Board President Uta Wagner, followed by a greeting from the German Consulate presented by Beatrice Woehler, wife of Deputy Consul General Johannes Bloos. Pastorin Kerstin Weidmann of St Matthews Lutheran Church in San Francisco offered a beautiful prayer for the peace that we all hope for in the coming year. Later, true to Old World tradition, a poem was presented by Board member Edda Roloff before the entire room resounded with “Weihnachtslieder” led by Sigrid Jarrett. “Silent Night...,” some say that this is the most beautiful song ever composed and they may just be right. The luncheon concluded, as always, with a much anticipated raffle. Funds raised from this activity go directly as a special Christmas gift to the families that are served by the Society.
DONATIONS

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS RECEIVED AUGUST 1 - DECEMBER 31

Ackermann, Emmi
Alberts, Iris
Anderson, Ursula
Apter, Ingrid
Arechiga, Marlen
Avery, Renate
Bayne, Ingrid
Berg, Linda
Blanz, Maria
Blum, Helga
Boehler, Margaret
Bruggemann-Wong, Charlene
Brugger, Gisela
Buelow, Friederike
Byrnes, Ingeborg
Campo, Anneliese
Carnes, Amy
Cence, Lynda
Ceridono, Ingrid
Cervarich, Ellen
Chamlian-Schenk, Christa
Detjen, Christa
Detrick, Carola
Diermayer, Ingeborg
Dobel, Inge
Eisenhauer, Sabine
Ewert, Christel
Fetchnhauer, Eva
Frost, Ilona
Funk, Natalie
Gubbe, Marlene
Hagedorn, Ellinor
Harris, Heide
Harrison, Heike
Heidenreich, Sigrid
Heine, Margrit
Hildebrandt, Silvia
Holder, Astrid
Horst, Irmhild
Hull, Elfriede
Hyde, Heidi
Jarrett, Sigrid
Jones, Marliese
Kirberg, Elisabeth
Kreske, Elisabeth
Kuchlenz, Viola
Lara, Henni
Le Baron, Lieselotte
Lewald, Felicitas
Lindstedt, Elin
Linnenbach, Christine
Linnenbach, Doris
Lloyd, Donald
Lloyd, Gisela
Lonergan, Edith
Meier, Ursula
Meyer, Edith
Miller, Anneliese
Nemdar, Maren
Nellies-Ortiz, Annette
Nelson, Ute
Nemeth, Marianne
Niesar, Ortrun
Ohnund, Helene
Pearce, Karola
Pilat, Erika
Prothmann, Waltraud
Reeves, Ruth
Reich, Irene
Rohlf, Karin
Roloff, Edda
Sarkissian, Hilda
Schenk-Chamlian, Christa
Schindler, Liane
Schlosser, Eva
Schlosser, Evelyn
Scholz, Pamela
Schwab, Eleonore
Schwab-Wilhelmi, Heidi
Sikora, Sigrid
Smith-Freeman, Margot
Spohnholz, Ingrid
Stottmeister, Ingeborg
Terstiege, Kristel
Tilley, Gretel
Tuteur, Waltraud
Umland, Debbie
Vierhaus, Agnes
von Rogov, Christel
Wagner, Uta
Wegener, Sigrid
Weiler, Monika
Welter, Christine
Wiegand, Hedi
Weiss, Elaine
Williamson, Carol
Willock, Irmgard
Woryna, Rosita
The Excelsior German Center
Anneliese Miller
in memory of Elke Sauer
Friederike Buelow
in memory of Kristine Highsmith
Herta Hederich
in memory of Irmgard Siemers
Elaine Weiss
in memory of Ilse Alldaffer

Donations In Honor Of:
Margarete Kircher
in honor of Astrid Holder’s Birthday
Anne Bernhard
in honor of Astrid Holder’s Birthday

Donations In Memory Of:
Dr. Wolfgang and Doris Linnenbach
in memory of Doris Hildebrandt
Hildegard Beering
in memory of Doris Hildebrandt

Note: If we have forgotten someone, we apologize. We will make that correction in our next issue with many thanks.
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AND LUNCHEON

We hope that many of you will attend the luncheon which is held this year at the Metropolitan Club, 640 Sutter Street in San Francisco, with thanks to Christine Linnenbach. Come early and you may be able to park in the Club’s parking lot next door. Two other parking options exist nearby: right across the street from the Club or the Sutter/Stockton Garage, if walking couple of blocks is not a problem. Come join us to hear past year’s successes and plans for the coming year. Board members have been working hard to meet the challenges of a changing world. We look forward to hearing your thoughts and suggestions, particularly with regard to development of next generation membership and future goals.

At the meeting we will be introducing a new board member, Heike Harrison. We are delighted that she has agreed to join the board. Heike co-owns together with her husband the Adda Clevenger School in San Francisco and is much involved in its operation. We will also be saying farewell to long-time board members Karin Rohlfs and Maren Namdar with many thanks for a job well done for so many years.

JOIN US

If you think you would enjoy doing board activity for this fine organization, do get in touch with any of the board members for information. The board meets once a month to carry on its business and board members see to the care of their constituents in the areas where they live. In addition there are any number of board responsibilities to assume, such as planning member social activities, filling officer positions and managing the organizations funds. All talents are needed as you can see. The work is not terribly difficult and the rewards are many.

In Memoriam—It is with sadness that we report the passing of our cherished long-time Members Ilse Alldaffer, Miriam Detert, Doris Hildebrandt, Kristine Highsmith, Elke Sauer. We send our heartfelt condolences to their families and friends. We will miss them.

Member Anniversaries—Congratulations to the following Members for their continued support of our Society. Thank you so much.

40 Years—Eleanore Schwab

25 Years—Heidi Craft, Ellinor Hagedorn, Marliese Jones

Welcome to Our New Members: Irene Belknap, Anne Bernhard, Silke Guerlich, Gabriele McQueen, Carol Reynolds, Beatrice Woehler, Gisela Zebroski
How You Can Help
Do you know of anyone who may be in temporary financial distress due to unforeseen circumstances? Please call and let us know. Our telephone lines are always open. All inquiries are handled in strictest confidence. Applicants must be of German descent.

**East Bay:**
Anneliese Miller (510-526-0496)
Ortrun Niesar (510-652-6664)
Irene Reich (925-831-0117)
Irmgard Willock (925-254-8828)

**Peninsula:**
Sigrid Heidenreich (650-342-1751)
Ingrid Sponholz (650-340-0210)
Uta Wagner, President (650-697-3004)
Silvia Hildebrandt (415-710-3413)

**San Francisco:**
Doris Linnenbach (415-731-4455)

**South Bay:**
Ute Nelson (408-241-2926)
Friederike Buelow (650-493-6751)

**Napa:**
Maren Namdar (707-252-1015)

**Marin:**
Carola Detrick (415-246-8024)